

time to reproduce some of his remarks. He has struck the right note in insisting that attention to petty details at the start is the important point to be observed. After explaining the military institutions of the country and deducing some lessons from past military experience, he speaks of discipline and subordination; books and papers; elementary drill; the future method of attack; hints to officers, and some other miscellaneous matters, including the duties of guards and sentries, and all is so thoroughly explained as to commend itself to the veriest tyro.

Vick's Floral Guide for 1887.—Vick, the enterprising Rochester seedsman, sends out every year a catalogue that is a work of art. The one now to hand is a masterpiece of the printer's art and contains nearly 200 pages, including, we might almost say, *full* instructions for all descriptions of gardening, and illustrations of every flower and vegetable of which he sells the seeds. We know him and his seeds to be *thoroughly* reliable, and if you have a garden and cannot get the best seeds at home send ten cents for a catalogue to James Vick, Rochester, N.Y., you will get a book worth three times that and if later you order anything he will refund the ten cents.

The Repeating Rifle.

ONE of the news associations is responsible for a statement to the effect that Herr Schuloff's visit to this country from Vienna is solely for the purpose of being present and giving his assistance at the experimental trials of the new repeating rifle by the military authorities. This announcement is calculated, if not intended, to convey an impression that Herr Schuloff's magazine rifle is the type that has been selected for trial, although the authority we have quoted is careful to add that "nothing has yet been settled as to the introduction of the rifle into the British army." As a matter of fact, it has not even been settled whether we are to arm our infantry with any sort of repeating rifle, and the experimental stage suggested by this news agency as the sole reason for Herr Schuloff's presence in England is yet afar off. It may be said emphatically that English officials have, so far, shown not the slightest bias in favor of the Austrian engineer's invention, which has not yet found so much favor as would be likely to lead to its adoption by the army of his native country. We believe Herr Schuloff came to England with this repeating rifle some years ago, but failed to make its merits "understood of the people" who control the wires at Whitehall and the war office. At that time, however, nothing would be looked at that was not adapted to take the service boxer cartridge. Now, however, happily, even official opinion on this point has changed under pressure, and each system of mechanism has some chance of being allowed to stand on its merits alone, not handicapped by stringent rules that would make it subservient to the necessities of an obsolete and worthless projectile. Since that time nothing has transpired to demonstrate the superiority of the weapon invented by Herr Schuloff, except, may be, some semi-official trials at Vienna, to which Major-General Keith-Fraser lent the lustre of his presence, but as to the result of which we know nothing beyond what some American papers have told us in vague words of indiscriminate praise. No doubt Herr Schuloff will make another attempt to convince the obdurate official mind of the superiority of his over all other forms of repeating rifle, and probably that is the object of his visit to England just now, but that he has any reason to hope for more than a fair trial in competition with others we do not believe. It is much to be wished that some ignorant prejudices long held by a few military men, and to which they still cling obstinately, were as obsolete as the boxer cartridge. One reason they try persistently to cram down the throats of reformers, as if it were unanswerable, is that soldiers waste ammunition enough with a single breech-loader, and, *ergo*, would waste six or eight times as much if armed with a magazine weapon. Now, this is one of the most flagrant and patent fallacies ever entertained, even by the official mind. Practical soldiers know well enough what makes men waste ammunition, and they know also that the only means of preventing this in future warfare will be to arm our infantry with repeating rifles of some kind. Victory, henceforth, must rest with the army that can bring the most withering and ceaseless fire of small-arms to bear on certain points at critical moments of a battle. That is a tactical proposition which we challenge any amount of sophistry to disprove. But it may be asked, what about accuracy of fire? This involves other considerations, some of which may be summed up in a dogma. We hold strongly to the opinion, heretical though it may seem, that for the ordinary rank and file there should be no fiddling with delicately-adjusted sights or attempts at nice accuracy of aim. They should be allowed to shoot at nothing more distant than four hundred yards, and they should be taught snap shooting by volleys, so that they might learn to cover an object at point-blank range instantly with unerring certainty. All this is just what might happen in any fierce fight, and the sooner we recognise it the better. For any shooting requiring more deliberate aim at ranges over four or five hundred yards, we may have to

