

BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE

FROM CHATHAM, N.B.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir,—Being aware that your columns are always open to any news with reference to the Volunteer movement, I now take this opportunity of giving a slight description of the movements of the Volunteers in this section of the Dominion. The captain of the Chatham Battery of N. B. Artillery extended a challenge to the captain of the Chatham Rifles to meet him and ten of his company on the 23rd, for a friendly competition at target shooting; accordingly on the day named the competitors appeared on the ranges in rear of the town, when the firing commenced. The ranges being 200 and 300 yards; 5 shots at each range. The victory being decided in favor of the Rifles, who beat their opponents by a majority of two points. The highest score was made by Private Mair of the Rifles who made 33 points. The victory is to be ascribed to the poor shooting of one of the Artillery officers, who usually makes very good firing, but who, upon this occasion had worked himself into a great excitement in a dispute with another competitor, and consequently only scored 4 points, which was unparalleled in his whole target practice. It is the intention of the Artillery to offer another challenge to the Rifles, when it is supposed they will retrieve their lost laurels. Sunday being the Queen's Birthday, the Artillery company in full uniform marched to the Episcopal Church to divine service, where an excellent and very appropriate sermon was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Neales, wherein he depicted the ravages of war; touched upon the opinion of those who discountenance war under any circumstances; described the condition of nations who have been strangers to war for a great number of years, as being under the influences of sin in a superlative degree, pictured the purifying influence which war wrought upon mankind, gave a few remarks upon the duties devolving upon every man in upholding his Queen, and defending his country and native land; and concluded his remarks by imploring his hearers that though they should be prepared for all these, they should not forget the duty we owe to God, in arming ourselves for that great spiritual warfare against the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Monday, the 25th, being the day proclaimed for the celebration, the Artillery company turned out, and at 12 o'clock fired a *feu de joie*, being debarred from firing their large guns from motives of humanity, there being a person very ill on the other side of the river, whom it was thought the firing might injure. The company in the afternoon marched to Newcastle, five miles distant to sea and take part in some games and races that were in progress there. The officers of the 1st Battalion Northumberland Militia turned out in the afternoon for some target shooting, and to compete for a prize offered by the commander of the Battalion. The ranges were 200 and 300 yards, 10 shots at the 200, and 5 at the 300 yards. The highest score was made by Lieut. S. C. McCulley, who scored 49 points, and who was therefore declared the winner. The shooting generally was

very good. The proceedings of the day were terminated by a dance in the Masonic Hall, under the auspices of the Artillery, at which I understand every one who attended enjoyed themselves very well. From some unaccountable reason, Capt. Snowball did not turn out his company to take part in the celebration; the fault is not to be ascribed to men who were all willing to turn out, but to the petty obstinacy of their captain, who labors under the erroneous idea that Infantry takes precedence of Artillery, the Queen's Regulations to the contrary, not withstanding, and whose spirit of patriotism appears to be supplanted by "building castles in the air." Any circumstances worthy of note, will receive attention from Yours, &c., BLUE COAT.

FROM EAST OXFORD.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

I hereby send you an account of the way in which the East Oxford or No. 8 company the 22nd Battalion Oxford Rifles put in their annual drill this year. The officers are Capt. Wm. Chambers, Lieut. Mulvin and Ensign Pettit, all M. S. Cadets. They put in their sixteen day's drill in camp, the men paying for their board at the rate of 37½c. per day. I had occasion to visit the company during the last week, and I really was very much surprised to see their proficiency in drill for the short time that they have been at it. I stopped a couple of days, just to see how the thing was carried on, and I must say that the men conducted themselves with the greatest propriety, there being no ill feeling between either officers or men, and drinking, swearing, &c., so common to Volunteer companies was entirely dispensed with. During the time I was there I did not hear an oath or see a drunken man, these are facts, and haven't the slightest hesitation in saying that this is one of the best conducted and orderly companies in the Dominion. They number over forty in the ranks, and while they were in camp drilled six hours a day. The men fell in for morning parade at six, and were put through a course of squad drill for a couple of hours, when they broke off for breakfast. Parade again at ten and had company drill till twelve. Light infantry movements in the afternoon from three till five, and in the evening, guard mounting, placing sentries, &c. By giving this a place in your valuable journal you will much oblige.

Yours respectfully,

OBSERVER.

FROM WHITBY.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THIRTY-FOURTH (ONTARIO) BATTALION.—Her Majesty's Birthday was duly and loyally observed throughout the county of Ontario, and, as usual the Volunteers took a prominent part in the festivities of the day. On Sunday, the 24th, No. 4 Company (Captain Dartnell's) paraded at 6 p. m., at the Drill Shed, and marched (in numbers nearly 40)

to All Saints Church for Divine Worship. An eloquent and patriotic sermon was preached by the Incumbent, the Revd. J. D. Cayley—"God Save the Queen" was sung by the congregation at the conclusion of the services. On the 25th, companies one and four paraded at 9:30 a. m.; and, after inspection by the Senior officer in command (Captain Dartnell) proceeded to the Agricultural grounds, where they were exercised in battalion drill, skirmishing, firing with blank cartridge, &c. At noon the usual *feu de joie* was fired with precision and effect. In the afternoon an immense crowd attended to witness the athletic games, for which prizes to the amount of nearly one hundred dollars were awarded. There was a concert in the evening.

At Oshawa, companies two and three spent the forenoon in target practice. These companies are nearly full, though the larger number in their ranks are recruits. At Greenwood, Oxbridge, Brooklin, and Cannington, the companies at these places also turned out in respectable numbers. The annual drill is making fine progress. No. 10 (Cannington) has completed, and No. 4 (Whitby) has nearly completed the full number. There is no doubt that in the event of a call for service the Battalion will muster its full strength of 600 men of all ranks. Colonel Fairbanks has organized a Band, of eighteen performers at Oshawa. Measures are being taken for procuring a stand of colors to be presented to the Regiment on Dominion Day.

Some changes are to take place among the officers. Captain Cameron of No. 1, having resigned, his place will be taken by Lieut. Donovan of No. 4, a most meritorious and valuable officer, who has well earned his promotion. W. Dow (M. S.) received the appointment of Ensign in the same company and Mr. Dehart (M. S.) the like position in No. 8 (Brooklyn). Captain Gibbs of No. 5 (Greenwood) has also resigned. As yet no one has been appointed to his place.

The Battalion Drill Shed has been lit up with three sets of hanging lights of twenty burners each—it looks remarkably well. There is much complaint as to the remissness of the authorities in providing a caretaker for the building. It is in an isolated position, nearly half a mile from the centre of the town, and there is no one responsible for the large amount of Government property at present stored in it. Lieut. Col. Bowell, M. P., paid a visit to the building while the men were drilling last week, and expressed himself much pleased with the appearance and efficiency of the new companies. The Battalion has received the reserve ammunition (27,000) round, and are in every way prepared for a move at short notice.

FROM COBOURG.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

FORTIETH NORTHUMBERLAND BATTALION.—Due honor was rendered to Her Majesty on the 25th ult., in Cobourg, by the assembly of six, and a portion of the seventh, out of the nine companies composing this fine Battalion, to which is also attached the excellent Artillery Company of the town of Cobourg. Were it not that three of the companies are so distant from Headquarters as to render it too heavy a tax on the men to follow their inclination on this always joyful day, there is no doubt that nearly every man in the Battalion would have been