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## Current Topics.

ORI) STANLEY of Preston, just appointed to succeed the Marquis of Lansdowne as Governor General of the Dominion, is a military man, being most familiarly known as Colonel Frederick Arthur Stanley. He is a son of the late Lord Derby, who thrice became Premier of Great Britain, on the last occasion, in 1869, resigning from ill health and giving place to Disraeli. Our prospective governor is a brother of the present Lord Derby. Born in London in 1841, he entered the Grenadier Guards in 1858, attained a captaincy in 1862, and in 1865 retired from the corps. In 1864 he married Lady Constance, eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Clarendon. He represented Preston in the Commons from 1865 to 1868, when he was elected for North Lancashire, and now represents the new Blackpool Division of Lancashire, being elected by acclamation at the general election of 1886. He was a Lord of the Admiralty from August to December, 1868, and Financial Secretary for War from February, 1874, till August, 1877, when he became Financial Secretary to the Treasury. In April, 1878, Colonel Stanley was appointed Secretary of State for War, and was sworn of the Privy Council. He is a member of the present Government of Great Britain as President of the Board of Trade. In 1886 he was created a peer under the title of Lord Stanley of Preston.

IKE his illustrious predecessor Lord Dufferin, our present Governor General is to reap reward for his judicious discharge of the duties of Her Majesty's representative in Canada, by receiving the most important appointment in the gift of the British Government—that is, the position of Viceroy of India. Lord Dufferin, who has been Viceroy since 1884, has for private reasons asked to be relieved somewhat before the termination of the period for which he was appointed. Canadians generally will be pleased to hear of the preferment of our present popular Governor General, who has proved himself a person likely to perpetuate in India the feelings of respect for and devotion to the British Empire so assiduously cultivated by the Earl of Dufferin.

ONTREAL has been provided with the most substantial and generally speaking the best drill hall in the Dominion, but the proposition has been seriously made to equip this fine establishment with the musty old furniture— arm racks, store chests, and the like which has been made to answer in the present noisome quarters of the volunteers, above the public market. Fittings which have been

tolerated up to the present on account of their likeness to the dilapidated surroundings, it would be simply exasperating to find encumbering the handsome new hall. It stands to reason that new and improved ideas may every year be applied to the furnishing of drill halls, as well as to buildings of all other classes, and every new hall Canada erects should have its furniture of the most approved style, so long as no unreasonable expenditure is involved thereby.

OW it is the St. John's, P. Q., garrison battery which is gazetted out, "having become non-effective." The old story: no equipment, and the men lost interest in the work. Major Drumm, the officer commanding, has held that post since 1868, and now is placed on the retired list of majors. It is understood that the department will before very long do something towards increasing our strength in garrison artillery, but in this event the plan adopted will likely be to establish such corps only in vicinities possessing the armament necessary for instruction in the duties of that branch of the service, so that there may be no danger of again having the nominally garrison batteries resolved into rather indifferent infantry. Something ought soon to be done in this connection.

TWELVEMONTH ago the district deputies of the Adjutant General received notification that each was to remain for another year where then stationed, and in February present those who were retained in the service would be made acquainted with the districts to which they had been assigned. No decision has yet been announced; consequently the officers concerned are, some of them at least, on the ragged edge of suspense, and anxious to know their destinations, so that residences may be secured before the 1st of May, the general flitting time. The changing about of the D. A. G's will certainly benefit the force; as, being only mortal, these officers are sometimes apt to be more lax than is judicious in dealing with men with whom they have been reciprocating hospitalities for four or five years.

N Ottawa paper has made a bid for the establishment of the proposed cavalry school for Ontario, at this city, in place of Kingston or Toronto as suggested. Now, Ottawa being the centre of a large military district, should have a school of some kind, and doubtless will in the course of time when the number of these institutions is increased. But this would be the most inconvenient city in which a cavalry school for Ontario could be established. We have in this district only two small troops, whereas convenient to Toronto there are four regiments of cavalry. One of these, the Third Provisional Regiment, is in the Kingston Military District, while the Fourth Provisional Regiment has its headquarters at that city, which therefore also has claims much stronger than any Ottawa could urge. As between Toronto and Kingston there is this to be said, that while a cavalry school at the former city would suit the convenience of the larger number of officers and men, it is at the same time desirable that at least a squad should be maintained at Kingston in order to afford the cadets of the Royal Military College