revert to an ancient system of tactics—as old in principle as the history of British victories—and that is the establishment of rifle companies, into which all the best marksmen of a battalion should be drafted. These should be armed with single shooting rifles of the deadliest accuracy, but, needless to say, of the same calibre as the more rough-and-ready magazine weapon. Whether this tragical suggestion be adopted or not, it is certain that sooner or later our infantry must be armed with some sort of repeating rifle. We are far from desiring that there should be any undue haste in selecting a type, and still further from advocating the adoption of any foreign pattern. Our own gun-makers and mechanical engineers are just now devoting their attention to the subject, and we venture to predict that, if assured of government encouragement, they will succeed in producing a weapon better than any with which continental armies are yet armed, or likely to be for some time to come. Two gunmaking engineers of known reputation, who have already done much towards the improvement of our military weapons, are producing magazine rifles that will probably be ready for trial within a month or two. One of these we have been allowed to inspect. It fires twenty-five rounds a minute with perfect freedom from anything that could cause a cartridge to jam, even were the weapon being used by the most careless or nervous soldier, and it has the crowning advantage of remarkable simplicity in all its details. —*A. & H. G. Gazette.*

The Status of the Canadian Force.

(From the "Manitoban's" Military Column.)

THERE is a pretty general misapprehension of the position occupied by the Canadian militia and the term "volunteers" is frequently misapplied to them. The Canadian militia as it at present exists is the creation of an Act of the Dominion Parliament, passed in 1868, which was framed by the late Sir George Cartier, and is strictly and literally militia, and not volunteers, as the term is used in England and generally understood here. It may be of interest to point out the difference which exists between the two, and it may here be noted that because a force is raised by voluntary enlistment, it by no means follows that it is a volunteer force. England's standing army and militia are raised entirely by voluntary enlistment, although in time of need the latter (the militia) could be augmented by a *levee en masse*. A similar provision exists in Canada, in fact every male subject between the ages of 18 and 60 is liable to military service. The volunteer force of Great Britain as it is at present constituted is a volunteer force in fact as well as in name, and is the result of a strong feeling of insecurity which prevailed in Great Britain about 1857. Corps of rifles were then raised in various counties, Devonshire having the honor of being the first, and Middlesex the second. In 1863 an Act of Parliament was passed placing the force on the footing it now occupies. This act provided that a sum of thirty shillings per capita for each efficient volunteer and fifty shillings for each proficient officer and sergeant should be paid to the respective corps. This capitulation grant is used to provide uniforms, etc., the government only supplying arms and belts. Neither officers nor men receive anything for their services, the grant being entirely absorbed in the expenses of maintaining the corps. The volunteer movement spread wonderfully, and there are now about 260,000 volunteers in Great Britain. The force is divided into mounted rifles, garrison artillery, engineers and rifles. Every volunteer to become efficient must attend at least thirty drills and the inspection the first year and six drills and the inspection every year thereafter. The greatest drawback to a military appearance is the variety of color affected by the different regiments in the uniform. Grey is the most prevalent, but this is of all shades, from the darkest slate to the lightest butternut. Scarlet is also largely in use and some corps stick to the rifle green. Of late years the force has greatly improved, and, no doubt, would prove a most important factor in case of invasion. It cannot, however, be sent out of the kingdom, and is for defensive purposes only. Commissions therein are granted by the lieutenants of counties on the recommendation of the commanding officer.

The Canadian militia consists of two portions, active and reserve. The latter consists of all males between the ages of 18 and 60 not enrolled in the active militia. For convenience of embodiment the Dominion is divided into brigade, regimental and company divisions. This, however, has not yet been done in Manitoba, British Columbia or the Territories, the sparsity of population hitherto having prevented it. Enrolment of the reserve militia has not taken place for many years. The active militia force of the Dominion is maintained by compulsory and voluntary enlistment, each section of the country being liable to be called upon to furnish its quota. Hitherto there has been no necessity to compel enlistment, as the force has been kept up to its standard by numbers of active and patriotic men who believe that they are fulfilling a duty to their country in serving in her forces. The government supplies new uniform every five years and furnishes sufficient supply of arms