

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

The Monument Proposed by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society.

How inadequately equipped are Canada's strong places—Location of the new forts for British Columbia—A Surgeon of the 90th dies in Ottawa—The Guards' non-coms' class—The command of the Montreal police—The Promotions in the 63rd Rifles—The late Col. Milsom—The attached men at Fredericton Royal School of Infantry—A private of "A" Company, I.S.C., rewarded for bravery.

THE LUNDY'S LANE Historical Society last year issued a circular urging upon Canadians the desirability of taking steps for the erection of a monument on the scene of the memorable battle of Lundy's Lane. In connection with this subject the *Toronto Empire* of a recent date had the following: "Every school boy and girl in Canada ought to be familiar, much more familiar than they are, with the heroic achievements of that gallant band of patriots who so nobly fought and fell in defence of our infant nationality; and every Canadian, of whatever age or sex or condition, ought to rejoice that a systematic effort is at length being made to do honour to the heroes and the heroines of the war of 1812. In this busy, practical, money-getting age, we are too much inclined to 'let the dead past bury its dead,' forgetting that it is mainly to the self-denying bravery of the past we are indebted for the business possibilities of the present. No nation can afford to forget or neglect the traditions, much less the history of the past; and we are heartily glad that a movement has been organized with such encouraging prospects of success to rescue from possible oblivion the memory of one of the most thrilling episodes in the history of our land. It is a movement deserving of our deepest sympathy, and we hope to be able to give early assurance of its successful issue. Donations, however small, to the 'Lundy's Lane Fund' may be sent to the treasurer, James McGlashan, Esq., Manager Imperial Bank, Welland, Ont. Full particulars can be obtained by writing to any of the following well-known gentlemen—address Niagara Falls south P. O., Ont.: John A. Orchard, Esq., Rev. Canon Bull, M.A., Pres. 'Lundy's Lane Historical Society'; Geo. Shrimpton, Esq., Tres. 'Lundy's Lane Historical Society'; M. B. Morris, Esq., Cor. Sec. 'Lundy's Lane Historical Society,' or to J. C. Hall, Esq., Rec. Sec. 'Lundy's Lane Historical Society,' Falls View."

The plan for the proposed fortifications on the Pacific Coast, which has been under consideration for some time past by Imperial army officers, is about completed, and before many weeks are over it is expected that the Dominion Government will be in possession of definite proposals from the home authorities. It is said that the general proposal is that Canada shall construct the fortifications, and the Imperial authorities provide the armament and ammunition.

The annual meeting of the Battleford Rifle Association was held at Mr. Lawson's office on the 14th December. The only business transacted was the election of officers, which resulted as follows:—President—R. C. Laurie. First vice-president—Major Cotton. Second vice-president—H. A. Head. Council—Chas. Smith, Cons. J. A. Fraser, Robert Macdonald, H. H. Millie, J. F. D. Parker, M. Young, F. Otton, H. H. Nash and J. H. Sully.

The names of three military men are prominently mentioned in connection with the vacant position of Chief of the Montreal police force. These are Lieut.-Col. Hughes, Brigade-Major of No. 6 District, Lieut.-Col. D'Orsonnens, Commandant of the Royal School of Infantry at St. John's, and Lieut.-Col. Poiras, 64th Batt., at present Chief of the Valleyfield police.

In the January number of *Colburn's United Service Magazine*, there appears an interesting article on the Canadian Militia from the pen of Lieut.-General Middleton, who there says that he "will back Canadian officers and gunners to fight their guns against any artillery in the world."

The name of the Commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, appears in the last received *Broad Arrow* in the list of nine colonels who have just retired upon a pension and with the honorary rank of Major-General. He is now, therefore, Major-General Oliver.

Halifax.

PROMOTIONS have been made as follows in No. 2 Company of the 63rd Rifles, To be sergeant, Corporal John H. Adams, vice Robert Lindsay, discharged; to be corporal, Herbert Andrews, vice Adams, promoted.

