

## THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.

Yesterday evening witnessed the departure from this garrison of a favorite regiment, which will long be held in honored remembrance by the citizens of Montreal. The Royal Welch, of historic renown and bardic lineage—a regiment which fought at the Boyne, and whose deeds in the Peninsula, at Waterloo, in the Crimea and in India have raised it to the highest pinnacle of military greatness—a regiment second to none in the British service for exemplary conduct and the genuine *esprit de corps* of officers, non-commissioned officers and men—has left our city, in all probability never to return.

The Battalion of the Royal Welch which has just left us, was raised at Newport, in Monmouthshire, in April, 1858. It was officered mainly by promotions from the 1st Battalion then in India. Major Bell of the 1st Battalion, had been appointed to a Lieutenant-Colonelcy, and the command of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Regiment, and Sir Jas. Alexander of the 14th had been similarly appointed to the command of the 23rd. The Duke of Cambridge, without waiting to be asked, immediately afterwards restored Col. Bell to his own corps, and since that period, we believe July, 1858, that gallant soldier has remained in almost uninterrupted command of his battalion. In 1859 the regiment, after being passed in review by the Field Marshal Commander in Chief, at Aldershot, embarked for Malta, at which station it landed in February, two or three days before the Russian steam fleet, under the Grand Duke Constantine, entered the harbour. The regiment remained in Malta until October, 1864. During its stay in that "little military hot-house," colors were presented to the battalion by His Excellency Sir Gaspard LeMarchand, and a grand ball was given to signalize the occasion, and at which His Royal Highness Prince Alfred was a conspicuous guest. In October, 1864, the regiment was removed to Gibraltar, where it remained until its embarkation for Canada in June, 1866. During its sojourn in Gibraltar, under the eye of General Sir William Codrington, K. C. B., the head Colonel of the regiment, and in Malta under Sir Gaspard LeMarchand, an officer once known to fame as one of the strictest disciplinarians in the British service, the "Royal Welch" always maintained a high character for efficiency, steadiness, and soldier-like bearing. Indeed, the latter officer placed on record the high opinion he entertained of the regiment, and in doing so reproduced in glowing colours the historic details which had rendered its name illustrious in military annals.

The Royal Welch was largely recruited in various parts of Wales, particularly the South. On its formation a number of men joined who were incapable of speaking the English language, and who even now retain a good deal of the guttural which distinguishes the old Gaelic tongue. Large numbers of men volunteered to the corps from English Militia Regiments, notably from the Wiltshire, Lord Methuen's corps, which furnished one whole company of sturdy farm-labourers and plough boys, the sterling stuff from which the true British soldier is formed. The Stafford Militia also gave a considerable quota, and by the month of July the regiment numbered some 1300 strong.

During its brief career, the 23rd has experienced some of the vicissitudes of foreign service. In Malta it suffered severely from ophthalmia, a terrible scourge said to result from the glare of the sun, and the fine particles of sand stirred by the slightest breath of wind. In Gibraltar several men succumbed to Asiatic cholera, when that terri-

ble epidemic raged in the fortress, and the Rock was cut off from the Spanish mainland by a *cordon sanitaire* for upwards of three months in 1865.

Such in brief is a history of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers—than whom a better or more high-spirited corps does not exist in Her Majesty's service. It would be invidious here to point to the causes which led to a result which is recounted by the officers with a justifiable pride. Certain it is, that in this favored regiment there is a unanimity and a mutual confidence animating all ranks, which is seldom equalled and never surpassed. By and by when Army Reform becomes a little more developed, it will be a privilege to belong to a noble regiment which even now stands out in bold relief, in many respects, as an example to the British army.—*Montreal News*.

## FOREIGN MILITARY NEWS.

Military workmen have begun to raze the fortress of Luxembourg in accordance with the clause to that effect in the treaty signed by France and Prussia.

It is said that the Emperor of the French has decided on suppressing all military bands, the regiments to be marshalled merely by trumpeters, even the far-famed band of Les Guides is only to be spared for a while.

The workmen in the Russian gun factories are employed day and night in converting muzzle loaders in breech loaders. The whole of the Russian army will, it is said, be provided with the latter weapon by the end of June at the latest.

The 78th Highlanders, from Gibraltar, are to relieve the 7th Fusiliers in Canada, the 13th Light Infantry replacing the 78th at Gibraltar. The 1st Battalion of the 60th Rifles will, it is expected, relieve the 4th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade.

