

## 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:—I seldom attempt to reply to newspaper correspondence, but your Brockville one of last week, who styles himself a Volunteer, (but if rumour speaks the truth he is not, or never has been one, except a short time during the last "Fenian Raid," when he got a good position for so doing; if this is correct he is, comparatively speaking, a stranger here, having taken up his residence in the town but a few months since), consequently, under these circumstances, I cannot allow so efficient, popular and energetic an officer as Lt. Col. Buell, our worthy Major and President of the Rifle Association, to be insulted by one who knows so little of the circumstances, without replying, and I hurl back the accusation of incompetency against the President with contempt, knowing that if all the property owners and old residents of the town were consulted, they would pronounce him the most competent, popular and efficient person for the different positions he occupies, than could be procured in the town.

Had your correspondent worked for the past eight years as the President and officers of the Association have for the encouragement of rifle shooting, the success of which is admitted throughout the Province, he would know something of the difficulty in procuring annually prizes of sufficient value to attract competitors from a distance. And as much as he may sneer at the prizes offered, the donors of the present year have always sustained the Association, and if there are more liberal persons in the town their liberality does not run in this way.

The President in addition to his being Major of the town, is "Master in Chancery," and being particularly engaged with his profession at the time he was preparing the programmes, they were not issued as early as the Association contemplated, but as soon as printed they were sent to each captain, as well as several other officers in the town, placed in the hotels, saloons, post office and bank, and several posted through the streets. They were also sent to Ottawa, Fitzroy, Pakenham, Almonte, Carleton Place, Smith's Falls, Frankville, Lansdowne, Gananoque, Prescott, Merrickville, Cornwall and other places. Thus you will observe the charge of suppressing information is not correct.

I think the reputation of the Brockville Association and marksmen are such as to convince the public that they court competition instead of avoiding it, and had your correspondent accepted the frequent and repeated invitations to accompany the Club at practice, (which he has persistently declined), he would probably have learned this.

I feel that it is not necessary to go into

this matter further, and in apologizing for thus troubling you I promise not to revert to the subject again.

Yours truly,

OBSERVER.

Brockville, October 26th, 1870.

## THE ALDWELL TROPHY.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—In your issue of the 17th inst. appeared a letter from Major Scoble, intended to clear the Ontario Rifle Association from any blame in connection with keeping back the above prize and \$75 from the men who won it, viz, the 2nd Batt. G.T.R.B. I fully expected something further on the subject in your issue of the 24th inst., and was gratified to find your editorial containing an article from the *Belleville Intelligencer*, strongly condemning the action of the Association in withholding the prize. Major Scoble, and the officers connected with the Council, deserve the warmest thanks of the Volunteers in Ontario for their courtesy and the energy they showed at the late match, and no one will more readily than myself give them credit for the same. But it is quite possible for them to make mistakes; and I have not yet met a man since the match who upholds their decision in the above. With your permission I wish to refer to Major Scoble's letter. First of all let me state that the letter of Capt. Esdaile was not prompted in any manner by Capt. Bell or myself, and we knew no more of it than Major Scoble did until we saw it in your columns. His remark "hence the newspaper correspondence into which they (meaning Capt. Bell and myself) have brought as their champion an illogical and blind partizan (meaning Capt. Esdaile)," is, therefore, to say the least of it, superfluous. It is needless to go over the whole grounds again, but I should imagine that the report of the Adjutant General, which is distributed gratis by Government, and which says there are 19 companies of the G.T.R.B. in Ontario, carries more weight than the Militia List, the publication of which is a private speculation. Still the 19 companies of our Battalion in Ontario are included in that nineteen. The Ontario Rifle Association say to this, "we don't deny that your companies are in Ontario, but your Battalion is not." Now as six out of nine companies are in Ontario and are prohibited from firing in Quebec, I think it will strike any right minded man that the word *quibble* as used by the *Intelligencer* takes in the whole case; outside of the fact of their allowing us to fire at all at Toronto. Major Scoble speaks of the Trophy going out of the Province. Does anybody suppose that if we should win the trophy a second time, thus becoming absolute owners, we would permit the three companies of our Battalion in Montreal to have a word to say as to its possession? or does anyone suppose that they would wish it? A little further on he says, "had their course been different,

(meaning Capt. Bell and myself as leaders of the team), the Council would doubtless have given an extra money prize, hoping &c." I confess I do not know what Major Scoble means by this, except that he said to me on the last day of the match, if it had not been for that article in the *Telegraph* the Council would have given us a special prize of \$75 or \$100. I failed then, and I fail now, to see the connection between the Ontario Rifle Association and the *Daily Telegraph*, or our team and "that article."

Major Scoble says, "he (Capt. Esdaile) also refers to the paragraph stating that the Grand Trunk men were satisfied with the ruling of the Council. I have never seen such a statement in the *Globe*, but will vouch for the correctness of the paragraph, word for word, which he so unfairly quotes in his letter, &c." The facts as to this are as follows:—On Monday, Sept. 26th, the *Globe* had a statement in its account of the conclusion of the match that even the Grand Trunk men were satisfied the Council could not have decided otherwise in regard to the Aldwell Trophy. On Wednesday, the 28th Sept., a letter flatly denying this, from "One of the Team," was published in the *Globe*. I don't think Major Scoble means the same paragraph; but his letter reads as if he did, and it is as well that your readers should know how the case really stood.

In conclusion I may quote once more the provisions of the match: "To be competed for by ten officers, non commissioned officers or men from any Battalion, Brigade, Squadron, or Field Battery of Volunteer Militia in Ontario." Great stress has been laid on the words "in Ontario" by the Ontario Rifle Association. I would just say that we were and are ten officers, non commissioned officers and men of Volunteer Militia in Ontario and nowhere else, sworn in, drilled and equipped and paid there, and all of the same Battalion, and I would also say that I think the above regulation was mainly intended to prevent ten officers, ten N.C. officers, or ten men from different Battalions, &c., clubbing together and making a team.

I may add that a week or two before the match I asked Major Scoble in his own office and in my capacity as a Grand Trunk officer, if we, i.e. the Ontario portion of our Battalion, would be allowed to shoot in the Battalion Match, and he answered very decidedly in the affirmative, on the strength of which we made up our team.

With the highest respect for the Executive of the Ontario Rifle Association, but yet not believing them infallible, and thanking you for your kindness *en avance*, in inserting this

I am, dear Sir, Yours truly,  
W. CROWTHER,  
Capt., 2nd Batt., G.T.R.B.

P.S.—I forgot to say that the G.T.R. Brigade was formed and divided into Battalions in 1866, before the names Ontario or Quebec, as now used, were known. We also object strongly to the use of the words *honorable defeat* in reference to our position. We sustained no defeat at all. W.C.