

## Battalion Correspondence.

[We shall be obliged if an officer in each Battalion will give us a report, as briefly as consistent with the facts, of any events of interest which take place in his corps, and beg to tender our thanks for favors received.]

### FROM TORONTO

**QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.**—This regiment was inspected on Wednesday evening, the 27th ult., at the drill shed, by Major-General Stisted, C. B., commanding the district. The General came on the parade-ground about 8.30 o'clock a. m., accompanied by his staff, consisting of Captain Moorson, acting A. D. C.; Captain Bell, Major of Brigade; Col. Mountain, R. A. commandant; Lieut.-Col. Durie, A. A. G., and Lieut.-Col. R. B. Denison, Brigade Major of Militia. The General, having been received with the usual salute, passed along the line, closely inspecting the men's arms, clothing and accoutrements, especially the Spencer rifles, with which the men have been recently supplied; and then, having taken up his position at the saluting post, the regiment broke into open column and marched past in quick time, and having been closed to quarter-distance, marched past, first at quick time, and then at the double, after which line was again formed, and Major Dixon, having been called to the front, put the men through the manual and platoon exercises, which were performed remarkably well, considering the short time the men have had to practice with the new rifles. Lieut.-Colonel Gillmor then put the regiment through a few battalion movements, which were well and steadily performed. The appearance of the regiment when in line was admirable, and the extreme steadiness of the men was generally commented on, but when broken into column the effect was not so good, as the companies were not equalized—some mustering about sixteen files, others nearly thirty, an arrangement that appeared extraordinary at first, but we were informed that as the commanding officer looks to each captain to keep up the numbers and efficiency of his company, the companies are never equalized on inspections, so that the active and zealous officer may get his due credit. Notwithstanding this irregularity, the different movements were well performed, and the "Queen's Own" seem determined to keep up their reputation. At the conclusion of the inspection, Major-Gen. Stisted addressed the regiment as follows: "Col. Gillmor, officers and men of the Queen's Own Rifles—It affords me great pleasure to inspect the regiment that took such a prominent part in the campaign of last June. The post of honor such as that you held at that time was one highly prized, and I need hardly tell you that the zest displayed reflects the greatest credit on the regiment. I think it is only honest in me to tell you that, in saying this, I do not talk to you in an ambiguous way, and if I think you were a little precipitate, it was only a fault on the right side. We cannot be always successful. I have been often in a retreat, and the great Duke himself, who took Seringapatam, was only successful after a second attempt. I need hardly tell you that in our late successes everything has been attributed to the perseverance of those engaged; and I also wish to tell you, and I am sure you will not be offended, when I say that we must not attach so much unnecessary blame on Col. Peacocke as some of our friends do. I am not the only one of that opinion. Col. Peacocke is one of the most promising of our young officers; and this opinion is held not only by the commander of the forces here, but also by the Horse Guards. I have seldom seen

a regiment, either among the regulars or Militia, turn out in the style you have done to-night. Your manoeuvres were well executed, and your soldierlike appearance reflects on all the officers and men the greatest credit, and with such a body as now stands before me, the loyalty of Canadians is undoubted." The General then visited the orderly-room and closely inspected the regimental books, and expressed himself gratified at the accurate manner in which they were kept, and surprised to find a Volunteer regiment supplied with all the books as required by the Queen's regulations in a regiment of the line. He afterwards visited the Quartermaster's store, and inspected the haversacks and water canteens, which are ready for issue. With the latter he was particularly pleased, as being far superior to those issued to the regulars. A complete set of pioneer's tools for eleven men, which the regiment has recently purchased, drew his attention, and he seemed astonished to hear that the government refused to bear the cost of such a very necessary equipment. The strength of the regiment on parade was as follows: Three field officers, 10 captains, 17 subalterns, 4 staff, 37 sergeants, 391 rank and file, and 20 bandmen—total, 483 on parade. The Queen's Own have, as we are informed, paraded once a week from January 16, 1867, till March 13, when, in consequence of having received orders to be ready for active service, a parade on three days in each week was ordered. In all there have been fourteen parades this year, the gross attendance at which has been 4,239, or an average of nearly 303 at each parade.

