

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the violent expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW

PERTH RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting was held last Monday (18th inst.) at the Balmoral Hotel, Stratford; Major Stephenson G.T.R., in the chair. The following officers were appointed.

Patron.—Lieut. Colonel Daly.

President.—Major Stephenson, G.T. Rifles.

1st Vice President.—Pay-Master Rutherford, 28th Battalion.

2nd Vice President.—Captain Whyte, G.T. Rifles.

Council.—Lieut. Colonel Smith, Lieutenant Birch, Lieutenant Spimmon, Lieut. Patton, Sergeant Argo, Corporal Wilson. Major Scott, 28th Batt., Secretary.

This was one of the most interesting meetings since the organization of the association, Lieut. Colonel Service taking an active part in the association for its prosperity. Lieutenant Colonel Service, Lieut. Birch, and Lieutenant Wright were then appointed a committee to get the range in a first class order, and if possible to get another target erected to save time both in practice and at the annual match. A silver cup is to be competed for on the first Saturday in June, July, August, and September; the highest aggregate score of each member competing to decide the winner. Ranges—200, 400 and 600 yards. Fifteen rounds at each distance, this is done in order to give a stimulus to the association. As there is no balance on hand over the last match Corporal Wilson was appointed to collect \$10 to affiliate with the Western Rifle Association, London, Ont. A team will be sent from here to compete at their match next month. Somehow or other the Annual Grant from Government was not paid for 1873. Hoping this mistake will be rectified in a short time as we will require money to make necessary alterations on the Range.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Colonel Daly and others for their prizes given at last match. The Annual Match will take place about the end of August, 1874.

By giving the above space in your columns you will ever oblige yours &c

Corp'l Wilson, G.T.R.

Stratford, May 18, 1874.

SCOTTISH RELICS OF THE SPANISH ARMADA.

The Nether Lochaber correspondent of the *Internews Courier* writes:—A coin was sent us for identification a few days ago, the history of which strikes us as interesting. We had no difficulty in determining it to be a silver Spanish dollar of the time of Philip II. It is much corroded and worn, but the following letters of the original inscription are distinctly legible:—Ph. II., D. G. Hisp: et Ind: Rex. 1555. On the reverse disc is what seems to have been in-

tended for the prow of a ship between two palm trees. The owner of this coin tells us that it came into his possession in the following manner:—A brother of his, owned and commanded a coasting schooner about fifty years ago, chancing to becalmed while passing through the sound of Mull, thought it best to come to anchor for the night. Next morning, when getting under weight, the anchor, as it came to the bows, was found to have brought up a large mass of tangle. While clearing this away, the edge of the coin was observed sticking out from among a lot of sand and shingle attached to the tangle roots, and having been secured and handed to the captain, he ever after kept it in his purse as a "luck penny," on which he set a high value, and all the more so, perhaps, that it happened to be found on the morning of Easter Sunday—a fact that to him, as a good Catholic, had a significance and meaning that the rest of the crew took no account of. Be this as it may, he was from that day an exceedingly prosperous and lucky man in all his undertakings, and till the day of his death he carried the coin about him wherever he went, as a "luck penny" and talisman of extraordinary virtue. The present owner, too, sets a very high value on this numismatic talisman, which, he declares, hardly anything would induce him to part with. During the ten years that it has been in his possession, he assures us that he has been prosperous and successful as he never was before, with never a moment's illness; and although too sensible and shrewd a man actually to assert that the coin has anything to do with it at all, it is a fact that he very seriously looks upon his Spanish dollar as a sort of "Leo Penny," giving its possessor a fair chance of an amount of health and wealth that without it he might struggle for in vain. This nonsense apart, however, the question remains: what business had a Spanish dollar in the bottom of the Sound of Mull? how came it there? Our theory is that the coin originally belonged to some one connected with the great "Invincible Armada" of 1588. It is a well known historical fact that, after the defeat of the Armada, the already shattered and discomfited fleet, in attempting to return to Spain by sailing round Scotland and Ireland, was overtaken by a dreadful storm, in which many of the ships were wrecked. One ship, named the *Florida* ran for shelter in the sound of Mull, and while at anchor off Tobermory harbor, was captured and destroyed by a body of Mull and Movern men, under the command of Maclean of Duart. This fact is sufficiently attested by a remission, under the Privy seal, to that chief for his share in the somewhat questionable transaction, bearing date the 20th March, 1589. The *Florida* was destroyed by being blown up, with all her armament and stores, and many of her crew—a treacherous and cruel act, for Scotland, at least, was then at peace with Spain—and it is probable that the Spanish dollar so recently examined by us, reached the bottom of the Sound on that occasion, and there remained till fished up in the curious manner above related, upwards of two centuries afterwards. Some of the timbers of the submerged *Florida* have from time to time been brought to the surface, and a casket formed out of a part of her windless was presented by Sir Walter Scott to George IV. during his visit to Scotland in 1822. An unsuccessful attempt, by means of divers, was made in 1740 to recover some of a large amount of treasure said to have been sunk in her; but some very beautiful brass guns were brought up, one of which is still to be seen at the

