

hand-to-mouth efforts, do not after all, equal in the long run, the steady progress of the richest nation on the face of the earth; and Mr. King, the American special Commissioner to England for naval investigation, candidly reported, that one private building yard in the Thames could turn out as many iron-clads in a year, if required, as all the navy yards of the United States put together. The sale of the vaunted *Dunderberg* so soon after completion, furnishes an apt commentary on Mr. King's report.

Such, then, is the English navy of the present hour, to which our American friends, who howled so dismally the other day over the depredations of two or three indifferent semi-war steamers, are so ready to bid defiance. The navy of the power whose commerce a few privateers are to sweep from the seas! as a Fenian leader grandly observed in one of their assemblies "where then" (i. e., when they should have fitted out a couple of privateers) "will be the commerce of England?"

It may possibly occur to some people, that in the face of such a navy, and a mercantile marine capable of sending forth three privateers to their one; in the face of British pluck, and Canadian gallantry; and of their own intestine broils and indebtedness, Brother Jonathan had better defer talking of war till he can contrive *Monitors* which can safely keep the sea without escort, and which will not quite suffocate their crews.

In a subsequent short article I purpose saying a very few words as to the personnel of the English navy. G. W.

BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM BROCKVILLE.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Brockville & Ottawa Railway Garrison Battery, No. 1 Company, 41st Battalion, No. 2 Company, 42nd Battalion, and Officers Drill Association here, are drilling regularly once a week, respectively. I also understand that No. 1 Company, 56th Battalion, (Capt. Armstrong) Prescott, has commenced regular weekly drill in the new Battalion Drill shed, at that station. The average attendance of the whole of the above companies is very good. A drill shed is much wanted at Brockville, in the meantime the Town Council have granted the use of the "Victoria Hall" for drill purposes, it is, however too small.

On Thursday evening last, Lieut.-Colonel Atcherley, D. A. A. G., entertained the officers of Brockville and Prescott, with a few of his other friends, at supper at Campbell's Hotel, which was served in Campbell's best style. Over thirty were present. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drank, and responded to with pleasant and entertaining speeches. The evening was very socially spent, and the party broke up at 12 o'clock, by singing "God Save the Queen."

FROM TORONTO.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Last Wednesday His Excellency came down in state to prorogue the first Parliament of Ontario. The same display was observed as at the opening. The weather was splendid, and the attendance of the upper tondom quite as numerous as the Dominion Parliament will muster to-day at Ottawa.

The Hon. Robert Spence who died here recently, was at one time the Captain of the Civil Service Rifles in this city. The Government employes expect that a wing of the "Civil Service Rifle Regiment" will shortly be established at Toronto. The 10th Royals keep up a good muster. At their last weekly drill I counted 200 rank and file, and 40 in the band. The non-com's. of the Royal Artillery had a very successful ball, and were favored by the presence of Col. Radcliffe, Commandant, Col. Anderson, C. B., and many of the leading Volunteer officers.

The death of Colonel Dunn, formerly of this city, in Abyssinia, is much regretted by his many friends and relatives who justly regarded him as the most promising Canadian in the British army. He was the youngest Colonel and held the Victoria Cross for gallant conduct at Balaklava.—Every one is anxious to have a peep at the new Militia Bill, about which there is a great deal of discussion in military circles here as to its probable provisions.

FROM St. CATHARINES.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The funeral of Corporal Hugh Hastings, a member of No. 2 Company (Capt. Thompson) 19th Battalion, took place on Saturday, the 29th ult., with military honors. Notwithstanding the extremely unfavorable state of the weather there was a good turnout of the Company to pay the last honors to the remains of a comrade in arms. The deceased had been connected with the Company for some years, and was on active service during the Fenian raid. As the Government has hitherto failed to supply blank cartridge to the Volunteer force, the firing over the grave was not gone through with, the regularity and precision which was desirable as the re-filled cases used on the occasion did not work as easily as was expected. It is to be hoped that the authorities will attend to this matter, and remedy the difficulty in question. The Fire Brigade, of which Mr. Hastings was also a member, were in attendance. A musical entertainment is to be given on the 18th inst., under the auspices of Lt.-Colonel Currie and officers of the 19th, for the purpose of raising funds to cement the floor of the splendid new Battalion Drill Shed, recently completed in this place. The concert will doubtless be success.

FROM CAVAGNOL.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The sixth annual dinner of the 1st Company Vaudrouil, V. M. R., took place at Mr. Chapple's Hotel, Cavagnol, on the 3rd inst. The Company mustered in full force, and at 6 p. m., sat down to an excellent dinner, the room being tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens, the whole reflecting great credit on Mr. Chapple. After dinner a number of loyal toasts and sentiments were proposed, and heartily responded to. The following being the most prominent:

The Queen—Long may the people of her now Dominion enjoy her beneficent rule—CAPT. McNAUGHTON.

The Governor-General—May he continue to exercise his power with honor to himself and prosperity to the Dominion—SERGEANT ROBINSON.

The Army and Navy of our Mother Country—SERGEANT McNAUGHTON.

The Volunteers of Canada—May their motto be what their actions have already proved "Ready, aye, Ready."—SERGEANT MURTAGH.

The Ladies of the new Dominion—Without them it would, scarcely be worth defending—SERGEANT THOMPSON.

The Health of Capt. McNaughton and Lady—CORPORAL AWDE.

After the usual amount of healths and speeches attendant on such occasions, dancing was commenced, and kept up with great spirit, there being no lack of the fair sex to grace the festivities, and at a late, or rather early hour in the morning, the proceedings terminated by the company singing the National Anthem.

THE NEW ENGLISH PREMIER.

Mr. Benjamin Disraeli, the new Prime Minister, is now in the sixty-third year of his age. His father was the author of the celebrated work "The Curiosities of Literature," and translated his literary genius to his son, who produced, before he attained his majority, several novels, which are still popular, and which exhibited a striking originality of opinion upon most of the social and political problems of the age. He spent some years travelling in the East, and on his return devoted himself to politics, and entered the English House of Commons in 1837. He sympathized with the policy of the late Sir Robert Peel, but broke with him on the question of free trade, and attached himself to the conservative party, of which he became leader on the death of Lord George Bentinck.

In 1852, he enjoyed a brief term of office as Chancellor of the Exchequer during the ascendancy of the Tory party; and in 1858, he again filled the same office. On the accession of Earl Derby to power, he resumed his old position, and retained it until his present appointment to the higher position of Premier. No public man in England ever experienced a more disheartening succession of defeats or encountered a more bitter personal rivalry. But a turn in the wheel of fortune has brought him out triumphant; and now he is the ruler and dispenser of patronage to the haughty English aristocracy that formerly despised his ability, and derided his pretensions.