

**A** SCHEME for the redistribution of the garrison artillery in the Dominion is in course of preparation by General Middleton; and amongst other measures for the benefit of the force which he has in contemplation is the making of provision for a course of lectures on military subjects to be given under the direction of the commandants at the different stations where there are schools of instruction. Further details of these propositions will, we are sure, be received with widespread interest.

**H**OLDERS of National Rifle Association medals in this country will be particularly interested in a proposed amendment to the rules governing entrance for the Prince of Wales' prize. It is to be moved by Lord Wantage and seconded by Lord Waldegrave, and is that the winner of a N. R. A. silver or bronze medal, or medals, shall be entitled to compete once for the Prince of Wales' prize in respect of each such medal won by him, but he cannot compete more than once any year.

**R**EVOLVER shooting appears to be occupying increased attention in England of late. There are two memorials about to be presented to the Council of the National Rifle Association concerning the revolver competitions of that body. One asks for a circular bulls-eye and centre, as fairer than the squares now used; and the other asks for fixed revolver targets for pool and sweepstakes, as likely to increase the popularity and add to the financial success of the revolver competitions; and also for a separate competition for those who have never won a revolver prize at Wimbledon.

**T**ORPEDOES and torpedo corps will be apt to receive more general attention in this country now that they form one of the subjects to be considered by the lately appointed military commission. Experimenting with torpedoes is being carried on to considerable extent in the Imperial service. The Mediterranean squadron recently had a series of trials in firing Whitehead torpedoes when steaming 12 knots, probably about the usual rate which will be maintained in action, which have not shown the torpedoes to much advantage. Several proved erratic in their course, and one was altogether lost; not a few of the carriages from which they were discharged were found to be inefficient, so that the practice was anything but satisfactory. The Austrians forecast almost insurmountable difficulties to be experienced in using the Whitehead in warfare; the Portsmouth commander-in-chief dubs it unreliable, and Capt. Haig, whose views expressed in the Royal United Service Institution seemed to meet with general acceptance from his audience, thinks the flying torpedo a more formidable missile than either the Brennan or the Whitehead.

**I**N framing regulations and orders endeavour to adopt them to the convenience of those by whom they are to be obeyed." This was the excellent advice to commanding officers offered by Lt.-Col. A. C. Robertson, 8th King's regiment, in 1864, supplementing his injunction as follows: "The first consideration of a commanding officer ought to be the good of the service; the next, the well-being and convenience of those under his command. To promote either of these objects, he ought at all times to be ready to sacrifice his own inclinations and convenience. An officer of an unselfish disposition, who feels a real and lively interest in the well-being of those under his command, will find many opportunities of showing the influence of these feelings in determining the manner in which he exercises his authority. He will fix the hour of parade, the time of transacting orderly-room business, and the whole routine of the daily regimental duties and arrangements, not with reference to his own habits and pursuits, but with reference to the habits and pursuits of those under his command, as a general rule preferring the convenience of the private soldiers to that of the non-commissioned officers, and the convenience of the non-commis-

sioned officers to that of the commissioned officers. He will never suffer himself to be tempted to impose extra tasks, or to exact extraordinary efforts from his men, merely for the sake of reflecting credit on himself and of obtaining the reputation of being a smart officer; but in determining the kind and amount of work to be required of his men, he will be guided solely by the consideration of what he considers to be necessary for the good of the service, and to be most conducive to the well-being and happiness of the men. The natural effect of exercising authority in accordance with these principles, will be to inspire feelings of affection and good will. The devotion of his followers is the certain reward of the self-sacrifice of a leader."

### Colours to the Depot.

[It was a short time ago decided that regiments of the British Army should leave their colours behind when proceeding on active service.]

**N**EVERMORE, in press of battle,  
Shall our old, historic corps,  
Midst the tumult and the rattle,  
Gather—as in days of yore—  
Round those emblems of our glory  
Dearer still than love or life,  
Round our Regimental Story,  
As it floats above the strife.

Nevermore, when sore outnumbered,  
Foes against us ten to one,  
Field with British dead encumbered,  
Fortune seems our arms to shun—  
Shall a rallying point, appearing  
Forth from out our broken line,  
Re-unite us, madly cheering,  
Round that hallowed, sacred shrine.

Nevermore shall comrade, lying  
On the red field, stricken sore,  
Lonely, faint, and helpless, dying  
Bravely for the dear old corps—  
With a last, long look of craving,  
Feel the sting of death is past,  
See his Colours, proudly waving,  
Borne to victory—at last

—A. M. F., in Colburn's Magazine.

### Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

#### COMPLIMENTS ON THE MARCH.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—The "Mentor" of the militia force adopts the Milesian method of answering a question—by asking another. As he now wants to know what officers in the Canadian militia are, by Regulations, entitled to be noticed, I will try to help in his pursuit of knowledge by referring him to the Queen's Regulations, Sec. III, para. 21, where he will find it written: "Guards and parties on the march will also pay the prescribed compliments to general officers in uniform." MILISH.

#### THE COBOURG GARRISON ARTILLERY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In a recent issue of your valuable and interesting paper was an article amongst your Current Topics respecting "garrison batteries." After stating that the Toronto battery was disbanded and the Collingwood one wiped out, you observe that "the sole survivor, the Cobourg battery, is not in that condition, it is said, in which its best friends can speak very enthusiastically of its prospects." I do not know who the best friends of the battery are who make such a statement. I do not think they reside in Cobourg or are to be found among the officers who for the past twenty-one years have annually inspected us. Should the battery be wiped out by the authorities it would save its officers much trouble and expense. But I do not think it can be disbanded on the ground of inefficiency. The Cobourg battery was organized during the Fenian raid of 1866 and was composed of the leading men in Cobourg. Amongst its rank and file were those who to-day are chief justices and leading bank managers, and although the present members have not the social status of the first men they have proved themselves good shots with gun and rifle, and clean, smart soldiers at inspection. The present officers have been associated with it from its organization. The battery has never failed to turn out full strength, and never missed an annual inspection since 1866, and it always has had the good fortune to be favourably spoken of by the inspecting officers. It is a joke amongst us that we marched out during the Fenian raid 52 strong and after the campaign returned 60 strong, many of our garrison insisting upon joining us at Toronto. We have laboured under great disadvantages. We have no proper armoury, no drill shed, no modern guns, none of the advantages incident to the regimental formations of other arms of the service, *no promotion*. Yet we are all there, are very conceited and fond of our corps and its record, and consider ourselves unmeasurably superior to any other company of any service. So much for conceit. And so long as we are permitted to remain a military organization we will try to the best of our ability to maintain our efficiency and reputation, notwithstanding the forebodings of our "alleged best friends."

Cobourg, Ont., Feb., '88.

J. H. DUMBLE, Captain.

A letter from the Rev. John A. Cass will be printed in the forthcoming number of *The American Magazine*, advocating a somewhat startling method of depleting the surplus in the National Treasury. He proposes to extend the pension system to wounded and disabled Confederate soldiers. The scheme is urged on the broad ground of humanity, and its author thinks that even the Grand Army of the Republic may view it with favour.