Castle of Dunstaffnage, near Oban, and another, we believe, at Inveraray. These were last made to speak loudly and lustily, not against a Queen of England, as was their original errand to our shores, but in honor of the marriage of the daughter of a Queen of Great Britain with the son of a Scottish duke, who now owns the lands which belonged to the Macleans, by whom the *Florida*, carrying these very guns, was destroyed. Thus does "the whirligig of time bring about its own revenges." Some years ago we were shown by a gentleman in Glasgow a large ebony-stocked pistol, beautifully carved, and inlaid with mother of pearl and silver, which was said to have been secured from the wreck of the *Florida*. We recollect that the corroded state of the barrel and lock abundantly satisfied us at the time that, whether it belonged to the *Florida* or not, it had at all events long lain in water, and more probably, from the peculiar of corrosion, in salt water than in fresh. As to the dollar, we have only further to state that its owner now thinks more of it than ever—our suggestion as to its very probable connection with the Spanish armada having largely enhanced its value in his estimation. Its mere intrinsic value, as a bit of silver, would, we think be fully and fairly appraised at something like twenty pence sterling.

MOUNTED ENGINEERS.—At Vienna the experiment has been lately carried out of training a small body of mounted engineers for the express purpose of accompanying light horse in advance of the army, or in its extreme rear if retreating. These soldiers take with them a few light tools such as would be useful for repairing or destroying railroads and bridges by the ordinary means. But a formidable addition to their equipment is to be supplied them in case of actual war in the shape of small petards or hand grenades loaded with dynamite, portable and safe to carry, explosive only by a fuze, but powerful enough in their action to completely blow off any part of the ironwork to be destroyed against which they are laid. Trials have been made expressly to determine the best shape of these grenades, and the simplest way in which to use them; and it has been proved that by their use any railroad may be as effectually interrupted in a couple of minutes as it could be with ordinary tools in as many hours.

AN ANCIENT ROYAL CRADLE.—One of the most curious of the relics left of the bluff old Henry VIII., his six wives and the three children who successively wore the crown after him, is the cradle of his youngest daughter, Queen Elizabeth. It is of English oak, very massive, with richly carved panels, six in number, two on each side, one of the same height composing the foot, and a much higher one under the head-board. The length of the cradle is three feet two inches, its breadth twenty inches, and the height, to the top of the ornament, four feet. At the foot is a large shield, with two cherubs supporting the royal crown, and in the centre the initials "E.R."—Elizabeth Regina. The ornamental work is of silver, carved and engraved in quaint devices.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 23rd Inst.

Ingersoll, Ont.—Capt. R. Y. Ellis, to Jan. 1875, \$1.00
Quebec City.—Lieut. J. Sharples, to Jan. 1875, 2.00
Lieut. E. Gauthier, to Aug. 1874, 6.00
Capt. Jas. Morgan, to May, 1875, 4.00
Lt. Col. Casault, D.A.G., Aug. 71, 2.00
Sackville, N.B.—Hon. Col. Botsford, to Sept. 74, 2.00