

them, and we are happy to see them again brought into operation. We congratulate those who have already established association for drill, and those who have not we recommend to do so without delay.

### EXPLANATORY.

In the last issue of the *Cornwall Freeholder*, we find the following:—

"We notice a report, by a correspondent, of the recent Volunteer Inspection here, published by the *Volunteer Review*. It is seriously incorrect in many respects; we do not notice it, however, to argue the matter, but simply to say that it bears evidence of having come from an interested quarter, so strongly, that it is quite without value. The *Review* is taken as an authority, and as a standard of reference in such matters, it is therefore the more unfortunate that parties to whom a puff is a necessity should have access to such a means of varnishing over their own deficiencies so entirely at the expense of truth."

In reference to this we have only to say that if the report was incorrect, we—though sorry that it should have been so—are in no wise responsible for the opinions of our correspondent at Cornwall. Of course we have nothing to do with local jealousies or "particular interests"; and regret that THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW should have been made the medium—if such really has been done—for their display.

### MILITARY LECTURE IN OTTAWA.

Captain Bridgewater delivered a Lecture here on Saturday evening. The audience was not so large as we could have wished owing to so many amusements the same evening. The Adjutant General, Commandant, and many other officers were present, and appeared much pleased with the Captain's remarks, which were repeatedly applauded.

### BOOK NOTICES.

A NEW SYSTEM OF INFANTRY TACTICS DOUBLE AND SINGLE RANK, adapted to American Topography and improved fire arms. By Bvt. Maj. Gen. EMORY URTON, U.S. ARMY. This is the latest system of Infantry drill and exercise adopted in the United States Army, and is well adapted to the peculiarities of American warfare. The general features of the system, as regards Battalion and Brigade movements, are much the same as were lately adopted in the British Service. The movements aim at greater rapidity of formation, and the principals laid down are the same as are now generally admitted in the French and British services.

For sale by Messrs. Dawson Bros. Booksellers, Montreal.

### REMITTANCES RECEIVED

For the week ending Saturday, 14th Dec., 1867, we have received as follows:

Quebec—J. G. S., \$1. Ottawa—Capt. S. (100th Regt.), \$1. Toronto—J. A. M., \$2. R. P., \$2. Hamilton—J. R., \$2.

### THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

(From the *London Times*)

We are now in a position to realise the magnitude, if not to estimate the prospects or count the cost, of the Abyssinian Expedition. The letter from our Special Correspondent at Bombay, dated October 14, which appeared in this journal on Tuesday, fills up the outline of the telegraphic intelligence which had already reached us. Subsequent despatches from Aden carry our information up to October 19, on which day the second detachment of the invading army was to leave Aden for its destination. The entire force will consist of 12,000 effectives, of whom 4000 will be Europeans, accompanied by "at least 8000 followers," and our correspondent gives very substantial reasons for doubting whether it will be possible to keep down the mixed multitude of non-effectives to so modest a number. The "Pioneer Force," or forlorn hope, of the expedition, "consisting of 40 men of the 3rd Native Light Cavalry, about 100 men of the 21st Native Light Infantry, and a company of Sappers and Miners," sailed from Bombay on the 16th of September, reached Aden in ten days, and has been engaged for about a month in selecting a landing-place, constructing a pier to land troops and stores, exploring the country in search of fresh water, and making preparations for the arrival of the main army. This party was under the command of Colonel Merewether, who is said to have fixed on Annesley Bay, south of Massowah, for the point of disembarkation, and on Zouffa (probably the same place marked on some maps as Zulla) for the encampment of troops. The second detachment, called the "Advanced Brigade," under Colonel Field, left Bombay for Massowah on the 7th of October, reached Aden on the 16th, and as we have mentioned, was to proceed on the 19th towards Abyssinia. It consists of nearly 3000 men, including cavalry, infantry, sappers and miners, artillery, a Land Transport Corps, and a marine battalion, besides non-combatants. It does not clearly appear whether this "Advanced Brigade" was to land at Massowah, where a depot is to be established, or at Annesley Bay, but it was supposed at Bombay that it would march some sixty miles into the interior of the country, and there take up its position. The next or third detachment, consisting of about the same number, but including one European regiment (the 33rd), was to leave Kurrachee about the 26th of October, and it was hoped that Sir Robert Napier himself with the main body of the force, would follow towards the end of November, or the very beginning of December. We may reckon, therefore, with some degree of certainty on the commencement of operations by the close of the present year.

