

which the Sabreur has displayed, in recklessly careering through hostile ranks, upon so many battle fields.

As regards the attempt of the great Gustavus to developo his Cavalry's resources simultaneously, which Col. Denison cites; it strikes me as more suggestive of the ludicrous than the destructive, in the absurdity of a line of horsemen fumbling with clumsy petronels, in a rapid charge, and assuredly it has no claim to originality. History and tradition alike enumerate 'the various missiles that have, from age to age, assailed the sword's supremacy. The Roman Pilum; the Parthenian Dart, the Isaurian Javelin; and, most fatal of all, the English Arrow have, from time immemorial, whirred, hissed, and hurtled, through opposing ranks; rivaling the pop and ping of the redoubted Revolver. in their thirst for blood; but only, at last, to seek defeat or victory—when foes were equally resolute—in the ever inevitable, and more manly arbitrament of the sword. And in the interest of Manhood vs. Physique let us trust, so it may continue.

It has been left for Col. Denison to discover that "The Sabre is not deadly enough for modern warfare," now the only inference to be drawn from this assertion, necessarily involves another discovery decidedly contradictory of all history; *i. e.*, ancient wars were less bloody than those of more recent date. These astounding discoveries must electrify, if they do not convince—"not deadly enough," and this of a weapon, the very bane of philanthropy through every epoch of the world's history; a weapon that has, from time to time, half depopulated the earth, and taxed the ingenuity of artificers to fabricate armour to resist its deadly sway. Was it found wanting? did it "rebound" from the steel clad Cuirassier at Waterloo? no, so far from proving ineffective it was seen—if I am permitted the Metaphor—to distil blood, as its gallant wielders, returned from plunging mid the enemy. But, now, and at once, their destructive attributes have vanished—exorcised by a Russian great coat, and the spirit Innovation!

I am now compelled to a trivial prolixity. "Sabres seemed to rebound," says the historian, if anything rebounded it was the long cut and thrust blade, by no means a good incisive weapon, but for that reason capable of penetrating ought short of a bale of cloth. Again "one was seen to bend," is not this the extreme of puerility? who would object to a pistol because of its ball being occasionally deflected by a button or a buckle? or to a sword for bending from the object thrust at, being too close, thus throwing hilt, point, and shoulder out of a right line. Every swordsman can appreciate what I state, and will be equally ready to estimate the "Sword seen to bend to the hilt," as an invaluable one. The best answer to Col. Denison's conviction of

being able to scatter the Russian columns, with Revolvers, will be found in Kinglake's description of the combat. "It was only by the swift circling moumet, by an almost ceaseless play of his Sabre whirring round over head, and by seizing now and then an occasion for a cut that he was able to keep himself among the living." Referring to the British Dragoons. Now, as the pistol has no defensive properties, the men using it, must either have made a holocaust of the enemy, or have been cut down themselves. And I beg to remind Col. Denison that each of the attacking horsemen must have carried a loaded pistol in his holsters, and the officers, probably, a Revolver each, but the historian, who is minute to the bending of a blade, makes no mention of fire arms, except where he notices, "The Russian Legion here and there firing their carbines." Were our soldiers then, so stolid, as not to have resorted to the weapon most suitable to the exigencies of the moment? Certainly not, and, in continuing to ply the sword, proved it the weapon best adapted to the *melee*. Nor is there any difficulty in accounting for the paucity of casualties. The assailants, were harrassed, crowded by odds: and for self preservation, were placed upon the defensive. Whilst the assailed were hampered and paralyzed by an unprecedented formation for cavalry, and if they were so swathed in heavy coats, impervious to cuts, they could be in no condition to inflict them. This may also make the gallant Lieut. Elliot's recovery no mystery, although I may retort, that men have lived after being riddled with shot. Col. D's. ideas of the Lance are peculiar, but I refrain at present.

In conclusion, what I have so feebly advocated has no pretensions to that intuitiveness of "wars vast art" which so distinguishes Col. Denison, but it will only have done the venerable garb of "antiquity," or be held "obsolete" and "traditionary," when some such system of Modern Cavalry Tactics, with which Col. Denison favours us, shall have been adopted by the armies of Europe. Until then, I may continue to believe there is something in *experientia docet*.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours,

SABREUR.

VOLUNTEERING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., January, 6th, 1869.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir:—As the "Act respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion of Canada," has abolished all the old lines which divided the Militia of the several Provinces into comparatively small detached bodies, and has organised them under one Commander in Chief; I am of the opinion, that the period has arrived when the officers and men who constitute the Dominion Forces, should endeavour to obtain a better knowledge of each other than they at present appear to possess, and I can think of no

better mode, than, that those who have the time and inclination to do so, should make use of the press for that purpose. As you have given an invitation to correspondents, to furnish your columns with information concerning the movements of corps in their several localities with reference to drills, marching out, &c., &c., which might be considered interesting to volunteers, and those of your numerous readers who take an interest in the rise, progress, and ultimate establishment of Our Nation's Guards; and as THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, will be a most valuable and efficient medium for that purpose, I will endeavour, with your permission, to furnish from time to time, such knowledge of the military movements in this district, as I may be able to acquire.

The branch of the militia to which I belong and with which I have been connected from boyhood, is the Artillery; and as Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, have each large bodies of the "Big Gun Men," some of whom, may possibly desire to know something of ours, I shall commence by making "The New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery," the theme of my next communications, and, in one or more letters, give a brief synopsis of its history from its advent in this Province, to its union with "The Forces of the Dominion;" and inform our fellow soldiers, that, notwithstanding the almost innumerable difficulties with which it has had to contend, during the many years of its existence, it is now, an efficient body of well drilled men, whose motto is, "always ready;" and I believe, constitutes, *the oldest Volunteer Corps in British America.*

A NEW BRUNSWICK ARTILLERYMAN.

FROM BROCKVILLE.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

There has been such a dearth of news in military circles here for the past few months, that I have not chronicled passing events;—now that the re organization of the several companies of Volunteers in this vicinity has been effected, perhaps it will not be amiss to jot down a few notes regarding them. I understand that the 42nd Battalion, Lieut. Colonel Buell, is up to its maximum strength. The two Grand Trunk Railway, and the Rifle and Infantry Companies here, together with the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Artillery have all re-enlisted, the latter Battery being composed of a superior class of men, and officered by active and efficient officers, at all times turn out most creditably and efficiently. I do not say this for the purpose of discouraging any of the other companies they being all officered by qualified and efficient officers, and the men are at all times ready to compete for military honors with any other corps in the Dominion.

It is whispered here, that out of the fifty-nine companies in this District, five have failed to send in their Rolls, this is doubtless owing to the negligence of the officers