

connection with the sea three or four times as great as that of France and the United States put together. I believe in the event of a war Great Britain can so cover the ocean with her ironclads as to make her power upon the ocean supreme, and I am not afraid of the marine development of France or the United States, or both of them put together.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF ANNAPOLIS.

We dare affirm that there live some Nova Scotians who have never heard that it was predicted long ago that the Annapolis Valley would become famous for its yield of gold. Yet such is the case. As long ago as May, 1852, *Blackwood's Magazine* contained an elaborate article on "Gold, its Natural and Civil History," in which special reference was made to the probability of the discovery of gold in the valley of the Annapolis. Since that date, gold has been discovered in almost every quarter of Nova Scotia except the one specially pointed out by *Blackwood*, although this district was described as presenting the most favorable features of any. The remarks of *Blackwood* will interest the thousands in Nova Scotia who have now the privilege of perusing our daily and weekly issues. The writer says:

"We happen to have before us, at this present moment, a geological map of Nova Scotia. Two such maps have been published, one by Messrs. Alger and Jackson, of Boston, and another by Dr. Gesner, late colonial geologist for the Province of New Brunswick. In these maps the north western part of the Province is skirted by a fringe of old primary rocks, partly metamorphic, and sometimes fossiliferous, and resting on a back ground of igneous rocks, which cover according to Gesner, the largest portion of this end of the Province. Were we inclined to try our hand at a geological prediction we would counsel our friends in the vale of Annapolis to look out for yellow particles along the course of the Annapolis river, and especially at the mouths and up the beds of the cross streams that descend into the valley from the southern highlands.

"Nature, indeed, has given the Nova Scotians in this Annapolis valley a miniature of the more famed valley of the Sacramento. Their north and south mountains represent respectively the coast range and the Sierra Nevada of the Sacramento Basin. The tributaries in both valleys descend chiefly from the hills on the left of the main rivers. The Sacramento and the Annapolis rivers both terminate in a lane or basin, and each finally escapes through a narrow chasm in the coast ridge by which its terminating basin communicates with the open sea. The Gut of Digby is, in the small, what the opening into the harbour of San Francisco now called the "Golden Gate" and the "Narrows" is in the large; and if the Sacramento has its plains of drifted sand and gravel, barren and unpropitious to the husbandman, the Annapolis river, besides its other poor lands on which only the sweet fern luxuriates, has its celebrated Aylesford sand plain, or devil's goose pasture—a broad flat "given up to the geese, which are so wretched that the foxes won't eat them, they hurt their teeth so bad." Then the south mountains, as we have said, consist of old primary rocks, such as may carry gold—disturbed, traversed by dykes, and changed or metamorphosed, as gold-bearing rocks usually are. Whether

quartz veins abound in them we cannot tell; but the idle boys of Clare, Digby, Clements, Annapolis, Aylesford, and Horton, may as well keep their eyes about them. A few days spent with a "long California Tom," in rocking the Aylesford and other sands and gravel-drifts of their beautiful valley, may not prove labour in vain. What if the rich alluvials of Horton and Cornwallis should hide beneath, more glittering riches, and more suddenly enriching than the Geological considerations also suggest that the streams which descend from the northern slopes of the Cobequid Mountains should not be overlooked. It may well be that the name given to Cap d'Or by the early French settlers two hundred years ago, may have had its origin in the real, and not in the imaginary presence of glittering gold."—*Telegraph St. John N. B.*

The "Canadian Builder" says:—The Canadian roofing slate is fast coming into use in the larger cities of the Dominion and gives general satisfaction. We have always considered slate to be the best roof to put on any large building, if we could only give it a sufficient pitch, and have always advised our clients to use it, even when slate was a very dear article: but now that it can be obtained so cheaply and so good, we wonder why any man can have a good house roofed with anything else. We can give many reasons for our preference. First, the appearance is so much more imposing; second, their durability; third, they are fire proof; fourth, they are cheaper than tin or iron; the water which comes off the roof is much cleaner and better for drinking or any other use. The Canadian slates are quarried in the Township of Melbourne, in the Province of Quebec. They are of a beautiful blue colour and do not tarnish or change colour by exposure. They are not affected by the frost or dampness, and they stand the climate well.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE 8TH BATTALION OR STADACONA RIFLES, QUEBEC.

The 8th Battalion have been long considered one of the crack Volunteer corps in the Dominion, and notwithstanding the cold water thrown upon them by the authorities in common with the whole Volunteer force they continue to keep up their efficiency.

Few Volunteer corps have scored as many victories in Rifle shooting as the gallant 8th, having defeated in private matches the 17th Rgt., Royal Engineers, 60th Rifles, 30th Rgt., 69th Rgt., and the crack team of the Montreal G. T. Brigade, as well as carried off the Battalion prize at the Grand Dominion Match at Laprairie in 1868.

Having concluded their annual drill the 8th were inspected on Wednesday, 27th ult., by Lt.-Col. Casault, Deputy Adjutant General of the 7th Military District. The inspection took place in the Drill shed, which was brilliantly lighted for the occasion, whilst the splendid band of the 69th regiment discoursed some of its sweetest music

and all round the interior of the vast building were closely grouped the *elite* of Quebec society.

Col. Casault entered the building at 8 o'clock and was received by the battalion with a general salute, the band playing a grand march. After a minute inspection the line was wheeled into open column right in front, then marched past and saluted in quick time, and again marched past in quarter distance and close column at the double, after which they opened out and wheeled into line and went through the manual and platoon exercise in review order.

The junior captain was then called to the front by whom they were put through several manoeuvres with great steadiness, the most striking of which were perhaps their deployments at the double, and the really extraordinary precision with which they commenced volley firing, and independent file firing by companies, as each in succession moved into position at a run, but without the least apparent hurry or confusion.

After a short rest in column the inspecting officer called the junior lieutenant to the front and requested him to skirmish the Battalion. Immediately a line of skirmishers spread themselves out in magnificent style from one extremity of the Drill Shed to the other, and went through all the different changes of light infantry drill by sound of the bugle.

After an advance and salute in line, square was formed and a number of ladies, with the Dept. Adj. General, Lt.-Colonel Bagot and several other officers entered the square. The Deputy Adjutant General then addressed the Battalion and complimented both officers and men on their high order of efficiency and the alacrity with which they mustered for actual service when lately called out by the Government. He said: "From what he had seen to-night, as well as on former occasions, he felt assured, should the country ever require their services in the field, the 8th would give a good account of themselves. He had had opportunities of seeing some of the best Volunteer battalions in both Upper and Lower Canada and he did not hesitate to say he had not seen one as efficient in drill as the 8th Battalion, and he might add he had the authority of a very distinguished soldier—Lt.-Col. Bagot—to say that as Volunteers they would be a credit to any nation in the world. And from the report which he should consider it his duty to make to the Government on their efficiency, he felt satisfied the Battalion would receive some special mark of approval from the Commander-in-Chief." No. 1 Company having lately concluded their annual rifle practice, the winners of prizes were then called to the front and the badges and prizes presented to them by Mrs. Erskins Scott, after which the band marched through some of the principal streets of the city headed by the band of the 69th regiment.

STADACONA.