

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The commanding officers of the district have, I understand, been notified to commence drill at as early a date as practicable; it is presumed that by this time they have made themselves acquainted with the changes in the new system and are ready to instruct the subalterns and men. At present the Victoria Rifles is the only corps steadily drilling, and the men of this fine regiment show a perseverance that cannot but be productive of good results.

General Doyle has issued a very welcome general order, stating that when the time comes for the departure of the 60th Rifles for Quebec, which will likely be on the 13th instant, a detachment of 100 men with three subalterns and one captain, also one field officer, will remain at Montreal, to assist in the formation of a permanent military school in this city, under the Militia Department of the Dominion Government. It is presumed that Major Labranche, the veteran instructor will be re-installed in his former position.

On Monday evening the non-commissioned officers and men of No. 4 Battery, Grand Trunk Artillery, presented their commander, Capt. Doran, with a handsome photograph of the members of the Battery, accompanied with a most appreciative testimonial. Captain Doran expressed himself very flattered with such a mark of their esteem and approbation, and thanked them for their gift. Several songs and a social chit-chat terminated this very pleasing reunion.

Some hundred Zouaves returned to this city from Rome on Sunday, and were accorded a very grand reception. At the station a procession was formed which marched to the French Church, where mass was heard and thanksgivings were offered up for their safe return. They appeared to be generally quite young, looked tired and dusty, and had a careworn and disappointed look; later in the day they donned their full parade uniforms, and looked to better advantage. How is it that it is only at funerals and such processions as this one sees the uniform of the Mount Royal Rifles?

Assistant Commissary G. Jolly, Control Staff, the last officer to return of the Imperial division of the Red River Force, has arrived in Montreal via Pembina, St. Cloud, and St. Paul's. This officer, I understand, remained behind in Fort Garry, after the 60th had left, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for the storing of the Government stores, as well as for the provisioning of the Force remaining for the coming winter. Mr. Jolly is, I hear, under orders for Jamaica.

The war material is being rapidly removed from St. Helon's Island. A cute Yankee has purchased nearly all the old guns, shot, shell, etc., at \$10.50 per ton, every ton of which originally cost the Imperial Government \$250. The guns, however, are to be disabled before delivery, with the exception of some of the mounted guns and certain war material, which are to be handed over to the Dominion Government. The present garrison of the Island is the depot company of the Quebec Volunteers, under the command of Capt. De Bellefeuille, and who only accompanied the Red River expedition as far as Fort William.

There is a great deal of discontent among the members of this company, many of whom volunteered to go to Red River, and would not have volunteered otherwise. Many of them are young men of respectability, and they decidedly object to the inactive life they are leading, and so close to their own homes. They will probably remain on the Island all winter. The promenade concert in aid of the General Hospital of the Prince of Wales Rifles came off on Wednesday, and was very successful. B.

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To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—In your issue of the 31st ultimo, on the construction of Military Intrenched Camps, as a rallying point for our Canadian Militia, I beg to refer to the subject for the information of those whom it may concern, and for the advantage of the Militia force of Military District No. 4, having had practical experience upon military field works in the Corps of Royal Engineers over 21 years, at different periods, at the Royal Engineers field establishment, Chatham, as Assistant-Instructor, under the command of Col. Sir W. Pasley, Royal Engineers, and Col. Sir Freck Smith, K.H., Royal Engineers Directors; also, employed in the Eastern townships of Canada to the Niagara frontier from May, 1838, to Sept., 1842.

I take present opportunity to point a convenient site well adapted for a military intrenched camp:

1st. The locality being accessible to it by main roads, steamboats and by rail, in one hour from the capital of the Dominion, twenty-five miles from the frontier line, and in communication with all the main leading roads approaching the capital from the river St. Lawrence. The camp can be so constructed for the guns of the works to protect the depot and railroad for about two miles, on each side of it, if required, preventing the enemy's approach by rail, while a part of the force would be within easy striking distance to all the main roads approaching towards the capital.

2nd. The soil is of a good description for military field works, composed of sandy loam and clay bottom, free from rock, large boulders, and gravel, where the force can be instructed in spade drill, rifle pits, and other military field works in addition to the

constructing of the intrenched camp. On the north side of the ground for about two miles it is protected by brush and timber which would answer for making gabions, fascines, and other materials for field works. A branch river passes round on one side with a good supply of running water and navigable north into the Rideau river, for use of camp.

The site in question is known as the Race Course, in rear of the Kemptville railroad depot, and connected with it by a good bridge across the stream; it was offered for public sale; the position is nearly central and surrounded by Volunteer companies in the counties of Granville and Carleton which can arrive by easy travel on the main roads—from two to four hours. A bridge connects the counties of Granville and Carleton across the Rideau river at Becket's Landing, two miles from Kemptville. The headquarters battalions and companies in the District could arrive by rail and steamboat from two to ten hours.

In reference to the national Canadian ribbon and silver clasps for the Active Force on Fenian raids and frontier service for the years of 1866 and 1870—it would raise a military spirit in our young Canadian army of Volunteers, in addition to reward those who have done their duty at the front in 1866 and 1870. Many old soldiers of the Active Force would wear them with pleasure with other medals received by them when serving in Her Majesty's service.

Yours truly,

CAMPAIGNER OF THE ACTIVE FORCE.

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VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT HALIFAX.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

The following account of the first Brigadier's field day of the Halifax Volunteers, on the 28th October, is from the *Halifax Reporter*, and such is the enterprise of the Halifax newspapers that the Volunteers on their march home through the town met the papers issued with an account of the field day.

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THE ASSEMBLY.

The Volunteers assembled at the Drill Shed yard, at 2 p.m., precisely, and after falling in, proving companies, etc., marched out in the following order: Field Battery, Captain Shaffer; Rifle Battalion, (63), Major MacKinlay; Garrison Artillery, Lt. Col. Creighton; and 66th Battalion, Lieut. Col. Bremner. The men looked in splendid condition, and moved off the ground with a good deal of soldierly bearing which at once bespoke discipline and efficiency.

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THE REVIEW GROUND.

At the North Common there was assembled a large concourse of citizens of all ages the fair sex preponderating, and displaying at the same time the patriotism they felt and the deep interest taken by them, in all that relates to the citizen soldiery of our Province. Perhaps never before were so many of our armed, equipped and disciplined Volunteers brigaded together before, and Old and Young Halifax turned out as if it were a gay holiday—to witness the sight.