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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. V.

OTTAWA, CANADA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1871.

No. 52.

THE AUTUMNAL MANŒUVRES OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—NO. IV.

(From the Broad Arrow.)

"The officers' call sounds, and on an open space beside the deadly batteries with their sandbag walls, a throng forms, such as gathered on Bisleigh Common after yesterday's fight, but never before in England. There may be 200 horsemen, some horsewomen, people on foot and in carriages; but it is in the horsemen that the interest centres. First, not in rank in the field, but in the notice of all, is the Prince of Wales, in the dress of his regiment, sitting on his horse as an English gentleman should, his healthy handsome face a little tinged by the sun of the autumn summer. There is the Duke of Cambridge, a practised hardworking soldier, ready to serve his country as she would fain be served. There is the plain uniform, and the lined face, and grey eyes looking out so keenly from under the helmet of Blumenthal—one of the right hands, for it had many, of that army which had altered the map of Europe for many a day. Other uniforms are to be seen gay and curious. The fez of the Turk, the kepi of the sabreur of a soldierly face bronzed and worn by years of Algerian sands and sun, and many another strange pattern of martial head and body dress. There is more than one statesman, many nobles, and the throng is not without men foremost in letters and law, men who may be buried in Westminster Abbey and called great. These are the walking bees. Drones there are, enough and to spare; but take it from its best to its worst, and in no hall of Parliament or saloon of the season shall you find a throng so various, remarkable for so many different reasons, so well worth watching for the ten minutes it holds together while the Duke is speaking to his officers, as that which a military spectacle like to-day assembled.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH.

As the troops in the field rest to-day the business of the hour is criticism. The question of the possibility of having taken the position occupied by Sir Hope Grant yesterday excites much discussion amongst those officers who are following the movements with the view of obtaining experience and tactical knowledge. The position occupied by Grant yesterday, behind his entrenchments, was shaped like a wide-mouthed letter V, one side looking almost directly west, and the other south-east, forming together a triangle, with the Wokingham Railway for its base. The redoubts at Steeple, or Steeple's Hill, as it is indifferently called

by the people of the neighborhood, is the apex of the triangle. At this point, the apex, the ground runs out for some 300 yards, and then dips deep and short, rising within another 100 yards to a mound on a level with the plateau of Steeple's Hill. The map shows this but imperfectly; but this morning I rode over the ground to ascertain the actual features of the position. That Sir Hope Grant could not be driven back, or rather attacked with success at any other point, seems certain, and therefore all the interest attaches itself to this one spot. On referring to the map it will be seen that there is a hill with sufficient plateau facing the western side of the "V," called Fox Hill and that in a southerly direction, a little to the right there is a hill called Burrows' Hill, the former distant from Steeple's Hill half the latter three quarters of a mile. Drawing two lines from these points to the profile of Sir Hope Grant's redoubts at the apex of this angle, it will be seen that it was open to a cross fire, which might be made too strong for the slender works to sustain without giving way for any length of time.

On the other hand, it will be seen that each of these positions, at Fox Hill and Burrows' Hill, was equally open to the concentrated fire of Grant's three redoubts on either side—a fire which, would, probably, succeed in dislodging the enemy's batteries, before the profile had been broken these batteries would have been overpowered. On the west side the enemy's guns might have been multiplied by opening fresh ones on Long Down; on the other side the conformation of the ground forbade this. It will be seen then, that as yet the position is no weaker than is necessary to silence the enemy, who would, unless time were given to throw up epaulements and shelter trenches, be always more exposed. Then comes the second argument, that by a rush of infantry, supported by heavy artillery fire, the assault on the apex, Steeple's Hill, might be successful, though with enormous bloodshed. This is a more difficult argument to meet. The closer the enemy got to the guns of the redoubt the less deadly would be the effect. On the long sweep of the plain the balls brushed the surface, but here they would be fired, so to speak, point-blank at the earth. But there were two batteries that did sweep with their deadly cross fire the whole surface of this plateau. One from Lodge Bush, and the other, the one at the western foot of the knoll at Steeple's Hill. The fire from these batteries could mow down the heather itself, and leave the place bare. Add to this the three lines of infantry in the shelter trenches one above the other, and it is difficult to understand how

humanity in any shape or form could be called upon to face such a volcano. We know well that places as difficult have been taken by rush after rush of doomed men, whose mangled bodies formed the cover under which their brothers advanced; but these cases are so rare that they are exceptions not to be expected. Taking, therefore, the range of the guns, to be equal and the time short, it seems more than difficult to discover any chance of this position being overpowered. Many blamed the Duke for sounding the "cease firing" while Staveley was knocking his head against Steeple's Hill, and they maintain still that if the action had endured the place would have been theirs. There is something far greater than physical loss sustained in these hotly-contested fights, and that is the moral effect. Take by way of illustration, the number killed in well fought battles—the average number of killed and wounded is fourteen per cent. At Hericourt and around Metz this percentage will be found to include the whole number killed and wounded at the end of each day's combat. True some regiments suffer more and amount to even thirty per cent.; but, after this, the moral effect is so great that troops will not advance. Now it seems quite clear, that this percentage would have been too small for the losses sustained by a force winning the position at Steeple's Hill, and it would seem therefore, to be not too presumptuous in maintaining that it was impregnable; many thought that the weapon most to be desired here was a mitrailleuse, not one on the French system, but that now being experiment upon in Russia, one from which the balls radiate while maintaining the same level.

