

## PRESENTATION.

On the evening of Monday the 22nd inst., Captain O'Neil was made the recipient of a handsome gold hunting watch and chain, the gift of a few friends who took this means of showing their appreciation of the gallant Captain's services in connection with the various Volunteer movements since 1861. A few of the subscribers accompanied the committee to the Captain's residence, when J. T. Brown, Esq., proceeded to read the following address:

To John O'Neil, Esq., Senior Captain of No. 6 Company of 41st Batt. of Volunteer Militia.

SIR:—I have much pleasure in presenting you this watch and chain as a slight mark of the esteem in which you are held by your neighbours, and which they hope you may long be spared to wear, as an evidence of their appreciation of your services as a Volunteer Officer, having on all occasions heartily responded to your country's call, even when it involved considerable pecuniary sacrifices on your part, and on no occasion, as far as known, did you fail to receive well merited praise from those most competent to judge—for the efficiency and soldier-like appearance of the men under your charge. Without desiring in any way to detract from the deserts of the other Companies composing the 41st Batt., I would be wanting in my duty did I not offer you the congratulations of your fellow townsmen, on your having achieved the honor of being in command of a Company that won the first rank in the district in competing with the Snider Rifle. While this gift has been purchased for you in most part by friends who have known you only in civil life, you are not on that account to think less highly of it, for as one of the committee I can assure you that the men who shared with you the pleasures and fatigues of the camp were on all occasions the readiest to encourage the project, with a hearty "no one deserves it more!" On behalf of myself and fellow committee men, permit me state that we never undertook a duty that we had more pleasure in performing.

While wishing you long life and prosperity, allow me to associate the name of Mrs. O'Neil with yours, and I trust that you will convey to her our apology for the inconvenience we must have caused in coming unannounced, to take temporary possession of the house.

J. T. BROWN,  
On behalf of subscribers.

MY DEAR FRIENDS.—I trust you will excuse me wherein I cannot find suitable words to thank you for the very flattering address, and the valuable present accompanying it, just presented to me. I cannot see what I have done to merit so tangible a proof of your friendship. When a boy, in my native land, I heard of your free institutions, representative government, extended canals, noble rivers, lakes and boundless forests. I came to this country and I had never cause to regret it. I have been a member of the Militia organization since the time the insult was offered to the glorious old flag on board of Her Majesty's Mail Ship *Trent*. The war cloud which then and since lingered for a time o'er Canada has happily been removed, and now peace and plenty blesses the land.

I have ever been proud of the Pakenham Rifle Company; a Company that always answered the first sound of the bugle, and whose soldierly conduct has won for me, on more than one occasion, the thanks of the Commanding Officer. A body of brave young men who have always treated me with kindness and respect. On behalf of

Mrs. O'Neil I return you my warmest thanks and I can assure you that she will feel very grateful for your kind expression of regard. Trusting that we may be long surrounded by the same kind hearted friends and neighbours; and that should the day again unfortunately come when the possession of the soil will have to be disputed with the invader, may the people of this country prove that Old England need not fear to trust her flag across the seas—the Flag that has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze. Again thanking you and wishing all the happiness of this joyous season.

JOHN O'NEIL.

On the inside of case is the following inscription: "Presented to John O'Neil, by a few friends, as a mark of esteem, for his valuable services as Senior Captain No. 6 Company, 41st Battalion Volunteer Militia."—*Carleton Place Herald*.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* (London) has the following regarding the Scott gun-carriage.

