

The Military Gazette.

QUEBEC, JUNE 26, 1858.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

We observe that our Finance Minister takes credit to himself that he has succeeded in reducing the Militia Estimates by some £16000 this year. It is nothing to boast of, but as we presume that reduction is the imperative order of the day, we suppose we must not be too hard on Mr. Oayley, who appears to have difficulties of no ordinary kind to contend with.

There are some people who object to any Military expenditure. We may be accused of urging it on the old "nothing like leather" principle, but we do not contend for anything in these columns for which we cannot give reasons. We differ from the opinion of so called, *Philantropists*, so abounding in these degenerate days in regarding man as a combative animal. We don't pretend to give "the reason why," it is sufficient for us to know that he is physically and morally constituted to be so, and any attempt to alter that condition is hopeless. You must pull out his teeth; eradicate his desires, quench his fiery passions, feed him on pap like an infant, or treat him to the mild hermit like diet of sparkling spring water and the fragrant root, and what then? Why you would succeed in producing not a *Man*, but a miserable *Philantropist*, an emasculated member of the Peace Party! God has willed it so. We are taught indeed to control and restrain the passions, such as ambition, lust of conquest, love of glory, but do we do so? and if we were to do so, would others? "Ay there's the rub!"

We answer no, they would not, they do not. History past and present gives the lie to that supposition. A peace loving, and unarmed people will bear the same character among the comity of nations as the *good natured man* does in the ordinary relations of this wicked world; that is, as a nunny to be laughed at, and taken advantage of on every fitting occasion. But in proportion as the aggregate exceeds the individual, so do the consequences of mistakes become serious. It is now universally admitted that the late Russian War is directly attributable to the English "Peace Party." And there is no doubt that the insolent tone of the U States towards England of late years has been pampered up to the verge of unendurance by the knowledge that such conduct could be indulged in with impunity. This is now threatening war, not the worst of calamities. Yes! it is openly boasted that unless the British Cruisers will permit the *Slave Trade* to be carried on under the shelter of the *Pirate Flag* of a nation lost to all principle, all decency, all honor, all religion, War will be forced on her. Thanks to the *Philantropists* for that pass. We trust that War may be avoided, but not at the expense of principle, or the natural honor, and these will be sacrificed if the counsels of the infamous Paper "The Times" are allowed to sway English minds. Thank God they do not, and so our American neighbours had better undeceive themselves, or they will find themselves in the thick of a war which may do us infinite mischief, but won't do them much good. We shall be glad to turn out false prophets, but we greatly apprehend war. It is possible—that our Statesmen must admit; but whether they do so or not, our people feel uneasy, and they naturally desire to be prepared for it, be the possibility ever so contingent and remote. In the face of such danger, we protest against any reduction of Military expendi-

ture, for a simple reason, quite intelligible, we presume, to those who are open to no other kind of reason, viz: that the expenditure of a few thousand pounds now may save millions of *filthy lucre*, to say nothing of our homes, our families, property, religion, and, summing up all these in one word, INDEPENDENCE. In this protest we shall be sustained by those who really reflect, and really love their country; and so fortified, we are content to accept the sneer of *practical men*, the opposition of journals, ephemeral in character, unfixed in principles, and the objections of mistaken though well-intentioned economists.

THE 100TH REGIMENT, OR ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT.

The manner in which this corps has been officered must satisfy the most prejudiced observer that a just and generous spirit dictates the preferment of Regimental Officers. Six Captancies and nine Lieutenancies are announced in the *Gazette* of Tuesday last, and from the selections made it is very evident that a design exists on the part of the Horse Guards to give the new Corps the advantage of the services of Officers who have done their duty and acquired for themselves a good reputation in other Corps. One Captain, Weguelin, is from the Half Pay—he has served 22 years, and is a Brevet Major. Captain Ingram is from the 97th, and has been unfortunate in his own Corps, his two seniors having nearly four years less service than himself—Captain Lake has thirteen years Full Pay service, and was junior but two in the 2nd West India Regiment. Captains Cook, Clery, and Browne have been drawn from the Lieutenants in the 32nd—the Regiment which immortalised itself at Lucknow. Captain Cook is a peculiarly gallant Officer, and was honourably mentioned during the siege by Sir J. Inglis. The three last have not been taken in the order of seniority, because it is customary to give to some Officers the chance of an early promotion in their own Regiments, and to select others because of their longer service though they may not stand the highest on the list. As for example, in the case of Lieutenant Stabb, who has been passed over by Lieutenant Browne, an Officer of three years' standing,

