

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

### SUGGESTED PRIVILEGES FOR CADET CORPS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—In your issue of December 3rd there is an article in reference to the Brigade of Cadets taking part in the Lord Mayor's show in London, England, and also the lack of interest taken by the public in matters of that kind in this country, and I heartily agree with you, Mr. Editor, that not only should more interest be taken by the public but also by the Government.

The benefits derived from a properly conducted and well organized cadet corps are numerous. It gives the members a good physique and carriage, and it cultivates habits of cleanliness and neatness, as well as quickness of thought and action, and a spirit of true patriotism. These corps are, for the most part, composed of boys who are receiving a first-class education, sons of parents who rank in some of the highest positions both social and public in the country. They also form a very desirable feeder to the militia force of this country, and, as such, should receive every encouragement from the Government.

I would suggest, as a means of encouraging such organizations, as well as those who are so persevering in their efforts to keep them together, that the Militia Department issue to every uniformed corps that has an efficient instructor the short Snider rifles, together with a Morris tube and ammunition for the same, say 1,500 rounds annually, free; that the Department grant the same privileges to such organized cadet corps as is given to the militia, viz.: that the officers, non-commissioned officers and members, not under the age of 18 years, be given an opportunity of attending the permanent schools of instruction, which are doing such good work, during their summer vacation, for the purpose of obtaining certificates. I am speaking, Mr. Editor, from my personal experience at that excellent institution at London, Ontario, and I feel sure that if the above suggestions could be carried out it would give an impetus to such work as well as help to encourage a better military spirit among our youth, who, if cause should arise, are the future soldiers and defenders of this country.

I should like to hear, through your valuable paper, the question of cadet corps thoroughly discussed.

INSTRUCTOR.

ST. THOMAS, Dec. 15th, 1891.

## REGIMENTAL.

Gus. Williams, aged 27 years, died at Suspension Bridge, N. Y., on Tuesday, 3rd inst, from typhoid fever. He was the youngest son of Capt. John Williams, of the London Field Battery, and for some years was a gunner in the same corps. He had been married but four months, his bride being an estimable young lady of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The remains, accompanied by the widow, Capt. Williams and Fred. Williams, of Detroit, Mich., brother of the deceased, arrived in London on Wednesday. The interment, which was private, took place the following day to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Three brothers of deceased with an intimate friend of the family, and two sergeants of the London Field Battery, acted as pall-bearers. Among the many beautiful floral offerings were a hoop and wreath from his associates at the Falls and a large cross from the sergeants of the Battery.

At the invitation of Lieut. F. Gilliott, the members of No. 1 Company and the staff of the 43rd Battalion, Ottawa, assembled at the Terrapin Restaurant last week, the occasion being Mr. Gilliott's desire to thus pleasantly celebrate his acceptance of his officer's commission. There

was a large turnout of the company, who marched from the drill hall, where they had had their usual weekly drill by Capt. O'Grady and Lieuts. Sutherland and Gilliott. The staff officers present were Lt.-Col. Anderson, Majors Wright and Sherwood, Assistant Surgeon Scott, Capt. Rogers, Adjutant; Capt. Parker, Paymaster; Capt. Jamieson, Quartermaster; and Capt. Billings and Lieut. McLean of No. 4 Company also attended. A very enjoyable evening was spent, the musical talent of the company being freely displayed. Col. Anderson being called upon for an address, made a brief reference to his approaching retirement from the command of the battalion, which he very much regretted. He desired, however, to correct a misapprehension seeming to exist as to the cause of his retirement, which was due to the increased responsibility he had recently assumed in the Department of Marine, of such a nature that his military connection might place the department at a disadvantage. Under the circumstances he had thought it proper to resign the command. He was satisfied, however, that the interests of the 43rd would not suffer at the hands of his successor, Major Wright. He took occasion to compliment the host of the evening, Lieut. Gilliott, on the turnout of No. 1 Company in response to the invitation so kindly given them for the occasion.

## GLEANINGS.

Another, and this time more than usually interesting, survivor of the events of the Battle of Waterloo has been unearthed in France in the person of an old lady, Madame de Variola, who was recently interviewed at her residence in the village of Poisat. She was born in March, 1793, is a comely dame, and can walk with the aid of her staff to the next village, seven miles off. She remembers Napoleon, who came to her father's mill on the eve of Waterloo. She recollects him going up the ladder to the very top of the mill, where he remained some time looking round with his telescope. She and her parents had good reason to remember the battle because the fighting went on all day, and in the evening, with her father and sisters, she went out with a lantern and tended the wounded.

Colonel Stuart Nicholson, commandant of the School of Gunnery, in his report on the meeting of the National Artillery Association at Shoeburyness last August, says that there was a falling off in the attendance, the number of detachments competing having been 141, as against 149 last year, and that this decrease has been continuous for the last four years. The number of officers has diminished by nine from that of last year, but there still remains a larger attendance than was formerly the case. As regards shooting he has the satisfaction of being able to report a slight advance. Every year, he says, the Volunteers have become better soldiers in discipline, bearing, and dress, and have progressed most noticeably in drill and in the service of their guns. The report of Colonel R. M. Stewart, the camp commandant, also bears testimony to the improvement in efficiency shown by the force. The appearance and bearing of the Volunteers merit, he says, "unqualified approbation, and can only have been attained by an earnest endeavour, which deserves every consideration and admiration." The conduct of all during their stay at Shoeburyness has been, on the whole, very good and soldier like. "Breaches of discipline," he adds "have been exceptional, and though not subject to military law, the majority have voluntarily performed their duty in a way which could not have been surpassed had that law been in force. This voluntary submission to strict and unusual rule exhibits the reality of the force in a very striking way, and testifies to the obedience that arises from an intelligent appreciation of the necessity for military subordination as the first factor in any body which aims at military efficiency or success."