

In spite of these disabilities, in moments of real danger to the Empire, the officers of the ordnance corps come irrepressibly to the front—India having been won by the sword has to be maintained by the sword without reference to the color of a man's coat, and so it has been that the first reverse of our arms in Cabul in 1842 had to be avenged by an artillery officer, General Pollock, another artillery General (Roberts) has been permitted to perform the same task in our own time.—Dohi was taken by Sir Achdnie Wilson, an artillery General, and Lucknow defended till his death by Sir Henry Lawrence a fourth glorious gunner, and yet the honorary Colonel of the Royal Artillery and Engineers, has never been able to appoint an officer of either of those condemned corps to the command of even a Brigade at Aldershot. It seems that poor General Roberts is to be hustled back to India as soon as his health permits, and relegated to a command in the benighted Presidency of Madras, where Boltons has slumbered for 100 years. While the festive favorites will twitter round Pall Mall, to fly off in a staff flock to the first holiday war that turns up.

### Our Brave Defenders.

#### SOME ACCOUNT OF HAMILTON'S VOLUNTEER FORCES.

Major-General Luard, inspected the Thirteenth Battalion on the 25th November. Hamilton's battalion of volunteer infantry was constituted such in 1862, and gazetted on the 13th of December in that year. It consisted of seven companies, three of which had previously been in existence—Nos. 1, 2 and 3, the latter the Highland company of Captain (now Colonel) Skinner.

The first commandant was Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Isaac Buchanan, who retained command till December 30, 1864. On the occasion of his retirement the following was published in the general orders: "Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Isaac Buchanan is hereby permitted to resign the command of this corps, and his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to permit him to retain his rank in the militia, as a special case, under the provisions of General Order No. 1, of the 1st of August, 1861, in consideration of the valuable services he has heretofore rendered to the militia of this Province."

In 1863 the colors of the battalion, after being consecrated by the Rev. J. Gamble Geddes (now Dean of Niagara), were presented by Mrs. Buchanan, with an eloquent and feeling address; and in 1839 the same lady, on behalf of the ladies of Hamilton, presented the battalion with a beautiful and costly mace to be borne by the Drum-Major.

In 1863 the Thirteenth participated in a review at Brantford and was well thought of.

In 1865 Mayor Alfred Booker till that date commanding the Hamilton Field Battery; was appointed to the command of the Thirteenth, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. His soldierly qualities made themselves felt and have left their impress upon the corps. Colonel Booker gave a great deal of time and a great deal of study to his military duties, and the result was very marked. In the year of which we are now speaking a company from the Thirteenth was sent to Prescott for active duty where it was incorporated with a provisional battalion and remained on duty from April till November. On its return another company was sent to join the provisional battalion at Windsor. Major Cuttley commanded the former company and Captain Irving the latter. In the early part of the year Colonel Booker commanded the provisional battalion at Niagara.

In March, 1866, threats of invasion by bands of outlaws in the United States made military preparations in Canada necessary; the Thirteenth was ordered into active service, with daily drills, and ordered to hold itself in readiness to march at a moment's notice. Permanent guards were established at the drill shed, the magazine, and at the Mountain View hotel. During this period

Major-General Napier inspected the battalion and afterwards expressed his "gratification at the creditable and soldier-like appearance" it made.

On the 1st of June the Fenians having crossed the Niagara river, the regiment was ordered to Port Colborne, where it passed the night, and on the following day it was engaged in the skirmish at Ridgeway. It is not at all necessary now to rewrite the history of that unfortunate day. It is sufficient to say that the mistake was made of attempting to manoeuvre raw troops under fire, an experiment which does not always succeed with veteran troops. Unmerited obloquy was cast upon Col. Booker, which no doubt aided materially in hastening his death. Eight men were wounded, among them Lieutenant Routh. The battalion remained on duty till the 20th, when it returned home.

In August, 1866, the Thirteenth went into camp at Thorold, the brigade being under command of Colonel (now Sir Garnet) Wolseley.

Lieutenant Colonel Booker resigned his command and was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel James A. Skinner, now member of Parliament for South Oxford, who has since retained the command. Colonel Skinner has proved himself both a popular and an efficient officer. His corps has borne a proud place among the military organizations of Canada, and there is no reason to doubt that it will continue to do so.

In 1869 the Thirteenth turned out to receive Prince Arthur and the Governor-General on their visit to Hamilton, and furnished guards of honor for their residences during their stay here.

In 1870, 3 sergeants, 2 corporals and 8 privates of the corps volunteered for service in Manitoba. In the same year the first regimental camp for drill was formed at Grimsby. In 1871 a brigade camp was formed at Niagara; in 1872 a divisional camp was formed at the same place, the battalion doing duty at both, and in 1874 it was again in the brigade at that place. Its subsequent history has been uneventful.

For most of the facts given above we are indebted to "A Sketch of the Thirteenth Battalion," published in 1875 by Major Moore.

#### Hamilton Field Battery.

The artillery arm of the military service is year by year assuming more importance. The breech-loading musket has not effected half the change in infantry tactics which the rifled gun has effected in artillery. The immense importance of this arm has always been understood by great military leaders, and he who was quickest to mobilize his artillery, to introduce improvements and to so manoeuvre it as to mass it most effectively at the critical moment upon the most exposed part of his enemy's line was the man who gained success in war. Longstreet's tremendous onslaught on the third day at Gettysburg was beaten by Hunt's artillery, and almost at the moment of impact when the long line came gleaming on down the slope from Seminary ridge, Hancock, galloping off in person to "hurry up two more batteries of those Napoleon guns." It was not the greater weight of the German battalions which crushed the French armies in the struggle of 1871, but the greater number and better massing of the German batteries. Whole brigades of infantry were often destroyed by artillery before they ever fired a shot. The most superficial study of the history of war will show the vast importance of this branch of the service.

In artillery Hamilton is creditably represented. Her Field Battery is one of which she has no reason to be ashamed. It is a fine organization of good men, well commanded, well drilled, with good material in good