



CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE.

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, FEB. 24, 1857.

NOTICE.

As it was stated in our last the first two numbers of this journal will be transmitted to every Officer in the Active force, either directly, from our own office, or through our agents.

Our MONTREAL Agents are MESSRS HILL and MARTIN. Our TORONTO Agent is MR. CAMPBELL, King Street, and our HAMILTON Agents, MESSRS. GEORGE BARNE & SON.

All the Agents are authorized to receive the moneys for subscriptions, and advertisements.

All communications on business to be addressed to DAWSON KERR ESQ., ST. PAUL STREET OTTAWA. All communications to the Editor to be addressed, MAJOR TURNER, OTTAWA, in all cases post paid.

Any person in ENGLAND wishing to take this paper can do so by application to the Messrs. CLOWES, Military Booksellers, LONDON.

We again impress on our subscribers the necessity, if they wish to take the paper, of sending in their subscriptions at once. The third number will be sent to no one who does not so remit. We ask no credit, all our paper is paid for in cash, and our workmen must be paid weekly; consequently we cannot give credit.—If our paper is worth having, it is worth paying for. The cash system is being now universally adopted by our confreres in the Upper Province; it will be found the best in the long run by both the Proprietors of Newspapers, and the subscribers. We have commenced on that system and shall abide by it. We have a confident belief that there is sufficient *esprit du corps* in Canada, among the Volunteer force, to maintain a paper, edited by one of themselves, who has been in the country for seventeen years and made it his home. If there is not, the Editor is simply mistaken, and has not understood his men.

THE FACT REMAINS THAT NOT ONE NUMBER OF THIS PAPER, AFTER THE SECOND, WILL BE SENT, UNLESS ITS PRICE (\$2) FOR A YEAR IS PAID EITHER TO THE PUBLISHER, IN OTTAWA, OR TO THE AGENTS MENTIONED ABOVE.

LORD CLIVE'S DESPATCHES.—Lord Clive's original despatches, containing his own account of the battle of Plassy, and the other astonishing events which issued in the subjugation of India, have within the last few days been found at the India House, bound together in a small volume. These despatches, which have been long missing, are said to be eminently characteristic of the author.—*English paper.*

In New York, the Rev. Dr. Hawks lately delivered a lecture in which he shewed that from present testimony, there was the strongest probability that a migration to the American Continent had taken place one thousand years prior to the Christian era.

TROOPS CALLED OUT IN AID OF THE CIVIL POWER.

It is often necessary to call on the armed force of the country in aid of the civil power. It is the most unpleasant duty that a soldier can be required to do. It demands on the part of the officer commanding the utmost caution and discretion. He is of course, under the order of the Civil Magistrate, and can do nothing except by his direction. But cases have occurred in which the Civil Magistrate has shown himself so utterly incompetent, either from cowardice, incapacity, or actual drunkenness, that the officer in command of the troops has been compelled to act without him, or rather in opposition to him. It must never be forgotten that the soldier loses none of his rights and powers as a civilian.—What any one subject of the Queen can do, the soldier can do. This was distinctly laid down by the Lord Chief Justice of England on the occasion of the Bristol riots. Any man can interfere by force of arms, if need be, to prevent a felony; therefore if any man can so interfere, the soldier can. But it is always advisable that the soldiery shall be accompanied by the Civil Magistrate, and we recommend to every officer of the Active force never to take one single step in suppressing riot or disturbance without an explicit written order, from the civil authorities. These gentry, if anything goes wrong, always try to throw the blame on the officer commanding the troops.

It is also highly desirable that application for military aid be made, if there be time, to the chief military authority, which in the case of the militia, would be the Adjutant-general, or if that would occupy too long a time to the Col. of the District, and the Commanding officer of the corps called out to his aid by the Civil Magistrate must immediately report the facts to the Adjutant-general, stating the number of men employed, the time during which they were under arms, and the amount of ammunition expended, should the unfortunate necessity for using any occur, with copies of the written orders of the Magistrate, and a succinct account of the events that have taken place.

If there is more than one corps in a town, and the civil authorities demand the services of one only, the commanding officers of the other corps should assemble their men as rapidly as possible, at the appointed place, and hold them in readiness to act if required.

Every officer, is, without reference to superior military authority, in duty bound to afford the civil power every assistance for the maintenance of the public peace, and protection of property.

Arms should never be loaded, unless in presence of the rioters. The very act of loading inspires a wholesome terror of what is to come after; and should never be so loaded, unless at the express order of the civil authorities, or if the officer in command sees that it is necessary to do so in order to ensure the safety of his own party. An instance occurred once at Merthyr-Tidvill in Wales, when a company of infantry was allowed by the indecision and want of presence of mind of the officer in command, to be hemmed in by a mob, who actually attempted to snatch the arms from their hands, and the soldiers were compelled to use the butts of their muskets to beat their assailants away.

There is also a thing to be attended to, on the part of the civil authorities, and that is, that the

peace officers, who are, or ought to be, well acquainted with the persons of the bad characters in a town, or men who are likely to be ringleaders in a riot, or attack on property, shall point them out to the troops. When the trial of Frost, Williams & Co., was going on for their complicity in the Newport riots, it was discovered by the authorities that an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoners if convicted, and it was said that the mob would be headed by the notorious Fergus O'Connor, of Chartist celebrity.—Consequently while the proceedings in Court were pending several picked marksmen from the Rifle Regiment quartered in the town were brought into the Court, and the persons of Fergus O'Connor, and other notorious Chartist celebrities pointed out to them. The green jackets looked at their game attentively for a few minutes, and walked out quite satisfied that if a breach of the Queen's peace was committed, the ringleaders would be very quickly "potted."

The rifle has a great advantage in this way, that by its means, without a general discharge on the rioters, whereby it is possible, as has unfortunately happened, that innocent persons may be slain, the ringleaders can be picked off. At a riot in one of the manufacturing towns in Lancashire, a few years ago, a division of the 60th Rifles was brought out; the troops were drawn up, but had not received the order to act; a ruffianly fellow stepped out and hurled a brickbat at the troops, which struck an officer on the head, knocking him down, and inflicting a serious injury. A few minutes afterwards, the patience of the civil authorities being exhausted, the order to "fire" was given, when the rioters as usual scattered in every direction; one dead body alone was found, literally riddled with balls—every rifleman had marked him as the man who had injured a much loved officer, and as we say, "served him out."

The officer in command of troops brought out to quell a disturbance should always draw them up in an open space, and with their rear to a house, if possible, a stone one, to which they can retire if necessary. The thousands of rioters who marched into Newport with Frost, were utterly routed by fire and twenty men under a young Lieutenant, who fired on them from the windows of a hotel, and then rushed out and charged them with the bayonet.

The civil authorities must provide accommodation in one building for any company or detachment, called to their aid, if the troops have to remain during the night. The men must not be scattered about in billets. Straw will do for a shake-down, the men having their over-coats, and the Officers always remaining with them.

If Cavalry or Artillery be called out the men must keep with their horses, and a strong guard be mounted over the guns.

If Artillery are called on to act, they must take care that they have room enough to move without embarrassment. There are very few streets in which a division of two guns can unlimber, in most a subdivision will be sufficient, and it is generally expedient, after the unlimbering for action, not to bring the horses of the limber and waggon round, as usual, but to retire if need be, with the waggon in front of the gun. The gun can retire with the "prolonge" if necessary, and so continually fire.

The guns should never be loaded until the last moment. Number three can stand at the muzzle with a round shot, or canister, in his