

A London correspondent, writing about the return of the Belgians from the Guild hall on Friday, says:—"I have just been to see the Sultan and the Belgians. The latter were really worth looking at. They *slightly* astonished the Cockneys, for they kissed all the men as well as the women who happened to be in the streets at the time. As I was afraid my turn would come next, I bolted!"

The Duke of Wellington was made a Mason in the Castle of Dungan, his birth-place, in Lodge 494. He was then Colonel of the 23d Regiment of Foot. The Duke's own father was at that time master of the lodge. The record is that "he was duly passed after the usual examination, and entered at the southern gate and afterwards raised." Somerville North, Marquis Wellesley, Percival, Waller, and Leslie were present, also Sir Robert Peel.—*Limerick Southern Chronicle*.

THE CONFESSION OF MURDER BY A SOLDIER AT CHESTER.—Since the publication in the newspapers of the confession by Walter Roberts, at Chester, of a murder committed by him in India in 1844, when serving in the army, communications have been received by the chief constable from writers in many parts of England and Scotland, and also from Roberts' relatives, confirming his statement, and placing the fact of the murder beyond doubt. The police are in communication with the Home Office, and the prisoner has been again remanded.

THE VOLUNTEERS.—The *Morning Star* gives a return which shows the number of enrolled Volunteers in each branch of the force during each year from 1860 to the present time. The rifles have increased by 40,000 during the six years, the artillery from about 16,000 to nearly 34,000, and the engineers from 500 to 5000. Even the light horse have shown a steady, though moderate, increase year by year. On the other hand, the mounted rifles (like the light horse, always a small force) have fallen off by one half. From another statement, showing the total yearly increase or decrease (as the case may be) in the force since 1860, it appears that, with the exception of 1862, when there was a falling off of 3400, the force has continued to grow up to the present time.

THE STRENGTH OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCE.—A question which gives rise to no small amount of discussion in Volunteer circles is, says the *Observer*, the all-important one whether the Volunteer force is maintaining its strength as well as its efficiency, or whether the laxity with which the Government are treating all applications for further assistance in the shape of capitation grant is not surely, however slowly, tending, to seriously damage if it does not entirely destroy the means of keeping up the strength and efficiency of the Volunteer force. Whatever may be the cause, it is a fact beyond dispute that whilst Volunteer corps are generally said to have augmented their numerical strength on paper, they are certainly by no means showing any increase, but, on the contrary, a large decrease on those occasions on which every corps may be expected to show the largest amount of its efficient strength possible—namely, the occasion of its official inspection. The *Observer*, after instancing what has occurred in the case of a number of corps, gives it as its opinion that greater support must be given by the Government if the force is to be kept up at its present strength and efficiency.—*United Service Gazette*.

CANADIAN MILITARY NEWS.

Gen. Michel has resigned his command in Canada, and it is said that the position has been offered to Sir Fenwick Williams.

A soldier, aged 82, died recently at Tingley, Canada East, who was with Napoleon in the campaign of 1812, when he received two wounds.

An Eastern Townships' Rifle Association was organized at Waterloo on the 20th ult., the object of which is to hold a Rifle Tournament on a grand scale. The officers appointed included nearly all the leading men of the Townships.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?—The Markham Infantry Company has been called out three times in succession, and the officers failed each time to file an appearance; once for inspection, once for target practice, and lastly on important business. It is very difficult matter to keep up a volunteer company under the most favorable circumstances but when the officers become so careless as not attend themselves, the privates are sure to become disgusted. We hear nothing further of the Drill Shed for this place, are we likely to lose the Government grant for that also through the negligence of the parties whose duty it is to attend to it. Can Capt. Milne answer these enquiries?—*Economist*.