A school of instruction for officers, non-com. officers and men opened at the drill shed on the 11th inst., and will be continued each Wednesday and Friday evening. Those attending are to do so in drill order.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 63rd will be held on the 18th inst.

In the brief notice of the death of Lieut.-Col. Thomas Milsom, which appeared in last issue, there was quite obviously a blunder in that sentence wherein he was said to have been an inspecting field officer of the "United States Militia." Of course "Nova Scotia Militia" was intended. The error was simply made, the abbreviation "N.S." being misunderstood for "U.S.," and the words then printed at full length. The following from the *Halifax Mail* gives some additional particulars concerning the life of the deceased:—"The late Colonel commenced his military career in the 36th regiment, from which he volunteered for service in the Crimea, going out with 375 volunteers, only 75 of whom were over 18 years of age. This regiment of volunteers was the 62nd, with Lieut. Milsom as adjutant. After the Crimean war the 62nd came to Halifax, and at the time of the Trenr affair Mr. Milsom went as a volunteer to Kingston, Ont., where he later on got his captaincy, after which he came to Halifax and bought himself out of the service, joining with Colonel Sinclair in the organization of the Nova Scotia militia in which he became brigade major, a position he held under the re-organization of the service after confederation until some six years since, when he was transferred to the Toronto military district, being succeeded here by Col. McShane. The late Colonel took an active interest at all times in making the militia effective, and many country officers will remember him in connection with the Fenian scare, and later on as adjutant of the military school in this city. A perfect disciplinarian and drill, a soldier in every respect and a gentleman at all times, Colonel

Milsom leaves a host of friends who will long remember him." The Halifax brigade attended in a body at the funeral.

Fredericton.

THIRTY-FIVE officers and non-commissioned officers have joined the Royal Infantry School for the course of instruction for the term commencing on the 1st inst. Lieuts. D. I. Eaton, of the 93rd, and F. H. Benn, of the 62nd, take each a long course. The following are the names of those taking the short course:—

Capt. G. Alexander, 82nd Battalion.
Lieuts. W. Ross, G. D. Perkins, D. W. Pickett, and F. W. Bourne, 67th; Ward, 68th; T. G. Kelly and J. E. Sansom, 71st; R. Allen, 82nd; O. W. Wetmore and C. W. Weyman, 74th.

Sergts. H. L. Ross, 67th; C. Cooney, H. T. Campbell, E. O. Reilly and A. E. Murphy, 68th; R. B. Eaton and R. W. Payne, 78th; H. Barber, 93rd, and A. R. MacDonald, 94th.

Corporals W. Bull, 67th, J. Pringle, J. Wood, and H. W. Craig, 71st; Boisner, 82nd; P. B. MacNeil, 94th.

Ptes. H. Gurrier and E. Sepprel, 67th.

Buglers R. White and G. Grigg, 67th; J. McMennamin, 71st; J. L. Smith, 68th, and H. K. Large, 82nd.

The Fredericton *Capital* of the 31st ult. says: "Victoria Lodge of Oddfellows will present Private Charles Shanks, of the Royal School of Infantry, in Oddfellows Hall, on the afternoon of New Year's Day, with a handsome watch and chain, for his gallant deed in rescuing Mr. Alonzo Smiler (a member of the fraternity), from drowning with Mr. Lynch, an account of which will be found in another column. Pte. Howell's assistance will also be recognized by the Lodge." Smiler and Lynch had been driving together on the ice, and with their horse and cutter had gone through an air hole. Smiler alone arose to the surface. His cries attracted the attention of Ptes. Shanks and Howell, who secured a boat in the barrack yard and by its means succeeded in rescuing him.

Toronto.

