

made to imbibe a knowledge of the red book with such railway rapidity. Heretofore it was only through the extra drills and the kind leniency of the Inspecting Officers, that the most of the companies were passed through their inspections. The forcing system, which generally shovels the Volunteer through, cannot effect the same for the drafted man. The provision which required the companies to pass inspection, and show their efficiency, must now be done away with, for it will hardly be fair to compel a man to drill for 16 days and then refuse to pay him, because he is not an effective soldier. As to pay, fifty cents for a day's drill is quite sufficient, but if you take into consideration that some of the men will have long distances to travel to attend parade, the allowance is perfectly inadequate. It will about reimburse him his expenses, and leave him nothing for his time. The time of service for drafted men is absurdly short. A man will only have two drills, twelve months apart (during which time he will have forgotten the greater part of what he has learnt) and then a new set of victims are taken in hand, and the force commences again. I suppose one Instructor only will be allowed each company. A person who has not tried the drilling of a squad of 55 men, knows little of the difficult task he has before him. Let him do his duty to the utmost, let the men give every attention, I venture to assert that at the end of the sixteen days, face the men to the right, give the word "quick march," and there will be such a kicking of heels as cannot fail to raise the ire of the most docile recruit. One man cannot do justice to a squad of fifty-five. Three men at least, should be employed, at any rate till the men can march in file and line, form fours, and be well up in manual and platoon. There is a novel feature reported to be included in this Bill, which claims attention, and that is, that the Military School Cadets are to be compelled to drill with these companies. This is something more than the gentlemen who have gone through those schools bargained for when they entered. Some of the Military School men live at considerable distances from the headquarters of the companies, within the limits of which they reside. 'Tis something certainly too much to expect them to travel backwards and forwards for sixteen days, to witness the drills of a lot of recruits. What is to be done with them when they get there, who is to command? Who is to drill them? We are all ready for another camp such as that at Laprairie, where we were commanded by officers who knew their work, but save us from being forced to drill with a squad of recruits, commanded by Capt. Dick, Tom, or Harry.

Mr. Cartier, with his co-commissioners, by their report, dated 15th March, 1862, was of opinion that 50,000 well trained men should form the active force, and that they should be drilled for twenty eight days annually, recruits receiving fourteen days drill in addition. 'Tis strange how he should now think a greatly extended frontier defensible by 40,000, and that to produce an effective soldier now, it only requires sixteen days, when in 1862 it required forty-two. *Tempora mutantur et nos nui tamur cum illis.* 'Tis all nonsense to say that the Dominion cannot afford to support an efficient force, and that the men are not willing to give the time required. Mr. Cartier thought in 1862 that the two Canadas could afford it, surely the Dominion can now. I have heard persons of all shades of political opinion, even Grits, say it could be done. The country can much better afford to support a proper

efficient Militia than suffer the disgrace of hurrying half drilled men to the frontier as effectives, there to be offered up as sacrifices to a false economy, which alone prevented their being a credit and an honor to the land that sent them forth. The disgrace and disaster of Ridgeway has been soon forgotten.

Yours truly,
INFANTRY.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—It is with much reluctance that I refer to some remarks upon the Highlanders of 1745, by the Historian of the Campaigns of 1756-64. It could hardly be deemed arrogant to feel confident that his estimate of a brave and gallant race is exceptional, at least it must be admitted that the descendants of the people he so unscrupulously malings, have gained for themselves a name which no exparte views, or gratuitous aspersions can seriously effect. But such sweeping unauthentic censure as "these irreclaimable savages, whose deeds were only equalled by the Sepoys of a later date," demands in the interest of truth and humanity a stern indignant denial. A reference to the best histories of the period referred to, although the transmitted verdict necessarily percolated through the polluted medium of party malignancy and religious antagonism, fully admits that no invading army left fewer traces of rapine or devastation on its route, than that led by the Pretender or Prince Charles, during its bold irruption into England in 1745.

