

In the month of October, Capt. Preston and the soldiers under his command, was tried, and, with the exception of two convicted of manslaughter, honorably acquitted. Judge Lyndex, one of the judges who presided at the trial, complimented Capt. Preston highly in the following words:—"Happy I am that after such strict examination the conduct of the prisoners appears in so fair a light, yet I feel myself, at the same time, deeply affected that this affair turned out to be so much to the disgrace of every person concerned against him, and so much to the shame of the town in general."

By this time the embarrassments arising from the non-importation associations, were so great, that the people gladly availed themselves of the abolition of the duties and during the remainder of the year and the whole of the next year, a full tide of commerce rolled into the Colonies, in all the prohibited articles, tea alone excepted.

It is evident enough that in dealing with the insurrectionary spirit which manifested itself in the Colonies, the immediate representatives of the British Crown did not either understand or perform the duties they owed their sovereign, nor did the British Ministry sustain the honor of the country by vigorous measures of repression; for instance, the town of Boston and the whole Province should have been at once placed under martial law, with a force sufficient to have enforced the action of Government; instead of this the local Governor yielded everything to violence, and the British Ministry endorsed their action by vacillation, thus earning for themselves the contempt of the disaffected.

On the 5th of July, 1771, the Assembly of Massachusetts presented an address to the Governor in which they declared "that they knew of no commissioners of the customs nor any revenue which his Majesty had a right to establish in North America, but that they knew and felt a tribute levied and extorted from them, who, if they were allowed to have property, had also a right to the absolute disposal of it."

As a consequence of the removal of the troops from Boston, the officers of the customs were left without protection, and the mob, not satisfied with preventing the execution of their duties, proceeded in many instances to far greater lengths and inflicted upon their persons the most degrading punishments.

The history of those transactions establishes the fact that the greatest part of society are half educated or ignorant politicians in this instance, an integral portion of the British Empire, in population not one-eighth of the inhabitants of the British Isles, in resources not one-sixteenth as powerful, set up at the instigation of interested and selfish leaders, their pretensions to doubt the power of that Legislature from which their political existence was derived, and to contest the right of the country which had bought the soil on which they were planted by its blood and treasure, to levy a revenue

on them for the purpose of defraying the ordinary cost of their Government and defence.

An eminently constitutional proceeding although practically wrong in application, should never be met by resistance, a constitutional appeal could have set all matters between the Empire and Colonies at rest, but it did not suit the interests and ambition of the politicians of the latter that those difficulties should have such a solution, and on their heads must rest the blood-guiltiness that followed.

THE VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

The Kingston Volunteer Field Battery marched to camp, about six miles from town, for annual practice on Monday forenoon, 7th inst. Upon reaching the ground chosen, a hickory grove on the St. Lawrence River, the guns were got into position, and working parties were detailed—some to level the ground, some to clear the brushwood away, some to put a target on a small island called the Spectacles, some to erect cooking apparatus, some to carry water, others to erect tents, and huts with borrowed lumber. All under competent officers. And in two hours horses were picketed and fed, order came out of Chaos, and all was neatness and regularity. The range with two shots was ascertained to be 1,148 yards from the shore to the island. Men told off for duty, and sontries placed, and the evening gun fired.

Next morning the gun was fired at sunrise, and breakfast soon after was prepared and served out, after which came the business of the day. Detachments told off for the four guns (three 9 pounders and one 24 pounder. Howitzer) and practice commenced. The day was gusty, but most excellent practice was made, every gunner in turn laid his gun. And after 9 rounds per gun, 17 was found to have hit the target. At this length of range for smooth bore guns, the practice did the gunners great credit, and I question if under similar circumstances could be excelled. Afternoon practice was still better, and ended by the target being knocked to pieces. Another was put up, perforated, patched up with lumber, and again used in the same manner. In all, 25 rounds of shot and shell destroyed both targets and pretty nearly the small island on which they were placed.

