

Mexican affairs are not easily understood but according to latest accounts the rebels were being beaten by that pet of the Yankee—Juarez.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—Your correspondent "R" in your issue of 25th inst., has forestalled a communication which I had written for you on the same subject, and I am sure he deserved the hearty thanks not only of captains of companies, but of every one who has the interests of the Volunteer (and only) Force of the Dominion at heart.

It is a well-known fact that the history of the Volunteer Force of Canada, for many years back, has been little else but a series of almost superhuman exertions on the part of captains of companies to maintain their organization, in the face of manifold impediments; old members of the Force have not altogether forgotten the low estimation in which they were held by the general public prior to the "Trent Outrage;" how they were sneered at and jeered in the public press, as *feathered bell-soldiers*, *fond of parading to show their fine clothes*, &c., and that socially they were regarded as roughs and rowdies, and the fact of a gentleman being known to be connected with them was often sufficient to debar him the pleasures of "good society," and invariably the cause of cool looks and sneers.

The prospect of trouble, however, and the knowledge that the "Feathered Soldiers" were the only men whose services would have been at once available in defending the lives and properties of their former revilers, made them for a time the popular idols and induced "money bags" in a transport of patriotic (?) fervor to pat him on the back and cry, "well done! you're a splendid fellow! and deserve the thanks of the whole community!" &c., &c. The unsettled state of affairs during the continuance of the Secession War, and the very uncertain feeling as to whether we might not be drawn into it, kept "money-bags" alive to a sense of probable danger, and caused him to tolerate the movement, and even permit his employees to remain attached to it (with few exceptions) but they must never neglect his business or ever ask so much as half an-hour of the time he paid for to be expended in drill or target practice. After the close of the war the Fenian designs kept alive the same feeling of anxiety and possible danger, which culminated in the raid of '66, the popular feeling then excited on behalf of the Force fostered by judicious legislation was not of so evanescent a nature as on the former occasion (we will not be so ill-natured as to say this was caused by the danger having a more tangible shape than at the present), and at the pre-

sent moment it may fairly be said that the Volunteer Force has become popular, and is regarded by a large majority of all classes of the population as a credit to the Dominion; this happy state of affairs has, however, not been brought about by any liberal treatment either by the wealth of the country or by the peoples' representatives in Parliament, quite the contrary; but in spite of the want of both, it is alone owing to the inborn manly and soldierly spirit of the young men of the farming, mercantile, and mechanical population of the country, and as Lieut. Col. Higginson and R so plainly put it at a very considerable sacrifice of time and money on their part, and also to a departmental management and policy, which certainly makes the utmost of the niggardly allowances of Parliament.

The time has now come for the inauguration of a more liberal policy towards what we are so fond latterly of calling the "Canadian Army" if its hitherto efficient state is to be maintained; and on the principle that every able bodied man owes military service to the state; every such man should be compelled to perform such duty or to pay in cash for the privilege of exemption from year to year, a capitation tax of say \$5 per annum, to be levied on all who are not *bona fide* members of the Force or who have not already completed such a term of service therein as the law requires, would at once place the Government in such a position that they could afford to treat the Force on a most liberal scale, and ensure the complete defence of the country against all contingences.

To insure some such legislation during the approaching session of Parliament it becomes the officers of the Force to take council together and bring to bear such influence as they can on their Representatives (many of them officers) as may cause them to deal with the Force in that spirit of liberality which they so well deserve.

The interest which I feel in the cause must be the apology for so encroaching on your valuable space to such an extent by one who is

TWELVE YEARS A VOLUNTEER,
FROM MONTREAL.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The long pending suits against the City Corporation, brought by Colonels McKay, M. G. A.; Bethune, V. V. R., and Muir, Cavalry, for the pay of their corps before Mr. Justice Tonnance, last week for argument of the demurrer made by the plaintiffs to the plea which asserts that there was no riot, nor even reasonable apprehension of one to justify the magistrates in requiring the troops to aid the civil power. It was contended by Mr. Pominville, Q. C., and Mr. R. A. Ramsay, for plaintiffs, that this was no answer to the demand, seeing that, as they interpret the Statute 31 Vict., chap. 40, s. 27, the calling out of the militia on receipt of a requisition signed by any two magistrates, was a duty

made imperative on the Adjutant General, who was not vested with any discretion in the matter; and that in turn the plaintiffs and their men could not question the necessity of the occasion without an entire subversion of all military law and discipline, and in addition, (see, 82) incurring a fine of \$20 per man in case of disobedience. The Corporation Counsel, Messrs. Roy and Devlin, on the other hand, maintained the validity of their plea, by interpreting the Statute that the requisition of the magistrates was *legal* only when the civil power was insufficient to keep the peace and required armed aid, and that not being the case, as their plea asserts, when the requisition was made it was *illegal*, should not have been complied with, and cannot fix responsibility on the Corporation for the expenditure incurred. The matter was reserved for deliberation by the Court; and the decision is not expected before the middle of next week.

The members of the non-commissioned officers mess of the Montreal Garrison Artillery held a special meeting last week to make arrangements for holding their first quarterly dinner. There was a fair attendance. Lt.-Col. McKay who was at the meeting denoted \$50 to the mess, at the same time expressing his wish that the non-commissioned officers would do all they could to keep the men together.

It is proposed to raise eight troops of Cavalry for No. 5 District. Major Muir of No. 1 Troop Montreal Cavalry will no doubt get the Colonelcy.

Arrangements are being made for the removal of the Militia officers and stores to the old Quebec gate Barracks. The D. A. General's and Brigade Major's offices will be located in the building formerly occupied by the Royal Engineers, and the Militia store office will be in the old Barrack store office. A suitable place will be provided for the volunteer armory either in the barracks or the old commissariat store. The Cadets now drill in the old Quebec gate Barracks, over thirty young men are at present under instruction, and several more are expected to join at an early date.

The mother of the unfortunate man Champagne, who was accidentally shot at the butts at Laprairie camp last summer has received from the Government, through Col. Harwood, the sum of \$260.

The vacancy caused by the death of Major Edward Smith, Superintendent of Military Schools, it is believed will not be filled.

The Adjutant General is in town to day (Thursday.)

I notice by the papers that the Queen's Auctioneer of this city has retired from business, if any change is made in the appointment it is the expressed opinion and wish of leading merchants here that the post should be given to Mr. Alfred Booker, one of our first auctioneers and only son of the late Colonel Booker, whose long service and untiring interest in the welfare of the Volunteer Militia is too well known to require any recapitulation from my pen.