

a dry moat, in which perambulated a marine. This stone building was the Magazine, and as my board of orders directed me to examine whether there were any marks of lucifer matches on the wall, I descended into the moat and commenced a careful scrutiny.

"The door is round here, sir!" cried the astonished sergeant, evidently thinking I was searching for the entrance, which was certainly small. On my rejoining him, he pulled an iron hadle, which produced a distant ghostly tinkle, and it was not without a certain trepidation that I heard a footstep and the jingling of many keys, for I expected, on entering, to find myself in a low dark vault, piled with loose gunpowder, as granary is with corn, and was rather disappointed, although relieved, when the guardian of the place ushered me into an open courtyard, surrounded by stone cells with iron doors. When I had interrogated the sentry who was pacing this court, I was conducted through two gates, which were carefully locked behind us, to a dismal place where were a flight of stone steps leading down to the water, and here another sentry was posted, whom I pitied; for I should not myself like to be locked out from the world by three doors in such a place. But what of the man with the keys, who let me in and conducted me round? Does he live in this place? Has he a wife and family anywhere? Is his life insured? and if so, is it in a fire or life office, and what premium does he pay? Has he ever known the joys of tobacco? Is it lawful for him to feed upon anything more inflammatory than the Revalenta Arabica?

I own that I breathed more freely as, stepping out of the Magazine and taking my sword, which I had had to leave outside, from the sergeant, I bent my steps back to the guard-room.

The walk had been highly interesting; but it had sharpened my appetite wofully.

I had no books, but my predecessor had fortunately left behind him a plentiful supply of writing paper, with which I proceeded to draw up the report which had to be sent in on the following morning, culling the different parts of it from various forms which were hung about the room, with a glorious uncertainty about what was for my own private instruction, and what for the official information of my superiors. This whiled away some time, and then an admiral came into the yard, and the guard turned out in his honour; after which it was time to revisit the sentries; and so the day wore away. Night came, and I was left alone with two tallow dips and my own reflections, which were those of a pike. Yet I might have sat down to a dinner *a la Russe*, for was it not open to me to devour those tallow dips? True; but I am a man who thinks slowly, and must confess that the idea did not occur to me. I was now tired as well as hungry, which would have been the greatest of boons, could I have gone to sleep, but this I could not do, for the field officer might come on his rounds at any minute, and I had made mistakes enough in the morning, without adding to those misdemeanours a lack of vigilance, which would keep a superior waiting at night: so I selected the hardest chair, placed a pebble on it, laid my sword and shako on the table in such a position that they could be caught up at a moment's notice, and commenced a game at tit-tat-toe, single handed; but finding this pastime of my childhood was not so exciting as memory had painted it, I exchanged it for the solution of very hard and long sums. The officer I had relieved in the morning had informed me that the

F. O. generally came at about midnight, so that there was not so much time to kill; and though the hours seemed to be paying me the compliment of approaching in slow time, twelve o'clock came at last. No rounds.

One o'clock. No rounds.

I then remembered that there was a ball going on at the port admirals', and that, most likely, the field officer was there, and would most likely take me on his way home; so, with a sigh at the thought that at that moment he was probably sitting down to supper, I began another sum: "If a major who has dined at seven, and danced till one, can eat two wings of a chicken, three ounces of ham, four plover's eggs and a roll, how much can a subaltern who has fasted for thirty hours eat?"

Two o'clock. The pebble beginning to make itself unpleasant, I unwisely removed it, and almost instantly lost sight of paper and figures.

"Guard, turn out!" cried the sentry.

I jumped up, overturned the table, grasped my sword and shako, which I put on hind-side before, rushed out of the room, and just reached my place in time to receive the F. O. properly.

"All right, sir?" said he.

"All right, sir," said I.

"All present?"

"All present."

"Good-night;" and he turned his horse's head. At that moment an unlucky marine who had been unable, on first waking, to find his musket, came tumbling out of the guard-room and took his place in the ranks. The officer turned upon me like a wasp.

"I thought you said they were all present, sir!" said he.

"I did not see"—I began.

"Then you ought to have seen: mind you are more careful another time."

This was the second time in twenty-four hours that I had been told, before all my men, that I "ought to have seen;" and this time the reprimand came from a man at least five years my junior, for I had recognized an old school-fellow who had been my fag. However, I was too sleepy to suffer much from shame or indignation, so I paid one more visit to my sentries, and threw myself on the truckle-bed, where I slept hard until aroused by an orderly who had come for my report.

Alas, alas! in knocking over the table the night before, I had spilled the ink all over that unhappy document, and there was no time to copy it! It was hurried away, like poor Hamlet's father, with all its blots upon it, and was consequently doomed, like that famous ghost, to wander about and haunt me; for, as it turned out, I had by no means seen the last of that orderly, who kept bringing me curt messages and rejected manuscripts all day. However, he went off for the time, and shortly afterwards the new guard arrived, and soon I was wending my happy way to barracks and to BREAKFAST.

MILITARY CHANGES.—Rumors are already circulated in military circles relative to the prospective changes in the disposition of troops throughout the Province, during the coming season. These changes are usually made in the spring and fall and this year will be principally among the infantry regiments serving in Canada; the changes among the artillery having taken place late last year, it is not thought probable that any will take place for the next eight or nine months at least. Regarding the Infantry Battalions, speculation is rife with antici-

pated changes. Pending the ultimate decision of the Imperial Government as to the strength of the force in Canada for the next year, it is almost certain that the 17th Regt. at present here, will remove to London. The outlying companies of the regiment at Cobourg and other points will be concentrated with Head quarters, on the removal to London taking place. The 4th battalion of the 60th rifles at present stationed at London, will at the same time remove to Point Lewis, where they will be engaged on the fortifications. A regiment at present in Quebec will remove to Montreal to replace the 78th Highlanders who are expected to occupy the place of the 17th in the garrison here. The last named change is not, however, as certain as that determining the removal of the 17th to London. The cavalry will remain as at present stationed, no changes being contemplated in the quartering of of this section of our garrison: in fact, from the difficulty in obtaining barrack room elsewhere, it is a certain matter that they will remain as at present stationed until recalled from the country. No change of troops is contemplated as far as Hamilton and Brantford, the two remaining posts in this district, are concerned; and the movement in the former place, to secure permanent barracks, is taken in military circles as a guarantee that "the ambitious city" will have troops as long as any remain in the district. No authority exists here for the rumour that a company of Royal Engineers is about to proceed to London; and the statement that stone barracks are to be erected is still more doubtful, and as far as known here, undecided. The hope of having the barracks, whatever may be their size, built of stone, is one which our Cockney friends may give up as utterly beyond the thoughts of the military authorities. Stone barracks there would be very costly, and puts the prospect of their being built far into the future.—*Globe*.

#### WEEKLY SUMMARY.

The last news from Abyssinia is to the effect that the British force has at last come in contact with the enemy, and several skirmishes had taken place; with what result is not stated.

In the House of Commons, on the 14th instant, Earl Mayo, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, asked leave to bring in a Bill to suspend the operations of the Writ of Habeas Corpus for a short time, from the first of March. He said the Fenian leaders had shown an utter disregard of their oaths to the Crown, and stated that out of 268 Fenians who had been arrested, but 95 were Americans. He concluded by saying that, although the Government had succeeded in repressing the rebels, still an extension of its powers was necessary to enable it to complete the work. Leave to bring in the Bill was granted. Lord Stanley laid before the House additional papers on the subject of the Alabama claims. These documents have already been published.

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