

FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The dinner to Colonel Bagot at the St. Lawrence Hall, previous to his departure for England, given by a number of the Volunteer officers who had served under him during the recent Fenian raid on the Eastern frontier, was a very successful affair. The chair was occupied by Lieut. Colonel Fletcher, and the vice-chair by Lieut. Col. Stevenson. Col. Bagot's speech, on the occasion of his health being proposed, was a very happy one.

Capt. deBel'oeuille, with a company, have returned to this city from Red River, and I hear it is intended that they should garrison St. Helen's Island for a time.

The books with the new system of drill are out and are already being diligently studied by the Volunteer officers. The new system is much more preferable to the old and it meets with general favor. The Vics, generally the first to take the lead, have already been assembled for instruction, and it is intended by Lt. Col. Bethune to keep them at it till the cold weather sets in, the men not yet being provided with fur caps. Their drill instructor, Sergt. Yeomans, being detected in purloining and pawning some twenty of the regimental overcoats, has skeddaddled and left for Uncle Sam's territory. Yeoman's was a first rate drill instructor, but of late has been addicted much to drink.

The Governor General is sojourning among us for a time, his quarters being at the St. Lawrence Hall. On Sunday he attended service in St. George's church, and the remainder of the week he has been visiting the several places of interest throughout the city.

The investiture of Lt. Col. Osborne Smith, D.A.G., Lt. Col. Fletcher, B.M., Lieut. Col. McEachren, and Lt. Col. Chamberlain with the order of St. Michael and St. George, took place at the St. Lawrence Hall on Tuesday. At about 12 o'clock His Excellency entered the room accompanied by Lieut. Col. McNeil, V.C., and Mr. Turville, and also by the following staff. Lt. Col. Bolton, R.A., Lt. Col. William, and officers of the 60th Rifles. There was a fair attendance of both civilians and Volunteer officers.

Before the ceremony began the Governor General rose and said he was glad to see present so numerous and brilliant an assemblage on an occasion meant to mark a sense of extraordinary merit. This was the first time the new order had been conferred on members of the militia of the colonies, and he was glad to seize the present opportunity of conferring the mark of Royal favor to officers who had distinguished themselves. He wished to correct a mistake which had originated with some of the newspapers. These honors were granted, unasked, by the Imperial Government, and not at any Canadian representations. The Government of England represented the enlightened opinion of that country, and had marked what was going on here. They had marked the

public spirit displayed by the Canadians, and before any communication from His Excellency had reached the British Government they had resolved to confer the order on any Canadian Militia officer who might be deserving of it. Two things had struck him: first, that when the militia were originally enrolled several thousands more offered themselves than were required; and second, that last spring, instead of 9000, the number required, answering to the call to arms, upwards of 13,000 came forward. This spoke volumes for the Canadian militia. Its significance was felt in England, and also the propriety of an acknowledgment thereof, and the Government had acted in accordance with this sentiment, which was expressed at several public meetings. The people of England had likewise been struck with the merits of our riflemen, and got up, by subscription, a prize to be competed for by them. With regard to the action of the Government he said: "I was particularly asked whether there were any officers in command of the Colonial forces who were actually engaged in the recent repulse of the Fenians on the frontier, whom I would recommend on that account for the honor of a Companionship of the order of St. Michael and St. George; and I stated that there were gentlemen whose names I should be happy to have the opportunity of submitting for consideration under the circumstances, feeling assured, as I did, that the conferring rewards upon them would have an excellent effect throughout the Dominion, animate and encourage the Volunteer Militia, and be received with the utmost gratitude in all quarters as a gracious boon on the part of Her Majesty. Accordingly I communicated with the Lieut. General in command, the Honorable James Lindsay and the Hon. the Minister of Militia, Sir George E. Cartier, and in accordance with their views, I recommended for the distinction in question the names of the gentlemen following:—Lieut. Col. Wm. Osborne Smith, Deputy Adjt. General of Militia, 5th District. Commanded on the Missisquoi frontier, arranged the defence of Eccles Hill and provided for the defence of that post on the 25th of May; was present there in command on the afternoon of the same day when skirmishing took place. Lt. Col. John Fletcher Brigade-Major of St. John's militia Brigade District. This officer was in command on the Huntingdon frontier previous to the arrival of Her Majesty's 69th regiment, when Col. Bagot, the officer commanding that regiment, assumed the command of the field force. Colonel Fletcher accompanied the troops when advancing to attack, and though not in command, was present with the advanced guard when it drove the Fenians across the border. Lt. Col. A. McEachren commanding the 50th Huntingdon Borderers. Commanded on the Huntingdon frontier until the arrival of Lieut. Col. Bagot, 69th regiment; commanded his own corps when it drove the Fenians across the Border at Trout river. Lt. Col. Brown Chamberlain, M.A., D.C.L., commanding 60th Missisquoi Battalion of Militia; commanded at Eccles Hill and drove the Fenians back when they crossed the frontier and attacked that position on the forenoon of the 25th May. Lord Kimberly, who had in the meantime succeeded Lord Granville at the Colonial office, acknowledged the receipt of my despatch, submitting the names of the four officers and strongly recommending them for the distinction named. In reply, Lord Kimberly stated that he had much pleasure in submitting the names of the four gentlemen to the Queen for the Royal approval, and her Majesty was graciously pleased to

direct that the decoration should be offered to them.

Col. Osborne Smith was the first recipient of this honor. Lt. Col. McNeil handed the insignia to Lady Young, who affixed it to the breast of the Colonel. The same ceremony was gone through by each of the other three gallant gentlemen, after which His Excellency shook them each individually by the hand wishing them joy of their well earned laurels. It was a source of much disappointment that the ceremony of investiture was not made a more public one and did not take place in one of our large halls, say St. Patrick's Hall, and some more *éclat* given to the proceedings. The gallant Colonels deserved this. B.

LOCAL LOYALTY.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

MR. EDITOR,—I, as an individual, appreciate any commendable act of the fair sex, particularly when I find them engaged in what I might term loyal and laudible pursuits. Hence, I trust you will pardon me when I ask you, in justice to the ladies of this locality, to give space to the following in your REVIEW.

A few evenings ago the officers of the Vernon Infantry Company, No. 9, 43rd Battalion, invited the men comprising that corps, and a number of their friends, to meet them in their drill shed, in order that they might have a social evening, in winding up the business of the year. After ample justice having been done to the very excellent refreshments provided, Lieut. and Quartermaster Hanna, of Pine Grove Cottage, being the only representative staff officer of the 43rd Battalion, was called upon to preside and assist in carrying out the second part of the programme—being the presentation by the ladies of that locality and vicinity, of the very neat and attractive Company colors, manufactured by Mr. McEachren, military tailor, Toronto, the cost of which will attest to its superiority, being fifty dollars, together with a Union Jack, which cost six dollars. The officers and men took open order and presented arms, when the ladies, with colors uncased and escort approached, Miss Eliza Kennedy, in behalf of the ladies, read the following address, and Miss Sarah Ann Campbell presented the colors to Ensign Peter Crerar:—

To Captain McGregor, Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of No. 9 Company, 43rd Battalion.

GENTLEMEN,—It is with feelings mingled with the deepest pleasure prompted by love that we now solicit your attention. The manner in which you, as a company of Her Majesty's Volunteers, have conducted yourselves since your organisation in this locality; the loyalty and readiness you displayed when called upon to manifest your devotedness and true patriotic love has insured to you the warmest love and affection. And, as a token of such hearty approbation, we, the ladies of the locality which you individually represent, take much pleasure in presenting you with these Company colors, to—