The last day was made a jubilee day, and the ladies sent in provisions of every kind. The delights of the afternoon was enhanced by dancing. The Band of the Royal Canadian Rifles being kindly sent by Col. Hibbert for the occasion. This terminated the practice, on which occasion, although miserably rainy weather, the utmost good nature prevailed, and the uncomfortable position for want of tents only served to afford amusement to the men. It is but justice to the corps as a country one (being composed nearly all of farmers and their sons, the exceptions, men of character and stamp as citizens) to say that their discipline is excellent; and may be appreciated by them during the afternoon, beating the Service at practice. Afterwards, games were instituted, and on the approach of evening a barn was brushed up, lighted, and dancing was continued until the small hours. A number of ladies and gentlemen were down from town, and all seemed, despite the bad weather, to enjoy themselves.

AN EX-REGULAR.

Kingston, June 12.

RIFLE MATCH.—The 40th Battalion Rifle Match came off at Colborne yesterday. The attendance was not as large as usual, only six companies of the battalion being represented. We have not received the score, but understand the firing was rather below the average. The weather, however, was very unfavourable, being windy during the early part of the day, and rain coming on before the match was concluded. The highest prize was taken by Capt. Webb, of No. 4 Company. Prizes were also taken by Private Delaney of No. 2, Ensign Butler and Sergt. Tomkins of No. 3, Capt. Vars, Sergt. Falmer and Private Kinsman of No. 7, Sergts. Hopkins and Polley and Private Duncan of No. 8, and Sergt. Dolman and Privates Zuffort and Wetherston of No. 9. The Company prize was not fired for, but will probably be competed for at another time to be selected of which due notice will be given. —*Cobourg Star*.

ATTEMPT TO DESERT.—On Fridaylast, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a couple of soldiers belonging to the garrison here, coolly took possession of a boat belonging to Mr. John Sills, who resides about a couple of miles above the town, and put out for the American shore. The owner of the boat saw the operation from his house, and taking his rifle he hurried down to the water's edge and called out to the men to return or he would fire upon them. The threat had the desired effect.—The men returned and surrendered themselves to Mr. Sills, who handed them over to the military authorities. The runaways had not made much headway when overhauled by Mr. Sills, having only a couple of small boards which they tore from the boat house, to use instead of oars. The men, we understand, were the worse of liquor at the time.

We are happy to have it in our power to announce that through the exertions of Lt.-Col. Crawford, M.P., 41st Battalion, clothing and accoutrements have been obtained from the Government for the Band of the Battalion, whose headquarters are at Carleton Place. We hope the Band will be encouraged by the interest taken in them to advance to a still higher degree of perfection. No Volunteer Band we know of has made such progress in so short a space of time: but there is still room for improvement, and we trust they will make "Excelsior" their motto, and continue to practice diligently, so that when the Battalion is called out they may win yet higher laurels for themselves.—*Carleton Place Herald*.

RIFLE SHOOTING.—Through the liberality of the Council of East Oxford, Capt Chambers was enabled, on Monday last, to offer a number of prizes for competition to the men of his command. The day was favourable, and the shooting at the respective ranges 200, 300 and 500 yards was very good, particularly at the shorter distances. The following are the prizemen:—1st, Pte. Case 2nd Pte. Kelly; 3rd, Pte. Garbutt; 4th, Sergt Chambers; 5th, Sergt. Howell; 6th, Pte. Underwood; 7th, Pte. Hall; 8th, Pte. Lampman; 9th, Pte. Pool; 10th, Pte. Waddington.—*Woodstock Times*.

ONE GUN FOR COBOURG.—We understand that Capt. Dumble has been informed by Lt. Col. Powell, Dupty Adjutant General of Militia, that a 32 pounder gun, for the use of the Garrison Battery, in this town is to be forwarded immediately. We have no doubt the intelligence will give great satisfaction to the members of the Battery, and they will be anxious to acquire a knowledge of gun drill as soon as possible.—*Cobourg Star*.