The following General Orders were issued from headquarters to-day:—

NO. 1. ARMY CORPS.

"The 2nd Division will for the operations of to-morrow be broken up and divided between the other divisions, which will be constituted as follows:—

"1st DIVISION—DEFENDING FORCE.—Major General G. J. Carey, C. B., Commanding Cavalry—General His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K. G., commanding; Colonel Baker, 10th Hussars, 1st Brigade, Colonel Marshall commanding—1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards: 2nd Brigade, Colonel Wombwell, commanding—10th Hussars, 12th Lancers, Hants Yeomanry, and two batteries of Royal Horse Artillery. Infantry—Major-General His Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxo-Weimar's Brigade, with one Field Battery; Major-General Lyson's Brigade with one

Field Battery, and two Field Batteries from the Reserve Artillery. The whole of this force to wear green leaves or leather in their head dress.

3rd Division—THE ENEMY.—Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K. C. B., commanding Cavalry—Major-General Sir T. McMahon, C. B., commanding 1st Brigade, Colonel Seymour, commanding 2nd Dragoon Guards, 3rd Dragoon Guards, 7th Dragoon Guards; 2nd Brigade, Colonel the Hon. I. Fiennes, commanding—7th Hussars, 9th Lancers, and one Battery of Royal Horse Artillery Infantry—Major Braunrigg's Brigade, with one Field Battery; Colonel Stephenson's Brigade, with one Field Battery; Colonel Smith's Brigade, with one Field Battery, and one Battery of Horse Artillery, and two Field Batteries from the Reserve Artillery.

These arrangements will be carried out on Thursday morning, the troops moving at such hours as the general officers commanding the divisions which they are to join may direct.

The baggage will return direct to Aldershot to-morrow morning—From Chobham, by Pirbright; from Bisley, by Brookwood; from Southhurst by Frimley.

By Command,

C. R. EBERTON.

Major General, Deputy-Adjutant General.

Also the following continuation of "General Sketch of Manœuvres"—

Thursday, 21st.—The defending force (1st Division) having yesterday maintained its position, has been reinforced and will to-day advance.

The enemy (3rd Division) will endeavour to check the advance and cover Aldershot.

There will be no limits to the area of the operations except those laid down by the "Military Manœuvres Act," and such lands as have been interdicted by the Commissioners.

Each corps will move at such hour as will bring it into the position selected by the general officer commanding, from which to commence his operations by nine a. m.

The baggage of both forces is to be considered neutral to-morrow.

By Command—

C. R. EBERTON.

Major General, Deputy-Adjutant General.

BRITISH ROYALTY VS. BRITISH REPUBLICANISM.

If, as Mr. Gladstone asserts, the British working man has a deep seated respect for the aristocracy, it seems tolerably clear that his reverence for the Throne is considerably on the wane. When an ambitious politician wants to ingratiate himself with the English masses, the easiest method he can select to win applause is to proceed to inveigh against the expensive and ornamental appendages of the Monarchy. Perfect candor and fairness would be rather fatal than otherwise to his complete success. He has simply to make a little capital out of the medieval ornaments which still cling to an ancient institution, a few inuendoes about the relaxed habits of the present occupant of the throne may be added, and a general suggestion of how many poor families could be kept in comfort on the allowance of a single prince, will make his triumph over the sympathies of his audience complete. As for any frank exposition of how far Parliament and the nation are responsible for the anomalies of the Royal Household, and how comparatively little the Reigning Family have to do with them, that is not to be ex-

pected from the new type of British trading politician. Still less can we look in this connection, for a comparison of the expenses of British royalty with that in any other country, and any statement of the advantages of the institution in point of avoiding chronic political excitement and a general surrender of the good of the country to the temptations of high office is altogether out of the question.

The latest aspirant for political fame who has been distinguishing himself in this direction is Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke M. P. This gentleman, who though too young for a statesman, seems to consider himself old enough to reconstruct the British Empire, is chiefly known for having made the tour of the world in an incredibly short space of time and for having summed up the results of his scamper of observation in a book entitled "Greater Britain." In a lecture at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Monday, Nov. 6th, Sir Charles favored an audience, chiefly composed of working men, of his views upon the excessive cost and general want of utility of the British Court. He makes out the annual amount of the Civil List, i. e., the Royal allowances, with sundry fanciful additions, to be £707,000—rather less, it will be observed, than Tweed and his confederates stole in the course of half an hour's session. Thereupon follow some strictures, in the main well deserved, upon the very useless character of the cavalry regiments known as Life Guards and Horse Guards, and an enumeration not particularly appropriate in such a discussion, of the officers—ordinary and extraordinary—of the Royal Household. After a good deal more to the same purpose, the speaker is reported as having said, "I confess freely, that I doubt whether, if the charges to which I have to-night alluded are well founded, the monarchy should not set its house in order.