So far as the issue depends on the conditions within our own control the reports are hitherto encouraging. As yet no serious defect in organisation seems to have been discovered, and this time our troops will, at least, be equipped with a due regard to climate and the nature of the country. Besides "Armstrong guns, with elephant-carriage for the mountains," we hear of howitzers weighing but 200lb., and capable of being carried on a mule, yet throwing a 12lb. shell 800 yards, and of still lighter mortars, throwing a shell of double the weight the same distance. Some forty elephants and a few camels have been provided for the heaviest work; but the employment of such animals in mountain warfare is more or less an experiment, and the only beast of burden on which much reliance can be placed

is the mule. Our correspondent states that no less than 24,000 mules are being collected from India, Syria, Bagdad, Egypt, and Spain. We learn by recent telegrams that 1,800 had been purchased in the Punjab alone, and that 3000 were in Egypt awaiting the means of transport. The description given of the mode in which those despatched from Bombay were stowed away on board the transport ships prepares us for the news that 10 belonging to the Pioneer Force died on the voyage to Aden; but, once landed, these hardy beasts will doubtless prove invaluable. A pontoon train is being constructed expressly for mule carriage, and by far the largest share of labour in carrying baggage will fall upon them. It is anticipated, as we learn from Aden, that supplies will be procurable in Abyssinia itself, as cattle have been easily obtained. A good and abundant supply of fresh water had been discovered 16 miles from the coast, but Colonel Merewether had directed the ships conveying the second detachment to fill up with as much water as possible, and had detained the steamship Euphrates to condense water for the working parties who, under a temperature of 100 degrees in the daytime, were busily making tramways, building piers, and landing stores. No Europeans will be detained longer than is absolutely necessary in these scorching low lands which fringe the coast. Happily, the mountains and healthy table lands of the interior approach the coast very close to the south of Massowah. The greater part of Abyssinia lies, as is well known, remarkably high. Gondar, the capital, is more than 7000 feet above the sea, and our troops will generally be able to encamp on a level far above the reach of malaria or extreme heat.

On the other hand, we are bound to look at the less favourable side of the picture. We do not here allude to any chance of military failure, or even to the very serious question whether a victorious march into Abyssinia will advance its only legitimate object—the release of the captives. We are content to assume what, indeed, few venture to deny, that, if not on behalf of Consul Cameron, yet on behalf of Mr. Rassam, the British Government was in duty bound to interfere, if necessary, by force of arms. We must also grant that, whatever blunders may or may not have been made by their predecessors, no expedient remained for the present Government but armed intervention, and that, had it been delayed, this country would justly have been lowered in the opinion of Oriental nations. It is of course possible that King Theodore, finding us in earnest, may wreak his vengeance on our unfortunate countrymen, reckless of all consequences, and leave us no alternative but to hunt him down or quit Abyssinia baffled of our purpose. It is more probable, however, that, if he is not murdered by his own soldiers before Sir Robert Napier invades Abyssinia, the mere rumour of our coming will have increased the insecurity of his position, and put them beyond his power. We attach little importance to the defiant expressions put into his mouth, or to the story of his issuing letters of marque to American cruisers, and we respect, if we cannot altogether share, the unwavering faith of Sir Stafford Northcote in the success of the expedition. At all events, having been undertaken, it must be carried through with all the spirit and resources that we can bring to bear on an enterprise to which the honour of the nation is committed. But we must not disguise from ourselves that we have undertaken what American statesmen would call a "big job," and shall have to pay a very heavy price for it.