The 100th Regiment will soon be in full training, and, under so old and experienced an Officer as Colonel De Rottenburg, will quickly rival the best Regiments in its general efficiency. (*U. S. Gazette.*)

MILITARY BLUNDERING IN INDIA.—The hot-weather campaign has commenced with a reverse, which we owe to the rashness and folly of General Walpole. We want to know how long the patience of the public is to be tried by the impunity allowed to such misdeeds. Are the reproaches of conscience and the anxiety caused by defeat to be the only penalties of bad generalship; are the errors and follies of leaders to be palliated and excused under such pleas as age, untoward circumstances, bravery, and the like? We don't advocate that form of punishment which was so common in the days of the French Convention, when partial success was considered failure, and ill-fated generals paid the penalty on the scaffold. But, while we should deprecate undue severity, we do advocate the necessity for punishment in some form. It is not sufficient to mark official displeasure merely by removing a rash or incapable general from active service in the field, and depriving him of prospective honors from bravery in action. Lenity begets disaster. We see the result in the case of General Walpole. We feel confident that if the supineness of General Hewitt at Meerut, which led to the fatal massacre of Delhi, had been visited by some more marked symptom of dissatisfaction than is to be discovered in the mere act of sending him home, the lesson would have served to deter other generals from similar inactivity. Can it be doubted that if slowness and incapaci-

ty had been held to constitute a grave offence in the case of General Hewitt we should not have had to deplore the disaster of Dinapore? That disaster, which we owe to the age, incapacity, and gouty legs of General Lloyd, has not ceased as yet to yield melancholy fruits. Eight months have elapsed since the "fighting Sepoys," as they call themselves, marched out of cantonments unopposed, and they are still in the vicinity of the Ganges, harassing our troops, besieging towns and holding difficult passes against our bravest soldiers. Will any one say General Lloyd's removal was a sufficient example to deter other from imitating his cruel errors? Hewitt's and Lloyd's are faults of inaction. Others have erred through the contrary fault. General Windham commits a breach of orders and an error in judgment at Cawnpore. Is it a grave mark of dissatisfaction to send him to enjoy the ease of the garrison life in Sirhind? When the Colonel of the 2nd Bays makes an imprudent charge at nothing at all, as at Chinput, and gets his regiment well peppered from stone walls which he should never have approached, the bravery that prompted the foolish act saves him from reprimand.

We know of one instance only where inattention to orders was visited with any reproach. General Franks had orders to use heavy artillery when he could do so with advantage. But his contempt of danger made him despise those orders. He took light pieces into action, substituting the bayonets at close quarters for distant cannonade. The consequence was the loss of valuable lives, and Sir Colin, instead of instructing the trans-Goomtee column to General Franks, gave it to Sir James Outram. But even this example was insufficient to act as a check to the headlong ardour of General Walpole, who with the contempt of a Wheeler for his enemies, attacks stone walls skirmishing order, and a jungle without a previous cannonade. (*Bombay Gazette.*)

