

is no doubt that the appointment of Lord Melgund, captain of the Roxburgh Mounted Rifles, to command the South of Scotland Volunteer Brigade, has not only caused a good deal of surprise, but much bitter feeling on the border. All must admire the confidence—we might almost say courage—which enabled Lord Melgund to accept such an appointment, but qualities other than this are required for the command of a large brigade. Anyone who knows the Scottish Border is well aware that there is no lack of men well qualified by military rank and service, as well as by social standing, to fill the position, and who certainly ought not to have been passed over." A correspondent of the same paper, in a letter on the subject, says: "Surely this promotion by leaps and bounds is selection gone mad."

An "Ex-Life Guardsman," writing to the English press as to the best form of head-dress for the soldier, points out that, in his opinion, the most workmanlike head-dress for troops, giving protection to the neck and shade to the eyes, is a strong, stiff, rather broad-brimmed wideawake, such as is worn, in various shapes, by the Austrian Jäger and the Italian Alpine regiments. This form of wideawake looks very smart, and has many advantages over the present head-dresses of the British Army. The writer also calls attention to the dress worn by the class of Reserves of the Italian Army that were out for training during the early part of last June. It is made of some useful-looking drab-coloured material, faced with scarlet, and with a broad-brimmed soft wideawake, and cut so as to give the men the full use of their limbs. It appeared to be the cheapest and most useful dress for volunteers that could be devised.

The latest slight on the much laughed at United States navy, coming from its own Admiral, is reprinted in the *Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette*, with the following comment: "Undoubtedly there are some disadvantages in belonging to a new world consisting of all kinds of nationalities, and this especially applies to the fighting services. We have a fine old song of rather a boastful order declaring that Britons never shall be slaves, and many of us would die in upholding that sentiment. But in the United States there is no great family tie. Admiral Potter, U.S.N., in a letter on the fishery question says: 'The crews of our ships of war are generally made up of men from all parts of the world, largely from the Scandinavian race, who do not care what flag they serve under. These are the descendants of the Huns, Goths and other barbarians who once overran Europe. They enlist in our navy softened in character, but still free lances, as of old. They serve for money, with no sentiment for flag or nationality, and possibly if it came to an action with a ship of their own or a neighbouring nation, they would haul down the American flag and hoist that of their own country.'"

A History of the Halifax Rifles.

Proud of the life story of his corps, and desirous to perpetuate it, Major Thomas J. Egan, of the 63rd Halifax Battalion of Rifles, has produced a comprehensive history of the Halifax Volunteer Battalion and Volunteer Companies now merged with it in the 63rd. The work, a bound copy of which is before us, gives a complete record since the organization of the first company, in 1859. It makes an exceedingly presentable volume, 172 pages in all, well printed from clear type, and highly entertaining as well for the information it contains as for the interesting manner in which the compiler presents the facts, to gather which must have been no small tax upon his time.

"It was the extreme difficulty," he says, "of obtaining any trustworthy information relative to the volunteers of twenty-five years ago that suggested the preparation of this book. The records of many of the companies have been looked for in vain, and they must be re-

garded as lost; and those to which the writer has had access, are not available for public use. * * * The strongest motive actuating him—the motive which made the time pass lightly—has been the hope that the old members of the Volunteer Companies and of the Battalion, still resident in Halifax, may derive some little pleasure from the perusal of the work. It will help them to recall interesting reminiscences of other days, when the names of "Scottish," "Greys," "Mayflower," and "Halifax Rifles" were more familiar than they are to-day.

Amongst the most notable incidents chronicled are: The formation of the battalion in 1860, with Capt. Wm. Chearnley as captain commanding, and in the same year the appointment of Lieut.-General Sir Wm. Fenwick Williams to be honorary colonel; the visit of the Prince of Wales; preparations for service during the Trent difficulty; and during the Fenian scare; transfer of the provincial militia to the Dominion; the 63rd's quota to the Halifax provisional battalion for Northwest service in 1885, with a complete list of the members of the detachment. The last chapter of the main history is devoted to an explanation of the present government of the battalion, and to a list of its officers, showing the staff officers of the battalion from 1860, and the captains of companies since 1859. Then follow separate histories of each of the companies forming part of the battalion since its organization.

A couple of well executed illustrations add to the completeness of the work. These show the uniform in 1861 (of the Chebucto Greys) and in 1885. We hope later on, with the author's permission, to give our readers the benefit of some of the passages of more general interest.

The Naval and Military Resources of the Colonies.

BY ROBERT O'BYRNE, F.R.G.S.

(Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette.)

As the subject of Imperial Federation is just now most appropriately occupying the attention of thoughtful men who are desirous to see our great empire so consolidated in all its parts, into one great Power, that every English-speaking community may unite together for the preservation of their liberties and their privileges, and thus anticipate the possible conjunction of other antagonistic Powers, we think the pages of this journal cannot be enlisted in a better cause than to aid in this great purpose by bringing together every information that can conduce to its advancement. Actuated by these motives, we propose, in the first instance, to discuss the present naval and military resources of our Colonies; and ultimately to proceed to work out the problem of Imperial Federation.

Commencing our series with what may be described as "The Victorian Forces," we have fortunately at our disposal some most interesting notes on this subject, communicated by Lieut.-Col. R. Elias, in a paper submitted to the Royal United Service Institution very recently.

Although, as that officer observes, more or less attention has for many years been paid to the "Defence Force" in each of the Australian Colonies, it can scarcely be said at present that there is an Australian Army. Moreover, nearly all the care and attention has, until lately, been given to the heavy guns, forts, submarine mines, and coast defences in general, and very little to the Infantry, Cavalry, Field Artillery, or any inland force and its requirements. This shortcoming is, however, now being recognized and rectified, and in each colony there exists at least the nucleus of corps of Foot, Horse and Field Artillery, so that should an enemy succeed in landing he has not entirely passed all lines of resistance. But each of the Colonies—South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and the others—has its own little separate force. What first strikes a visitor to Australia more, perhaps, than anything else is the absurd jealousy that exists between the different Colonies in everything, military matters included. But this will be remedied by time. Australia is rapidly growing into such a prominent figure in the world, and every day becoming so much more nearly associated and in touch with the old countries of Europe—becoming, indeed, itself gradually an old country—that anybody who will give the matter the slightest consideration must see that the present military arrangements are merely a beginning and a foundation on which to build a more expanded, and, at the same time, a more united system, when the distinctions and the difficulties arising from the forces of each colony being under separate rules and regulations shall be swept away, and when there really shall be an Australian Army. There are plenty of large-minded men in Aus