The Historian must be fully aware that to traduce the clans of 1745 cannot avail to establish the military reputation of General Braddock, nor invest the Duke of Cumberland with that common humanity which a brief summary of his cruelties would justly deny him. I am quite willing to believe that General Braddock was all his eulogist claims for him. That the Duke of Cumberland went to Scotland to carry out the Government's nefarious policy of extermination, of which the massacre of Glencoe was the atrocious type, is either his best excuse or worst crime. It is true that Hecatombs perished, but a halocaust of the men who had stricken England with a panic not very flattering to its manhood, would have been more acceptable to the Government of the day. If the Duke could accept so vile a mission, it can be no marvel that he was deaf to the voice of humanity, and equally incapable of appreciating the high toned chivalry of noble gentlemen's devoted loyalty to a Prince *de jure* and a King *de facto*, the scaffold, the dungeon, and grave alike, bear a mournful testimony. I crave pardon for this irrelevant discursiveness, and resume my argument, by observing that any allusion to the bold, hardy, energetic, Celt in connection with the effeminate inert Asiatic, can only serve to remind the Historian's readers that the descendants of his "irreclaimable savages," in no remote degree (the 78th Highlanders) were under the indefatigable Havelock, fortunately the first to stem the overwhelming torrent, a fierce rebellion, and confirm afresh the prestige of British invincibility in that gigantic death grapple, for England's supremacy, with the teeming millions of India. Few will be found perverse enough to dispute the military virtues of the Scotch mountaineer, and as regards his imputed savagery in 1745, we are assured by Englands's famed lexicographer, Dr. S. John-

son, (a man who could scarce tolerate a Scotelliman) that he found the Highlanders, a kind, polite, and hospitable. So great a concession from the austere savant, would indicate that he experienced a degree of *bongie*, that might be vainly sought for in the stolid boorishness of the border peasantry of that day. Any spasmodic effort from so feeble a pen as mine to eulogize, or even do justice to the achievements of the Highland regiments in Her Majesty's service could only "d—n them with faint praise," but at the same time, I would insist that the men who won from the French and Belgians, mothers the enviable title of lions in war and lambs in peace, have at least proved that savagery is not hereditary.

In conclusion, the writer trusts that this feeble attempt to do justice to a race who are fast losing all distinctive nationality, will give rise to no misconception, as he professes to give place to none in devoted loyalty to the reigning family of Great Britain.

SAMRUR.

DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

SIR,—Noticing in the last number of the REVIEW the organization of a Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa, I presume an application will be made to the Government for an annual grant (perhaps of several thousand dollars) to be distributed in prizes, to be competed for at Rifle Matches to be held alternately in each Province in the Dominion. I do not wish to throw any obstacle in the way of, or have any objection to the formation of such an association. but I do object to any grant being made by the Government to this Dominion Association, and I offer my reasons why. In the first place, this association will be formed composed of men of means, to the exclusion of the mass of non commissioned officers and privates, a class of men generally whose pecuniary means will not allow them to travel from their homes to another Province, or even to a distance in their own, together with the expense of boarding and lodging several days. Who then, I ask, would compete for these prizes? Officers and the men of means only, and those only of the poorer class who reside in the immediate vicinity where the matches are held, and the men into whose hands the rifles are put, and who are expected to do the execution, in any action they may unfortunately be called into, are debarred from competing for these prizes. I would ask again, how many of these officers who win so many prizes at Rifle matches, would fire a shot in an action? Their duty is to command the men, not to fire the rifle. Again, officers, and those of means, can afford to purchase extra ammunition for practice, while the poor Volunteer private is confined to thirty rounds, and just as he gets to "know his rifle," as it were, his allowance is expended. This association seems to be formed ostensibly for the men but really for the few, to no benefit to the service generally, and the few would reap the benefit of the Government grant. Take the several local matches that have taken place lately, the officers carry off more prizes in proportion than the men, which I contend is wrong. Take for instance in the match at Ottawa in 1867, twenty prizes were awarded to officers and ninety prizes were awarded to the men. Again, at the St. Lawrence Rifle Association's Match