

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## TORONTO SCHOOL OF GUNNERY

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW :

DEAR SIR.—Nothing particular in the Military line has transpired recently. The Cavalry and Artillery Schools are so far a decided success, and the officers of both do all they can to make cadets acquire a thorough knowledge of their duties. Col. Anderson C. B. R. A.—Commandant of the Artillery School, takes a great interest in his pupils and those who may be fortunate enough to obtain certificates from him will have just reason to be proud of them. The Instructor Sergeant, Flood, who is also Instructor of Gunnery to the Brigade, is a first class drill and holds the highest certificates from Shoosburyness. Each Cadet before leaving the school is to have some actual practice with both Gun and Mortar.

It would be a decided advantage, in my opinion, if some arrangement could be made whereby more candidates could enter the school. The allowance at present is 12, which surely might just as well be 30, entailing only the expense of an additional Sergeant. I understand that upwards of 80 applications have been received for the next course and as each course occupies from 9 to 10 weeks, fully a year must elapse before the whole 80 can graduate. Surely if the Government are made aware of this they will at once see the advisability of the improvement suggested. The Artillery force is undoubtedly the most valuable arm of the service and to enable officers who obtain certificates at the school to make their acquired knowledge of use, each recognized effective Brigade or detached Battery having a drill shed of its own, should be furnished with 2 Garrison guns on standing, or better, travelling carriages. How many hundred, 18, 24 and 32 pounder guns are lying useless and rusting in heaps on the Esplanade, and various parts of the Citadel at Quebec? Even if anything so extraordinary as an act of Parliament were required to obtain permission to use them it would be worth while for the authorities to carry it out. How an officer can keep his knowledge available without ever seeing a gun or mortar after quitting the school is something that puzzles.

Yours Truly,

"GARRISON."

Toronto Dec. 3rd, 1867.

## OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

New York, Dec., 1867.

Even at the risk of being supposed to be afflicted with "Fenian on the brain," I must allude again to that body. In my last I referred to a great indignation meeting held here on the question of the right of naturalized citizens to the support of the United States Government. There have been others of the same nature since and many leading men have taken part in the proceedings.

Indeed, the movement is not confined to New York alone. Horace Greeley, Fernando Wood, Mayor Hoffman and several other influential men have spoken very strongly on the matter, and it is a very generally received opinion that England must acknowledge and respect as aliens those who were formerly her subjects but now United States citizens, or that the question must be pushed to a final settlement by the Government here. I need hardly remind your readers that England holds the doctrine "once a subject always a subject," and has always acted fairly and impartially upon that principle. A subject of any other power may become a naturalized subject of England, but a return to his native country entails a forfeiture of his right to any protection from the English Government. Many cases have occurred in which Germans, naturalized in England, have on returning to Germany been compelled to perform certain military duties. An appeal to England for protection has been uniformly disregarded. In the same way England has acted with respect to her own subjects who have become naturalized citizens of other countries. While in that country they have no claim upon the English Government, but in England they are no longer aliens. Such is the law whether good or bad. It is easy to perceive that a state of things which renders nugatory the renunciation of one country and the oath of allegiance to another, is, to a nation like the United States made up of contributions from all the nations of the world, a fertile source of discontent at home and complications abroad. Now, however, something will be done towards bringing the question to a settlement. Many violent speeches have been made with frequent allusions to the war of 1812, as having been caused by the same action on the part of England as has given rise to the present movement, and the President in his message to Congress to-day refers to it, though much more mildly than the "buncombs" speakers do, and "respectfully appeals to Congress to declare the national will immediately upon this important question." We may readily be excused if the answer of England to the demand, which will, no doubt, be made, is looked forward to with some anxiety.

On Thanksgiving day (Nov. 28th) the Fenians formed a monster funeral procession in memory of the Manchester "martyrs," as they call the men who were hanged for riot and murder. There must have been 10,000 men in the procession, and more than that number on the streets through which it passed to witness it. The procession was formed of the different Irish Societies of New York, not all of them Fenian Societies, though no doubt the members of them all belonged to one or other of the Fenian circles. All the men wore a band of crape tied with a green ribbon round the arm, a large number being in the Fenian military uniform. Near the centre of the procession were three hearses bearing the names of the three

criminals "Allen," "Gould," "Larkin." Immediately after the hearses was a banner having on one side—

"Whether on the scaffold high  
Or in the battle van  
The noblest place for man to die  
Is when he dies for man."

And on the reverse—

"We mourn their loss and will avenge them."

(It is plain to see that the former was the production of an Irish brain, or the *time* of a man's dying would never have been called the noblest *place* for him to die.) The chief mourners were several men who are said to have taken part in the Manchester riots and then escaped here. The procession formed at Fenian headquarters, marched through the streets to the City Hall, where it was reviewed by the Mayor, thence to Union Square where Savage, Head Centre, delivered an oration, in which he very eloquently called upon all Irishmen to be united in their efforts to reclaim and regenerate Ireland, saying that if the Fenians had been united that which they then mourned could never have taken place—that England would not have dared to do so. Savage is undoubtedly a clever man and a brilliant, though rather showy orator. The fact that so many men turned out for such a purpose on a day which was cold and wet, (a drizzling rain was falling all day), tells more forcibly than any words of mine can how deeply earnest the men are in the Fenian cause.

General Grant has prepared an elaborate report to the President, embracing all particulars of the army to be furnished by the Secretary of War and General of the Army, both of which offices are filled by the hero of Vicksburg. The reports fills more than six columns of the *Herald*, consequently I can give but a very short digest of it in the space allotted to me in THE REVIEW. Grant immediately on assuming the duties of Secretary of War, instituted a rigid system of retrenchment and economy, the consequence of which is that his report shows marks of the pruning knife in every department. Unnecessary clerks have been dismissed by scores and the cheapest means of working have been every where employed. In the Freedman's Bureau matters are working very satisfactorily. The negroes are being trained to habits of usefulness and industry, while they are at the same time being carefully educated. The total number of schools is 2207, of which 699 are taught by colored men. The number of scholars is 130,735. The total expenditure of the Bureau for eleven months ending August 31st, 1867, is \$3,597,397. The aggregate strength of the army on the 30th September, 1867, was 56,815; the number of recruits 31,191; and desertions 13,608. In this part of the report General Grant calls attention to the great number of desertions, and recommends some change in the present system of courts-martial and punishment. He also recommends that the term of enlistment be changed from three to five years. During the past year 11,432