**RIFLE PRACTICE.**—In consequence of the recent order issued for the above regiment to be held in readiness for active service, and of the fact that the men have not as yet had any opportunity to practice with the Spencer rifles, recently issued to them, two men from each company (20 in all) were ordered to parade each day for a fortnight, commencing on March 19, and proceed to the Garrison Common Rifle Range for practice, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Gillmor. The weather throughout was very cold and stormy, and the firing at 200, 300 and 400 yards was below the average of that made with the Enfield rifle. The highest score made with 21 rounds at the distance named was 54, and the average made by such men even as were previously accustomed to rifle-shooting, did not exceed 42, or an outer for each shot. The mechanism of the rifle seemed satisfactory, but the ammunition is defective, and not made with the uniform accuracy of the Enfield cartridge.

### FROM MONTREAL.

**GARRISON ARTILLERY.**—This corps paraded at the armory on Friday evening, 29th ult., for the first time under the new command, Lieut.-Col. Ferrier. After the usual drill, Lieut.-Col. Ferrier communicated to the corps the fact of Lieut.-Col. Lyman's resignation, and his promotion to the post of commanding officer. He assured them he was sensible of the honor conferred upon him, and his best efforts would be directed for the benefit of the corps. Lieut.-Col. McKay stated that owing to his frequent absence from town, he had waived his right of promotion in favor of Lieut.-Col. Ferrier, who would be able to devote that time and attention to the duties of commanding officer which he (Lieut.-Col. McKay) was unable to do on account of his being so frequently out of town. Lieut.-Col. Lyman expressed his deep regret at parting with the brigade with which he had been so long connected. He briefly alluded to the reasons which led to his resignation, which were of a personal nature. He stated that during his connection nothing had ever occurred to disturb the harmony and good feeling which had always existed, and that he had uniformly received the respect and courtesy due to him

as commanding officer. He stated that on reviews the corps had always turned out stronger than he had promised the commandant, and that in appearance and drill they had always compared favorably with other corps. He should always feel a deep interest in those whose faces had become so familiar to him in drill. His parting advice would be: If you wish to see the corps prosperous, if you wish to see the best men in the community asking admission to your ranks, each man must feel that he holds in his hands the reputation and character of his regiment. Let not private pique, political or religious prejudice towards your superior officer paralyze their efforts and authority by indifference, but let every man second most heartily their endeavors to promote the efficiency of his command. Every gunner has his share in the honor or discredit of his regiment, and has his part and work to do as much as the commanding officer. After the importance of strict obedience had been urged, and the necessity of regularity in drill enforced, Lieut.-Col. Lyman stated that he wished the corps individually and collectively every prosperity. As he had not officially been informed of the acceptance of his resignation, Lieut.-Col. Lyman would take advantage of the doubt on whom the command at that moment rested, and gave one order, which he was sure would be responded to—that was, "Three cheers for the new commanding officer." This was followed by three cheers for Lieut.-Col. Lyman, and the corps was dismissed.

### FROM PRESCOTT.

Lieut.-Col. Jackson, Brigade-Major, inspected, on Thursday evening, the 28th March, Nos. 1 and 2 Volunteer Rifle Companies at Prescott. No. 1, Col. Jessup, paraded three officers and 31 non-commissioned officers and men, and No. 2, Major White, paraded two officers and 39 non-commissioned officers and men. After about an hour's drill, the inspecting officer complimented the officers and men on their fine soldier-like appearance, and said the people of Prescott had good reason to feel proud that these two companies had been maintained in so high a state of efficiency for the past ten years. The arms and accoutrements were in excellent condition, and he much regretted their clothing was not in like order, but could not blame the men for it, they having worn the present uniform for many months on frontier service, and he was satisfied from the appearance of the men, that should they again be called to defend this United British North America, they would respond as promptly as on former occasions. These companies have been, for the past ten days, practising with the new Spencer repeaters, and are highly pleased with the shooting. On the evening of the 29th the fine Rifle Company composed of the employees of the Ottawa & Prescott Railway Company, was also inspected. After examining the arms, clothing, &c., the company was put through about an hour's drill without ceasing. (Parade—three officers and thirty-nine non-commissioned officers and men.) Lieut.-Col. Jackson then said: Capt. Dettlor, officers and men, this company, with many other Railway companies was organized for a special purpose—that was if required, they would be prepared to defend the road as well as work it, and had not until within a few weeks been attached to any Brigade Division. This Division is one of the largest, and I am satisfied one of the most efficient in the Province, notwithstanding this, the adding of the B. & O. R. R. Garrison Artillery, and the O. & P. R. R. Rifle Company has been very gratifying to myself. The men are very steady under arms, the drill and company movement have been well and correctly done, which shows that proper attention has been paid to the instructor. Your connection with the Railway Company gives you many advan-