The Admiral of the Mediterranean fleet has shifted his flag from the wooden line of battle ship *Victoria*, to the iron-clad frigate *Caledonia*. The *Victoria* has returned to England to be paid off, and is probably the last of the old three-deckers that will ever enter the Mediterranean.

The Lincolnshire Volunteers have again resolved to go under canvass for a week, as inaugurated last year. The battalions will encamp again amid the ruins of Thornton Abbey in June, when the whole force will be reviewed towards the end of the month. Upwards of 1,000 men will join the camp, and the Hull Volunteers will keep the ground on the review day.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Montreal Gazette* suggests the following design for a national flag for Canada: "Three equal horizontal bars, white, blue, red, half of the upper on white bar occupied by the Union Jack." The three equal horizontal bars will represent the French and of course the Union Jack the British flag, thus blending the two national flags. We are inclined to think this really one of the most elegant designs, suitable alike to those both of French and British descent, yet brought before the public. We hope the government of the Dominion of Canada will decide on adopting it.

DEATH OF A REMARKABLE SOLDIER.—One of the engravings most popular in the homes of the working classes and peasantry of France represents Napoleon I in his well known gray overcoat, and a young sentinel crossing his bayonet before him, and saying, "Even if you were the 'Petit Corporal' himself, you could not pass!" Jean Coluche, the

soldier to whom this saying is attributed, has just died at Gouaix (Seine-et-Marne), at the age of eighty-eight. He received the cross of the Legion of Honor on the 12th March, 1814, and, a few years back, having visited the Palace of Fontainebleau, was accorded a pension by the Emperor and Empress.—*Galignani*.

SHOCKING AND FATAL ACCIDENT TO A MUSKETRY INSTRUCTOR.—A dreadful accident occurred recently at Aldershot. A squad of the 70th Regiment were at ball practice. Sergeant Instructor Lilley went round the squad, instructing the men how to use the rifle—as independent firing without raising the back sight. He commenced at the right hand man of the squad, telling every one as passed them successively to aim at his eye. This was obeyed in every instance, and the last man of the squad, named Warburton, on obeying the order, pulled the trigger, and, the piece being loaded, the charge entered his eye, blowing his brains out, and, of course, killing him instantly. Warburton was immediately taken into custody, and, on his pouch being examined, nine rounds of ammunition only remained. He was asked where the tenth was, and he replied, "That was what shot the Sergeant." The prisoner, who was deeply affected and shed tears, was then marched off to the camp, awaiting the inquest. He is described as a steady man, but very awkward both in shooting and drill. Lilley, the deceased, had been twelve years in the service, was married and leaves two children.

ENFIELD AMMUNITION.—Colonel Boxer, the superintendent of the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich, has furnished to Parliament a return relative to the manufacture of Snider-Enfield ammunition, from which it appears that up to the 1st of March last 12,439,598 cartridges for service were manufactured at the Royal Laboratory, at a cost of £49,670 10s (within a fraction of one penny each), and 204,710 for proof, at a cost of £714 2 9d. There were also supplied by contract 3,049,525 empty cartridge cases, which cost £6,480 4s 9d, and 5,045,000 shells for percussion caps, the cost of which was £504 10s. Col. Boxer states that the cost of the articles supplied by contract is included in the above cost of manufacture. None of the ammunition has been broken up or condemned, but about 1,400,000 rounds of ball cartridge have been converted into blank, owing to a change in the pattern of the case. The cost of manufacture shown in the return must not be taken as a criterion of the present cost of the ammunition. The cost has been greatly increased by circumstances incidental to the commencement of the manufacture, such as the necessity of night work, the want of suitable machinery, and the lack of skill on the part of the persons employed. The metal cost 25 per cent more than it does now.

SADOWA BATTLE FIELD.—A foreign journal says that Sadowa is being deforested. It will be remembered that this wood was the key to the battle of Koniggratz, on the holding of which for a long while hung victory or defeat. It is now being stripped of its timber by Austrian woodcutters, and the writer believes that this is done to destroy all traces of a locality that must forever remind them of a great national humiliation. The trunks of the trees, as they fall before the axe, are found thickly studded with bullets, and scores of *gamins* are on the ground industriously extracting them from their ligneous lodgment. The writer, who had himself been present at this decisive action of the two great contending armies, des