



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

STAFF PROMOTIONS—JUSTITIA FIAT.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir:—In your last issue your Montreal correspondent "B," advocates the promotion of Brigade Major D'Orsennens to the position of Assistant Adjutant general, in the event of that office becoming vacant, as would seem probable. The fulsome compliments showered on Brigade Major D'Orsennens may be all very well in their way; at the same time, if any officer is to be promoted, surely the claims of a senior and equally competent officer must not be overlooked. Lieut. Colonel James William Hanson, Brigade Major No. 5 District, has seen much more service than Lieut. Colonel D'Orsennens, and is quite as efficient and popular an officer.

When the first Volunteer Rifle Company was formed in Montreal in 1855, James William Hanson's name was one of the first on the service roll. He eventually became Captain of that company. While Brigade Major Hanson was stationed at St. Andrew's P. Q., the manner in which he organised the Volunteer force of that district was highly creditable to him, and his popularity as a Brigade Major unbounded. If he has not been equally successful in his new district, the secret lies in the quality of the material he has to work upon. It is universally admitted that, in the French speaking districts, volunteering does not fall in with the popular taste. Take Montreal east as an example. At the same time Montrealers will remember that on two occasions, viz., during the two last Fenian raids, Lieut. Colonel Hanson brought a very efficient battalion from his division to garrison this city, when all available regular and volunteer troops were on the frontier.

The son of an old Waterloo officer, and one of the oldest staff officers of Militia in the Dominion, with every qualification requisite for the creditable performance of the duties of a more exalted position in the force, I feel quite satisfied that, if any promotion is to be

made, consequent on the retirement of the present Assistant Adjutant General of this Division, it could not be conferred on a more deserving and popular officer than Lieut. Colonel Hanson.

Montreal, 3rd February, 1872.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir:—Would you be kind enough to give me through the columns of your esteemed and widely circulated paper, a full and true explanation of the 8th and 9th clauses of the "Militia Act of 1868, which reads as follows: 8th clause. No member of a volunteer corps, enrolled or re-enrolled under this Act, shall be permitted to retire therefrom in time of peace, without giving to his commanding officer six months notice of his intention. 9th clause. Hereafter the period of service in the volunteer militia in time of peace shall be three years. Supposing I have a member of my corps who has been regularly enrolled or re-enrolled in time of peace and he served three years, or three years and a half and should demand his discharge without giving me the six months notice of his intention, would I be obliged to discharge him, or could I hold him until he gave me the required notice? Again, if I had a member who had served three years and over and he had never given me his, or the six months notice required in time of peace, and my corps should be ordered out to perform the annual drill, could I oblige him to turn out with his company, or fine him in default of the same? The matter has been brought in question here by myself, having a case as above. The Magistrate fined him in accordance with the Act, and claimed that I had a right to hold him in my corps in time of peace until he gave me the required notice, no matter if he had served over three years, as the Act at the time of his re-enrolling had been read and explained to him. Several lawyers endorse his decision and my course, other parties claim that the magistrate and myself are wrong. As you are in a position at Head Quarters, Ottawa, and can obtain the necessary explanation or definition, and as your paper is published in the interest of the force, I refer the matter to you, trusting you will grant my request.

Yours, &c.

J. R. WILKINSON, Capt.

Comdg. Comp'y at Leamington, Ont.
Leamington, Feb. 3rd, 1872

MATHEMATICS AS APPLIED TO FRUIT.

That potato was well known and appreciated in the Augustan age is evident from Horace's most striking composition—"The Sabine Farmer's Serenade."

Vix poma terre? sura
Uno dives jugere;
Vix ar et mellis, cum
Bacchi succo, sugere?

I've got an acre of ground,
I've got it set with prattles;
I've got of 'baccy a pound,
I've got some tea for the ladies

—Father Prout.

Although America was separated from Horace and his friends by a green expanse of waves, and lost to them and to the world as a pearl in the midst of the waters, a knowledge of the potato was not confined to themselves. McGinnis, the noted mathematician of Houston, Texas, who worked strenuously for the Maecenas and Agrippa ticket in the hope of obtaining a post-mastership for his only son was also acquainted with the vegetable, as will be seen by the following translation of his fifth problem, which is said to have been issued as a campaign squib to secure the Irish and bucolic vote. He plainly points out the geometrical origin of the word "potato,"—which has puzzled Johnson and Webster—and attacks the *doryphora decemlineata* without gloves. He spoke truly who said—"There's nothing new under the sun:"—

First let half a circle a straight line meet,
Then on Euclid's plan make a circle complete;
From a line horizontal by any her line draw e,
Produce two sides of a scalene triangle o—
Let a line make two angles with an upright line,
Then describe with your compass a circle in fine
These figures made with mathematical care
Give a tool more useful than cube or square.

'Twas an ancient knight,
W. I or Kate, gh light,
Who first saw his sight
Of this noble root—
And for that discovery
His name with roses he
Through the Perliere
In the best repute.

The children of Erin
Eat this root with herring
At birth, wake, b-rring
And marriage feast;
'Tis the everlasting stand by
(Except "spud" or "murfy"),
Both of the bog-trotting boy
And parish priest.

Misfortune to that bug, ah!
(In Latin *doryphora*)
From sweet Arizona—
We'll swear—
For making a roplevin
(As was done in '47)
In the "million of Glassnova"—
The pomme de terre.

SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.
POTATO.