THE STATE BALL.—The Court Journal supplies its readers with the following bit of Court Gossip:—"The state ball at Buckingham Palace, on Monday, was far more numerous attended than the ball given in honour of the nuptials of the Princess Royal and much more brilliant. The noble apartments are fully equal to accommodate 2,000 guests with ease; but at a state ball all the visitors crowd round where Her Majesty sits or dances, and consequently the spacious and magnificent new ball-room was not large enough, of itself, to accommodate the numbers that thronged into it. Her Majesty sat on the *haut-pas*, with the youthful, pretty, and charming young Queen of Portugal by her side. Seats were placed for all the members of the Royal Family, the Prince of Hohenzollern, and the Princess Anna of Saxe-Weimar. The seats of the Queens were marked on the *haut-pas* by a footstool, a distinction which was omitted with the other members of the royal family. The royal bride danced frequently during the evening in quadrilles with the Prince Consort, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar. In noticing the arrival of the Duc de Malakoff, we remarked, upon his "agile step;" and it is a great confirmation of the fact that not only did the Queen of Portugal, but our own gracious Sovereign, select the duke as a partner for a quadrille. The gallant marshal was a little taken aback when the honour intended by our Queen was first intimated to him, but the nevertheless acquitted himself with grace, and after each dance conducted his royal partner to her seat with true French gallantry. The duke wore the full uniform of a Marshal of France, but paid us the compliment of displaying the Ribbon of a Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, without any other decoration. The places of the Queen and the Queen of Portugal, at the supper, were opposite to that famous work of art in the precious metals, "Horses at the Fountain," and immediately on their Majesties' approach the fountain commenced playing and throwing off the grateful odours of eau-de-Cologne. The shield presented by the King of Prussia to the Prince of Wales, the Prince of Wales's epergne, and the South American silver were also displayed on a buffet, placed opposite to the seats of the two Queens. Although the Queen of Portugal had a long day's travel before her on Tuesday she remained with the Queen in the ball room till two o'clock, dancing with the Duc

de Malakoff immediately after supper. The dancing continued with unabated vigour until the Queen left the ball, and by ten minutes past three o'clock the last of the guests had departed from the palace."

THE CANADIAN RIFLES.

The *Argonaut* (sailing vessel of course) left England on the 3rd instant, with 200 men, 300 women, and 400 children! as a reinforcement to the Royal Canadian Rifles.

CAVALRY DRILLS.

We have great pleasure in giving insertion to the annexed account of the York Volunteer Cavalry Drill, under, we should say, about the best Cavalry Officer in the Militia, Lieut. Col. G. T. Denison, who has been 20 years at the work, having learnt his drill from the 1st Dragoon Guards in 1838.

A creditable feature in regard to this Volunteer parade was the strength, in which they turned out, Captain Denison's troop having every man present, and through the drill had an average of 46 the ground. The other troop turned out admirably, the whole of the few days in which they were together, the two troops having drilled separately for a week.—We trust that Officers Commanding will favor us with accounts of their drills from time to time.

THE YORK YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

On Thursday, the 17th instant, the York Yeomanry of class A, comprising Capt: Denison's Troop No 1 and Capt McLeod's Troop No 2 after being inspected by Col Macdougall, the inspecting field officer for Upper Canada, who having counted the men, found that No 1 had every man present, 50 in all and 2 officers, and that No 2 had 46 men and 3 officers after the inspection, the Troops being formed with Squadrons; in single ranks, were put through the following parade and field movements by Lt Col, George Denison, who commands the mounted Force of that County viz:

PARADE MOVEMENTS.

1. The general salute and the inspection.
2. March past by Squadrons.
3. Rank past by Single files.
4. Rank past by Threes.
5. Trot past by Troops.

Then re-forming on the Parade line they performed the *Sword Exercise*, viz the *Exercise*, 1st Division, 2nd Division and the *pursuing practice*, then having front formed ranks. Executed the following.

FIELD MOVEMENTS.

- 1st. Change front half right.
2. Change front half left back.
3. The line will retire, threes about and halt front.
4. Change front to the left.
5. Advance in Column of Troops from the right.
6. Form line to the front.
7. Column of troops from the right, in succession by the rear.
8. Form line to the rear on the rear troop.
9. Inverted line to the rear by the wheel-about of troops.
10. Advance by threes from the right of squadrons.
11. Front form.
12. Column of troops from the right of squadrons to the left.
13. Form close column.
14. Column will charge by troops in succession, each retiring by threes outwards and re-forming in the rear.
15. Advance by troops in open files performing the "pursuing practice" on the gallop and retire and re-form in same manner.
16. Advance in open column.
17. Form divisions—and in column of divisions proceed to the parade line.
18. Advance in line—taking order and saluting.

Col: Macdougall then rode up to the Commanding officer and expressed himself as agreeably surprised at the manner in which every thing had been done. He said he had no idea they would have made such progress in their drill in such a few days—he also was pleased at their turning out so strong.