

*Exercise* books in store—are all these to be wasted? what a pity! they look so nice in their red covers. Their contents must be valuable, for they puzzle me exceedingly. We reply to the Honorable Gentleman by opening another red book entitled, "*Rifle Exercises and Musketry Instruction*, 1870," and read to him from page 134:—

"The rifle is placed in the soldier's hands for the destruction of the enemy; his own safety depends upon his efficient use of it; it cannot, therefore, be too strongly inculcated, that every man who has no defect in his sight may be made a good shot; and that no degree of perfection he may have attained in the other parts of his drill, can upon service, remedy any want of proficiency in this; in fact, all his other instruction in marching and manœuvring can do no more than place him in the best possible situation for using his weapon with effect. A soldier who cannot shoot is useless, and an embarrassment to the battalion."

The Government of Canada must adopt every means to inspire a popular taste for the use of the rifle, and almost the whole of the period of drill of our active militia, must be solely devoted to rifle practice.

The words of Col. R. P. Anderson, in his late work, (1873), entitled "*Victories and Defeats*," have even more force when applied to us than to the people of England.

"And as for your infantry, reduce the standard; any man who can use a rifle is as good as a giant, with the advantage of being a smaller animated target for an enemy to fire at. Take in recruits of even fifteen, and pay more attention to accuracy of firing than to the size or weight of the men. It would not be difficult to train all boys when at school from thirteen upwards to the expert use of the rifle. We feel sure that as the boys love gymnastics, so they would go in heart and soul to learn the art of firing. The greatest ambition of the plucky British boy is to have a small pistol; and to have a gun! why he would go half wild with delight. Thus, without introducing the 'Landwehr' or 'Landsturm' systems existing in Prussia, we should obtain a huge army. In case of invasion our youths of nineteen and twenty would form an enormous reserve of intelligent soldiers, ready at a day's notice for the service of Her Majesty."

Let us ever remember that a nation can never keep its freedom, unless ready to maintain it at any time, and that for its own security it must make use of those means which Providence has placed at its disposal. When, centuries ago, our forefathers first introduced gunpowder into warfare, they did so simply because