

meeting what is called 'a constituted authority.' The Khedive is spending enormous sums on this expedition, and has given the most explicit directions that slave-hunting is to be put down at all hazards, and Colonel Gordon, who is a very far-seeing, long-headed man, may be relied upon to take the best way of carrying out the Khedive's wishes."

Mr. Richter, an English mechanical engineer, has called attention to the large number of disasters which have recently befallen iron vessels trading to the port of Melbourne in Australia. While he believes in iron ships when built of sound material and properly constructed, he thinks that wooden vessels are better and safer than many iron vessels now afloat. The fact that the wrecked and dismantled vessels referred to were disabled, not in one gale, but at different times and in widely different latitudes, shows, in Mr. Richter's opinion, that iron vessels not constructed on the best mechanical principles carry the causes of their own destruction within them. Iron ships are too rigid and crank, and do not yield enough to heavy seas to avoid severe shocks to their chronometers, besides being in other respects faulty in construction. There can be no doubt, he writes, that the loss of the British Admiral, with seventy lives, was due to the rate of the chronometer being altered by such shocks, causing the ship to be placed 100 miles or so ahead of where the captain believed her to be. A very similar instance occurred several years ago in the case of a vessel bound from Sydney with coal for San Francisco, when on a foggy morning she went on a beach 110 miles south of San Francisco, at a time when the captain made out his position as 200 miles out to sea. It is probable, too, that the compasses of the British Admiral were affected by a magnetic attraction known to exist on the coast between Melbourne and Adelaide, from which latter cause other vessels have been wrecked. The steamship *Airdale* was wrecked on the coast of New Zealand, where the beach is composed largely of steel sand—wrecked on a set course which she had never altered for fifteen years, thus seeming to show that there are serious occasional disturbances even in these attractions. These influences are stronger on compasses in iron vessels than on compasses in wooden ones.

A great capture of slaves by her Britannic Majesty's ship *Vulture*, Commander A. T. Brooke, is reported. The *Vulture* was cruising off the north-west coast of Madagascar on the morning of the 11th of August, when a sail to the south-west was reported by the mast head man. Chase was given, and nearly five hours afterward the dhow was come up with and boarded. It was full of slaves—forty-one men, fifty-nine women, and 137 children. The slaves were suffering acutely from weakness and cramps, having had to remain in one position for a long time. Several of the children were unable to straighten their legs for three or four days after they were received on board. One woman was found buried up to her neck in damp sand at the bottom of the slave dhow, under the lower slave-deck. The owners were thirty-five armed Arabs, and the Captain determined to take them to Zanzibar and have them summarily dealt with.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

STANSTEAD CAVALRY CAMP.

The Provincial Regiment of Frontier Volunteer Cavalry who have been encamped on Stanstead plains, Eastern Townships, since the second of October, struck their tents and marched to their respective Head-Quarters on the 13th inst., having been previously inspected by our worthy and respected Deputy Adjutant General, Colonel John Fletcher, C. M. G., who, accompanied by Brigade Major King and District Paymaster Major Anyrauld, performed that duty early on the morning of the 9th inst. This very fine and well mounted regiment of Volunteer Cavalry is composed as follows: Major J. H. Taylor, of Cookshire, commanding; Lieut. Colonel R. Lovelace, (late of H. M. regular army) acting Adjutant and Superintendent of Cavalry movements; Surgeon Paget, M. D.; Quartermaster Lieut. Taylor.

1st Squadron Cookshire, Captain French, Lieut. Taylor, and Cornet Chadcock.

2nd Squadron Sherbrooke, Capt. Read.

3rd Squadron Stanstead, Captain Wood, Lieut. Mansur, and Cornet Moulton.

4th Squadron Compton, Capt. F. Stimpson and Lieut. Murray.

Although for drill purposes the term squadron is introduced there are really only four strong troops, who have long been accustomed to be told off and exercised as squadrons, indeed it would be very distasteful to the officers and men of the different localities if it were otherwise, they much prefer this system as it keeps their individuality; a privilege of which they are very jealous.

The weather during the annual twelve days' drill has been tolerably fine but the nights generally very cold.

The discipline of the camp has been well kept up and the conduct of the men without a single exception most orderly. The tents were pitched on a dry and pleasant plot of ground, on the farm of Captain Starnes, a retired officer of the U. S. army, who took the contract for forage and rations as well as caterer for the officers mess. A little discomfort was experienced for the first two days from the non arrival of tents and blankets, but the hardy frontier troops did not grumble, and with the officers made themselves as comfortable as they could in an old cheese factory, hard by the camp ground, and got their horses in barns and stables belonging to the surrounding farm houses. Query, would not the Government save a good deal of expense if every squadron of cavalry were provided with their own camp equipage in a similar manner to the Granby and other field batteries? Were this the case, and the officer in command held responsible for its safe keeping, a cavalry

corps could take the field and encamp when on the line of march at all times without delay or inconvenience; this, however, is a matter for the consideration of the Head Quarter Authorities.

At the target practice Corporal Humphrey of Captain Wood's squadron made the highest score. There is one practice that the Volunteers, I am sorry to say, seem to take especial delight in doing not only about the camp but on the line of march—I refer to the habit of wearing civilian hats of all descriptions whenever they can get rid of their forage caps—the excuse being that the latter are too small, too cold, &c.

Long boots and strap spurs, as now worn by all mounted corps in the British army, is undoubtedly the best for Volunteer Cavalry, and the difference in appearance of those who had been provided uniformly with these appendages, as in the Stanstead squadron, and those who turned out in long overalls without straps and boots, some short, some long, and in too many cases without spurs, was most apparent; the latter having a slovenly look and the former a smart and soldierlike one. The men taken as a body are really a fine set of fellows and most attentive and anxious to do their duty properly, and if the little matter above referred to were looked into it would very much increase the *esprit de corps* of the frontier troops. This regiment is now only provisional, but it is hoped will soon be gazetted as a Cavalry Regiment of the Dominion, and their young and popular commander Major Taylor promoted to the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

A Field day under the command of Lieut. Colonel Lovelace took place on the 10th inst. when the four squadrons formed up as a regiment were put through a series of manoeuvres, including skirmishing mounted and dismounted, sword exercise, &c. The whole being very creditably performed, the charge in line in particular. The horses have evidently been well trained to stand fire, and when the Colonel directed horses to be linked, and skirmished to the front, but two men were left with each squadron as horse holders. A large assemblage of the inhabitants of Stanstead and the surrounding village attended the field day as did also very many of our American cousins on the other side of the line, to whom our British cavalry tactics doubtless appeared very different from their own.

The services of Lieut. Colonel Lovelace, Surgeon Paget, Quartermaster Taylor, and last though not least, Captain Starnes, the contractor, have been well appreciated by all concerned. The splendid band from Stanstead under the direction of Mr. Parsons also contributed much to the enjoyment of the troops by their performance in camp, and on the whole the Frontier Regiment of Cavalry have every reason to be well satisfied with their brief sojourn on Stanstead plains.

The Editors of the *Gazette* and *Evening Star* of Montreal, kindly forwarded through Col. Lovelace one hundred copies of their respective journals daily to the camp grounds, which, it is needless to remark, was much appreciated by the officers and troops.