Nobody will dispute Sir Charles Dilke's perfect liberty to make any comparison he may think proper between the respective advantages of a Republic and a limited Monarchy. In a free State the question of what is a form of government is one eminently proper to be made at all times, except perhaps in times of great public danger. But in discussing changes so grave, it is incumbent on any man who has the slightest concern for his own reputation, to see that he should "naught extenuate or set down aught in malice." As a member of the British Parliament, Sir Charles Dilke could hardly be ignorant of the fact that the present Civil list of the British Royal Family is the result of a bargain between the Crown and the people which ought to be equally binding upon both. Queen Victoria and her family are not, in the current phrase of demagogues, "Royal beggars." They possess certain estates by a title rather clearer than that by which most of the land in the United Kingdom is held. At the beginning of the present reign, the representatives of the nation in Parliament undertook to manage these estates on behalf of the Queen and to give her a certain sum in exchange for their annual rental, in addition to other sums necessary to sustain the dignity of her position. Within thirty years, the revenues of the Royal manors have increased immensely. So also from the birth of princes and princesses, has the national expenditure upon the Royal Family. But even now after matrimonial and other grants have rather wearied public patience and greatly exasperated the imperfectly informed British masses, it is conceded by all impartial inquirers into the matter, that the difference between the revenues of which the Royal Family cannot be deprived without confisca-

tion and those which they hold by parliamentary grant is not great enough to make the British Court anything but the cheapest in Europe.

A man who systematically evades the recognition of facts like these in passing judgment upon the Royal Family of Great Britain is guilty of unfairness which would be contemptible in dealing with a private adversary. Considering that the only object to be gained is a little cheap popularity, Sir Charles W. Dilke, M. P. must be set down in the front rank of unscrupulous demagogues. The thoughtful friends of Republicanism in England perceive pretty clearly that such a line of attack, however popular with the masses, is entirely unworthy of so momentous a controversy. British fair play has not become so much of an exploded fallacy, that any cause can be furthered by such overstatements as that of which Sir Charles Dilke's speech affords the latest example.

Later Cable advices give details of renewed personal attacks upon Queen Victoria in England. A temperance orator called Gible has publicly accused her of habits of intoxication and Sir Charles Dilke has repeated at Bristol his tirades which so tickled the democracy of Newcastle, Gribble will, it is said receive a somewhat needless notoriety by being prosecuted by the local authorities of Brixton, a London district where his speech was delivered. The speech of the Republican M. P., was greeted at Bristol by a good deal of uproar and fighting, a band in attendance was prevented from playing the National Anthem. All this may be a little exciting, but it represents a very contemptible style of warfare. If the British Monarchy is to be overthrown at all surely noble means will be found to effect such a purpose. If not, then so much the worse for the form of government which is to succeed it.—*Acadian Recorder.*

THE GREAT MISSION OF WOMEN.

Great indeed is the task assigned to woman! Who can elevate its dignity? Not to make laws, not to lead armies, not to govern empires; but to form those by whom laws are made, armies are led, and empires governed; to guard against the slightest taint of bodily infirmity, the frail, yet spotless creature, whose moral, no less than physical being, must be derived from her; to inspire those principles, to inculcate, those doctrines, to animate those sentiments, which generations yet unborn and nations yet uncivilized will learn to bless; to soften firmness into mercy, and chasten honor into refinement, to exalt generosity into virtue, with a soothing care; to allay the anguish of the mid; by her tenderness to disarm passion by her purity in triumph over sense; to cheer the scholar sinking under his toil; to console the statesman for the ingratitude of a mistaken people; to be compensation for friends that are perfidious—for happiness that has passed away. Such is her vocation. The couch of the tortured sufferer, the prison of the deserted friend, the cross of the rejected Saviour—these are theaters on which her greatest triumphs have been achieved. Such is her destiny; to visit the forsaken, to tend to the neglected when monarchs abandon, when counsellors betray, when justice prosecutes, when brethren and disciples flee, to remain unshaken and unchanged, and to exhibit to this lower world a type of that love, constant, pure, and ineffable which in another we are taught to believe the test of virtue.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

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The Volunteer Review, AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1871.

In another column will be found a letter which appeared in the *Broad Arrow* of 2nd inst., and which is copied because it affords a fair exemplification of the knowledge of Canadian affairs possessed as a general rule by barrack yard officers of the Imperial army who have been "through an experience of thirteen years public life in Canada with ample opportunity for forming an opinion;" the writer's estimation of Mr. Gladstone's honor and honesty is not of a high order, and from that view of the character of the accidental leader of the English people very few people in British North America will dissent. That the withdrawal of the troops was a political blunder and, therefore, a crime of the first magnitude, is beyond the shadow of a doubt, and the reason given by the Foreign Secretary "that the retention of a garrison in Canada was a source of irritation to the Government of the United States" was as true as it was shameful to the manhood of the British people. But we utterly repudiate the consequences which the *Broad Arrow* correspondent alleges to have followed. We have not lost a farthing or a farthing's worth in financial or commercial matters, nor has one immigrant the less sought our shores because some five or six thousand British troops were withdrawn by Whig treachery to swell the proper population at home; on the contrary, at no period of its history has the commercial and financial condition of British America been in so prosperous a state, and as far as regards security we have 45,000 soldiers as well prepared to defend this country and far more effective for that purpose than any troops Great Britain could send us, and the United States repressed the last attempt at Fenian invasion, not because she was afraid of Great Britain, but because the Canadian people gave her to understand very distinctly on the conclusion of the raid in 1870 that in future they would pursue those ruffians if it were to New York, and if the Yankees could not control their vagabonds the people of British North America would not be restrained from doing so by a boundary line. What the *Broad Arrow's* correspondent calls "the force of a


