

would be a great improvement on the present system, but even this would not bring out a very great number of competitors as evidenced by the falling off at the last Dominion meeting. At Laprairie about 500 competed in one match, but the greatest number at Toronto were a few over two hundred, not even so many as at the Ontario match, which can only be accounted for by the want of confidence in the management; many more competitors would doubtless have attended at almost any other city, they having become disgusted (if I may use the word) with the management of the Ontario meeting held there only a few weeks previous. Some may ask what the gross mismanagement consisted of? To them I would say as a multiplicity of small things form and makes up a man's character, so a multiplicity of small mistakes creates the dissatisfaction at a rifle competition, saying nothing of the ungentelemanly conduct of a few of the Toronto competitors. Now I would suggest that a sufficient sum be given to each Provincial Association to induce the whole of the good shots to compete, and that the appropriation to the Dominion Association be discontinued, and in lieu thereof a sufficient sum be given to each Military District to enable the officers commanding to make such appropriations as will induce every Volunteer to compete, or in other words take the prizes to the Volunteers homes, instead of trying to get them to leave their homes to attend matches at a distance, few of which can either spare the time or the money to attend meetings at a distance.

Your correspondent "Royal" being now about the only representative of that once gallant battalion, I don't think his card is required to know his name, and as we have frequently exchanged our "pasteboards" and perfectly agree on this subject, I don't think the cause would be improved by sending him my "card," but will as heretofore be happy at all times to meet him.

Truly Yours,

MARKSMAN.

THE TACTICS OF THE FUTURE.

The following interesting article is from a recent number of the *Army and Navy Gazette*:

In former wars, the French often trusted "more to quantity than to quality." So long as the ranks could be filled—so long as conscripts could be sent to the field—it mattered little to the French commanders in what degree the men were trained for their work. The first change which took place in this system was in Africa, and the first corps in which it was carried out were the Zouaves. To eradicate a long-cherished prejudice was not the work of a day. The Algerian generals learnt from experience—from an experience often very bitter—that one trained soldier was worth, at least, half-a-dozen men who had recently joined the ranks. But it required time to get rid of the traditions of the Empire; and it was only when the officers who had entered the army after 1815 were in their turn generals of brigades, and

of divisions, that that theory was developed in some degree into a practice, and the training of the individual soldier became an object and a matter of care. At the present day, when the French military authorities seem convinced that they have found the best firearms in modern armies, the training of their men has kept pace with the improvement of their weapons. Upon manœuvring in great masses one division of the army against another, they appear to set very little value. What they seem to desire most is that every corporal's squad should, if detached from the main body of its battalion, regiment, brigade, or division, be fully prepared to meet an enemy of its own strength. At Chalons this year there has been less manœuvring on a large scale than there was last year, and last year there was less than the year before. But every year there is an increased care bestowed upon individual training. In what we term spade drill, and in every kind of entrenchment both for the smallest and the largest body of troops, the French Army seems to have arrived as near perfection as possible. "Les Allemands nous reprochent," says the *Spéctateur Militaire*, in the paper alluded to above, "de n'avoir pas une tactique applicable sur le champ de bataille et de ne pas connaître les manœuvres de parade. Pouvons nous mieux répondre à ce reproche qu'en nous préparant à faire preuve d'une instruction tactique aussi forte que le courage français est déjà redoutable?" And then the writer passes on to express what may be regarded as the Confessions of Faith of the French army on the subject of tactics. "Le temps des parades est passé; les manœuvres d'une rectitude irréprochable, les défilés majestueux sont moins faits pour imposer que en l'est l'aspect d'une troupe prompte à l'action; et prête à tout." It is over the struggle of which men have talked so long comes to pass. If ever France should invade Prussia, or Prussia France—it will be curious to mark which military creed of the two armies tends most towards national salvation.

