

aid from the Fenian "Headquarters" for the last six months, either directly or indirectly.

I have no desire to appear in the public press, and it was very unwarrantable of Col. Roberts to use my name at all. I have not the pleasure of knowing this gentleman, and cannot be induced to have any controversy with him, but you are at liberty to make what use you see fit of this letter as addressed to you.

Yours very faithfully,
JOHN McMAHON,
Late P. P. Anderson, Indiana.

P. S.—As I am not now prepared to die on the scaffold, and not particularly anxious for martyrdom, yet I for one would be most willing to exchange with the valiant Colonel, and I am sure Mr. Lynch would have no objection to exchange with him some other patriot inclined for notoriety. We have had now all we want.

J. McM.

A NOVEL WAR VESSEL.

The Board of Admiralty has received from Henry Caldwell (who, it is singular to state, has been for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits) the plan of an improved steam vessel which he has patented, after obtaining the opinion of several eminent naval architects, who consider that it possesses many excellent features. The chief points dwelt upon by the patentee are, that his vessel, fitted with a screw and paddle wheels, would be so constructed that no shot could penetrate, and the men working the guns would be secure from the enemy's fire. The sides of the ship are merely a large number of bulkheads with partitions crossing from side to side, and any shot coming in the line of the vessel passes between them, but on striking above it passes over, and in either case without doing any injury. The partitions have hatchways, and are all carried down to the keel, excepting the engine room and space for the paddle wheels, which are placed amidships, and work on each side of the keel, in perfect security from an enemy's fire. The gundeck is partly covered, and has sloping bulwarks for shot to pass over, and at suitable distances are corrugations for the guns, these being covered across the ship from side to side with iron-plated partitions to protect the men in case of a shell falling on the vessel. The embrasures have a shutter, which is raised in the corrugation for firing the gun, and which closes on the gun being fired. It is so contrived that should an enemy fire a shot into the embrasure it is sent adrift without doing any harm. The razzle of the gun when run out to fire is the only available mark; at all other times it is utterly impossible for the shot or shell of any enemy to penetrate, the men and guns being in a place of safety with all they need. Folding iron doors are placed in all the partitions down the centre of the ship for ingress and egress to the open deck. The paddle wheels and also the steering wheel are constructed of air tight cylinders with their floats attached, and give buoyancy to the vessel. The steering wheel is placed in the stern of the vessel, with an aperture through which the water is forced with great power on rotating each way. The ship is constructed in compartments, any of which can be rendered air tight, and, as no shot could penetrate them, it would be impossible to sink her.

OUR IRON SHIPS VERSUS WOODEN WALLS.

From the United Service Gazette.

MR. EDITOR.—Much has been written, said, and sung, and very justly, too, in praise of the wooden walls of old England. Will our

posterity write, say, and sing, as much in favour of our iron walls of the present day? Now, the question is, not that our wooden walls are perfect, but to decide whether, with a combination of iron in the structure, the old character of seaworthiness in our men-of-war cannot be maintained by adopting what is now generally well known as the composite principle of shipbuilding? Now, what can be more preposterous than an iron ship with a stem representing the letter S, and weighing 17 tons, while the stern-post weighs 30 tons, and 15 more may be added for the weight of screw and shaft? No wonder, in the last experimental cruise a ship's forefoot came into view, while their sterns exhibited good marks for practised artillerymen to knock away their rudders and otherwise damage a weak point of the ship? Now, what would be the effect of one of these iron ships taking the ground with enormous slabs of the same metal on her extreme outside? Why, the first heavy surge of so over-laden a fabric would tear her sides out. Now, when an undue strain comes on iron it will give like wood in proportion to the strain: hence the unproportioned weight of iron stems, and stern-posts must tend to give the ship a drooping form, usually termed hogging, which is already perceptible in some of our largest iron-clads. Now, in the composite principle the stem, keel, and stern-post are of wood, and consequently their flotation is equal to their weight. The keelson (which is the backbone of a ship), and her ribs, and diagonal bracing, as well as her beams and shelf-pieces, are of iron, consequently her frame is as rigid as needs be, and with a skin of 4 in. oak, with a solid bottom of oak filled in between the iron-floor timbers, she would, if provided with internal armour instead of the cumbersome and now no longer shot-proof plate (which we still persist in placing on the outside), prove herself well worthy of being classed as one of England's wooden walls; but if we still persist in designating our Navy as England's iron walls, I fear Campbell's favourite sea song could no longer be quoted as the reality of bygone years—

"Britannia needs no bulwarks,
No towers along the steep—
Her march is o'er the mountain wave,
Her home is on the deep."

