

tion to the gallant and talented inventor to find so novel a weapon adopted with such unanimity by the officers of a service which should be inferior to none of the present day in practical experience, as they are superior to most in educational and scientific attainments.

Peculiar topographical features combined with other circumstances render exceptional instruments necessary—and it would seem Colonel RICE has invented a weapon almost as perfect in its way as HEDIBRAS' dagger of all work.

"It was a serviceable dudgeon,  
Either for fighting or for drudging;  
When it had stabbed or broke a head,  
It would scrape trenchers or chip bread,  
Toast cheese, or bacon, tho' it were  
To bait a mouse-trap 't would not care;  
'T would make clean shoes and in the earth  
Set leeks and onions and so forth."

The only objection to this really useful weapon is its want of length, for we do hold in a charge, the longer the defensive weapon the greater the advantage—but as all this is a matter for experiment, we are glad to see so extensive a trial given to such a thoroughly ingenious and useful a weapon.

We congratulate the country, and the Militia Force in particular, on the promotion of Deputy Adjutant General Lieut. Colonel WALKER POWELL, to that of Adjutant General, with the rank of Colonel in the Militia. This act of justice will give unbounded satisfaction to the entire Militia force of the Dominion. The office of Deputy Adjutant General at Head Quarters is abolished.

When it was proposed to have an officer of high rank in the Imperial army appointed to the chief command of our Militia, Major General SELBY SMYTH was selected for that position, and was sent out to this country; but it was found that the Militia Act did not provide for the appointment separate from that of Adjutant General, and until such time as the Act could be amended, he could not assume *de facto* this position. During the late session the Act was so amended as to meet the necessities of the case, and he now takes the position as Commander of the Militia of Canada, as it was originally intended he should.

We have great pleasure in copying the following remarks of our contemporary the *Times* on Col. POWELL's promotion:—

"The *Canada Gazette* to-day will contain the official announcement of the appointment of Col. Walker Powell to the position of Adjutant General of the Dominion residing at head quarters. It will be remembered that upon the arrival in this country of Major-General Selby Smyth, the chief command of our volunteer army, it was intended that he should assume the command of the Militia as well as title of Major-General. At the time, however, the necessary legislation to give effect to this arrangement had not been enacted, and the new commander was accordingly appointed Adjutant General. The necessary steps to have the policy originally contemplated, when it was proposed to have an officer of the Imperial Army put in chief command of our Militia Forces, put into actual operation, having been taken during the recent session of Parliament, the

appointment to the command of the Militia will also be formally announced to-day, and the vacancy in the office of Adjutant-General thus created is filled by the appointment of Colonel Powell. The position of Deputy Adjutant-General, at headquarters, is now abolished.

Colonel Powell is the son of Mr. Israel W. Powell, at one time M.P. for the County of Norfolk, whose father, Mr. A. Powell, was a U. E. Loyalist, who settled in Norfolk in the year 1796. He was born in May, 1828, and is now forty six years of age; being there fore in the prime of life. Educated at the Victoria College, Cobourg, he entered mercantile life at an early age. He built several vessels, and up to the time of his appointment as Deputy Adjutant General carried on a large shipping trade between the ports of Chicago, Oswego and Montreal. In the municipal affairs of the County of Norfolk he took an earnest and active interest, and was for several years Reeve of his native township and Warden of the County. Afterwards he sat in the House of Commons of the old Province of Canada for a considerable period as a Liberal Reformer, during which time he became one of the most popular members of that branch of the Legislature, making for himself many warm personal friends, among them notably the late Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald.

Since Colonel Powell's appointment to the office which he is promoted, in 1862, many changes have been made in the working of the active Militia—changes which have all tended to increase the efficiency of the system; and many of the improvements that have taken place, if not indeed all of them, have been due to his untiring efforts. Indeed, the great zeal and marked ability he displayed as executive officer were made the subject of most favourable comment during the discussion of militia matters in the House of Commons some sessions ago. The management of the active force of this country is a matter attended with considerable difficulty, their being so many prejudices and other obstacles of a kindred nature to be overcome; and in this delicate task Colonel Powell appears to have been both fortunate and successful. for no officer in the public service, brought so slowly in contact with a large portion of the people—a portion, too, prone to criticise without much mercy—has suffered less by the process.

"His connection with the militia began in December, 1847; on the 14th of which he was gazetted Ensign of the 1st Norfolk and his first promotion was to be adjutant, which took place on the 21st June, 1851. On the 25th September of that year he was created Lieutenant of the same corps, and seven years later was promoted to a captaincy. On the 14th August 1862, the honorary rank of major was conferred upon him, unattached to any division of the militia, and on the 19th of the same month he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel and Deputy Adjutant General of Upper Canada. On the 1st of October, 1868, he was made Deputy Adjutant General of the Dominion, at Head quarters. His rank as Colonel dates from 22nd August 1873; and to day he will take a step still higher up in the ladder of fame. The position of Adjutant General of the Dominion is a very honourable as well as a very responsible one, Colonel Powell being the first native Canadian who has attained to it. We congratulate him upon his appointment, the country upon having the services of a gentleman so highly and universally esteemed, of such undoubted ability as an administrative officer, and possessed of so much tact and energy."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications address to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

April 19, 1875.

DEAR SIR,—My best thanks to you for your great courtesy in answering my questions at such length. Many thanks also to your correspondents, "Ixion" and "Tompion." I note that their answers are not quite in accord on every point; and as to my 3rd query, (about shouldering arms before inspecting a company) they are not upheld by you. In my 6th query I meant to refer only to the 2nd, or Regimental Colour. My 7th query hardly admits of so easy a solution as "Tompion" would have for it—"Ixion" saw the point more clearly. Any person can try it on a table with two pieces of paper. A company is on the march with trailed arms. The distance between the ranks is, as per regulation, 48 inches. Both ranks step together; the same length of pace. When the word "halt" is given both ranks should halt together. The rear rank will then still find itself 48 inches behind the front rank. In order to remedy this, the Drill Book says, at page 65, Rifle Exercises, that the rear rank should make their last pace a lengthened one. If they take the regulation lengthened pace, or "stepping out" pace, of 33 inches, they will still be 45 inches behind the front rank. In order to find themselves at their proper distance, of 30 inches only, the rear rank must either make their last pace one of 48 inches in length, which certainly seems preposterous, or else they must take another short step of either 18 or 15 inches, after the front rank have come to the halt.

Your most obed't. ser't.,

FIXED BAYONETS.

MONTREAL, April 19th, 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your kindly answering me through the medium of your paper: if an officer holding a staff appointment in the Canadian Volunteers or Militia, and in receipt of a salary from Government, can legally be engaged in mercantile pursuits?

Yours obediently,

AN OLD INFANTRY OFFICER.

Yes, provided he does not neglect his Military duties—in that case, he must give up one or the other.—ED. VOL. REV.

## REVIEWS.

The April number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, just republished by the LEONARD SCOTT PUBLISHING CO., 41 Barclay Street, N. Y.) contains the conclusion of "Alice Lorraine," a novel showing much descriptive power, and abounding in quaint and forcible forms of expression, which compensate for its defects as a story. The second article, "Fashions and Tricks of Speech;" The third, "Mr. Kinglake's Battle of Lukerman;" The fourth, "In a Studio, No. 1;" The fifth, "The Abode of Snow;" The sixth, "Politics before Easter," &c., &c.