

more sinful indulgences, to wit, tobacco and grog. It has come to pass that the shocking irregularities of four or five and twenty years have strengthened and confirmed an original constitutional indifference to breakfast, so that it is a matter of little consequence to me whether I get anything to eat till 12 or 1 o'clock or not. But then comes the Nemesis in the shape of an appetite which, if delayed of satisfaction, is provocative of a savage and ferocious state of mind, totally unbecoming an officer, a gentleman, or a Christian. It happened this morning that I was called upon just before breakfast on business. I lit a pipe and proceeded to it, thinking no more about it—i.e. breakfast. About half past twelve I had a conversation with a friend on the N.W. question, and expressed such opinions and feelings towards Riel as were, I think, consonant both with that gentleman's deserts, and my (hungry) indignation. But alas! (I am at the confession!) *Culpa mea!* *Culpa mea maxima!* I shame me to acknowledge that by half-past one (after a hearty dinner) my righteous indignation against that potentate softened itself to a somewhat milder shade.

Now does this bear out the Napoleonic dictum? No! I contend that all nations alike are most dangerous with empty—(I beg those dear creatures' pardons!)—I mean, in a state of depletion. Man, at such moments, makes a horribly near approach to the larger carnivora; but only Charles Lamb could do justice to such a subject. All this rigmarole is, however, only introductory to what recurred to my memory over a post-prandial pipe, viz; that I recently read in (I think) an Ottawa paper, an entirely new version of a very old story. It was to the effect that Fuseli, the painter—the word "artist" is a snobbish modern emphasis—being a person of inordinate appetite, was in the habit of ordering dinners at hotels or eating-houses for three, four, five or six (heaven knows how many) guests. The repast being ready and he, Fuseli, in attendance, the impatient waiter, anxious for the credit of the cookery of his house, would make respectful enquiry as to the arrival of the company; whereupon he would be astounded by the ogerish response "I am de gombany!"

Now, altho' the idea of dressing up this story with a novel adaptation is sufficiently ingenious, it is not quite fair. The anecdote, true or false, is of older date even than Fuseli, and he was a very old man when he died some 35 or 40 years ago. If my memory serve me it was told originally of Handel. At all events, Fuseli, who was an intimate friend of my parents, was a man of delicate appetite, and the last man who could have been saddled with this anecdote by any one who knew him, or of him, on undoubted authority.

He was, moreover, a man of unquestionable, though somewhat extravagant genius, beyond being possessed of a very high order

of talent. He spoke and wrote with perfect ease and precision eight languages, Latin and Greek, of course, amongst them. His English was the worst of all. Yet his writing in that was almost faultless. He was said, I don't know how truly, to have been acknowledged by Porson himself to be his superior in Greek. I have still in my possession many of his drawings, and though he is now but little known, and his style but little appreciated, no one conversant with the old masters can for an instant fail to recognise in him the only modern upon whom has ever fallen the mantle of Michael Angelo Buonarroti.

### THE FORCE AT HUNTINGDON.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Colonel Fletcher has established Military Police in the village, the Hussars furnishing a non-commissioned officer for this service, and the 50th Battalion one non-commissioned officer or steady and reliable man from each company.

The duties of the military police are to see that peace and order is preserved in the village, that all Volunteers are in their billets at the appointed hour, and, moreover, to arrest all suspicious characters found lurking about; as to the first part of the police duties is very little needed, the marked sobriety and orderly conduct of both the cavalry and infantry of the Brigade being highly creditable to the force.

Captain Muir and the Troop Sergeant-Major Tees left on duty on the 18th instant, to visit the detachments of the Hussars at Franklin and Hemmingford, and during the temporary absence of Capt. Muir, Lieut.-Col. Lovelace is in command of the Troop. This officer is also serving on the Staff of Colonel Fletcher as Brigade-Major.

The Hussars and 50th Battalion parade twice a day for drill, the former being exercised both on the mounted and dismounted service, and the Infantry in Battalion movements and skirmishing.

The officers of the 50th Battalion have availed themselves of the practical knowledge of Colonel Lovelace in sword practice, and take lessons every afternoon. This very active and efficient officer is assisted in his duties by Cornet Lockerby of the Hussars.

The Cavalry patrol by day and night, and a regular chain of communication has been established along the front. At present all is quiet.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—In your issue of 11th April, under the head of "Military" you say: "As the Militia cannot be marched out of the country, &c." How do you reconcile this with paragraph 61 of Militia Act which says: "Her Majesty may call out the Militia or any part thereof for actual service either within or without the Dominion, &c."

And again if we admit that the Red River Settlement is not in the Dominion, I fancy

we have no *causes belli* as in that case we had no power to go as far as we did and establish a government up there and the insurgents have done no wrong.

It seems certain now that a force is to be sent; let us hope the proper men will be selected (if a selection is to be made), not only as regards the men but the officers. Already we learn that the Brigade office in Toronto swarms with applicants for appointments in the expedition. Let us trust then that officers who have devoted their time, energy, and means to the service when there has been no pay, will be preferred, now that there will be a chance for them to reap some benefit for their devotion; many of these applicants, no doubt, have in time of tranquility sneered at the efforts of energetic officers for drilling weekly, &c., and have never put in an appearance except for annual drill; and others are of the class of adventurers who have flooded our Military Schools and brought those excellent institutions into such bad odour. It would be an injustice to allow such as these to step in and command men whose efficiency is the result of the attention bestowed on them by some zealous and efficient officer who does not possess the requisite influence to secure an appointment. Let the officers who are known to be efficient and zealous have a chance to go or it will be ignoring their labours and they will be discouraged from future work.

Yours, &c.,

FUSHWACKER.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Col. E. F. Bourcier, C. B., has been awarded the vacant engineer distinguished service pension.

There is no truth in the rumour that General the Hon. James Lindsay will succeed Sir Hastings Doyle at Halifax.

Sir Stafford Northcote, lady, and son arrived at Montreal on the 20th instant, from Liverpool.

Mr. A. Philips, who is charged with the robbery of American bonds, has been brought before the magistrates at Queenstown and remanded.

Mr. Wm. Dixon, Canadian Government Emigration Agent, is very active, and has published some information that will be of value to emigrants.

Arrangements are making for the selection of the emigrants who are to proceed to Canada in the spring per Government troopships.

The report of the Great Western Railway of Canada, to be presented on April 13, recommends a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5½ per cent. per annum.

Miss Rye has made another appeal on behalf of our "gutter children," and tells us that in Canada and in the Western States of America she can find them comfortable homes.

The expediency of forwarding a small body of troops, in deference to a request from Canada, to assist in quelling the Red River insurrection, is under the consideration of our Government.