

officer of volunteers and his men are of a different character. In fact regulars are scarcely a pattern to us beyond drill, and if, in that respect, we could attain to their silence, coolness, precision, promptitude, and set up, there would be no troops like us in the world.

I note in the *Illustrated News* of the 29th August, an inspection of the 1st Staffordshire Volunteers, which, by the way, are said to have mustered 1048 strong. The battalion was formed into two for brigade purposes, and at the conclusion of the inspection, Col. Dishon, the inspecting officer, after a good deal of praise, referring to brigade movements, "candidly told the officers they wanted more practice." There is an exquisite sarcasm in thus putting a self-evident truth in the position of a half-pitying sort of blame—Practice! Yes, I should think we do want practice! It is not of so much consequence in England as here, but I should like to know how we are to attain the confidence which looks well at a review, in brigade movements, without longer opportunities of bringing battalions together. It might be a very different thing in action; for it is quite probable that the man who would be nervous, and particular at a review, would care little about the strict correctness of his position, or of his word of command, so long as his mind grasped the situation, and he could make his men distinctly understand where he wanted them to move.

Noting your recent article on the masterly paper on the "National Church" in the 'Edinburgh' for July; I also notice what seems a singular and illiberal omission in the article on "English Dictionaries" in the same number. I mean the omission of any mention of Webster's and Worcester's splendid works. It seems rather *de haut en bas* treatment on the part of a nation which has scarcely yet gathered common sense enough to separate Is from Js, and Us from Vs in their Dictionary arrangements, to ignore these magnificent American contributions to the common literature. I do not mean to say that they are either of them without faults, but they are of far more value than any similar English publication since Johnson.

Can any of your subscribers or contributors tell me where I can procure a story of De la Motte Fouque's called the Magic Ring? It belongs to a series of which "Undine" was Spring, "Aslauga's Night" Autumn, and "Sintram" Winter, the "Magic Ring" being Summer. Every one knows "Undine;" some few know "Sintram;" but very few know "Aslauga's Night" or the "Magic Ring," which is the most brilliant and beautiful of them all, a glowing gem of chivalry! Some years ago I saw it in an American Publisher's List, but have failed to find it in any recent one. G.W.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW having a wide and extensive circulation, not only in the Dominion of Canada but in British Columbia, it is therefore the best medium to Advertise in.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## OTTAWA FIELD BATTERY PRIZE MEETING.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—The Annual Shooting Match and Horse Races of the Ottawa Field Battery, came off on Monday and Tuesday, the 28th and 29th inst., at the Rideau Rifle Range, commencing at 8 o'clock a.m. The amount of prizes competed for was about \$200, presented by the citizens to the Battery. The Spencer Rifle being used, and the wind, with occasional showers, sweeping from the right across the range, anything like a good score was out of the question. Not wishing to trespass too much on your valuable space, I only give the names of winners of prizes. Permit me to remark that the match was open to the whole battery, but only twenty availed themselves of the opportunity of competing, owing principally to the belief which prevails that the Spencer Repeating Rifle is not able to compete with the more popular Snider, and consequently declined to avail themselves of the opportunity of the match rather than have their names with very inferior scores published.

1ST MATCH.—Ranges 200 and 300 yards; five shots at each.

	Total.
Sergeant Richard.....	27
Driver Martin.....	25
Gunner Lowe.....	24
Driver H. Martin.....	24
Driver Savage.....	23

2ND MATCH.—Ranges 200 and 400 yards; three shots at each.

Driver W. Gray.....	20
Driver Joseph Martin.....	17
Gunner Lowe.....	17
Gunner Prano.....	15
Gunner Balbirnie.....	14
Sergeant-Major Stewart.....	14
Gunner Kerr.....	13

3RD MATCH.—Ranges 400 and 300 yards; three shots at each.

Gunner Prano.....	19
Driver Joseph Martin.....	17
Driver Savage.....	14
Sergeant Gilmore.....	13
Gunner McDonald.....	12

4TH MATCH.—Ranges 400 and 500 yards; three shots at each.

Sergeant-Major Stewart.....	18
Driver Savage.....	14
Gunner Lepine.....	13
Driver W. Gray.....	13
Gunner Prano.....	12
Gunner Black.....	11
Gunner McDonald.....	11

CONSOLATION MATCH.—Range 200 yards; five shots.

Lieutenant Stewart.....	15
Captain Forsyth.....	14
Gunner Patterson.....	14
Driver Baskerville.....	10
Gunner Scott.....	10

## SECOND DAY.

The afternoon, of which was arranged for Horse Racing, was dry and rather cold. Shortly after noon the drivers with their horses and a goodly number of citizens began to assemble; and after the necessary arrangements had been completed, eight

horses started off at full speed around the hill overlooking the Rifle Range. Two circuits around the hill was required to make a mile and a quarter heat, which was made in about four minutes. The following are the winners:

1st.....	Driver Sharpe
2nd.....	Driver Barnes.
3rd.....	Driver Nelson.
4th.....	Driver Dempsey.

2ND OR HURDLE RACE excited more sport from the troopers preferring the green turf to jumping over hurdles, three feet high and ten in the course, but after the 1st and 2nd was passed they came in in very good style. Time about five and a half minutes.

1st.....	Driver Savage.
2nd.....	Driver Sharpe.
3rd.....	Driver Barnes.
4th.....	Driver Dempsey.
5th.....	Driver Nelson.

This concluded the sport for the season, and all dispersed highly satisfied, and with the intention of each having a first prize next year both in shooting and racing.

I remain, Mr. Editor, yours, &c.,

JOHN STEWART, Lt., O. F. B.

Sept. 30th, 1868.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—Knowing that your columns are ever open for the advocacy of real Volunteer interests, and that you have the welfare of the force at heart, I take the liberty of offering a few remarks upon the Rifle Tournament just completed at Laprairie, and of making a suggestion or two, for the consideration of the officers of the Dominion, and, indeed, of all other Associations throughout the country. The prime object and aim of our Great Canadian Wimbledon meeting in common with every other Rifle match in the Dominion is no doubt intended to be the perfection of our Volunteer soldiers in the use of the Rifle as that in case of attack we shall not be found defenceless or entirely deficient in the arts of Warfare. This I think can safely be assumed to be a fact acknowledged by every one. One thing at least has been brought to light very clearly by the late meeting, and it is this: that the distribution of prizes as between officers and men was out of all proportion; the officers, as every one who has watched the scores must know, carrying off the great bulk of the prizes, the privates and noncommissioned officers being quite unable to compete at all for the best prizes.

The Laprairie match is no exception in this matter, but experience teaches that every match held in the country is attended with precisely the same results, the officers, in almost every case, carrying away the prizes from their men. Now, Sir, is this as it should be? By schooling officers in the use of the breech-loader are we performing our duty to the country? or are we simply throwing away our money upon officers holding commissions in the Regular and Volunteer forces, and of whose business the use of the Rifle is none whatever? Is it right or just that the poor private to whom in