10TH BRIGADE ROYAL ARTILLERY.—The three Batteries of this Brigade of the Royal Artillery, stationed in Quebec, embark in the steam troop-ship *Simoon*, for Malta, on Thursday next; and at St. Johns, Newfoundland, another Battery will be taken on board. The departure of the Batteries from this garrison is greatly regretted. Officers and men have won golden opinions from our citizens, which will long be preserved. The names of Colonel McCrea and Lieutenant Harvey are so familiar, that their leaving is regarded almost with as much interest as if two of our best known citizens were quitting the city. The Colonel has made himself not only popular with those under him in the brigade, but with all with whom he has come in contact, and the best wishes of our people accompany him and his corps. We understand that Sergeant Major Press, who is such a valuable non-commissioned officer in his corps and a general favorite here, does not leave with the Batteries, being about to retire from the service. He is one of those men who are the pride of the British Army, and wherever he settles we have no doubt he will succeed in life as his sterling manliness deserves. On the return of the *Simoon* from Malta with the headquarters of the 3rd Brigade, the two Batteries in Montreal and the two in Kingston of the 10th Brigade will also proceed to the Mediterranean. Colonel Chandler, of the 3rd Brigade, will succeed Col. McCrea in the command of the Artillery at Quebec. Major Leslie is, we hear, promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the 4th Brigade.—*Quebec Mercury*.

In military affairs Burford is not a whit behind any of the surrounding Townships. It has a large company of Infantry, and one of Cavalry. The latter numbers 40 men, exclusive of the officers and has just received a full equipment of saddles, carbines, cartridges, &c. It has had one yearly drill—sixteen days—and also drilled regularly every fortnight up to the commencement of

the busy season. This Company is in a high state of effectiveness, and at Brantford on "Confederation Day" was warmly complimented for its proficiency by the officers of the Royal Fusiliers. The names of the officers of the Burford Cavalry Company are as follows: J. Bingham, Captain; W. Marshall, Lieutenant; and T. Jones, Cornet.—*Prince-ton Transcript*.

THE DRILL SHED.—We are glad to be able to state that the work upon the drill shed is progressing very favorably, and that in all probability the work of raising the building will again be commenced during the ensuing week. In connection with this matter, we have heard several of our prominent citizens speak strongly with reference to the shape of the roof according to the Government plans. In fact it cannot look otherwise than an immense barn located in the very centre of the town, and there is not a doubt but that in a few years its appearance (which will be bad at the best) will be very unsightly as well as unsafe, because the roof will be so flat that in case of fire anywhere in its locality, there would be great danger of its being burned by sparks falling and remaining upon the roof. We merely call attention to the fact at the present time when there is an opportunity to have the evil remedied. By roofing upon the arches leaving the roof circular instead of square, or by raising a second roof upon the centre of the plain roof would tend very much to relieve its otherwise ungainly appearance, and for about the same expense a plastic slate roof could be put on, which would be fire proof, or if the expense would not be too excessive a tin roof would look much better still. If it is desirable to have our town look neat, which we think all will admit, this matter should be attended to at once, as in a few days or weeks it will be too late to alter the plans without incurring considerable additional expense.—*Port Hope Canadian*.

A LOYAL SOLDIER.—In our Police Court report to-day will be found a statement of the trial and conviction of a pair of notorious rowdies, who have disgraced our city with their presence thus past two weeks. Their ruffianly conduct culminated last Tuesday in an unprovoked attack upon a private soldier of the 30th Regiment, who very properly indignantly refused to allow himself to be coerced into drinking a toast "of success to Fenians and to h—l with the Queen." The answer of her Majesty's gallant servant to this proposal was that "while he wore the uniform he had on, neither two men nor ten men would get him to disgrace it." This speech was answered by a kick from one of the miscreants named Stewart, and the blow by a tumbler on the head by Williams. The cowardly assailants also struck a blow at the woman of the house, who came up to interfere on behalf of the

The latter, however, soon proved himself more than a match for them both, for he not only succeeded in giving them a thorough good thrashing, but he finished off by pitching them out of the house. He afterwards procured a warrant, and they were disposed of as described in the police report. The worthy sitting Magistrate, after expressing his approbation of the loyal and creditable conduct of the soldier, sent the man who had given utterance to his seditious sentiments, up to the Court of Queen's Bench.—*Quebec Chronicle*.