Canadian Militia minus 'regulars,' is in reality a better organized and more easily concentrated force than any Great Britain possesses; it is not as *au fait* at barrack-yard manoeuvres, but it has just as much discipline as the country in which it is to operate requires, and we would call his attention to the fact that the actual fighting for defending this country was done by its Militia, neither as well drilled or organized as the present force, and in every case of disaster it was sure to be brought about by the ignorance or incapacity of a regular officer.

If this *Public Servant* "at home," whom we presume he has ample leisure, will turn over Christie's History of the War of 1812-15, he will find some strange revelations about the means by which British North America was preserved to the Empire, and learn therefrom not to underrate a military force because every man therein has not spent half a life time learning the goose step or at setting-up drill. We wished to have the "regulars" amongst us because they were the visible exponents of British sovereignty and a practical illustration of the fact that Canada was a British Province. The shameful deed of lowering "the flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," has fallen to British hands, no Canadian would participate therein, they kept it flying at Quebec when Yankee rebels aided by British Whig traitors, tried by force and fraud to humiliate it, and they will still keep it there despite both. The United States know that the "happiest results" they can expect from us will be what they have frequently had before—a good licking—if they dare to meddle in any of our affairs and we care as little about them as we do about their allies the English Whig Radicals. For the rest we can assure the correspondent of the *Broad Arrow* that we are perfectly well able to take care of ourselves, we will give the Yankees all they can take which is precious little; our people will hold on to Old England till Gladstone and Co. elevates Dilke, Odger or Bradlaugh to be President or Lord Protector of the Commonwealth, with Cardwell for Commander-in-Chief, and then we will try whether among the descendants of the good Queen Victoria we cannot find one to whom we can offer the diadem of the Empire of Nova Britannica.

THE *St John Globe* of the 9th December, has a long article on the late 62nd Battalion which we think to be in very bad taste, inasmuch as it contains a direct attack on the Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian army, with the view of excusing a breach of military discipline on the part of one at least of the officers of that Battalion. It is very unfortunate that any portion of the press of British North America should endeavour to drag military affairs into the political arena, and to allow their columns to be used for private and selfish purposes. No officer has

a right to appeal to the people till he has tried every legitimate means of redress from the proper authorities; in this case no excuse could exist for positive disobedience of orders, neither ignorance nor inadvertence will avail because it was extensively published and well known for months previous that the 62nd would be required to put in their annual period of training in camp. The fault that the regiment disobeyed orders rests entirely with its field officers, and it would be a waste of time as well as nonsensical to grant a Court of Inquiry to prove what was a self-evident fact, that they had been guilty of a gross breach of discipline. Field officers should remember that their promotion does not release them from the responsibility of keeping up the strength of their commands but rather adds thereto. In what manner the Staff of the Battalion would attempt to clear themselves or make this matter appear in a different light before a Court of Inquiry, we are at a loss to imagine; there is only one way of punishing disobedience of orders, and that alone was resorted to, and if the *Globe* is anxious to know from whom the Adjutant-General made enquiry it was, as a matter of course, from the Deputy Adjutant-General and Brigade Major of the District; the officers guilty of the breach of discipline were no proper parties to consult in the case, they were in the position of men condemned for the greatest of military crimes and their evidence in their own case did not avail. We are sorry to see a journal of the character of the *Globe* indulge in such nonsense as insinuating that a military force could be kept together by unpaid officers; why the very case before the country shows that even with a reasonable allowance made to officers on duty, men will be found who will not comply with the lawful commands of their superiors, and if thoroughly independent, if their service was that of holiday soldiers, of what use would they be to the country? The interest of that country demands that an efficient military force should be maintained for the protection of its people and their commerce, that such force should be drawn from the mass of the people without interfering in any appreciable degree with their industrial pursuits and as a necessary corollary that it should be under complete military discipline, allowing of no appeal to irresponsible tribunals nor in no way under the control of any political party. We need hardly point out to the *Globe* what a dangerous engine of oppression an armed force in the hands of unscrupulous partisans would be, nor how very dangerous it is to meddle with discipline or military jurisdiction; no man can be aggrieved in our military organization because he can leave the force at any time, the service being purely voluntary, and, therefore, the greater necessity is laid on the press of the country to evince its patriotism by strengthening the bonds of discipline instead of abetting those who have set it at defiance. Every man in

Canada is by law a soldier, and the positive duty of the press consists in teaching as well as enforcing due respect for discipline and authority.

