

Artillery, with that long and swinging gait peculiar to this corps. They then counter marched and returned in quarter column. The marching past caused great delight to everybody, the "march past" being exactly the one thing which every body can admire and understand. The troops then wheeled to the right, formed line of quarter columns, advanced in review order and saluted. After which they returned to the Drill Shed, where they were addressed by their commanders, and dismissed for the year.

CALDWELL.

HALIFAX, 16th October, 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—“Sour Grapes,” who by the way should be Rip Van Winkle, for it appears by his communication that he has just discovered that there was a Camp of Instruction at De Bert in the latter part of June, thinks I am again in error in the facts contained in my letter of 24th August. Your readers will easily perceive that Sour Grapes corroborates all the statements made in that letter by calling them *facts*. There is no necessity for repeating all that appeared in that communication. I said that Major Yeomans was not and never had a commission in the active force of the Dominion. S. G. agrees with me, but says that Major Yeomans has been the Range Officer of the P. R. A. since 1866, but how that position qualified him for the important post of Musketry Instructor, can only be comprehended by S. G. I also stated that Robert Christie was not an officer at the time he received the appointment of Camp Quartermaster. S. G. again agrees with me, but says the letter containing the recommendation was through a post office blunder sent to England. I quite agree with S. G. that our P. O. is in a frightful state of misrule and disorganization, but that any clerk in that department could be such a donkey as to forward to England, a letter addressed to Ottawa, is another of those things which can only be understood by S. G. I may ask how S. G. discovered that this letter was forwarded to England, and what has become of it since? Has it been sent to its destination, and if it ever arrived there, how does it happen that Mr. R. C. has not yet been gazetted an officer in the O. P. B.? Perhaps the Militia Department has the same opinion of the capabilities of that individual, as he has of himself, and thinks he serves the country better in the rank which he has chosen, than as an officer, and has therefore deferred (or refused) to make the appointment. S. G. seems to think that the proper way to encourage the volunteer organization is for an officer to resign his commission and serve in the ranks. As I know of no place in the Dominion in which the volunteer force is more in want of encouragement than Halifax, will S. G. set the example by resigning his commission and serve in the ranks of that company of which he is now so inefficient a member. As for Mr. J. H. Anderson the

*Gazette* so plainly refers to the fact that his commission dates from 15th July, that even S. G. cannot conscientiously say that he was an officer before that date. Should S. G. not carry out his pet theory of recruiting the volunteer ranks from the commissioned officers, he may some day attain the rank of Lt. Col., but neither he nor any other person has the right to assume that or any other title, until the same appears in General Orders. Had I been in want of any assistance from S. G. I should have been doubly thankful if he had not been so tardy in tendering it. But as his letter is dated 18th Sept. perhaps it followed in the track of that which contained Mr. Christie's recommendation for promotion, but with this difference, that the former at last reached its destination, whereas nothing more has been heard of the latter.

FRANÇOIS FORTÉ.

MONTREAL, 15th Oct., 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—The Sixth Battalion, under command of Lieut. Colonel Martin, were inspected last night by Major General O'Grady Haly, who opportunely happened to be in the city. A telegram having been received from Lieut. Colonel Fletcher from the townships, to the effect that he would be unable, as was his duty, to inspect the Regiment, owing to his having missed yesterday's morning train for this city. At about 8.45 p.m. the Administrator of the Dominion arrived at the City Hall, accompanied by a staff officer. On his arrival the command was given, “open order, and general salute,” after which the General, accompanied by Colonel Martin, immediately inspected the battalion, which mustered about two hundred men. Prizes won at the late annual matches of the Regiment were then presented to the successful competitors, by General O'Grady Haly, a compliment of which this regiment may well feel proud. After complimenting the regiment on their soldierly appearance, the General retired, and the regiment, headed by their fine drum corps, marched through the city, returning to their armory at about half-past ten.

X.

ST. JOHN, N.B., Oct. 13th, 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly inform me whether an officer, being in full uniform, at a Ball wears his sword belt or not while dancing?

My reason for enquiring as to the scarlet patrol jacket, being adopted by Canadians, in your issue of 21st Sept. was an account of what is contained in Queen's regulations 1873, section 12, paragraphs 12, 15, and 35.

Yours truly,

MILITEN.

The full dress is not complete without the sword being worn—but in a ball room, if in full dress, an officer may remove the sword, in which case the sword belt should be removed also.—Ed. Vol. Rev.

## The Veterans of 1812-15.

If there be one event more than another that will stamp with honor the early history of the country to which we belong, it is the pension granted to the veterans who fought for British connection in the stirring and memorable days of 1812-15. It has been the glory of the British nation from the earliest days, and in all quarters of the globe, that she has ever extended the warmest favors and the most tender consideration to those who have risked their lives in supporting the national honor and sustaining the national standard. Money has flowed freely from British coffers to promote the comfort of the veterans who have struggled in every clime to maintain the dignity of the British flag. The world has looked on and applauded, and great strength and power has been added to the nation.

Acting on this desire to grant a liberal reward to deserving soldiers, who have since retired from active service and are now advanced in years and enfeebled by age, the British Government two years ago enacted that a pension should be granted to the survivors of the Canadian campaigns who had served in the regular army. It was found that this provision afforded no advantage to those who came forward in those days and enlisted in the Canadian Volunteers, and in this way rendered valuable and noble aid to the regular troops in defending British interests and Colonial soil. The Dominion Government, with a sense of honor, which did them infinite credit, came forward promptly and said, “Our Canadian heroes shall stand in no inferior position to the English soldiers,” and asked Parliament to grant them \$50,000 to be devoted to settling life pensions on the surviving veterans who had rushed to the standard as Canadian Volunteers. This was a noble stand long after other matters which now engross a far larger share of the public attention shall have dwindled into insignificance and been buried and forgotten, this act will stand out in bright colors as an imperishable token of Canadian patriotism and generosity. Fifty thousand dollars is not a large sum and it involves no burdens upon the country, but the spirit which the grant breathes will redound to the lasting glory of Canada. Such honor is not to be reckoned by money, and defies mathematical computation. It is based on principles higher and dearer than figures can reach.

It was expected at the time of the appropriation that the number of the surviving veterans would not exceed six or seven hundred, while it has turned out that there are over two thousand applicants, and there are but few instances of imposture. This unexpectedly large number of objects of the public bounty reduces the individual grants to a much smaller sum than was originally intended. Possibly the grant will be enlarged by Parliament next session, and when we consider that exceedingly few, if any of the number are under eighty years of age, the depletion of the corps of veterans must necessarily be very rapid and in a few years more but a handful of them will be among the living. Therefore it is fair to presume that subsequent grants will be larger than the one distributed this year.

The facts disclosed by an examination into the claims of the various applicants has revealed the truth that many of these old heroes are in circumstances of the most extreme poverty and destitution. The timely pension has brought joy to many a white-haired pilgrim who was already beginning to face the dire alternative of the poorhouse. A very interesting group of these old re-