

Major, Col. Lovelace, took place on Monday last. The Hussars under Capt. Muir forming the advanced guard, the 50th Battalion of Huntingdon Borderers, commanded by Lt.-Col. McEachren, the main force. At some distance on the road the enemy was supposed to be discovered and their left flank ordered to be turned, the Hussars watching the road meanwhile, after a great deal of skirmishing and other movements the enemy retreated, (or at least were supposed to do so) videttes and sentries were placed and the men were allowed to repose themselves after their exertions, the evident improvement in drill of both cavalry and infantry was manifested this day by the promptness and steadiness with which the change of front and other movements were executed.

A Brigade concert took place last night, the 6th inst., under the patronage of Col. Fletcher, Col. McEachren, and Capt. Muir, assisted by several young ladies of the village and the officers and men of the Hussars and 50th Batt., which (although quite an impromptu affair) was a decided success; the room was crowded, some good songs were sung which elicited applause and several encores. Col. Lovelace in his song of the "Steam Ann," Capt. Feeny of the 50th, Sgt. Martin, Trooper McEnnis, Private McArthur, 50th Battalion, and others, afforded much entertainment, and the singing and playing of the Misses Schuyler, Barrett, Cunningham and Bradford was deservedly much applauded. Several appropriate speeches were made during the evening by Col. Fletcher, Col. McEachren, Capt. Muir, Major Whyte, (who by the by announced his intention of joining the Red River expedition), the whole terminating with the national anthem; the proceeds of the concert were devoted to the funds of the academy and the Episcopal church.

A sentry on the bridge, whose duty it is to guard the same, exacted a rather novel toll from a young lady of the village a few evenings since who had not a written pass. The gallant son of Mars declaring that without one his duty was imperative to prevent her crossing, but that in consideration of the particular circumstances in which the lady was placed, he would allow her a free passage over on the condition that she gave him a chaste salute.—On *dit*, that his request was complied with.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—Your remarks on the "Report on State of Militia for 1869," (April 4th), induces me to write a few lines at the risk of prolonging a discussion already pretty well exhausted by your able correspondent "L.C." and others, on the one side, and "F.O." and (may I add) yourself, Mr. Editor, on the other.

Before going further, Sir, permit me to state that I have been connected with volunteering in Canada since '37, and have the

honor at present of being an officer in both the Reserve and Active Militia of Ontario.

During the past few months I have travelled the greatest portion of this Province west of the county of Ontario, and endeavoured to ascertain, as fully as practicable, the opinion of such company officers as I met as to the efficiency of volunteering under what may be called the new system. The testimony in every direction was the same; to keep their companies full is regarded as an impossibility, and to get them to any drill but that of the annual Battalion is a thing of the past.

While this is my own experience, also I admit that any call of duty which will give the merest nominal remuneration for services, will add recruits to every company and improve the appearance of the *Battalion muster roll*; but the absence of the old company drill creates a deficiency in efficiency which Inspecting staff officers appear loth to record against them.

It was an argument (I think of "F.O.") that if the alleged discrepancies existed between the "Returns" and the actual facts, the same would be exposed by the local officers affected; the argument was plausible but more than nineteen-twentieths of the Force are not letter-writers, and supposing the *Staff* to have an interest in *cooking* returns, company officers who found companies made up for them on paper were not very likely to quarrel with a statement which gave a *new lease to their appointments*.

But the last "Report" gives me something in this respect to correct. The Battalion to which I have the honor to belong is credited with seven companies at "annual drill" where there were only six, the absent company being credited with being present with over 40 men, described as a "remarkably fine body of young men, very well drilled," the number of miles which they did *not* travel, as well as the mode of conveyance which they did *not* (but might have taken); is this simply an error or another triumph of the *Cuisine*.

The clothing of the same battalion is reported as "some much worn, others fair; greatcoats nearly all unserviceable." Now, Sir, this is hardly a fair way to put it for those companies whose clothing is "much worn," they being all old companies whose clothing were issued in '66 and greatcoats from eight to ten years back. While the "Fair" company is new, clothing and greatcoats issued in December, '68, should look better than "fair" in Oct., '69.

For the first time, Mr. Editor, since I subscribed for your valuable paper, I have to complain of irregularity in its delivery; I am minus Nos. 8, 11, and 13 of the current volume which I esteem too highly to lose without requesting you to forward.

Should I not have trespassed too much on your space and patience, I may trespass on you again with suggestions for amenities to the famous "New Act."

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your most obd't servant.

COMPANY DRILL.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—Will you or any of your numerous readers and crack shots, oblige me by giving me some information about *Match Rifles*, there are such differences of opinion on this subject that before I purchase I would like to hear what those who have used the various kinds would say in respect to them.

As it is now about the time to get prepared for practice at the target, I have no doubt but others as well as myself would be very much benefited by an article on this subject.

Yours truly,

AN ENQUIRER.

Port Hope, 26th April, 1870.

#### FRENCH BREECH-LOADERS.

It is very probable that the French War Minister may be shortly asked to give an account of the arms furnished to the troops whilst he was President of the Artillery Committee. The charges made against General Boufard that, ordered by the Emperor to choose a breech-loading rifle in 1864, he allowed a couple of years to pass without effecting anything, and that when in August 1866, a committee of generals was assembled at Chalons, the only weapons besides the Chassepot which were submitted to the committee were the invention of General Fave, aide-de-camp to the Emperor, and other favoured individuals. The Chalons experiments took place, according to a French complainant, more than three months after some experiments made in Switzerland, where more than thirty systems had been tried, and amongst them the Peabody, Martini, Spencer, Remington, Winchester, Milbank, &c., but none of those systems came from the Artillery Committee and they were therefore ignored. It was the same when there arose a sudden necessity, in consequence of the conduct of Prussia, of putting a breech-loader into the hands of the French soldiers, instead of adopting the Snider—the best and most practicable of transformations, which had found favor in England, Holland, Spain, Turkey; or the Albini, selected by Belgium—an indescribable imitation of the first system, but presented by an officer of artillery, was adopted, and has since been known in France as the *fusil d'infanterie*, or the snuff-box musket. As the Imperial manufactories were busy manufacturing the Chassepot, the transformation of the old rifles was confided to private industry. The large workshops of Paris undertook to do most of the business, and these locksmiths, &c., succeed in procuring a weapon whose smallest defect, according to our French authority, was that it only went off at irregular intervals. In spite of their deficiencies, some of these guns were served out—to the Municipal Guard of Paris, to the Marine, to the Papal troops—but they have all been returned in consequence of a nasty trick they had of going off at the wrong end and being neither honored in breech or performance.

The following is a list of the new iron-clads built and building: Frigates—*Sultan*, *Audacious*, *Invincible*, *Iron Duke*, *Vanguard*, *Swiftsure*, and *Triumph*. Turret Ships—*Glutton*, *Devastation*, and *Thunderer*. Rams—*Hotspur* and *Rupert*. The whole of the above will have a double skin, so that if the outer one be torn by shot, it will not affect their buoyancy, and every aid that experience could devise to make them impregnable has been adopted.