



CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE.

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, FEB. 3, 1857.

It is **ABSOLUTELY** necessary that all subscriptions to this Journal shall be paid in advance. Its circulation will necessarily be limited, as is the case with all purely professional newspapers or periodicals; its production will be more expensive than that of any ordinary Journal, because much of the type must be set from manuscript. The Proprietor has placed the price of subscription at as low a rate as possible, at a rate in fact which can yield no profit worth speaking of, unless the "*Canada Military Gazette*," should attain a very large circulation indeed.

The first two numbers of the paper will be sent to every Officer of the Active Force, whose address is in our possession. This will give ample time for a remittance to Ottawa of the price of subscription. The third number will be sent to no one who has not so remitted. This will be an invariable rule.

We beg to thank the numerous kind friends who have already forwarded their own subscriptions, and interested themselves to procure others.

The annual subscription is **TWO DOLLARS**. PAYABLE IN ADVANCE. The Address, **Mr. DAWSON KERR, NICHOLAS St.—CITY OF OTTAWA.**

It will not answer our purpose to exchange with other papers, with the exception of one or two in each of the larger cities in the Province.

Officers commanding who desire notice to be taken of any event happening in their respective Corps of interest to the Active Force at large, will be kind enough to communicate personally with the Editor.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—We wish it to be distinctly understood, that while we shall always be happy to insert letters from correspondents, no letter will be admitted into our columns which contains personalities, or canvasses the propriety of the appointments made at Head Quarters. Our desire is to collect from original sources, and from the best works, the most useful professional information, and not to occupy our columns with petty matters of mere local interest. Where several hundred appointments have been made, and many more are likely to be made, it is possible that some few might have been better made. The wonder is that there is hardly a whisper of complaint. Moreover we have a constitutional abhorrence of all grumblers. The Military case in society is in its essence Conservative; its duty is, to defend the nation from the foreign foe, and within the limits of the Constitution to protect domestic institutions from rebels and traitors. In order to accomplish these two objects, the only legitimate ones, for which under free institutions an armed force is maintained, there must be unity in that force, a spirit of soldierly good-fellowship between the different corps—a

spirit of kindness in all the intercourse between the officers and private soldiers—a respect for discipline and authority—and a strict regard for the law of the land in which we live.

To promote this unity of interest and action—to communicate interesting intelligence—to impart in the fewest and simplest words, the best and newest professional information on military subjects, will be the aim of the Editor of the "*CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE*."

It will also be our object to make our Journal to a certain extent a "gentleman's newspaper," by publishing any Sporting Intelligence, or Agricultural, Artistic or Scientific, that occurs to us, or with which kind Correspondents may furnish us.

We would gently hint to Correspondents, to be as concise as possible, for a somewhat lengthened connection with the press has taught us, that no one ever reads long letters, and particularly to pay respect to the hint once given to an individual by the GREAT DUKE OF WELINGTON, "to use black ink, with a good pen, and write plainly," and only on one side of the paper.

Having said thus much we beg most humbly to present to our readers the first number of the "*CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE*."

OUR ARMY LIST.—A list, on the plan of that of the Royal Army of England, of the Officers of the Active Force of the Royal Militia of Canada, is published by us this day. It is particularly requested that if any errors appear therein the parties interested will immediately write to us, that they may be rectified, as this list will be kept standing, and published in every number of the *GAZETTE*, being altered from time to time in accordance with the promotions, exchanges, and so forth published in the General Orders from Head Quarters appearing in the *Official Gazette*.

It would be very desirable were every Commanding Officer to send us a written description of the uniform adopted by his corps, and any alteration, if such a thing occurs. We can hardly make a perfect record of the Active Force without it.

We shall consider it a highly ungentlemanlike act should any brother Editor copy this list, which it must be evident has been prepared by us at no little trouble and expense.

THE BAYONET.

The "*EXERCISE OF THE BAYONET*," that is the mode of using this formidable weapon in a scientific manner, either as bayonet against bayonet, bayonet against lance, or bayonet against broadsword, has not yet been formally adopted in the British service. It has been taught for many years in some of the Continental armies, and if recollection serves was first practised in *BARBARA*. His ROYAL HIGHNESS, the Commander-in-Chief, has lately addressed a Circular to the Colonels of Regiments to inquire to what extent the practice of the Bayonet exercise has been carried out in their own corps; this may be probably with the ultimate intention of making it an authorised part of the drill. Its utility no one can doubt who has ever seen it practised in mimic combat by men who understand it.

The principle of the exercise is identical with that of the "*two-handed sword*," the favorite

weapon of the Switzers in days of old, when they won many a victory in defence of their valleys and mountains by its use against the Chivalry of Germany and Burgundy; the weapon also which in Scotland long preceded the basket-headed broad sword, and was the true "*Claymore*," with which the Clan Chattan and the Clan Kay fought out their hereditary feud before King Robert, on the North Inch of Perth, as recorded by Scot, in the "*Fair Maid of Perth*."

We are indebted for this our first contribution, to Captain McLeod Moore, late 69th Regt., now commanding the Pensioner Force in this District; he tells us that the mode of using the Bayonet, scientifically, as laid down in this paper, is the invention of Mr. Bushman, with some slight modifications. Mr. Bushman, formerly a non-commissioned officer in the Second Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays) was well known in England, as one of the finest swordsmen that ever drew a sabre. He is now dead.—Capt. Moore prepared the system which is here laid down, for the instruction of his own company in the 69th Regt., and although we flatter ourselves that we know some little of the use of the sabre, we should hardly like to try Capt. Moore *at sharps*; a heavy musket with fixed bayonet, in his powerful and practised hand, is wielded as common men would swing a walking cane.

We may remind the Captains of Companies that the splendid arm put into the possession of their men by the patriotic munificence of the Parliament of Canada, is far better adapted for the practice of the bayonet exercise than the old musket. It has a decided superiority in two points. It is lighter and ~~more handy~~ and the bayonet is locked to the barrel by a simple yet ingenious contrivance. We used to think nothing of sending one of the old fashioned bayonets flying from the muzzle with a blow of the sabre, but the new style cannot be so disposed of.

We cannot but think that the acquisition of this exercise would be found of the utmost advantage to our Volunteer Riflemen. Skill in the use of a weapon gives four-fold confidence to the man who wields it. He knows that his enemy cannot "*have him on the hip*." This exercise, in combination with the formation of those small groups of skirmishers, which the French call "*Compagnons de Combat*," renders detached Riflemen almost impregnable to the desultory attacks of scattered cavalry.

With the small force that it is in the power of the Canadian people to call together for drill and exercise in the time of peace, it is expedient to make it as perfect as possible. That small force has hitherto accomplished wonders, and disappointed most of the prophets who certainly in this case prophesied falsely. With a thoroughly practical man at its head, who could not for his life comprehend the mysteries of a "*circumlocution office*," and would have a profound objection to a "*red tape*," sash tied over his staff tunic, the Active Force has, as we said, done wonders. So have said men who know—the men who have smelled powder, in earnest, heard the whistle of the hostile shot, and seen the angry gleam of the Russian and the French, the Afghan and Sikh sabres.

Let us then by all means try to do our best. We have never seen any disposition on the