

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,

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## NOTICE.

SUBSCRIBERS will not in future be sent receipts for moneys remitted for subscription fees. The number on each printed address label indicates the last issue for which payment has been received, and a change of this number will be equivalent to a receipt. Our friends are reminded that all subscriptions are payable in advance, so that the second year's subscription of any one whose label shows a less number than 75 is now due. We have to thank many for responding to this notice in past issues; but there are great numbers yet in arrears, and we would be greatly obliged if they will not let this matter escape their attention. Please strengthen our hands by remitting promptly.

## Comment and Criticism.

READERS and subscribers all! We wish you the merriest and happiest of Christmasses, and we know of nothing in any part of this Dominion that should prevent all Canadians from thoroughly enjoying this festive season. At least, from a military point of view, the prospect is eminently satisfactory. Peace and good will reign everywhere, yet the impetus given to the volunteer movement by the active service of 1885 remains, and in each province we find renewed interest taken in militia matters, and the force occupying a better standing in public

opinion, and more thoroughly alive to the necessity that exists for reaching a yet higher standard of efficiency. If we could only be assured that the GAZETTE has had some share in keeping up this ambitious spirit it would be the most acceptable Christmas greeting that could be offered us.

ONE word more. Many of our subscribers have given us unsolicited praise, and a few have frankly criticized us, and both classes of correspondents we wish to thank for these evidences of kindly feeling. To our friends we would hint, that the best way they can help us now is by increasing our subscription list. Each subscriber on our list could, if he were so minded, easily procure us one more subscriber. Let each think that this would just double our subscription list, and more than double our power of performing satisfactory work. At this season of good will and good resolutions, we commend the GAZETTE to your friendly consideration. Let those who are in arrears pay up, those who have been taking the paper without intending to pay, if there are any such, drop it, and let all get us new subscribers and new advertizers.

PERIODICALLY we come across a growl in some of our contemporaries because all the men engaged in quelling the rebellion have not received the medal, and often the growl is accompanied by an insinuation that some discrimination has been made, either by the general in command, or by somebody else in authority; in fact, that kissing has gone by favor in this matter. Now we may as well say plainly that we do not believe a word of this, and that we do believe that every case will be ultimately decided upon its own merits by the Imperial authorities. Moreover we are in a position to know positively that, so far as Sir Fred. Middleton is concerned, that officer recommended for the distinction, militia, volunteers, and mounted police alike: consequently we hope no more will be heard of such unfair complaints, for, as we have said, it is certain that all who can show a just claim to receive the medal will in due time be awarded it.

WE have good reason for believing that, although they are not organized as a purely military force, some, at least, of the Mounted Police will receive the medal, but the difficulty in their case is to decide just who should have it. It would be manifestly unfair to give it to all of them indiscriminately, for on the same grounds it might be claimed by every man, woman and child who was in the North-West at the time of the rebellion, nor can they be considered as on a parallel footing to those troops who, although they never smelt powder, took up arms expressly to help quell the insurrection, and who travelled long distances with that one special object. Probably the fairest way with the police would be to restrict the medal to those who had the luck to be actually under fire, whether at Duck Lake, Cut Knife, Batoche, including those who were on board the *Marquis*, or at Frenchman's Butte, and it is probable that any distribution to them would be arranged on some such basis. Indeed, we understand a recommendation has already gone forward embodying this view of the case.