

THE CALIFORNIAN VOLUNTEERS.

A New York military paper has just discovered that the English Volunteers are undrilled and undisciplined, that crack regiments are unknown, but that all the men are dead on a bull's eye at 600 yards. This information it has got from an officer of experience, who has seen thousands of English Volunteers. Of the American corps it says the opposite is the case; they are highly drilled and disciplined, but cannot shoot at all. Other New York papers tell a different story; all agree about the non-shooting qualities of the American Volunteers, but they are also strongly urging their encampment, in order to teach them discipline. In consequence of this, the famous 7th New York has gone into camp (after many years' neglect), not at an American Aldershot or Wimbledon, but at Saratoga, the gayest and most expensive watering-place in all America, and perhaps in the world. I learn also from New York papers that two regiments have just been snubbed in general orders for forming guards of honour to receive a travelling circus, while a third has elected a Miss Charlotte Tilson (I think that is the name) as colonel; for this, the papers suggest, it should be cashiered.

Let me, however, describe the San Francisco military forces, as seen by me on the 4th July, when they formed a great portion of the Celebration procession. Three regiments of infantry, a battalion of cavalry, and various detached companies were on parade—I use the American terms—hence the “battalion of cavalry.” The unit of organization seems to be “Frisco” to be the company; each company dresses as it pleases, and has, unless light infantry, a full stand of colours; apparently, too, each company selects any system of drill it pleases. About 35 companies, or troops, of from 43 to 75 rank and file, were on duty on the 4th, and they exhibited thirty different varieties of uniform, and almost as many pairs of colours. The cavalry and the three regiments of infantry formed a brigade, and were commanded by a brigadier general. The first regiment, of seven companies, was Grenadier: the favourite uniform was the dress-coat, with swallow tail to the calf of the leg, the worsted epaulet, a drooping over the chest, and the towering bearskin of the French Guard at Waterloo. The first company had this pattern of coat in scarlet, and their bearskins were white; the second were in blue and white bearskins, the third blue and dark bearskins, the fourth green (rank Fenians) and white bearskins, and their second colour was the green field and the crownless harp. The second regiment was equally motley, and was mainly styled Fusiliers, its seven companies exhibited three different Prussian uniforms, two or three modern French, and a nondescript grey. The third regiment was of six companies, whose names are worth recording—the Montgomery Guard, the Wolfe Tone Guard, the Meagher Guard, the Emmet Guard, the Shields Guard, and the MacMahon Grenadiers; each had a different uniform, mostly varieties of green, and each carried the American ensign as Queen's colour, and the crownless harp on a green field as second colour. None of these regiments mustered 350; their staff wore the United States uniform, and the regiments were, I fancy organized like our administrative battalions. The cavalry consisted of three troops of fifty men, a hussar troop, a light dragoon troop and heavy troop.

The independent companies were equally motley in appearance; there were cadets in grey, and mulattoes in the same, while Swiss,

Sardinian, Tyrolean, Garibaldian, and Zouave and other French uniform were all represented. In fact every possible uniform was there represented, but the British and the American; except on staff officers, there was nothing that could be called an American uniform. Each company, even in the same battalion, moved as it pleased; some in threes, some in fours, with wide interstices between the men and half of one battalion moved in column with the preceding and following companies in fours. The distances between fours varied from 4 to 8 feet. The words of command were given in English, French, German, and Italian. I was told that three fourths of the men were Irish Fenians, and the rest French, German, and Italian, with very few native Americans. Spite of the motley appearance of the turnout and the many antiquated and ridiculous uniforms, finer food for powder, both men and horses, never paraded; in height or weight the men would beat most European Line regiments; while the American fashion of shaven cheeks, full moustache, and goatee gave a veteran aspect that our Volunteers want. The horses, too, were magnificent, from 15 to 16 hands high, and made of bone and muscle. It corroborated what I heard the late Colonel Brewster say, that the Americans possessed the finest raw material in the world for an army.

There was no review, but I believe many companies marched to a local Cremorne, to compete for a drill cup given by the enterprising proprietor. Their arms were very poor—old muzzle-loading, bright-barrelled brass-fixed pieces. The notices for parade in the papers in many cases ordered that members not parading were to deposit their uniforms at head-quarters the night before.

The whole procession was enormous. The firemen formed a division, and marching in military order, with their machines, and preceded by a sergeant-major who brandished 8 feet of polished brass, the nozzle of his engine hose.