Our last issue contained an article on field fortification as applied to intrenchments for covering infantry, in order to render it available for its second condition, that of "creating an obstacle to an enemy's progress;" the system must be combined with artillery and as the effective use of small arms forbid salient angles, batteries of position should be established in such a manner in front or rear of the entrenchment as will permit their fire to enfilade and sweep all the approaches thereto. It would appear, therefore, that such batteries should be established on a higher elevation if in the rear and a lesser if in front of the intrenchment, so as to offer no impediment to the fire therefrom. As it is necessary to have guns and gunners under cover the general design for such works should be of the simplest and as the conditions of the system require that the fires should be both divergent and convergent, the existing modes of fortification, involving salient and re-entrant angles, is obviously inapplicable, and one of segmental bastions must be substituted, because it will not only be easier of construction but dead angles are avoided and enfilading preserved. To secure the full value of redoubt of elaborate design it will be only necessary to construct a certain number of segmental fleches alternately advanced and retired, thus  mounting the same number of guns as the more elaborate redoubt, and all the advantages claimed can be attained with the flank fire of the angular system preserved without its disadvantages; in addition, if placed in advance of the line those defences serve to cover and mask the movements of the troops in the trenches and will offer no impediment to their advance to take advantage of the moment when their fire has shaken the enemy's columns, while they would effectually cover a retrograde movement and afford shelter for rallying from an unsuccessful attack. If Captain Moncrief's invention can be applied to field artillery the strength of the parapet need not be weakened by embrasures, as the recoil of the gun brings it under the level thereof till it is loaded and ready to fire. Within the limits of an article of this description it would not be possible to discuss the value of the simple system proposed. Its great recommendation in this country will be the ease and rapidity with which it can be constructed. Allowing that each *Fleche* should mount three guns and a space of twenty-one feet between each, we have thus a frontage of eight, four feet which will provide ample shelter, and as the parapet should be at least six feet six inches above the platform (it may be two feet lower if the Moncrief carriage is used) and the distance between the exterior and interior crest thirteen feet, each foot in length would be equal to six cubic

yards, so that the labour of eighty-four men in five hours would construct the main body of the work; the excavation would leave a ditch in front about ten feet wide at the bottom, eighteen feet at the top and six feet six inches deep, which should be swept by the flanking *Fleches* on the right and left; an ordinary plank platform laid on rough sleepers or sills, firmly bedded in the soil would be easily constructed and all the conditions of an efficient field work complied with. If necessary traverses for magazines and closing the works in the rear could be easily built as in nearly every case timber is at hand and with active as well as intelligent men a formidable system of defence could be improvised in a few hours. The principle rule to be observed is that the position of the batteries dominates the area within the range of the guns and commands all the approaches. A series of intrenchments such as we have described are of the simplest character, but circumstances may arise which would add considerably to their complexity; it might, for instance, not only be desirable but absolutely necessary to intrench the face of the slope in front of the guns for infantry, this would involve a repetition of the shelter trench with a difference that its parapet should be nearly as heavy as that of the *Fleche*, or that the trench should be of sufficient depth to protect the occupants altogether, in which case the spoil or earth should be wasted down the slope. If cavalry are employed they should be well in the rear of the infantry in trenches completely out of sight, covered either by undulations of the ground or by patches of timber, or any other cover. Before laying down more fully the principles which should govern field fortifications in Canada it will be necessary to consider the conditions under which the Canadian army would be called on to act.

Warfare in this country means simply defence, and the first element therein is a thorough knowledge of the topography and the facilities it affords therefor. Premising that outlets to the seaboard are kept open we can only be assailed over the Eastern frontier at the famous Eccles Hill, through the valley of Lake Champlain, and on the Western and North Western frontiers, all involving a considerable degree of preparation and consequently giving sufficient warning. The mode of defence on the Eastern frontier has been settled by the Eccles Hill affair; the natural strength of the country needs little artificial aid but towards Huntingdon and the Eastern shores of Lake Champlain that advantage disappears and artificial means must be resorted to. Isle aux Noix in the Richelieu and St. John are fortified on the old system, they are respectable points of support for a base of operations but would offer small obstacles to a well equipped invader; throughout the whole front of the "old gate of Canada," the duty of covering Montreal must be performed by a system of intrenchments such as pointed

out. If advantage would be taken of the line of the proposed Caughnawaga Canal during its construction a series of very respectable permanent works could be constructed of its spoil on the north bank to which the Canal itself would afford a formidable wet ditch. The Western and North Western frontiers oppose great obstacles to an invader; in any case every march carries him further from his supplies with an impassable river in rear, a hostile population in front and great natural obstacles to overcome, to which the proposed system of field fortifications would add materially and by keeping the enemy in check hasten his destruction. But now comes the question as to whether accurate information of the best positions for effectual defence is possessed by the Canadian military authorities, and we fear it must be answered in the negative; an Engineering Staff to every Military District is absolutely necessary, and that Staff should by no means be allowed to enjoy their honors in idleness.

An invasion of Canada to be successful must be made simultaneously on four lines, if any one fails it ensures the destruction of the rest, while the success of one by no means decides the contest. In such case each Military District, acting wholly on the defensive, should hold its opponents in check till aided, and in order to be able to do so the position best adapted for covering its vital strategical point should be known and decided on long before its occupation would become a necessity, and a topographical knowledge of each District is the first requisite in that important decision.