While the *Warrior* is receiving new boilers at Portsmouth, it is under consideration to exchange her 9 inch, 6½-ton guns for 9-inch 12 ton guns. This is rendered possible by the use of Captain Scott's (R. N.) high slides and low carriages, which are devised to spread the force of recoil over a large area, and to divide it between the pivot bolt and the racers, and, by their short length, enable the heaviest guns to be trained in less space than the smaller slide guns on the old plan. Heavy armaments can therefore be introduced into iron-clads without any increase of armored space. Indeed, the distance between the ports, has, in all recent ships, been reduced, while the broadside armament has been increased to 10 inch 18 ton guns, thus causing a corresponding diminution in the breadth and weight of armor to cover them, and consequently in the tonnage and cost of the ship. The compressor is self-acting, going out of action when the carriage is raised on the rear rollers for running in or out, and into action when lowered off them, the weight of the gun driving the wedge plates into each other. The carriage is thus tied down to the slide; and the slide is tied down by strong metal hooks to the curved racers on which it traverses or trains; and these latter are solid metal ties binding the beams and decks together, and communicating the pressure over a large surface. The ponderous 18-ton guns thus mounted have been perfectly manageable in the *Hercules* and *Sultan* in the heaviest weather, and using battering charges. There seems no reason why the broadside guns of both armored and unarmored ships should not all be mounted on Scott's new carriages and be doubled in weight, removing corresponding weights of spare gear that can better be spared. These carriages are so perfectly under control that half a dozen men can efficiently work the 18-ton gun, though seventeen men do so with greater rapidity—a number allotted with the old carriages to work the 4½-ton gun. A general doubling of the weight of armament need not, therefore, lead to any increase in the ship's complement of men, but were it not for other important considerations, might be accompanied with a decrease of crew. The *Prince Consort* is already being treated in this way; the *Warrior* will probably follow; and advantage may be taken of other ships paying off to double their weight of armament. We trust that the unarmored ships will be equally favored, as there is no necessary connection between weak defence and weak offensive powers.

The New York *Herald* gives the following account of the destruction of the Venice Arsenal.

At one o'clock on the morning of the 11th of December a fire broke out with great violence in the Arsenal of Venice, in that portion of the building lately occupied by the Directors of Armament and Official Contracts. The locality referred to is situated between the canals of the part of the city known as "Le Stoppar," and the spacious yards in which ships' cables, old guns, and other superfluous gear, are deposited, and in the vicinity of the ancient gates of the Arsenal, where the great fire of 1856 originated. The cause is unknown, and is as yet attributed to accident; but the admiral in command proposes to make an immediate investigation. A strong wind blowing from the northwest proved favorable, for it hurled the sparks and fire brands in a direction opposite several magazines, the explosion of which would have sacrificed many hundreds of lives. The wind, however, fed the fire in its own direction; but the wise directions of the admiral and the indefatigable efforts of the troops and firemen who had concentrated their forces from all parts of the city, succeeded at length in abating the fury of the flames. The principal operations undertaken to protect the magazines were directed by Colonel Morandi, who has charge of the marine artillery, with remarkable energy and presence of mind. The firemen were commanded by Merryweather—a strange sounding name for a Venetian. The removal of the powder from the magazines and a large quantity of cartridges from the barrack stores was performed with great precision. While the fire was raging the steam-pump used by the firemen was disabled. The announcement of this fact almost created a panic in the city. After an hour's delay a boat was rowed up the nearest canal, having a steam cistern on board, which, being worked by very powerful machines, helped to a great extent in extinguishing the fire. The arrival of the steam cistern was hailed with deafening cheers. The two admirals stationed at Venice, all the colonels and military authorities, General Mattel, President of the Roteo; General Mamin, Perfect of Venice; the Procurator Superior and the Procurator of the King; the Questor—all the city officials hastened to the scene of the conflagration. About five firemen were mortally wounded, and one killed instantaneously. The damages of the fire may be estimated as equivalent to \$300,000.

MUTINY AT SEA.—The barque *Stampsede*, Captain Hatfield, which sailed yesterday from Cardenas, returned to-day. Off the Island a dispute arose between the captain and a negro sailor named Francis. The latter was shot in the head by the mate. The crew were insubordinate, and the officers thought it better to return to port. Francis' wound is not dangerous.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 1lb., ½lb., and 1lb. tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homeopathic Chemists, London, England.