As your remarks to your correspondents all infer that we want men, and not boards, I beg to subscribe myself

A BRICK.

DRILL FOR THINSKINNED PATRIOTS.

A correspondent of The Ottawa Citizen thus amusingly hits off the style of drill which some superfine members of the Volunteer Force, happily few, would like to see adopted:

"In this free, extensive and enlightened country, where hereditary bondsmen are unknown, where the law of prologeniture has been repealed, where 'Squires and professional gentlemen are manufactured from 'diamonds in the rough,' without reference to heraldic or escutcheonal ancestry, and where such unanimous and commendable martial spirit has been evinced by all classes for the defence of our country, all aspiring gentlemen cannot be officers. Neither can we have whole companies of gentleman privates. Subordination, obedience and prompt attention to drill, the groundwork and success of the British army, must be scrupulously attended to.

Not long since some would-be gentlemen, members of a Volunteer Company, felt rather sensitive and gave vent to their feelings of dissatisfaction with their Drill Sergeant for the stern and determined tone and manner, in which he drilled them, as if they were not gentlemen (by the way, the nearest ancestors of most of the

said gentlemen were mechanics, farmers, unsuccessful merchants, and brave men who carried their knapsacks in defence of their country), whereupon a sympathizing friend had a Chesterfield edition of the Manual Exercise prepared for the special use of the said gentlemen, of which the following is a copy:

1. Gentlemen, please give me your "attention."
2. You will be kind enough to cast your organs of vision to the right and endeavor to observe the lower part of the chin of the second gentleman from you.
3. Oblige me, now, by casting your eyes to the "front."
4. Allow me to suggest the propriety of "Shouldering Arms."
5. Well done, gentlemen. "Please Order Arms."
6. Having a just and high appreciation of your intrinsic worth, as well as your exalted position in society, I humbly trust that I am not infringing on your good nature by requesting you to "Fix Bayonets."
7. Will you now give me a specimen of your martial spirit, daring gallantry, bold defiance and contempt of the enemies of our country by "Charging Bayonets?"
8. Well done, gentlemen. Valiant and brave defenders of the country have the kindness to "Shoulder Arms."
9. You will now condescend, if you please, to "Order Arms."
10. Now, gentlemen, with best wishes for your military progress, and humbly trusting it will not put you to much inconvenience, please "Unfix Bayonets."
11. Once more it is my earnest desire that you "Shoulder Arms."
12. Now gentlemen you will confer a special favor on me by "Supporting Arms."
13. If it meets your approbation, I beg leave to propose that you "Cary Arms."
14. Gentlemen, I am so delighted with the precision of every one of your movements, that I am induced to make a respectful request that you "Trail Arms."
15. Please "Shoulder Arms."
16. Now gentlemen, the next motion is rather difficult, but with a feeling of confidence in the progress you have made, and presuming on your free, open, genial, and cheerful dispositions, I will make free to give the word "Secure Arms."
17. Splendidly done! Please "Shoulder Arms."
18. Now gentlemen, taking into consideration the patience you have exhibited during your elaborate exercise, I submit to your superior judgments the advisability of "Presenting Arms."
19. I shall feel much obliged by a "Shoulder Arms."
20. I must confess I feel highly complimented by your proficiency in your drill. Indeed I need not explain the nature of the next motion, I know you will do it perfectly, like one gentleman, "Recover Arms."
21. Having had ocular demonstration of your courtesy, easy and obliging demeanour, gentleness, affability, condescension, politeness and suavity of temper, please do me the favor to come to the "Right Face."
22. Gentlemen, soldiers, warriors and heroic volunteers for the defence of this great country, I shall not further trespass on your valuable time and well known urbanity, therefore I request, if congenial to your feelings, that you "Lodge Arms."
23. As a last request, gentlemen, now that you consider yourselves dismissed, please inform your most obsequious and devoted servant when it may suit your convenience to do me the pleasure to meet me for the Platoon Exercise."

The Montreal Garrison Sleigh Club commenced operations on Thursday Inst.

The officers of the 13th Hussars, stationed at Montreal, gave a grand ball to the elite of the Garrison on New Year's night.