The hearts of the people of Canada have been stirred to their inmost depths by the dangerous illness of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the heir of the glorious British Empire, the son of their best beloved sovereign, popular feeling in British North America has been moved in no ordinary degree and no event in our history has created such excitement or been watched with such feverish anxiety. It has been repeatedly stated by those sentimental and liberal revolutionists of the British press that he was unpopular, that his life was stained with moral delinquencies which would define his character as a compound between that of Caracalla and George the Fourth, that he was in the cant of the pharmaceutical hypocrites of the "day a bad young man and that his conduct had sapped the foundations of monarchy in England. We wonder if in the practice and growing irreverence for all things; the sceptical sneer of the learned and the cynical sneer of the cowardly traitor that the new fangled philosophy of the day has developed in Great Britain, to the extinction of honor and manhood, amongst a large majority of its newspaper writers, and to some extent public men, whether that old commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," has ever found an answering echo in the con-

sience of those panderers to the worst passions of their dupes. That the defamers of His Royal Highness have lied for the worst and vilest of purposes is beyond a doubt, and the great heart of the English people is stirred to avenge him so that this fearful dispensation will have at least a compensating benefit in awaking the attention of the people to the designs of those traitors who would violate every precept of divine and human law in pursuit of their selfish ends. The good son of a good mother, on his bed of sickness and maybe of death the English people feel and appreciate his virtues and will take signal vengeance on those who dare to slander him, while their earnest prayers are directed for his recovery in which they are joined by all his sorrowing people.

The greatest misfortune which could befall any country would be the unrestricted licentiousness of the Press, which must arise in all cases from its blind devotion to party and personal interests, to the utter ruin of all patriotic feeling. We are happy to say that in Canada at least all the representative organs of all classes have preserved a high tone of patriotism and shown a commendable desire to sink class and party interests in favor of any questions affecting the general interests of the Dominion. It is almost too much to expect that humanity will at once rise to the grandeur of considering political questions apart from personal predilections and feelings, but there are institutions belonging to the state which should never be affected by the actions of its political factions. The first and chief of those is the army; the interests of society demands that it should be outside local, political influence and on no account dragged into or made a tool of party strife. The people of Canada must learn especially to discriminate between their duty as soldiers and citizens, as they must fill both positions alternately, and must be trained to forget the privileges of the latter in discharging the stern duties of the former. In order to prepare our people for those double functions the aid of an enlightened press is necessary, and although occasionally attempts have been made to create a little party feeling at the expense of discipline, on the whole the duty has been fairly and honorably performed.

Amongst the few who have allowed their party prejudices to overcloud their judgment we are sorry to see that very able journal the *Acadian Recorder*; in its issue of the 15th inst., it has an article devoted to prove that the prizes awarded at the annual target practice of the Canadian army was rather to be ascribed to favoritism or the blunders of the Militia Department than to actual merit, and it adduces as proof that "the Battalion Prize for the 20th Regiment is given to Private Dodds on a score of 42, while Private Hyde of the same corps made a score of 51 points, and the District Prize for No. 9 Military District, has been awarded to Pfc. W. Colburn, of No. 3 (River Philip) Com-

pany, Provincial Battalion, for a score of 49; while Sergt. Connors, 63rd Battalion, scored 51, and Corp. Stenhouse of the same corps, 50 points, thus placing Colburn not first but third upon the list."

We are not at all concerned in the remarks made by the *Recorder* or the reasons given for the course alleged to be pursued, but can simply tell that journal that it has either been labouring under a misapprehension or has falsified the record for the most contemptible of purposes. The General Orders of 30th Nov., shows that Private W. Dodds of 2nd Company, 20th Battalion, won the Battalion Prize by a score of 42 and the Company Prize by the same score. That Private Hyde of No. 6 Company, same Battalion, won the Company Prize by a score of 51, and that the company competition for the Company Prize is different from the battalion competition for the larger prize. That Private W. Colburn, of Port Philip, won the prize of his company at company competition, and that of Military District No. 9 at the competition therefor, and that Sergt. Connors, of the 63rd Battalion, won the prize of that Battalion at the competition and Corporal Stenhouse of No. 1 Company, won the Company Prize at the competition therefor. There can be no excuse for a journal of the standing and ability of the *Recorder* misrepresenting so simple a matter; the desire to injure a political opponent is no reason at all to urge in favor of a course calculated to excite discontent amongst the soldiery of the Dominion or for falsifying plain records. The Company, Battalion and District competitions are each separate and distinct, there has been no blundering at Ottawa and no interference with the military administration of the Dominion, but the *Recorder's* article is calculated to deceive men who have not access to the *Gazette* and is, therefore, mischievous. We trust in future our able contemporary will appreciate the old motto "Ne sutor ultra Crepidem," and refrain from misrepresenting what he does not understand.

SOME of our correspondents, animated no doubt with the very amiable motive of advocating the right to consideration of the officers and men of the Volunteer force composing the first expedition to Fort Garry, took exception to the praise bestowed on the successful issue of the second, and endeavoured to prove that it was a mere pleasure expedition compared with the first. Without in the slightest degree detracting from the well earned reputation for courage, ability and endurance of the officers and men of the first expedition, we are satisfied that the last was by far the most trying and desperate, and are able to give our readers, in support of that view, a synopsis of a diary by Mr. W. H. Anmond, Supply officer to the last expedition, from the *Manitoba* of the 2nd inst. Mr. Anmond accompanied the first expedition, and he says "it was a mere pleasure excursion compared to the last.

