

MILITIA PROMOTION.

To the Editor of the Montreal Herald:

Sir,—With the consciousness of the *Herald* being one of the few journals, open to free discussion, I would briefly remark upon a paragraph in the Montreal *Gazette* of yesterday, which brings into strong relief the ignorance of the circumstances of the case, and that evident duty to defend all Governmental Acts, which distinguishes that valuable journal. The paragraph is the following:—

"A Quebec despatch states that the officers and men of the 8th Battalion threaten to resign, unless Lieut. Colonel Panet's appointment as Deputy Adjutant General of Militia, vice Cassault, selected for service in the North West, is immediately cancelled. It is to be hoped that they will, for the battalion that takes a stand of that description does not add much strength to the effective force of the country, and the sooner it is disbanded, why the sooner the better."

The reasons why Lt. Colonel Panet's promotion so unsatisfactory are briefly stated. His elevation to the Deputy Adjutant Generalship is an act of gross injustice to his seniors: Colonels Reeve of the 8th, Forsyth of the Cavalry, Blanchet of the 17th, Banois of the 55th, Brigade Major Duchesnay of Levis, and others whose names it is unnecessary to enumerate. Lieut.-Col. Panet is also the Coroner of the District, has been promoted already in his own Battalion out of his turn, and in fact seems to be such a favourite of the powers that be, that at the present rate of advancement, he may (if he be spared) become Postmaster, (collector of Customs; and Excise Officer all at once. No objection to Lieut. Col. Panet is felt personally or as a representative of the majority of the inhabitants of this Province; as the appointment of Colonels Lamontagne or Duchesnay would have been welcomed—of the former especially, the promotion to the Deputy-Adjutant-Generalship would have been a source of satisfaction to Volunteers of all ranks, as a deserved recognition of his valuable services for years as Brigade Major.

It is not of a character to encourage commanding officers to spend their time and money in endeavouring to keep up their Battalion, in spite of the Militia Act; if when rare promotion offers, it is conferred on a junior or an officer whose connection with the force has been of a recent and intermittent nature, and who already enjoys a lucrative appointment from Government.

A word as to the sneer at the 8th. contained in the paragraph in question. The Battalion so cavalierly to be disposed of (in the present surplus of the force) has a record as honourable as any in the Dominion, and as a good snorting Battalion, perhaps not an equal. It furnished three Companies for active service from December, 1864 to August, 1865 at Windsor and Laprairie, has beaten during the last four years the 17th, 60th, 30th, 69th, and R. E. of the Regulars and the G.T.R. Rifle Brigade of Montreal; and in 1868 won the Battalion Prize at the Dominion match at Laprairie. At the inspection last month the Battalion was highly complimented by Colonel Bagot of the 69th, an officer whose opinion is at least of as much weight as his "confreres" of the *Gazette*.

In conclusion the *Gazette* may be glad to hear that the 8th are not alone in this matter, and the confirmation of the appointment of Lieut.-Col. Panet will be the signal for the officers of the Artillery and Cavalry

and probably of the Rural Battalions to forward their resignations.

Your obedient servant,
DETUR DIGNORI.

QUEBEC VOLUNTEERS.

To the Editor of the Montreal Herald:

Sir:—In your excellent article entitled "Our Volunteers," in yesterday's issue of the *Herald*, it is stated "A considerable and valuable part of the force at Quebec had actually thrown up its duties in disgust the very moment before that in which every available man was required for actual service." To avoid any misconception which might arise amongst the Government supporters, who might perhaps surmise that the Volunteers referred to—the 55th, 8th and Quebec Garrison Artillery—had taken advantage of their differences with the Militia authorities to shirk their duty of defending the country, allow me to state that such was not the case, and the officers, whose resignations are now in the hands of the Government, exerted themselves to muster their men as usual, notwithstanding the sense of injustice that prevails amongst the rank and file at the recent appointment. The French Canadian press here have endeavoured to prejudice the officers of the above named battalion in the public mind by asserting that an illiberal jealousy at the appointment of a French Canadian was at the bottom of the grievance. The inaccuracy of this assertion (to use a mild phrase) is so well appreciated here, that no attempt was made to disprove it in the local press, as the officer whose appointment would (as I explained in my former letter) have given universal satisfaction, Brigade Major Lamontagne is a French Canadian, and so is Brigade Major Duchesnay, whose claims to the position are incomparably superior to the present occupant; but as I see that this assertion of the French press is copied into some of the western papers, perhaps it is well to contradict it.

