

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW,

SIR:—With a reference to a very pertinent letter, in one of your late issues, under the signature of "ROLLO," I would observe, if it may not aspire to entire originality, it has nevertheless struck the key note of which every volunteer should take up the refrain, until the echoes of its reiteration rouse the authorities to the sense of the actual unsatisfactory, anomalous condition of the country's Volunteer Force.

In hazarding a few remarks upon a subject so exhaustively discussed as that of Militia Officers, I can entertain not the slightest hope of advancing anything new or striking. But as I advocate reiteration it may be permitted me to observe with regard to the exoteric working of our present military system, that all officers who have strained their patriotism, to set Troop or Company in the Field must along with myself, continue to retain a lively sense of the humiliating ordeal to be submitted to as necessary for the carrying out of the annual militia programme.

I feel assured that at this moment the majority of officers have to deplore the attenuation going on in their commands; the plain truth is, that an atrophy of a most virulent type, is fast depleting the volunteer ranks, and if not by some means quickly arrested, volunteer officers must be prepared in future to—with what assumption of dignity they can—parade or lead a skeleton. The anomaly—here I reiterate again,—of one portion of a community being expected to practice a Spartan-like self-abnegation, while the residue are perfectly more than content, to revel in an intense impatriotic selfishness, would inevitably ruin any association however able and energetic its administration.

The defenders and advocates of the present system, have apparently, no hesitation in offering a radical cure for the trifling contratemps to which company officers are subject in the performance of what is, but under a proper military system would not be their duty. "The officer not popular enough to parade a good quota of his command when called upon should resign." This is the panacea for all the ills the present military system is heir to. But however brilliant this new phase in political economy, it is very suggestive of transferring the soldier's allegiance from the state, to the safe keeping of the enviable officer prominent, in the somewhat dubious *savior vice* that lures young heroes to the field. Surely all that is required in a good officer is an anxious care for his men's welfare; a strict impartiality in regimental and company details: a kind affability which avoids the familiarity that breeds contempt; but no over-

stained courtesy should be permitted to stultify the *pleno jure* which he represents. The officer who does less cannot claim to be a good one, and he who concedes more forfeits the social status a commission is held to confer.

We have all the requisite material for the formation of a most efficient military force. A comprehensive Militia Act; a minister of defence (why not of war) fully competent to carry out the clauses of the bill he so happily inaugurated; a gallant approved soldier, as Adjutant General to mould the material placed in his hands into good soldiers, and a host of intelligent, loyal militia officers to lend their aid. Then why delay longer the only alternative compulsory enlistment? And I have no hesitation in believing that any measure founded upon this principle would soon become popular. There exist in communities an innate love of fair play, which go far to reconcile the country to a system that demands the military service due to the state, from rich and poor alike.

Having been a volunteer from the inception of the system, I am naturally anxious to see it prosperous and progressive; but no optimism can ignore facts, and I can only trust a very mediocre prescience that can only anticipate disastrous decay for the Force under its present regime, may prove prophetically false.

I remain, Sir,

Yours &c.,

AN OLD HAND,

New Hamburg, May 13th, 1872.

FROM MONTREAL.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Although nothing positive has been officially stated, it is generally understood that a Camp will be formed this summer somewhat similar to that of last year, with this exception, that Laprairie may not be the encampment ground; this is to be regretted and it is not received with favor. Excepting St. Johns, there is no place better adapted for a camp than Laprairie, and being within easy access of Montreal makes it a very desirable spot. It is said too that the camp is to be formed at the end of June; this is a great mistake, merchants, clerks, and farmers, will be excessively busy about that time and it will be next to impossible to obtain the men. The beginning of August would be far more suitable time.

It is to be hoped that the staff of last year will be re-appointed, they proved a very efficient one at last camp with and the experience they have had will be doubly so this year.

Mr. John Martin has organized and raised another troop in addition to No. 1, this will give us a squadron.

FIRST OR PRINCE OF WALES RIFLES.—The Rifle Association in connection with this regiment held their first prize meeting at the ranges, Point St. Charles, on Saturday, com-

mencing at 2 p. m. A strong wind was blowing, which made good scoring difficult. The first match was for three prizes—\$5, \$3, and \$1; range, 200 and 300 yards, 5 shots at each. The first prize was won by Corporal Hill, 24 points; the second by Sergeant Porteous, 23; and the third by Sergeant Quinn, 22. The second match was a 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots at each. The first prize was taken by Captain Stevenson, 31 points; the second by Sergeant Quinn, 29 points; and the third by Corporal Hill, 29 points. The third match was for those who had never before won a prize, range 200 yards, 7 shots. The first prize, \$4, was won by Drum-Major Bullie; 2nd, \$2, by Corporal Robinson; 3rd, \$1, by Corporal Johnson. Lieut. E. W. Mudgo acted as Executive Officer and Lieut. Col. Bond presented the prizes to the lucky winners.

The crack shots of the Victoria Rifles desiring a trial of skill with the marksmen of the Prince of Wales' Regiment, issued a challenge to that effect which was at once accepted and the match arranged for Saturday next at Point St. Charles. Five men will constitute a team, and the ranges are 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards, the prize being a purse of \$100.

B.

THE ALABAMA MISUNDERSTANDING.

The extent to which business has been injured by the Alabama misunderstanding, will be evident from the subjoined extract from a circular recently issued by the London stock Exchange:—

"Considering the growing magnitude of the operations between the two countries, it may safely be asserted that the interruption to business caused by the Alabama question has been the greatest of all the consequential damages. Whether the Alabama contributed to prolonging the war in the surprising way attributed to her in the American "case," or exercised a more influence or effect in that direction than the Flying Dutchman, as Mr. Moore (himself an American) says she has undoubtedly exercised a most pernicious influence on international operations and on the securities of the United States. A large volume of emigration was setting from the United Kingdom towards the republic, of a class, too strongly influenced by national sentiment. Young gentlemen, with from £1,000 to £2,000, were making up parties for cattle raising in Kansas, wine growing in California, beet sugar manufacturing in Colorado, grazing and agriculture in Virginia, while numberless settlements were in formation along the great trunk railway lines in process of construction. These parties generally are organized during the winter, and proceed early in the spring, so the difficulty arose in time to derange many plans, and to deprive the United States of much capital and many valuable settlers. A glance at the companies lately launched will satisfy all that the attraction of the United States as a field for investment has been steadily on the increase. The sum lately directed to America has been enormous, but the first breath of the coming trouble stopped it instantly, and it will be found much easier to stop it than to renew the desire for American investment. Without grave reason, no statesman should interfere with operations so important and beneficial; but the statesmen of both countries are, in truth, ignorant of what is going on in this way among the people, and at Washington they know nothing of the harm done in this direction.