We will take up the diary at Thunder Bay. On the 25th Oct. Capt. Fletcher and 100 men marched in a heavy snow storm for Shebandowan, Major Scott and the remainder of the expedition left on the 26th, severe snow and sleet the whole way. On 27th Captain Fletcher's command crossed Shebandowan and camped on Kashabowie Portage. 28th, Major Scott's party embarked at 4 p.m., and reached the Portage at 8 p.m. The tug boats on Kashabowie and Lac des Mille Lac were rendered useless by bursting their steampipes, the snow was over a foot deep, bitterly cold, and the boats had to be portaged and rowed to Height of Land on the 29th through a heavy snow storm; boats portaged here over a mile. Crossed Lac des Mille Lac on the 30th boats had to be forced through half a mile of ice nearly an inch thick before Bird Portage was reached; weather bitterly cold and camped for the night on Bird Portage. From this day the sun was not visible for a week. On 31st crossed Lake Baril, passed Baril Portage, Little Cedar Rapids and camped at French Portage, the men during the greater part of the day working in ice water, shoving boats over sand bars. On the 1st Nov., after a most fatiguing day working down French Creek, across Keogosegoek Lake and the Pine Portage, the expedition camped on Deux Rivier Portage, the whole day was spent under a heavy snow storm. On the 2nd they had to break the ice on the Creek and after lightening the boats they were run over the Maligne Rapids, the expedition camped at the second rapid on that river. On the 3rd the troops encamped at First Loon Portage, and it is remarked that they had a good night's rest, a rather unusual occurrence on this expedition. On the 4th the boats were repaired and the men were obliged to work in ice and water all day on Loon River as it was frozen and shallow, and it occupied nearly all next day to get them through. On Sunday, 5th, Nemaquan Lake was crossed and Kettle Falls Portage reached; this is a new route by which Deer and Bear Portages are avoided. The 6th was lost waiting for the rear division to come up, and on the 7th the boats left in tow of a tug, crossed Rainy Lake against a head wind, reached Rainy River after dusk, ran two rapids safely and camped at Fort Francis at half past eight o'clock. On the 8th the Rainy Lake Tug having been portaged into Rainy River, there were three tugs to assist the expedition from Fort Francis to the north west angle of the Lake of the Woods—left the fort at noon and camped at Manitoa Rapids. On the 9th got to Hungry Hall, at the mouth of Rainy River, but could not venture on the Lake of the Woods owing to a severe gale. At one o'clock, a.m., on the 10th, embarked to cross the Lake, the tugs and boats were in line fastened to each other with tow ropes; there were three tugs and eleven boats. At three o'clock, a.m., the expedition was obliged to put into the Sandy Islands where it remained till five o'clock, p.m., when, once

more tempting the dangerous lake and after a very ugly time crossing the Grand Traverse where one of the tugs unshipped her rudder and the whole were in very great danger, labouring in the trough of a heavy sea which turned to ice on boats and clothes of the men, they were at last enabled to make Rocky Island where they were obliged to encamp. On the 11th the expedition embarked and sailed across the Traverse with a fair wind till within twelve miles of the North West Angle when it was stopped by ice. Sailed about three miles on the 12th until stopped by ice, landed and made preparations for marching to the North West Angle. On the 13th the march across the ice commenced and the North West Angle was reached that evening. A heavy snow storm prevailed all day.

As is well known the Expedition reached Fort Garry on the 18th and concluded a most remarkable voyage and march successfully without detracting in the slightest degree from the well earned honors of the first Expedition or underrating the hardships willingly endured, it is evident it was a mere picnic party compared to the last. One day's work in the ice was worse than ten days' labor in fine summer weather, and we are happy in being able to congratulate Major Scott and the officers and men under his command on the very successful manner in which they surmounted the difficulties encountered in one of the most remarkable Expeditions on record.

The officers of the Canadian army are, as a general rule, a well trained body of soldiers—well acquainted with the peculiarities of climate and country, and with all the knowledge necessary to make their services in actual warfare valuable—hitherto owing to very commendable precautions the highest positions in the district staffs have been filled by officers from the British army—but it appears that the time has arrived when that system should cease if we are to have an efficient staff of native officers, or if the highest offices in our army are to be the prizes for which these officers on whom the onerous duty of supporting a contingent for the services of the country devolves, contend. Our military force is recruited by voluntary service, the officers of a company must possess the confidence and respect of the men, and if they are to retain their commissions, keep their quotas continually recruited to full strength; moreover they are personally responsible for the arms, clothing and stores, and, theoretically at least, are bound to make good all deficiencies—this with other contingencies will make the cost of a company from \$200 to \$600 per annum. It is perfectly reasonable that the officer who, in addition to all this responsibility and outlay, must qualify at a military school, for his rank should look to the higher positions on the staff as the reward of his exertions, and ultimately as vacancies occur they should be filled without exception by Canadian

officers entitled to succeed by merit and seniority.