There is one thing which can hardly fail to strike an English Military man. The writer upon "Armement Nouveau et Modifications de Tactique," if not silent respecting artillery and cavalry, says very little about them. Now as formerly, the glory of the French Army is the foot soldier. In this respect our neighbors have not changed in the least. Their stand by, and indeed the only arm in which, as a nation, they seem to glory, in their infantry. *Le fantassin de l'avenir* is the soldier of whom they write, and in whom their hopes of future glory are placed. Great stress is placed upon the care which the infantry man ought to take of his arms, and the great importance of his being properly taught how to use them. "Faire de lui un bon tireur, c'est la condition sine qua non pour en bon soldat." The writer sums up the qualifications of the unit by means of which the whole mass of modern tactics is to be lightened in the following words: "Le fantassin de l'avenir, c'est celui qui a relevé les pans de sa capote, dont l'allure révèle l'énergie physique et morale, dont le teint a lecu les carresses du soleil; pour celui, la marche, les privations, le poids du sac et des outils, les ruses, les coups d'audace, tout cela lui est familier; rien l'étonne; il peut tout avec ses jambes et son fusil." That any army so composed could, like that of the Great Duke of the Peninsula, go anywhere and do anything, would be but the simple truth and with the school of Chalons and the university of Algeria, it is possible that such an army eventually may be trained by the French Generals.

ENGLAND'S DUTY TOWARDS HER COLONIES.

It seems to the *Pall Mall Gazette* as if England just at present had before it two paths, in choice between which will, when once made, be irrevocable. We may, if we will, strike the flag of the British empire; we may haul down with our own hands the colours which our fathers hoisted, and which no foreign enemy has ever been able to touch. We may dismantle Malta, and present Gibraltar to Spain with a humble apology for the overbearing rudeness of six generations of statesmen and soldiers. We may make over India to the mild Hindoo and the educated Bengalee, not because we have trained them to take our place, but because the temper of Clive and Hastings and Wellesley has died out, because empire and glory has ceased to attract us. We may give Ireland to the Fenians, turn Australia and Canada, and South Africa and New Zealand adrift with the remark that the connection with them is costly and useless, and we shall have our reward. Great Britain may become the exchange and workshop of all Europe. We shall have a comparatively small population; the rich section will be bloated with wealth, and will find it difficult to buy anything worth having with its money. The poor will have high wages and a chance of becoming rich, and England will cease to count for anything in the great interests of mankind. To us, at least, such a destiny appears like death in life, and to accept it would be like treason to all the principles and traditions which have for centuries given to Englishmen perhaps the first, certainly the foremost, part in the history of mankind. Another destiny is open to us if we have the manliness and virtue to work it out. From every English colony murmurs are rising at our indifference. We may think little of them, but they do not think little of us. Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and the Cape, one and all protest against the notion of being left to themselves. The Canadians are far more English than many English people; the Australians show their view of the enemies of the empire with a peremptory decision which looks almost grotesque; the New Zealanders behave much as a relation who, whilst he knows that he has more or less presumed on his relationship, still hopes that his kinsman will not be able to forget the tie which connects them. In theory we form one people; why should we not do so in fact? The answer, and the only possible answer, to the question is,—Because it is so difficult. Difficult of course it is, but what are men worth, and above all, what are men of our blood and breeding worth, if they are not to conquer difficulties? Was it wrong for our countrymen—for they were our countrymen—to mould the United States into one nation? Was it the work of one day or one man to found the English empire in India? We should consider what a race we are—the fiercest, the most eager, the most strenuous of races. Give us high aims, noble cares, arduous tasks, set us to think or to write, or to fight, or to colonize in a worthy or magnanimous way, and for ends which we can and ought to devote ourselves to in earnest, and our race will continue to breed heroes. Deprive us of high objects, and our force is our bane. We become the most worldly, coarse, and vulgar of mankind.

Admiral Wellesley has left for Halifax in his flagship Royal Alfred for Bermuda.