

monial and a silver tankard, from the officers of the Montreal Garrison Artillery in acknowledgment of the services he had rendered the corps while stationed in Montreal. In presenting the cup, Lieut. Col. Ferrier said, they parted from him with regret, bearing in mind that it was through his interest in the brigade that they were indebted to the School of Gunnery established in Montreal, thereby greatly increasing the efficiency and training of the corps. Col. Ferrier concluded by paying a worthy tribute to his urbanity, kindness and courtesy, and wished him a safe and speedy voyage across the broad Atlantic to the mother country. The cup bore a suitable inscription. Col. Pipon then thanked them for their valuable gift, and made some remarks upon their duties as soldiers, he then shook them all by the hand, the brigade gave three cheers for the Queen, followed by three more for Col. Pipon, after which the brigade marched to their armory and dismissed.

The Victoria Rifles are getting up an excursion to the ancient capital for the Queen's Birthday. It is doubtful whether the Volunteers will turn out here on that day, owing to the small number from each battalion that would turn out on such an occasion.

The officers of the Hochelaga Light Infantry presented Sergeant-Major Lawlor last Saturday with a handsome ebony silver-headed cane, bearing the inscription,—"The officers of H. L. I. to Sergeant-Major Lawlor, 1868." The men of the regiment being drawn up in line, Lieut. Col. Isaacson made the presentation, acknowledging the service Sergeant-Major Lawlor had done the corps. The sergeant replied suitably and the proceedings concluded by a few more words from Col. Isaacson.

Last Saturday a grand review of the garrison was held at Logan's Farm by General Russell, on which occasion medals for meritorious conduct were presented to Private Daniel Keighton, of the 100th Regiment, and Bombardiers Wells and Swallow, of the 3rd Brigade Royal Artillery.

A heavy failure in the grocery trade is reported here with liability to the Bank of Montreal to a large amount. Rumors say to the extent of \$300,000.

# FROM TORONTO.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

It is long since I have mentioned the Fenians, and I had wished to avoid mention altogether if possible, but the circular to Staff Officers and many newspaper reports, prevent us overlooking the fact that these blackguards are again planning for a second raid, which rumor has it will commence in June. In fact this state of things must continue until after the Presidential election, and the bid for the low Irish vote is of no further use. What with past experience, better organization and breech loaders, matters will not be very pleasant for them if they will make fools of themselves.

Last night the "Queen's Own" were inspected by Lieut. Col. Durie, A. A. G., accompanied by Lieut. Col. Denison, B. M. It was the largest muster I have seen for the past year; the line stretched almost the whole length of the drill shed, and must have included about 360 men, represented by nine companies. Before the inspecting officer arrived the men were exercised in the *feu de joie* for the Queen's Birthday. If paraded in conjunction with Regulars, I'm afraid the 21st Regiment rear rank will not wait for the slow *patter* of last night. The fire was entirely too slow, but the men remained very

steady throughout. After the inspecting officer had expressed his approval of the appearance of the men, the Regiment was put through a series of evolutions by Col. Gilmor and Major Dixon, both in quick and double time in first-class style, although it may appear invidious I must say that the Highland company if anything excelled the others in steadiness. Much inconvenience was felt from the crowded state of the shed which interfered with both the words of command and the evolutions.

On Sunday last Gunner Geo. Whitesides, of Captain Patterson's Field Battery, was buried with Military and Masonic honors. The firing party consisted of thirteen men of the Queen's Own.

The programme for the Queen's Birthday, so far as I am aware, will be as follows: At noon the usual parade of the Militia on the common; at 2 p.m. procession of the aquatic community, and scull race for championship of the Bay; in the evening a monster concert given by the united effort of the 10th Royals and Queen's Own in the Drill Shed; and later in the evening a display of fireworks. Of course, there will be the usual half fares on the railroads, and a steamboat excursion to Niagara.

