

has to be allowed in unessentials. That which to a martinet seems intolerable license has to be tolerated; and usually no harm comes of it. Still there are things which, after making all allowances, are not properly permissible; and frequent among them may be placed the donning of a uniform on unauthorized occasion. It is obvious that if individual members of a corps are at liberty to appear as soldiers and march about the streets together, a facility is afforded for making demonstrations of which, when the occasion arrives, advantage may be awkwardly taken. Now we do not in the least wish to inculcate celibacy in our local forces, nor do we think it otherwise than laudable as well as natural that, when a popular officer returns from his wedding tour, the men of his company should manifest their sympathy in the happiness of the bridegroom; but it must be confessed that when we find it recorded in the pages of a contemporary that, "a guard of honor consisting of a detachment of the — Regiment, met and escorted Captain — to the Beehive where supper was eaten and some time spent in social intercourse," doubts do arise whether discipline has not been subordinated to joviality, and whether military etiquette has not been a little sacrificed to good fellowship. By all means let social suppers be eaten, by those whose stomachs will stand them; let slippers be thrown after bride; and let the people "celebrate" weddings as they please; but we venture to think that a military turnout, even on the momentous occasion of the return of a newly married officer to the headquarters of his regiment, had better be dispensed with, unless authorized by an order from headquarters."

The people of New Westminster have taken issue with the people of Victoria on the Railway question, and condemn their action in trying to coerce the Canadian Government into at once commencing the construction of the Pacific Railway to suit the views of the Islanders, irrespective of the wishes of the Mainlanders. A meeting for the purpose of petitioning the Canadian Government in reference to the matter was held at New Westminster on the 20th of June, at which resolutions were passed, and a committee appointed to draft an address to His Excellency the Governor General which is as follows:—

"That in view of the action taken by the Association calling itself the Terms of Union Preservation League, meeting in the city of Victoria, on Vancouver Island, in petitioning Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, relative to the non-fulfilment of one of the conditions of the Terms of Union and affirming in said petition that Esquimalt on Vancouver Island had been decided to be the Terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that a portion of the line had been located between the harbor of Esquimalt and Seymour Narrows, and praying that Her Majesty act as Arbitrator, and see that justice be done to British Columbia, we the undersigned respectfully submit as follows:

"That, in our opinion the order of the Privy Council of Canada, of 7th June, 1873, is in no way binding upon Your Excellency's present Government, and that a line of Railway along the seaboard of Vancouver Island to Esquimalt, is in no part of the Terms of Union.

"That in any arrangement which may be entered into for an extension of time for the commencement or completion of the Railway, any consideration granted by the Dominion of Canada to the Province of British Columbia, should be such as would be generally advantageous to the whole Province, and not of a merely local nature benefiting only a section thereof.

"That the League referred to, acting under the impression that further surveys may detract from the favorable opinion now entertained by the Engineers of the Bute and Inlet route, are desirous of forcing Your Excellency's Government into immediate selection.

"That we consider it would be unwise, impolitic, and unjust, to select any line for the Railway, until time be given to make a thorough survey of the different routes on the Mainland, believing as we do that such survey must result in the selection of the Fraser Valley route, which is the only one that connects the fertile districts of the interior with the seaboard.

"That as it is evident that the Surveys are not yet sufficiently advanced to allow of an intelligent decision on the question of route being arrived at, we consider a vigorous and immediate prosecution of the Surveys by Your Excellency's Government to be followed in 1875, by the commencement of construction on the Mainland, will be a faithful carrying out of the spirit of the Terms of Union."

We paid a visit to the Armoury Storehouse on Saturday to see the new Guns just arrived for the Ottawa Field Battery, commanded by Capt. JOHN STEWART. They are beautiful pieces of ordnance, being 9 pounder muzzle loading steel rifled guns, the same we believe as those now in possession of "A" and "B" Batteries Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec, and also by the Royal Horse Artillery. The elevating screw is worked by an improved method and enables the Gunner to elevate or depress his Gun to a given point with accuracy. A handy table of ranges and degrees of elevation is engraved on a brass plate on the limber and enables the Gunner laying the gun to see correctly at a glance the degrees of elevation required. They are sighted for 6 degrees and will throw shells a distance of 3,500 yds. the charge of powder being 11b. 12oz. They are lighter than the old Guns (8cwt. 1q. 7lbs.) and will therefore be much more easily worked by men and horses.

It is a pity that two guns more had not been added, and make it a six Gun Battery. Surely Ottawa, the Capital of the Dominion, is entitled to it. The additional expense would have been very trifling indeed, and we are sure Captain STEWART could easily procure the few additional men and horses required to man and work them.

We direct attention to the Advertisement of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, the Matches of which are to come off on Tuesday, 11th August, and following days, at the Point St. Charles Ranges. The liberal policy pursued by the gentlemen composing the managing Directory of this Association,

has emphatically made these matches the Wimbledon of Canada. One match only is reserved for Quebec volunteers; the others are open to anybody who wishes to compete. The prize list we see is enlarged, and the regulations improved by the experience of former seasons. The executive committee are evidently well versed in rifle practice, and we shall be glad of their success in the encouragement of this most useful exercise.

#### MACMAHON'S MESSAGE.

VERSAILLES, July 9.—In the Assembly today, the message of President MacMahon, of which notice was given yesterday, was presented and read by General DeCissey, Minister of War:—"When you, by the law of November 20th last, delivered executive power into my hands for seven years, you intended to afford to the public interests that stability which precarious institutions are powerless to give; that vote conferred upon me grave duties for the fulfilment of which I am accountable to France, and from which I can in no case be permitted to withdraw. It also conferred rights which I shall never exercise except for the good of the country. Your confidence rendered my powers irrevocable for a fixed term. In forestalling the votes on constitutional bills, in according them yourselves, you enshined your sovereignty. I shall employ the means with which I am armed by the laws to defend my power. This course I am convinced, is in accordance with the expectations and will of the Assembly which, when it placed me at the head of the Government, intended to create a strong, stable and respected power. But the law of Nov. 20th must be completed. The Assembly cannot meditate tearing up its engagements. Permit me to press on your minds the claims of the fulfilment of that engagement. The country demands the organization of public powers, and the questions which were reserved, must be settled. Further delay will depress trade, and hamper the prosperity of the country. I hope the Assembly will not fail to fulfil its obligations. I adjure it in the name of the highest interests of the country to deliberate without delay upon the questions which must no longer remain in suspense. The Assembly and Government are directly responsible. I am desirous of accomplishing all my duties, and my most imperative duty is to afford to the country defined institutions, security and calm. I have instructed the Minister to inform the constitutional committee concerning the points upon which I believe it to exist."

M. Raoul Duval argued that the Assembly was powerless to constitute a definitive Government, and moved that it dissolve after having voted upon the financial bills, the bill on military organization, and one for a general election on October 25th; he demanded that his motion be declared urgent. The demand for urgency was supported by the Left and the Bonapartists, but was rejected by a large majority. The Left Centre voted with the majority, thinking that MacMahon's message increased the chances of Cassimir Perier's bill. The motion was afterwards referred to the Committee on Parliamentary Initiative, in which the Left predominated. A favorable and speedy report upon it is, therefore, certain. The Committee of Thirty has approved the bill favoring the personal septennate, and the debate upon it will probably occur within a few days.