NOTICE in your editorial notes that you, Mr. Editor, have received a New Year's card from No. 1 Company of the "Vics." Let me offer you a piece of advice: Write in the margin of the card—high up, mind you, so as to leave room for others—the following words:—"Returned for correction. See Para. 167, R. & O., 1887." Should there be no margin, return card for margin first, and after second receipt return for correction as before. That's red tape! No. 1 Company "Vics" as intended does not exist; and it cannot be the "Vics" at Montreal, as their armouries are labelled "A" Co., "B" Co.; etc., the same remark about Para. 167 might apply to a card issued by "the B's," a nickname for No. 2 Battery Regiment of Canadian Artillery—called after "the 3 B's"—ever hear of them?

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

Sir Charles Dilke, the author of certain articles in the *Fortnightly Review* on "The present position of the Army," has been criticized by another writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, who assumes that England is in a perfect position of defence, and complacently bases his hopes for security, in case of a European war, upon an alliance with the Central Powers. This alliance would seem to be made up of England, Germany, Austria, Italy, and I presume Turkey, as against Russia and France. Another authority, the late Valentine Baker, says if the first four Powers above named were united and allied, war in Europe would become impossible. But he goes on to say that should war break out who can believe that England can help being embroiled?

An American essayist has pointed out that in the event of war Canada could expect little or no help from England, which would be sure to be menaced by Russia, and to need all her troops for India and home defence. He thinks that as matters now stand, the Russians would be able to capture Victoria, B.C. Good bye! Colonel Holmes and "C" Battery!

A jump from English magazines and writers to the Canadian militia is a big one, but I shall take it.

A garrison gunner has, in addition to the usual duties of an infantryman, to work with fortress and siege guns, to shift heavy weights, mount and dismount ordnance, construct and repair batteries, and to perform the artillery duties connected with a fortress or applied to a siege. Prior to the introduction of rifled ordnance, the materiel used by garrison artillery was comparatively simple and subject to few changes (like the milish); the work of the officers was also light and easily learnt. But times have changed and with it artillery stores (though not in Canada). Every day there are changes, alterations, and improvements, necessitating a higher education for officers and men.

The armaments of forts and garrisons are governed in a great measure by the size and description of the works, as well as by the nature of the locality in which they are placed. For instance, it would only be a fool who would arm Winnipeg, or old Fort Garry, with armour piercing guns and supply Quebec with nothing but gatlings. Forts such as Quebec and Kingston, having both land and seafronts, must be armed accordingly. Field or position artillery would also be necessary to prevent troops from landing.

On forts liable to attack by iron plated ships the heaviest rifled guns should be mounted; against wooden vessels a gun of lighter class would be used. Field guns would be required to defend covert ways from assaults, &c., also machine guns.

The guns in Canada—numbering about 800—consist of breech-loaders (Armstrong), muzzle-loaders, rifled and smooth bores familiarly known as "gas pipes," also a few smooth bore guns converted into rifled muzzle loaders. Of serviceable guns we have about:

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| Class I, mountain guns..... | 4 |
| Class II, field guns..... | 70 |
| Class III, siege guns or guns of position..... | 3 |
| Class IV, medium guns..... | 25 |
| Class V, heavy guns..... | 4 |

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We shall see how our forts are armed. St. John, N.B., a point liable to be attacked by iron plated ships, boasts of five 64-32 M.L.R. guns—all of class IV, and a very inferior type at that. Quebec, a fort also open to attack, has one 40 pr. B.L.R. Class III, five 7 in. B.L.R., eight 64 pr. M.L.R. and one 80 pr. M.L.R. guns, all of class IV, and a whole host of "gas-pipes." Montreal, another point inviting attack, has nothing serviceable. At Victoria and in British Columbia generally, we find six 64 pr. M.L.R. (class IV), three 7 in. M.L.R. and one 8 in. M.L.R.; these four guns are of class V. On Prince Edward Island, we have nothing but some old smooth bores. Sydney, C.B., is defenceless and Pictou, N.S., is in the same plight. This then—excepting Kingston, which has one 40 pr. B.L.R., two 7 in.