

case of emergency has received great attention, and the report boasts that a signal flashed by telegraph would at any moment call to arms and concentrate in a few hours the whole or any part of the available force, in tactical brigades of the three arms, at any point within the limits of the brigade divisions. We freely admit the great advantage of this organization, and extend full praise to our neighbors for having perfected it. The increased general efficiency of the force is attributed to the practice of concentrating the various corps in brigade camps of exercise for annual drill, when officers and men are withdrawn from civil avocations and enabled to give entire attention to military duty. No confidence is placed in the system formerly prevailing of allowing corps to perform their annual drill independently at local headquarters at any time of the year and in any manner they pleased. The assembling annually of the territorial brigade divisions, that they may work together under their own proper staff officers, in their respective positions, is held to be of prime importance in preparing a military force for the performance of the duties that actual hostilities would impose. The amount of money asked for to maintain the militia organization in its present system is \$1,500,000. Great and increased attention has been given to rifle instruction and target practice, and high praise is extended to the Dominion Rifle Association for its assistance in that direction.

The report, as a whole, is very full, scientific in arrangement, clear and sensible in its suggestions, and exhibits on the part of its author, the acting Minister of Militia and Defence, an accurate knowledge of the duties entrusted to him, and a high appreciation of their importance. It may well be studied by those interested in our National Guard, for it has much to offer for our instruction. Canada has good reason to be proud of its militia organization.

We are kindly permitted by the author, Lieutenant Colonel FLETCHER, Scots Fusilier Guards, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor General, to republish a pamphlet entitled "Memorandum on the Militia System of Canada," being the result of close observation and study of our system from an outside point of view, in which its real and apparent weakness and defects, as well as its commendable features, are ably pointed out and the proper remedies discussed with temper, forethought, and judgment.

In placing this pamphlet before our readers, we are actuated by a desire to have every prominent feature of our organization submitted to intelligent discussion, and the gallant Colonel has the merit of giving the key note to a complete analysis of all its merits and defects. The brochure itself speaks to the talent and ability of the writer.

At the Review of the Governor General's Foot Guards by His Excellency on last Queen's birthday, our readers will remember the very encouraging address with which they were favored, and the announcement that Her Excellency the Countess Dufferin intended to present the regiment with colors; we are able to announce that they have arrived from England and will be presented by the gracious donor on next Queen's birthday.

APPOINTED.—Mr. R.A. Sisson, of Blackville, reading clerk of the State Senat, has been appointed by United States Circuit Judge Bond, United commissioner. Mr. Sisson is, we believe, the only commissioner between Charleston and Augusta, and his experience has fitted him for the position.

We are indebted to the Publisher of the *Montreal Gazette* for a copy of the *Farmers' Almanac* for 1874.

#### REVIEWS.

THE *ALDINE* for January has been received. The illustrations are rich, and the literature of a high order. The letter press printing is well executed. Take it all in all it is a very superior member. The following are the illustrations and contents:—"O fair as hope was the New Year's morn"; Moore's Lake, Utah; The Irish School Master; Springville Canon; Colburn's Butte, in Kannarro Canon; Wild Flowers; View Near Fairfield, Conn; Christ Blessing the Children; The Descent from the Cross; Burying the Pet Bird; A Familiar Air:—A Winter Rosebud; The Siamese New Year's Day; The Aesthetic among Brutes; Song; The Irish School-Master; Utah Scenery; The Snow Flake; Cinderella; Fairfield, Connecticut; Holly-Hocks; Snowing on Pilatus; Dore's Bible Pictures; Sir Edwin Landseer, R. A.; A Familiar Air; Thorwaldson's Bas-Reliefs—Day and Night; Sorl-Days; A Ghostly Lodging; Music; Art; Literature.

We have to thank the publishers of the *Aldine* for the two Chromos, entitled "The East" and "The West." One is a view in the White Mountains, New Hampshire; the other gives The Cliffs of Green River Wyoming Territory. The differences in the nature of the scenes themselves is a pleasing contrast, and affords a good display of the artist's scope and coloring. The chromos are each worked from thirty distinct plates, and are in size (12 x 16) and appearance exact fac-similes of the originals.

One of those Chromos are worth more than the years subscription. (\$5.00).

The *Invalide Russe*, of Dec. 3, announces that the Turcoman tribe of Tekinzens lately crossed the Amoo Daria and plundered two caravans, taking a sick Russian soldier prisoner. Three hundred Cossacks were consequently despatched on Sept. 24, from Fort Petro Alexandrowich, and on the 26th after a forced march of 200 versts, they overtook the Tekinzens and completely annihilated them, only eight of the tribe succeeding in recrossing the Amoo Daria.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "As a 'sign of the times,' it may be mentioned that the Chinese are beginning to find the maintaining of war vessels rather expensive, so their last addition, built at their arsenal at Foo chow, is to be sold to a native trading company. The Chinese are not the only people in the world who will sooner or later discover that without a well-supplied exchequer it will be impossible to keep up a powerful navy."

#### OFFICERS' LONG COURSE.—GUNNERY SCHOOL QUEBEC.

November 1873.

#### FORTIFICATION.

1. Define the terms, salient, and re-entering angle, dead angle, enfilade, defilade.
2. Draw a section through a face of Number 2 Fort at Point Levis, from memory; put in the dimensions, and give the names of the various slopes of the profile. What are the advantages of the Chemin de Ronde, and what was the object of closing the gorge with a bastioned trace?
3. Would the complete investment of Quebec be difficult? What alterations and additions are required in the works and armaments, bearing in mind the report of Col. Jervis, R.E.?
4. Give your ideas on the advantages and disadvantages of the Moncrieff system of fortification; compare it with the old system of Vauban, and the modern granite structures with their iron shields.
5. Draw a trace and profile of a pair of Moncrieff gunpits on the summit of a gently rising ground. They are to form part of a system of detached forts; and will require a magazine as well as a proportion of bomb proof cover for a small garrison. Substitute as far as practicable forest timber for mason, taking into consideration the destructive effects of a Canadian climate, and the cheapest materials at hand. You will also provide for the drainage, and the accommodation of a few caretakers in time of peace.

#### MILITARY SURVEYING.

1. Plot the following bearing and distances (10 scale 100 yards to an inch?)

From.	To.	Bearing.	Distance in yards.
A	B	260°	199
C	B	35°	160
D	C	170°	60
D	E	265°	40
F	E	180°	50
F	G	190°	50
H	G	100°	30
H	I	240°	70

2. State briefly the general principles of making a military sketch and the principal points to be noted in a reconnaissance report?
3. Submit your copy of the sketch made by the officers at Beauport Camp last summer?
4. Describe Lieut. Col. Drayson's method of range finding?

#### TACTICS.

1. Define the following terms for infantry, cavalry and artillery formations: A rank, a file, fours, section, sub division, division of artillery and what relation it bears to the battery, compared with that of the squadron and company to the larger units of other arms.
2. For parade purposes what is the extent of front of a squadron, a battery in line at full intervals, a company of 40 files; what intervals should be left between battalions in line of contiguous columns, squadrons, artillery, and other troops, and how is the dressing of artillery regulated with reference to infantry?
3. State the most important points for consideration by a battery commander in the choice of a position, and the principles which govern the action of divisional, as well as of reserve or corps artillery in masses, giving instances of the latter from the Franco Prussian war.