

GRAND MILITARY DISPLAY.

EXCURSION OF THE MONTREAL RIFLES TO PORTLAND—RECEPTION BY THE
PORTLAND BATTALION OF INFANTRY.—REVIEW, DINNER, &C.

Toronto Colonist.

PORTLAND, August 18.

About a month since, the several companies of the Montreal Volunteer Regiment of Rifles, having obtained from the Governor of Maine the permission necessary to allow an armed organization from a foreign country to enter the borders of the State, made preparations for a pleasure excursion to this city. Of course the announcement of so celebrated a corps to visit Portland, incited her military and her citizens generally to use their best exertions, not only to facilitate the comfort and pleasure of their guests, but to maintain the reputation of their own militia force as an efficient organization. So the Portland battalion, which does the honors of the occasion, have been most busily engaged ever since the excursion was positively determined on, in perfecting their own drill, and in making arrangements for the reception of their guests. Through the instrumentality of Captain Witham, of the Portland Light Infantry, and other public spirited gentlemen of the city, a large subscription was raised, sufficient to enable the most complete and hearty ceremonies of welcome.

To-day was set for the arrival of the Rifles, and for one or two days past many military gentlemen, from Canada and from all parts of the New England States, have been arriving in town, awaiting the anticipated brilliant display. The train which left Montreal last night with the Rifles, brought also one or two hundred of their friends. As usual on such excursions, the train was greatly delayed, and did not arrive here till eight o'clock, two hours behind time. Meanwhile, the Portland Battalion had assembled at their head quarters over the City Hall, and received their orders for the day.

Early in the morning the weather promised unfavorably, but before eight o'clock the sun appeared, and by that time the city had assumed quite a holiday appearance. From the military armories, association halls, fire engine houses, newspaper offices, and many private houses, flags of the different nations were displayed, some of them bearing patriotic inscriptions and words of welcome. The street through which the military were announced to pass were lined with people of both sexes, anxious to see the famed Montrealers.

As soon as the Rifles arrived, they took breakfast at the depot of the Grand Trunk Railroad. This consumed over an hour of time, and it was ten o'clock before the line of escort was taken up. The Portland Battalion had previously marched down to the depot, preceded by Chaudler's Portland Band.