

acknowledge it, besides they consider it no disgrace to be beaten by the champion club of the Dominion. Apologising for taking so much of your space,

I am,

Yours truly,

ROYAL.

P. S.—A meeting is to take place at the Brigade office, on Thursday, for the purpose of organizing a Provincial Association for Quebec and selecting a Council.

## ENGLAND AND CANADA.

In the *Edinburgh Review* for April will be found, in substance, the following remarkable opinion of Earl St. Vincent, the celebrated admiral, respecting the policy of the British government in relation to Canada. When Lord Shelburne's peace (1783) was signed, and before the terms were made public, he sent for the admiral, and, showing them to him, asked his opinion. "I like them very well," said he, "but there is a great omission." "In what?" inquired his lordship. "In leaving Canada as a British province," was the answer. "How could we possibly give it up?" asked Lord Shelburne. "How can you hope to keep it?" responded the veteran. "With an English republic just established in sight of Canada, and with a population of a handful of English settled among a body of hereditary Frenchmen, it is impossible; and, rely on it, you only retain a running sore, the source of endless disquiet and expense." "Would the country bear it? Have you forgotten Wolfe and Quebec?" asked his lordship. "No; it is because I remember both. I served with Wolfe at Quebec, and, having lived so long, I have had full time for reflection on this matter, and my clear opinion is that if this fair occasion for giving up Canada is neglected, nothing but difficulty in either keeping or resigning it will ever after be known." Some of the American papers refer to this as a proof of great sagacity on the part of Lord St. Vincent; but time has not shown the opinion he expressed nearly a century ago to be prophetic.

## REFORM IN MILITARY ACCOUTREMENTS.

We are informed that some valuable alterations in the knapsack and accoutrements of the army have been sanctioned, and are now being carried out. A waterproof valise without frame and of light weight, is to supersede the present knapsack. This valise is supported on the lower portion of the soldier's back in the following manner—From the waist belt a short strap on each side passes to a ring, from which a broad strap, passing over the shoulders, crosses with its fellow on the upper part of the back like an ordinary pair of braces, and, catching the corner of the valise by a buckle, runs under the arm to the opposite ring from which it started. Another short strap passing posteriorly from the ring to the lower angle of the valise secures it to the man's body. In front, upon the waist belt, is carried the pouch for ammunition, which can be shifted to one side so as to allow the waist belt to be opened. This equipment is very easy, and leaves the chest perfectly free. It supplies many of the most essential requirements of military duties—simplicity and durability, lessened risk of damage, and facility for removal or readjustment. The soldier can put it on and off like

his coat, by simply unfastening the waist-belt, or it will remain like a garment on his shoulders, although left open in front. The great coat is carried above the valise, and in no way interferes with the general arrangement. By this equalization and arrangement of weights the position of the soldier for drill, heavy exertion, or personal conflict, is materially improved. In the latter case, the weights being below the centre of gravity, an extra steadiness is obtained which was so evidently deficient in the case of the old equipment, "the monkey on the back," as old soldiers term the knapsack. On active service, two pouches are carried in front to contain each twenty rounds of ammunition, and a ball bag is also supplied to hold loose cartridges for rapid firing whilst in the valise there is accommodations for twenty extra rounds.

An infantry soldier in time of war now carries something over fifty six pounds in weight. This is, of course, lessened during peace, but it is strongly recommended by Professor Parkes still further to reduce the articles ordinarily forming part of the "kit," and his views, if accepted, would diminish the weight to thirty-six pounds, whilst the soldier would yet have everything necessary for his comfort.

It is also determined to issue to each man a separate canvas bag for surplus articles of clothing and necessities, in lieu of the present "squad bag," which is available for twenty-five men. This, it is anticipated, will encourage the soldier in habits of care and neatness.

## EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.

We mentioned at the time of the occurrence a catastrophe which marked the storm May 7, at the camp of Chalons. The Academy of Science has since received highly interesting communications on the subject from Marshal Vaillant, in a letter addressed to him by Lieutenant-Colonel Weynaud, of the French Engineer Corps. Captain Lacroix the officer who was killed by lightning on the occasion alluded to, inhabited a tent stripped blue and white. The rain was falling in torrents at the moment the electric fluid struck. Although the captain's death was only discovered the morning after, there could be no mistake as to the time or cause of death, the violence of the shock having been more or less felt by the whole battalion. The victim was alone in his tent. When his orderly entered in the morning he found his master lying on the ground, face upwards, convulsively holding a metal candlestick in his right hand, and pressed against his breast. The ground bore marks of the captain's having pirouetted, or spun round, before falling, while attempting to move towards the entrance. He wore his uniform trousers, a plain paletot, and his treble laced kepy. From the pole of the tent there hung a fowling piece, in a case, and his sabre. The pole was rather distant from the iron bed, and none of these metal arms seemed to have been touched by the fluid. The tent was closed, and the opening buckled both outside and inside. The two iron bolts by which the pole was fixed to the ridge-piece that supported the canvas roof had a piece of leather under them. One of these pieces was lacerated, and from this point a long line, about half an inch in breadth, might be traced along one of the blue stripes, the colour of which had been completely destroyed. This line descended in a slight zig zag, to the point where it met one of the seams, which it followed for the space of about a foot and a half, and then suddenly started off to one of the buckles,

where it made a hole. Two other perforations were found, one answering to the leather thong fitting into the side tent. The outer buckle was found outside, at a distance of twenty paces. Three burns on the captain's forehead seem to answer to these three holes. His kepy was burned off, the gold lace uddened; his watch had stopped at 53 minutes past seven, and a beginning of fusion was remarked on it. The purse had not been touched; the paletot, shirt, and upper part of the trousers were burned along a line marked on the body, and on which a wound was found, having the shape and size of the buckle found 20 paces off.—*Galignani*.

## VICKSBURG IN 1869.

Vicksburg to-day is a quiet little town of some little commercial importance, and is made lively by the frequent arrivals of steamboats from St. Louis or New Orleans. The buildings show the marks of the great siege, and in many places the patchwork covers the greater part of the structures. The hundreds of caves in the sides of the hills are still open, and bring to mind the accounts we have read and heard related of the suffering there. Many, however, have caved in, and in some places the whole side of the hill came down into the street at the same time. One of these caves, opened a few weeks ago, was found to contain the bones of a whole family who had been suffocated there during the siege. The cannon have all been removed, but the rifle pits and earth forts still remain on the hill tops. The spot where Grant and Pemberton consulted upon the terms of surrender, which was then surrounded by trees and shaded by the branches of a large oak, is now in an open field, cultivated by a negro who fought there. The marble monument raised to mark the spot was so hacked by relic-seekers that it has been removed, and a ten-inch Columbian gun reared in its place, upon which is engraved the words:—

THE SITE WHERE GEN. U. S. GRANT  
ARRANGED THE TERMS OF SURRENDER WITH  
LT.-GEN. PEMBERTON.

The graves of the Northern soldiers, which were thickly strewn over the hill-sides and along the ravines, have been opened and the bodies taken to the cemetery, just above the city, on the bank of the river. The Confederate graves are ploughed over and obliterated, while the bones of many are exhumed by lead hunters and carried into the city and sold for fertilising purposes.—*Vicksburg Correspondent of the Boston Traveler*.

THE BRITISH ARMY.—The Registrar-General states—according to the returns received from his Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief—that the strength of the army, at home and abroad, in the year 1867 was 200,335—viz., at home, 87,607; abroad, 112,728. In England and the Channel Islands the strength was 60,341; in Scotland, 3517; and in Ireland, 23,746. In the total strength at home the deaths were—of officers 49, of non-commissioned officers and men 901, presenting a mortality in the former of 10.95 per 1000, and in the latter of 10.84 per 1000. In Great Britain the death-rate of officers was 12.55, in Ireland 6.62 per 1000. In Great Britain the death-rate of men was 12.06, in Ireland 7.54. In the total strength abroad, in 1867, the deaths were—of officers 81, of men 2203, representing a mortality of 13.33 per 1000 in officers, and 20.66 in men. In 1865 the mortality of men abroad was 21.02; in 1866 it fell as low as 15.49 per 1000.