

constructing. Our morning papers record the birth of quite as many things as persons—of solid edifices, enormous works, useful institutions, world-wide systems—as of mere flesh and blood infants. If one column acquaints us that sons and heirs have been born into certain respectable households, elsewhere we find recorded the nativity of new scions of the Commercial Enterprise family, the Educational Institute family, the Charitable Institute family, and the Military Discipline family, and of these offspring some are destined to become memorable for all time. And I shall always look back with especial interest on the inauguration of the “Civil Service Rifle Corps” as an offspring of the Military Discipline family. I have thought it high time the honor of our Corps should be recorded, and as my theme begins with its creation, and goes throughout its existence, it will not astonish the reader that in taking a bird’s-eye view of my subject, the great difficulty seems to be compression. In consequence I mean to speak to the point; I mean to set forth a mass of matter in the least possible quantity of phrase. My design is to sketch the life of the Corps in such a manner, that my little work may be looked upon as a thorough history of the Company, and as a *souvenir* of the times through which it passed. It therefore becomes me to follow the example of all biographers, and commence with the first record of which I have any positive information.