

nies without in any manner damaging future supplies.—*Leader.*

The London *Spectator* informs us that "Admiral Yelverton's cruise from Cork harbor to the Tagus has furnished a partial answer to the over-captious critics who think small things of the modern seamen and detest the modern ship-of-war. Practically the new fangled sailor, aided, by his potently in the engine room, and because that ally leaves Jack less dependent upon wind and canvas, must be somewhat different in his manners and customs from the old-fashioned salt who could go anywhere and do anything in a coffin or a clipper. But we have yet to learn that the new race of sailors are not as apt for their work as the old, and after all, aptness for the business in hand is the one thing needful."

CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]*

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—I observe in a late issue of your valuable Journal that the possibility of the whole force of the Dominion being placed in the field is looked upon as a fact. Now the general acceptance of the phrase "40,000 men" is this: that this number of well equipped and trained, properly and efficiently officered men, are in readiness at short notice to take the field against invaders of our country, with a fair chance of repelling an equal or greater number of such, wherever met, either as a main body of an army or as detached portions of the same. A few facts regarding the force in this Province may not be out of place, which may have the effect of disabusing the public mind of the fallacy which it is prone to accept as truth. The present organization was formed chiefly as independent companies, by men who in some instances never had performed officers duty, and who were induced to undertake the same merely for the sake of a claim to a portion of doubtful honour and a chance to cut a figure in this particular way which would surprise a few admiring friends and perchance themselves as well, donning a Red Coat, which fact accomplished they seemed to think that was all could be expected of them, and that so long as the services of a Government Instructor were available they were doing their duty by occasionally bullying the men to endorse the sentiment of the Instructor, or performing other acts which in their ideas were worthy of the "officers" they were by virtue of a Red Coat—often Government property, a rusty sword, the supreme command of some two scores of country lads or city swells, and last but not least the right to the high-sounding cognomen of "Captain," which in a majority of cases was the only distinctive honorary title they ever had a claim to. These isolated companies after a year or two became amalgamated into Battalions, and it was understood that it now became necessary for officers to qualify themselves, either at the military school in

the city, or by examination by Boards of officers at the different camps of Instruction, and it has happened that officers who had been "coached" through the school or had obtained a Board certificate by means of the same kind of chicanery, were not unfrequently given Staff or Field officers commands in these Battalions, and indeed officers who had never passed at all were in some instances awarded high positions by virtue of a pretended "interest", manifested in the force some few months previously, which "interest" in some cases would imply interest in Government funds available for Militia purposes. Now would come the test *i. e.* at time of Camp, the system of "coaching" pursued at school or other examinations or inspections, must per consequence be still employed if at all available, and I myself have frequently heard my comrades sneer and jeer at a "Staff officer" receiving his orders from an inferior or subaltern officer for the next movement, previous to trusting his own extensive amount of military knowledge to the criticisms of the men in the ranks.

Fancy if you can a man of this kind making a burlesque of a parade by exhibitions of the most consummate ignorance, giving orders the exact reverse of what they ought to be, getting the Battalion hopelessly entangled till it became necessary to form again on the markers; fancy a man falling back from his proud place at the head of a column to the centre or rear to enquire of some Captain or subaltern what the next order ought to be, only to gallop to the front to have a repetition of the former farce. Fancy again, and the picture is of rather a sad description, the corps marching in the presence of an enemy, and an officer of the above calibre, centering in himself all the importance due to his position *i. e.*, the speed of retreat, being mounted, arrogating to himself knowledge he does not possess,—hopelessly involving the troops under his *mis*-guidance,—allowing his presumption, ignorance and self-conceit to overcome his better judgment and leading his men to death and destruction, only, as is to be imagined, to leave them and save his own worthless carcass by disgraceful retreat. "Look on this picture and then on that."

Is it to be wondered at, Mr. Editor, and I ask this as an humble unit of this great "40,000," if a man placed in such a position would be induced, as I fear I would under such circumstances, to make a skirmisher of himself for his own safety, trusting rather to his own ability than to risk himself to the imbecility and wretched incapacity of "officers," such as these, falsely, so-called? I have for some time past been so impressed with the above ideas, that I fancy one Rifle at least, will change hands for the next term of service.

It behooves our military authorities to move in this matter, to exercise a greater amount of judgment in giving place and

power to men, some of whom are eminently unfit for the coveted positions, and who are stimulated to their attainment for the purpose of gratifying a mistaken ambition, to gain a "little brief authority" and make that a plea for further advancement, or worse still from pecuniary motives. Our lately disbanded Battalion had some examples of the kind above described, and I understand the other Battalions and organizations in the Province are not altogether free from such; some, it is affirmed, make their Corps political engines for the purpose of promoting their party designs. It is time the organization was thoroughly purged of all these worthless incumbrances, now that we are left to protect ourselves. The Dominion Militia Law has had high encomiums passed upon it at home and abroad, this is upon the form of compilation of it, embodying good sound reason upon a basis best adapted to the condition of the country, let it then be put upon such a footing in its various ramifications that it may be shown the praise and compliments were not undeserved, and also that we may be in such a position as to uphold the glorious name and fame which attaches to the Dominion as the fruit of the noble strivings of our forefathers while the confederation was afar off in the vista of the future. You may hear from me again upon this same subject at no distant day.

I remain, yours etc.,

A VOLUNTEER.

New Brunswick, 6th Nov. 1871.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—By inserting the following in your valuable paper you would confer a great favor. Hearing that the Dominion is about to form an army, it occurred to me that the Dominion has a claim on a Regiment that is second to none in the British army, *viz.*, the 100th Royal Canadian Regiment. And as the Imperial troops are being withdrawn from Canada I would suggest that the 100th Royal Canadian Regiment be handed over to the Dominion as the nucleus of its army, and I am confident that if our government requested the transfer of the 100th Regiment to Canada the request would be complied with, and if an objection should be raised on the ground of there being so few Canadians at present in the Regiment, then there are sixty or seventy of us including about thirty N. C. Officers who claim Canada as their home, and who would be only too glad of returning to their own country to join her army, and against which arrangement the Imperial government could not have any very serious objection as their places could so easily be filled up. In the above number of N. C. Officers are about 20 Sergeants whose services in drill, accounts, etc., would be invaluable. Trusting that I have not trespassed too far on your space,

I remain, etc.,

BEAVER.

Aldershot, 31st Oct., 1871.