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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A greeting from the Vics.
D. R. A. reports wanted.
A naval court martial.
Two systems of miniature cartridge shooting.
The pipeclay nuisance.
Sir Charles Dilke on the Canadian militia.
Does he reflect Lord Wolseley's views?
Tattooing the French soldier.
THE ENTRY INTO BATOCHÉ.
Major Boulton's account of the affair.
MODERN TACTICS.—Capt. H. R. Gall.—*Con.*
Chapter II.—Spaces and Time.

MILITIA NEWS AND NOTES.

CORRESPONDENCE.
The Lieutenant-Governors' Aides-de-Camp.
Ramrod.
The standard for Infantry School Certificates.
—*Sabretache.*
Garrison Batteries.—*A Garrison Captain.*
POETRY—"When He was a Soldier Boy!"—
American Magazine.
HALF HOURS OFF DUTY.
"A Story of the War of 1812."
MISCELLANEOUS.

Current Topics.

WE have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt from No. 1 Company of the Victoria Rifles of Canada, of a card bearing the season's greetings. The design is exceedingly neat and attractive. A picture of the Vics' new armoury appropriately forms the centrepiece. May they celebrate in it a long succession of Happy New Years!

THE volumes containing the annual reports for 1869 and 1870, are needed to complete the records of the Dominion Rifle Association. The Secretary, Lieut.-Col. Bacon, would like very much to receive either or both from any person possessing them and less interested than the Association in having a complete record. This request has on several previous occasions been made through the MILITIA GAZETTE, but is here repeated in the hope that it may be of some service.

RECENT advices from Bermuda give the particulars of a court martial held there on the 16th November, for the trial of Lieut. the Hon. R. F. Boyle, of the Canada, charged with negligently performing his duty as officer of the watch in that ship on the morning of Sept. 17, when she collided with the barque Peeress, of Shields, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It was deposed that Lieut. Boyle gave the order "hard-a-starboard" just before the vessels struck, and that he promptly reversed his engines. The Court found that the charge of negligence was proved, and accordingly acquitted the prisoner, but at the same time considered he had shown want of judgment in giving the order to starboard the helm, thus not carrying out the established "rule of the road."

A DISPUTE is in progress between Major Richards and Mr. R. Morris concerning the relative merits and priority of invention of their respective systems of shooting with miniature cartridges. In a letter recently published Major Richards says:—"I have been unceasingly occupied in experimenting upon the problem of training young soldiers in shooting from my earliest connection with the volunteer force, now twenty-eight years ago, and before Her Majesty's famous first shot was fired at Wimbledon. If Mr. Morris can prove that his connection with the subject goes further black than that, there might arise a question as to who first originated the idea. Unless he can prove at least so much I must call upon him either to justify or withdraw the assertion that he is the originator of the new system, if by that expression he refers to my system. Mr. Morris says he uses a full-sized bullet; I do not, I use

a miniature bullet, the construction of which Mr. Morris does not seem to know, of full calibre, but only about one-third full size. * * The fact is that the tube system and my own are diametrically opposed in their main principle. While Mr. Morris, following out an old idea patented years ago by Mr. Morton, aims at enabling men to practise shooting at home, my aim is to provide a serious military training in shooting, and a system to be carried out regimentally under proper military supervision, and never, under any circumstances, to be carried out in private places."

"EVERY military reader," says the *Volunteer Service Gazette*, "remembers Charles Lever's Major Monsoon, who feared that the abolition of pigtailed would be fatal to the efficiency of the army and declared that the sacrilegious hand of reform would be directed against pipeclay next. England has gotten rid of pigtailed, and now the *Horse Guards Gazette* rises to inquire when are we to see the last of 'that abominable, dirty, and unwholesome institution known as pipeclay?' The real reason that prevents the abolition of pipeclay is, it thinks, 'the love of appearance and smartness which pervades the military mind.' The truth is, it concludes, 'that our military dress of the present day aims at the impossible. It endeavours to reconcile the hopelessly conflicting requirements of parade and service.'"

SIR CHARLES DILKE, in the *Fortnightly Review* for January, continues his criticism of the British army, and also treats at some length of the Canadian militia. Our system he considers infinitely better in point of organization than that of the mother country, but he says the English vice of cutting down necessities to please false economists is visible in the colony as at home: "The Canadians pay for what is not efficient for war and then hope there will be no war." Sir Charles is very doubtful whether any considerable portion of the militia could be mobilized to resist an American attack, and feels certain that the want of arms would be felt in such an event, as there are not enough in Canada, and England in a serious war wants more than she has at home. There is a good deal of justice in Sir Charles Dilke's criticism—enough to make it worth while for our militia authorities to concern themselves about providing the equipment without which the best organization in the world would be of no avail.

IT is stated by a portion of the British press that Lord Wolseley supplied Sir Charles Dilke with the bulk of the material for his article on the British Army. Is it to be inferred that Lord Wolseley agrees with him in considering that the army is improperly drilled and is dressed in ridiculous theatrical costumes; that it is badly off for officers who understand their business, and that the whole organization is ridiculously inefficient? The Government, it is asserted, is wasting enormous sums on a bad army, when it might easily be properly organized and be a really good army. Sir Charles does not ask a large increase in the force of men. The principal needs in this direction, he says, are a small extra force of artillery and about 10,000 more infantry—these