The rear of the whole was brought up by the Borer Guard, a collection of sixty clowns from the aforesaid Cremorne, dressed in burlesques of the uniform of the Volunteers while the commander rode “the celebrated woolly horse” (see the Cremorne bills); then came a caravan full of monkeys.

The other humours of the procession I have omitted as having nothing to do with military matters.—*Volunteer Service Gazette.*

GILMORE'S CANNON OUTDOOR.—One of the most attractive features in the programme put forth by the promoters of the Boston Peace Jubilee Musical Festival, was the cannon accompaniment to certain of the pieces. The idea was worthy of the occasion; but we do not know whether, relative advantages considered, it was not outdone by an organist in a small New England Village, whose deeds the *New York Times* rescues from oblivion. The choir, under the directions of the organist, had to sing the anthem in which the lines occur: “He gave them hailstones for rain; fire, mingled with hail, ran along the ground.” The occasion was a great cue in the village, and the organist was anxious that the choir should prove itself equal to it. The anthem was one specially adapted for the introduction of effect, but the resources at the command of the organist precluded the possibility of anything that would cost much money. After a long and anxious meditation the organist hit upon an idea. He expended a few cents upon dried beans and a few more upon gunpowder. The latter he laid in a long train under the walls outside

the building, the former he committed to a company of trustworthy youths, with secret instructions how to act at a given signal. The result was a splendid success. The anthem opened grandly, the organist rose to the height of the occasion, the organist played as one inspired, the choir rolled forth: “He gave them hailstones for rain; fire, mingled with hail, ran along the ground,” and as the shout rose to the roof of the schoolhouse, there came rattling against the windows a shower of dried beans, and there flashed from the ground the train of gunpowder.

THE LATEST IN NAVAL ARCHITECTURE.—Circular turrets on ordinarily shaped hulls were considered, a few years ago, as being anomalies in armed naval architecture, but now we are to have circular ships:—

“Something more than a year ago, the keel of the pioneer of a series of circular iron-clad men-of-war was laid at St. Petersburg, and since then a number of others have been begun. The first vessel, now nearly completed, is described as of ninety feet in diameter, to carry twelve-inch armor, and to draw twelve and a half feet of water. She will be furnished with unusually great steam-power, which will be applied through four screws, placed at intervals across her stern. Being of shallow draught, and of great carrying capacity, it is easy to plate these vessels with thick armor down to the very bottom, so as to make them proof, says Mr. Reed, the celebrated naval constructor, against both the Harvey and the travelling torpedo. The Russians have satisfied themselves that they can be driven along a good rate of speed with the power they purpose putting into them, and they believe that they will behave as well as other iron-clads in a seaway. If they are successful, they will create a revolution in naval construction, for they are comparatively small and cheap and can carry thicker armor and heavier guns than the present style of ships.”

The long-expected Russian Imperial Squadron, with the Grand Duke Alexis, arrived in Table Bay on the 3rd of July. It consisted of two vessels only, a frigate and a corvette under the command of Vice Admiral Possaita. The vessels left Rio on the 9th of June, after spending about a month there, during which balls and festivities of all sorts were given in honor of the Russian Prince. The passage across was favourable and pleasant, and on arrival in Table Bay the flagship saluted the castle, and the castle guns saluted the strangers in return. The Russian Consul, Mr. Knight, was among the first to board with the Port Captain Wilson, and after him Captain Sweeney and Lieutenant Goldsworthy, as aides-de-camps from Government House. Both ships proceeded round to Simon's Bay the same night. The squadron was to remain at the Cape about a fortnight, and then proceed on its voyage.

REMITTANCE Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday, the 7th inst:—
YORK, Ont.—Lieut.-Col. R. H. Davis, \$1 (PER COL. LOCKRACE).
STRATFORD.—Lt.-Col. Service, L.M., \$1.
PETERBORO'.—Major H. C. Roger, \$1.
GUELPH.—Captain E. H. MacDonald, \$2.
LONDON.—Colonel James Shanly \$2; Major W. Dempster, \$2.
MONTREAL.—Lt.-Col. Bacon, \$2; Major Labranche, \$2; Captain J. Doran, \$2; Lieutenant W. D. Dupont, \$2; Captain A. G. Hooper, \$2; Colonel W. Shanly, \$2; Colonel W. Mitchell, \$2.
QUEBEC.—Captain J. Morgan, \$2.
WEST SIMPSON.—Major T. H. Cox, \$1.
SWITZERLAND.—Lieutenant & Adj. Balman, \$1.