

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Published EVERY MONDAY MORNING, at
OTTAWA, Dominion of Canada, by DAWSON
KERR, Proprietor.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum, strictly
in advance.

TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or
Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Depart-
ment, should be addressed to the Editor of THE
VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should
be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected com-
munications. Correspondents must invariably
send us, confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not
be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the
Provinces are particularly requested to favor us
regularly with weekly information concerning the
movements and doings of their respective Corps,
including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle
practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all in-
formation of this kind as early as possible, so that
it may reach us in time for publication.

WANTED,

Agents for "The Volunteer Review,"
IN EVERY CITY,
TOWN,
And
BATTALION,
IN THE DOMINION,
TO WHOM

LIBERAL TERMS WILL BE OFFERED

On application to the PROPRIETOR of
THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW,
OTTAWA.

CONTENTS OF LAST NUMBER.

ALICE CRESSINGHAM.

NOTES AND QUERIES—By G. W.

THE MISSING CROWN.

RIFLE MATCHES.—Civil Service. Hunflv Com-
pany, 43rd Batt. Amherst Island, O. Quebec.
Guelph. Toronto Battery Garrison Artillery.
Ottawa Brigade G. A., No. 3 Battery.

CORRESPONDENCE.—From Quebec. D. Fowler.
Non-pivot Drill, Lt. Col. Brunel. Arch'd Mac-
donald. From Toronto.

LEADERS.—Colonial defence. Fenian intentions.
French Canadians in the United States. Cuba.
Successful soldiers. A relic of Barbarism. No. 1
Company Ottawa Rifles. Departure of the 100th
Regiment.

SELECTIONS.—Honor to a young Canadian. Whe-
lan. 13th Battalion. Military presentation. The
Camp at Toronto. West Point. What Wellington
said to Rogers. Reminiscences of Espartero.
Pay of British officers.

MISCELLANEOUS AND CANADIAN ITEMS.

REMITTANCES.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS, &c., &c.



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1868.

It is not at all strange that there should
be a great difference of opinion in reference
to the new system, or systems, of drill among
those who have given their attention to this

subject, indeed military manœuvring, like
every other professional subject, has been so
overloaded with technicalities that the sim-
plest things are rendered difficult from the
manner in which they are put. Simplification
of drill is now a necessity, and a complete
revolution in the exercises of Infantry must
be accomplished before very long. In Eng-
land for some time past a number of gentle-
men have given a considerable share of at-
tention to this subject, and, as might be an-
ticipated, some very novel and peculiar ideas
have been set afloat through the medium of
the press, which have not as yet convinced
the Regular Military Authorities of the desir-
ability of the change. This however is not
to be wondered at, as that august and mis-
terious power was never yet moved to reform
except through pressure from without.
Amongst the earliest of drill reformers we
find the names of Colonel Warden, Colonel
Graham of the London Irish, Colonel J. H. A.
Macdonald of Edinburgh and more recently
Lord Elcho, whose name has for so long been
identified with the Volunteer movement in
England. As each of the above gentlemen
have given their ideas to the world in a
published form showing that each of them
were well grounded in the subject, and as
what they have promulgated cover the whole
debateable ground, the best way to regard
it would be from the broad stand-point of
simplicity. Here all are agreed, and it is
only in carrying out the details that there is
any serious conflict of opinion. In this res-
pect we are so far inclined to agree with
Colonel Brunel that the system advocated
by Colonel Macdonald is perhaps on the
whole the best, although there are many
parts of his scheme which we do not approve,
for instance the method of forming "fours"
which we cannot regard as an improvement,
and we are glad to see it has not been adopt-
ed by Lieut. Colonel Brunel. As the whole
precision and success of military movements
depend upon the proper execution of minor
details, the formation of fours is not so triv-
ial an affair, and, without endorsing all our
contributor "G. W." has advanced, we be-
lieve his method of forming fours superior
to that of Colonel Macdonald. We think it
would be an act of commendable wisdom on
the part of the Horse Guards to appoint a
committee to enquire into the merits of the
various systems advocated with a view of
giving volunteer commanders an opportuni-
ty of testing the merits thereof by a recog-
nised standard; by which, we believe, in a
short time, experiment would bring simpli-
fication to the perfection aimed at. As it is at
present a host of tinkers have sprung up,
each of whom, having a pet theory of his
own, endeavors to force it into practice. A
change is required and that change must be
radical. Nearly eight months ago a writer
in the *Volunteer Week* of the *Morning Star*
thus remarked upon the proposed changes:

"In consequence of the adoption of the
Snider rifle as the fire-arm of the army, there

is reason to believe that a further alteration
is inevitable in the drill of infantry battal-
ions, the noise and reverberation of the
increased fire, even in a neighboring regi-
ment, rendering it impossible for men to
hear the voice of a battalion commander.
This is the opinion, we believe, of so experi-
enced a soldier as General McMurdo, whose
views are understood to incline towards re-
ducing commands in infantry regiments to
a minimum, as has been done in regiments
of cavalry, and this even to the extent of
beckoning or signaling with the sword, or
passing the word along the line from com-
pany to company. In that case all execu-
tive commands would be given by company
commanders, who ought for this purpose to
be always, or generally, in the centre of
their companies, where alone a captain can
keep his battalion commander in view, and
effectively direct and control his men. At
Volunteer reviews the unwisdom of the pre-
sent regulation, which requires captains to
be anywhere but in the position indicated,
is especially conspicuous; and if reform in
infantry drill be attempted at all, we are
ourselves of the opinion that not only should
this be changed, but that reform should go
so far as to sweep away the supernumerary
rank, which in the experience of Volunteers
has been found to be an incumbrance, an-
swering no useful purpose, and absorbing a
large proportion of the effective strength of
a corps. The subalterns and sergeants
should, we think, be formed up on either
flank of their company, so that the captain
alone would be posted in the rear. The
technical objection to an alteration of this
kind could, we believe, be easily met; while
the advantage of getting rid of a host of idlers
would certainly be great."

With this we entirely agree, for if we adopt
the reversible front the supernumerary rank
becomes a useless nuisance and should be
abolished. Captains, or commander of com-
panies, alone (beside the necessary staff)
should be without the ranks. In a work
published by Major General Morris of the
United States Army in the year 1865, on the
subject of Infantry tactics we find the method
of wheeling, adopted by the French, advo-
cated and which is the same copied by Col.
Brunel from Colonel Macdonald. No one
can doubt this being an improvement, es-
pecially if the principle laid down by Colonel
Macdonald be recognised; that is—a Battal-
ion should never consist of more than six
companies. It may be well perhaps to de-
scribe the mode of performing the wheel
here referred to, which is as follows:—Take
for convenience the first movement viz:
wheeling into line from open column right
in front, as we understand drill at present.
The pivot men face as usual, the remaining
files of each company face to the left and
move by the shortest lines into their places
in line.

After carefully examining into the nature
of the proposed changes we are struck by
the fact that many of them are copies of the
movements practised by the French Light
Infantry corps even so far back as the Crim-
ean War; and it strikes us as peculiarly
significant that the ideas now advocated
were not adopted long ago by the English
Army as they have by the American. Up-
ton's tactics which is now the American