

VOLUNTEERING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

SAINT JOHN, N.B., January 27th, 1869.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—During the first three or four years after the landing of the Loyalists in 1783, a large portion of those who intended to make the city of Saint John, their future home and place of business, were occupied in the erection of Wharves and Stores, with dwelling apartments under the same roof, for the accommodation of their families and trade operations.

In less than five years, the trade of the port began to show signs of importance; and before the tenth year had arrived, commercial operations had assumed such dimensions, and the accumulation of property had become so evident, that their defenceless condition began to attract the attention of those of the Merchants and Mechanics who were getting ahead and had something to lose, and led them to think of and devise some plan by which to improve the safety of their positions.

In the month of January 1793, a meeting of the merchants and mechanics was held in the Ball Room of the Old Coffee House at the foot of King street, now the site of the Imperial buildings owned by Mr. John Nillis and occupied by Magee Bros. to take into consideration the desirability of forming a Company of Artillery to aid in the protection of the harbour in case of any emergency arising to require their services. At the meeting it was unanimously resolved to form a company of Artillery, and a committee was appointed to draw up a code of laws for its governance, and report the same to an adjourned meeting to be held on the following week. The meeting was held, the committee reported a constitution which was unanimously approved of and adopted, and a battery of artillery organized bearing the title of "The Loyal Volunteer Artillery of New Brunswick." John Clowell, merchant, was chosen captain, and under his command, the Battery made its first parade for inspection on the 4th day of May 1793. The number of officers, non commissioned officers and gunners, on the muster roll, was ninety six, and comprised nearly all the leading merchants and mechanics in St. John at that period. A copy of the original muster roll is now in my possession. In those days it was the custom of those merchants connected with shipping, to close business about 4 p.m. and after dinner, for those who belonged to the artillery, to give an hour or two on two or three days of each week to drill, while others would engage at a game of base ball on a portion of King's Square, which had been prepared for the purpose. For several consecutive days before each yearly inspection, the members of the Battery would give close application to drill, and so great was their ambition to make a good appearance, that the battery invariably received the unequal-

led commendations of the inspecting officer. On the demise of Capt. Colwell, the command of the Battery was given to Andrew Crookshank, another of the "old merchants," and there is a gentleman still living in this city, who joined its ranks under his command in the year 1809.

In the year 1808 the first Battery of Royal Artillery landed on these shores, their arrival afforded so much pleasure to the inhabitants, that they resolved to entertain the men of the battery with a public feast. The necessary arrangements were soon completed, and the tables spread with everything considered necessary for such a purpose. The spot chosen for the feast was a green lying between Britain and Main streets, Lower Cove, in the immediate vicinity of the quarters which they were to occupy. On the debarkation of the Battery the men were marched from the place of landing to the place of feasting, where from 2 until 5 o'clock in the afternoon all hands enjoyed themselves to their hearts content. The two greatest and most highly prized of all the luxuries with which the tables were covered, were the "Old Jamaica Rum Punch" and "Smoked Herrings." Several of the men of that Battalion left the service and settled here. During the period from 1806 to 1812 the ranks of the Volunteer Artillery became reduced by the death of several of its members, and the absence of others from the Province on foreign voyages, but when the war of 1812 was declared, "the old spirit of '88 was renewed in all its intensity," and the muster roll was once more filled up to its original standard by a body of men ready and willing for any service that might have been required.

NEW BRUNSWICK ARTILLERYMAN.

FROM QUEBEC.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

An advertisement in yesterday's *Chronicle* notified a company of the 8th Battalion, that as the militia authorities have refused to allow the battalion the use of the Drill Shed there will be no more drill until further orders. A correspondent of the same paper a couple of days ago, complains that no fires are allowed to be made in the shed on drill nights, and as the men are obliged, from the raggedness, or utter want of great coats, to drill in summer uniform, anyone acquainted with the climate of Quebec can form an idea of how pleasant it must be, and what great inducements are offered to volunteers to attend drill. The real cause of the order is I understand, that on a very cold night some of the men took the liberty of lighting a couple of the stoves, which greatly incensed some dignitary who had been calculating on economizing the firewood, presuming that as the other Battalion, had completed their annual drill in the summer, the Eighth could either go without drill, or do without firewood, neither of which they seem disposed to do. I am opposed to rais-

ing questions unnecessarily, but this very small affair looks so peculiar that it should be enquired into. The economical gentleman in Quebec will not I trust be backed up by the Department in Ottawa.

The Local Legislature are likely to injure their healths by too much work; they generally meet at 3 o'clock and adjourn at a quarter past. Some foolish grumblers (there always are some in every community) are commencing to ask "Is there any use or having a local government? The Hon. Mr. Treasurer Dunkin has been ill for some time but is now at work again; the Assembly will consider the question of supplies on Friday next.

The billiard exhibition in the Music Hall, on Monday last between Dion and Foster, was rather thinly attended. Dion won both the games which were played.

The announcement of the withdrawal of the Regular Troops from Canada has caused much surprise here, it is hoped that the British Government may think better of it before the time comes.

If all the troops are withdrawn it becomes a question whether the Volunteers are not a little more valuable than they have hitherto been considered, but perhaps Sir George is going to depend on his drafted militia.

The weather has been cold for the last few days, to day we have quite a heavy snow storm.

Quebec, February 4, 1869.

FROM BROCKVILLE.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Every thing is quiet in Volunteer circles, that it is almost useless to attempt anything this week in the way of correspondence, the District Staff seem to be fully occupied with office work, which is doubtless owing to the re organization, which is now supposed to be about complete, under the new law.

Large loads of tent-pins are being delivered at the Brigade Office by contractors for the country, I understand that Lt. Col. Wily, Superintendent of Stores, is expected here this week to inspect them, previous to shipment to the different districts of the Dominion. Colonel Powell, D. A. G., has certainly acted wisely in procuring these articles in the country, by which means, a number of persons find temporary employment, and the money which comes out of the pockets of the people for the support of the militia, is retained in the Dominion, and I believe the articles are procured at a considerable less price than if they were drawn from the Imperial stores.

The heavy snow storm on Wednesday, put a stop to the races on the ice, which commenced here on Tuesday, after two days of anxious waiting for fair weather, during which time a great variety of cattle, with legs bandaged and bodies heavily blanketed from the nose to the tail, (the latter appendage with the eyes, being the