

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

(For the Review.)

The annual drill of the 14th, 47th, and Cavalry and Kingston Field Battery was put in by these Corps at Kingston. They assembling on the 12th of September last and returning to their homes on the 20th of the same month.

Before going further let me say that I think, with all due deference to the authorities, and those in command of battalions more particularly, no corps below Cobourg should be allowed to go into camp so late in the year, as you cannot be certain of good weather and you want good fine weather when you put in only eight days in camp. Now, with us in Kingston, the weather was simply disgusting, for we had only three whole days of 24 hours really fine. It poured and rained off and on the whole time, except three or four days; and, one or two nights, tents in the horizontal position was a common lunar observation.

The 14th Battalion marched under command of Lieutenant Colonel Callaghan who, however, did not remain to do duty with the battalion during camp, and consequently the command devolved on Maj. Mathews, the junior major, with Capt. Barrow acting as major.

The 47th Battalion was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Kirkpatrick, M.P., who was also the officer commanding the brigade (which consisted of the two infantry corps, and the cavalry under Lieut. Colonel Duff), who appointed Captain Barrow of the 14th, Brigade Major.

The men got along capitally and the camp was very orderly and very well conducted; and spite of the wet weather, a great want of blankets and the general disagreeableness of Jupiter Pluvius' disgusting conduct, there was not any of that grumbling which is the privilege of the British soldier.

On Friday, the 19th, Lieutenant Colonel Jarvis, D.A.G., inspected the brigade which was drawn up on Barrielfield Common. The rain could not let us have our usual inspection without coming down in pelting showers which drove any civilians on the ground at the double.

Colonel Jarvis complimented the troops on the very creditable inspection they had passed and then rode over to the camp where after the men's dinners were ended he mustered the brigade by regiments, District Paymaster, Lieut. Colonel Strange, calling the rolls by companies.

Colonel Jarvis gave a luncheon in the afternoon to the Commissioned Officers and others. On the previous evening the officers of the brigade entertained Colonel Jarvis and others at dinner in the mess room when a very pleasant evening was spent.

The 14th was first to leave camp on the morning of the 20th about 9-30, a.m. The 47th went home as they came in by detachments, as did also the cavalry and artillery, but of the latter we don't know much as they encamped in the Artillery Park.

As the camp commenced so it ended, viz. with a lovely day; but the weather was anything but pleasant throughout, and consequently the shooting was not so superior as it probably would have been otherwise.

K.

NAUTICAL.

The REVIEW is to be congratulated upon its preception in naval affairs, and especially for the uncompromising stand it has continued to assume against the tentative abortive attempts of the navy-yard to construct a fleet at all commensurate to the varied requirements and exigencies of a power so situated as Great Britain. And should the *Shah* become—as it seems probable—the model for the next phase in naval architecture, the REVIEW's pre-conception of an efficient ship of war may be shortly established, and England's navy of the future, exhibit in every sea, the full rigged heavy armoured auxiliary steam power ship of war.

This cheering prospect of a partial return to the old conditions of naval warfare, must be hailed with enthusiasm by every true British Tar; and poetic inspiration may be as true in the future as in the past:

"England needs no battlements nor towers  
along her steep,  
Her march is on the mountain wave, her home is  
on the deep."

I am not aware to what extent naval officers, as a rule, approve or deprecate vessels of the monitor type,—but to a landsman,—of many voyages who has seen the old ocean in his wildest revelry—these deeply immersed huge masses of iron are assuredly more suggestive of *urch*, *send*, and *wallow* than of Byron's ideal of the British frigate "walking the waters like a thing of life."

Only a deep admiration for the symmetrical picturesque ships of the old navy, and a soldier's instinctive appreciation of the dauntless courage that made it to dominate the Main, can be offered as an apology for a landsman shoving in his oar in naval affairs.

SABREUR.

15th November, 1873.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—I believe you do not object to some plain talk, and so would suggest that you leave non-military and kindred topics alone for a while, and go in for instruction.

Now, talking of service in this country, what is the use of a soldier that can't shoot? How should he be taught to shoot? Why should not an officer have a rifle? How many Canadian Volunteers can judge distance? Is there any benefit in small bore shooting? There are a good many "Martini-Henry's"

in the country, why are they not more used by their owners? What is being done to improve rifle shooting in this country? What has the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association accomplished in this way? Many other topics about rifles, steel barrels, drawn bullets, targets, trajectory, and lots of kindred subjects; why don't you advocate them instead of matters of dress and drill?

Yours truly, R.

REVIEWS.

The *New Dominion Monthly* for November, has for its frontispiece a likeness of the Rev. Geo. Douglas, L.L.D. "Only a Seamstress," is the beginning of a new story, which, judging from the first chapter, bids fair to be an interesting one, as the author, Jeanie Bell, is of known celebrity. "Voices from Ramah; or, Rachel's Lamentations;" by E. H. Nash, is a well written and interesting story. Take it all in all the November No. is a very interesting one.

The *Science of Health* for December closes the third volume of this practical and interesting Magazine. Its leading object is to teach the Science of Life, including all that relates to recovering and preserving health and promoting a higher physical and mental condition. Every family should read this Magazine. It is published at \$2 a year. A new volume begins with the next number. Now is the time to subscribe. Address, S F. Wells, Publisher, 389 Broadway, New York.

A WRITER in the Surrey (England) *Comet* says: "Magenta was won by the Austrian positions having been observed by the aeronaut, and information transmitted to the French staff by electric wires enclosed in the rope which detained the balloon captive. Such a balloon would be of inestimable value in Ashantee. Though near the coast, the bush is so high as to conceal the enemy; yet some indication of their course would be visible, and in the interior all their movements would be laid bare. The balloon itself would no doubt be an object of superstitious dread to these savages. While on the subject of this war, may we not ask why elephants should not be employed? Wild elephants abound on the Ivory Coast, and therefore there could be no difficulty in sustaining an elephant battery from India. They would not suffer from insects like horses, and would strike terror into the Ashantees. After the war advantage might be taken of them to utilize the native elephant, which could be domesticated as well now as in the days of Hannibal. By this, ready access would be gained to the interior, and the progress of civilization would be greatly facilitated."

The London newspapers, in commenting on the Cuban executions, all express the hope that the United States will avenge the victims.