Yours obediently,
DETUR DIGNORI.

Quebec, June 3rd, 1870.

THE SKIRMISH AT HOLBROOK'S CORNERS.

FRELINGSBURG, May 27th.—About eight o'clock it was discovered that a large body of Fenians had entrenched themselves near Holbrook's Corners. A detachment of the Rifle Brigade including Prince Arthur's company, with 250 of the Volunteers and 150 of the Independent corps, were immediately sent forward to dislodge them. The Fenians opened a brisk fusillade, which was responded to by the Rifle Brigade in a terrible manner. The bullets literally rained down upon the barricade, and no human force could have lived for ten minutes. With a faint whoop the enemy vacated their shelter, dodged in and out among the brushwood, and on reaching the clear ground ran with a velocity which none but Fenians could equal. Their flight was most ludicrous. Knapsacks, overcoats, rifles and the Fenians' constant companions, whiskey flasks, were thrown away in the steeple chase; big Fenians fell over little Fenians, and little Fenians fell over big Fenians; officers jostled their sergeants, and Generals jostled privates, and away they rushed helter skelter without even as much as a solitary "Erin go Bragh." It was a miniature Bull's Run. Fleetest among the fleet was an officer in a brand new green uniform with a fierce looking plume of green feathers in

his shako. He must have been at Bull's Run. He bounded antelope-like over fences kangaroo-like over stumps, and on open ground he was equally unapproachable. Of him might it be truly said, in the words of Mark Twain, "None ran that day with more vigour, yet there was much running and a great deal of vigour."—About 150 yards from the American side the runners halted and pretended to rally, but the sight of the Rifle Brigade followed closely by the Independents was overpowering, and once more they went on their way.

The scene after the skirmish was a strange one. It might have been thought without any great stretch of imagination that the contents of every pawnbroker's shop in Montreal had been sown broadcast on the field. Long tailed blue coats with U.S. army buttons, powder horns, tobacco boxes, and clothing of every fashion, cut and description were strewed wholesale over a two acre field.

As the Rifle Brigade were returning leisurely from the Fenian chase they fell upon a Fenian acting the corpse by the side of a fallen log. A loud moan betrayed his presence and when it was ascertained that he was not dead but scheming, he was lifted up tenderly by the collar and questioned as to his intentions. He bitterly protested that he was no "Faynian, but a decent well-raised boy wid no harm in me at all." Cross examination revealed the fact that his veracity was not spotless, and he was placed under arrest with the comforting assurance from a burly sergeant of the Rifles "that he would be blown from the cannon's mouth immediately after dinner."

The enthusiasm when his Royal Highness Prince Arthur appeared in front of his company was unbounded. Cheer after cheer rent the air, and when they died away strong lungs pealed forth that grand old anthem "God Save the Queen." The Prince acknowledged the compliment in a grateful manner, and was apparently much affected at the circumstance. He looked remarkably well in his uniform, and was as anxious as his comrades for a fight. When the Fenians turned tail, he joined with all his heart in the loud roars of laughter and hurrahing which greeted their hurried departure.

The Montreal *Herald* says:—We think there can be no doubt that "Mr." O'Neill, which is the way one of the American newspapers assures us that he was irreverently addressed by General Foster, is very plainly a subject for extradition under the treaty between the United States and England. The offences for which the two nations have undertaken to extradite offenders are these:—Murder, or assault with intent to commit murder, or piracy, or arson, or robbery, or forgery, or the utterance of forged paper. Now, there can surely be no question that "Mr." O'Neill has committed the second of these offences, we mean assault with intent to commit murder. Nor is there, we presume, the slightest doubt that the crime was committed upon our territory; for any advance made thither with the deadly weapons, which were in the hands of his comrades, after the incitements and directions given to them before hand, amounts to an assault in law, whose intention cannot for a moment be doubted to be that of committing murder. We presume that our Government will not fail to make the necessary demands upon the Government of the United States.

The death of Mr. Mark Lemon, Editor of *Punch*, in his 63rd year, took place on Monday 23rd ult., at Crawley, Sussex,