## To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—I suppose we may take it for granted, that the proposed new Militia Bill, with very few amendments, will become the law of the land during the present session of Parliament. You, of course, know that the Volunteers of the Dominion have been looking forward, for a long time past in hopes the Government would have come to their aid, by offering more inducements to Volunteers, and demanding more from them; but I suppose the finances of the country would not admit of it. The Volunteer force has been gradually diminishing, both in men and material, since the spring of 1866. The yearly pay rolls of this year, will not show, I am satisfied, more than an average of 30 men to a company (if honestly made up), notwithstanding a nominal roll of 55 men. I have seen a parade of two of the crack city battalions in Ontario in two several cities, for yearly pay, and they average only 25 men to a company, and it has been long a well known fact that if more inducements were not offered to Volunteers they would go to the wall. Those inducements have not been offered, consequently I think your readers will agree with me in saying, that the Volunteer Force cannot possibly exist any longer with the exception of in the cities, and even there, I very much doubt their being kept up. Well, what force is to take its place? Why according to the Bill the Regular Militia; (the Regular Militia is to consist of men who voluntarily agree to serve in the same for two years, and of men balloted to serve for the same length of time. I think it is a pity it is not three years, as the Norfolk jackets and suit would last about that time, and men have great objections to wear second-hand uniform.) I have found on conversation with many of the officers and men of the present force, that they would prefer exchanging into the Regular Militia, (sufficient inducements not being offered to keep a Volunteer force full and effective) as they would thereby be insured a full muster at all parades, which men like to see, as well as officers, (it is very disheartening for men and officers, to attend drill, and find 15 or 20 men present out of 55, as has been the case for a long time past with the Volunteers in the country parts; it soon wears out the patience of a few men, who do attend), the greatest objection I have to the Regular Militia is the small number of days allowed for drill—sixteen being the utmost limit; and the estimate for the coming year only eight, but perhaps they may yet be changed, as the Minister of Militia must know, that a rifle, should not be put

in the hands of a recruit during the first eight days—it would have been far more satisfactory to all concerned if it had been twenty days. I believe according to the Minister of Militia's statement before the House there will be about 2000 company divisions; we will suppose they will be of equal size, that would make the quota of each company division to be 20 men to make up the 40,000 active service men. We will then suppose that in the Regular Militia the companies will be made up to 60 or 80 men each, (as the expense for officers would be necessarily smaller than if only 40 or 60 men were to compose a company) it would therefore require the quota of 3 or 4 company divisions to make one company of Active Service Militia, consequently the men will be very much scattered. The next question is where is this Active company to put in its yearly drill? I think it would be very unjust to make these men travel 15 or 16 miles (many of them would undoubtedly require to do so to reach company headquarters. Would it not then be better to call them out in battalions, either at battalion headquarters, or under canvas, where they would learn the real duties of a soldier, (which they would never learn at home) and I am satisfied the Active Militia after one year's trial would look forward with pleasure to their second year under canvas, if called out at the least busy season of the year—and surely it is the duty of the Minister of Militia to make the enforced duty of a militiaman as agreeable as possible with due regard to efficiency. I will now take up the subject of pay of officers, the Bill provides that they shall be paid at the rate of 50 cents a day and no allowances for pay of horses for mounted officers; would it not have been better to have offered them nothing, rather than insult them by offering that amount. The officers of the force, as a rule, are composed of men, who have to earn their own living in some station of life. They are obliged to expend on uniform and equipments from \$60 to \$120—is it not too much to ask them to give their time as well without remuneration; (they will be obliged to give up a good deal of time beside the yearly drill, and contribute to matches, and other &c.s, as well) should a prudent officer join such a force? is he doing justice to his family, if he has one, by so doing, unless he is independent. I think not. I contend that officers have as much right to be reimbursed their necessary expenses, as any other public servants, not excepting our worthy M.P.'s at Ottawa, who, report says, receive their six dollars a day; the honor it appears of serving their country, is not sufficient remuneration, to either Cabinet Ministers or M.P.'s (I suppose their sense of feeling has been too thoroughly blunted for years with filthy lucre to enable them to see it in that light,) but should be to Volunteer officers—they say it is a poor thing that will not work both ways, but it appears it won't in this case. My experience of gratuitous service is this: that it is never done well, and if it is not worth paying for it is not worth having. What control has a commanding officer of a battalion over his subordinates? Why none, if they are not paid surely they cannot be punished for any dereliction of duty. The officers of the Regular Militia in England are paid according to rank during the yearly drill, why not here? Are the officers of the militia in this country better able to give their services gratuitously? I think not. Thinking I have already occupied too much space in your valuable paper, I will conclude.

Yours, &c., OFFICER.