The singular ability and skill displayed in the administration of our military affairs warrants the conclusion that in future every effort will be directed to promote meritorious officers whose claims are that they have answered the call of their country and borne the burthen and heat of the day in her defence. The general expectation of the officers of the force and of the people points decidedly in the direction indicated, and it is in accordance with the dictates of sound policy. The utter disorganization of the British regular forces might induce officers to seek service in the Canadian army and thus block promotion to our own soldiers, but it would be an unwise measure as well as unjust when the service the Canadian officer has rendered the country is taken into consideration.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis, third surviving son of the Emperor of all the Russias, arrived in this city on the evening of the 18th inst. (Monday) on a visit to His Excellency the Governor General, he was accompanied by the Russian Ambassador to the United States, Barn Catacazy, Vice Admiral Possiet, Counsellor of state Machun and other members of his suite. On Tuesday the Mayor of Ottawa and corporation presented an address in the Senate Chamber, the Grand Duke arrived at the Parliament Buildings at three o'clock accompanied by Lord Lisgar his suite occupying another sleigh, and were received at the grand entrance by Lieut. Col. Maciel, V. C., A. D. C., the Hon. Lieut. Ponsonby, A. D. C., Lieut.-Col. Barnard, A. D. C., and Capt. G. H. Perry. Rene Kimber, Esq., usher of the Black Rod in full court costume, acting as Master of the Ceremonies. A guard of honor of the Ottawa Brigade of Garrison Artillery under the command of Major Ross and Capt. DeBoucherville, were drawn up partly outside and partly inside the Hall, the fine band of the Brigade playing the Russian National anthem. The distinguished party passed to the Vice-Regal apartments and after a few minutes during which the Hon. S. L. Tilley, Hon. Jos. Howe, Hon. Peter Mitchell and Hon. Mr. Aiken were presented to the Grand Duke, the distinguished party were ushered into the Senate Chamber which was filled with the fair ladies of our aristocratic circles, while the galleries were densely crowded. Mr. Kimber introduced the Mayor and following members of the corporation Alderman Cunningham, Bangs, Martineau, Henry, O'Connor, Lapiere and Rowe, His worship read the following address.

To His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, &c., &c., &c.

May it please your Imperial Highness: In the name of the citizens of Ottawa, we give you a cordial welcome to the capital of our young Dominion.

We welcome you as an illustrious repre-

sentative of one of the mightiest nations of the Old World.

We welcome you as a worthy scion of the Imperial House whose beneficent and enlightened rule has done so much to promote the well being and happiness of their subjects; and we welcome you as a distinguished member of a noble profession, which we as Englishmen, are wont to hold in peculiar honor.

It is to us a source of gratification that notwithstanding the shortness of your sojourn in America, you have found time to make at least a hurried visit to that portion of the continent, whose people, as happy subjects of England's Queen, claim connection with the ancient monarchies of Europe.

We sincerely hope that your visit to Canada may prove as agreeable to you as it is gratifying to us, and that you may carry back with you to your home in the northern capital of the Old World nothing but pleasant memories of your too brief stay in this northern capital of the new.

Signed on behalf of the corporation:

JOHN ROBERTSON, JR.,

Mayor.

Ottawa, December 19, 1871.

His Excellency the Governor General received the address and handed it to vice-admiral Possiet who placed the following address in the Grand Duke's hand.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen.

I thank you most heartily for your cordial welcome and in the name of His Majesty the Emperor I beg to express my gratitude for the compliment you have paid to the Imperial House and to my country. I am, indeed proud of belonging to a profession which has produced some of the brightest names which adorn the pages of history and which you esteem so highly.

Being so near Canada I thought it my duty, and it is a most agreeable one, to pay a visit to His Excellency the Governor General who is the representative of a sovereign for whom I have the most profound respect. I only regret that my limited time does not allow me to make a longer stay amongst you, but be assured that I shall carry home most pleasant memories of a country where I have been so kindly received and which has an additional charm for me, as at this season of the year it so much reminds me of my own.

The Grand Duke read the reply in a clear and distinct without any foreign accent; he is a very fine young man and very plainly dressed, he evidently appreciated the climate as he wore a plain hat, although a smart snow storm made most people pull down ear flaps, and was loudly cheered by the galleries to whom his allusion to the Queen was very gratifying, cheers were also given for the Governor General, and lastly what no Canadian assembly can forget these cheers for the Queen. The Grand Duke visited all the Parliament building, and returned in the Governor General's sleigh to Rideau Hall. His Imperial Highness left Ottawa at 9 a. m on Wednesday 20th.

The Canadian Illustrated News has issued a magnificent Christmas number with a supplement containing Milton's Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity, and a beautiful Christmas Hymn illustrated with characteristic vignettes. It is accompanied

by a beautiful engraving entitled "Praise ye the Lord," the other illustrations are, The sleigh-ride to grand papa's for dinner, The Bruce Mines Landing, Canadian Southern Railway Bridge at St. Thomas, A Natural Curiosity, Origin of the Wasail Bowl, The Private View, Carlo Dolce's "Parce Somnum Rumpere," Give us our daily Bread, The Bachelors, Christmas dinner, Christmas at the Court of King Arthur, and a Ghost story. This is truly a magnificent number and the illustrations of a very superior character. The splited proprietor shows that he means to command the success his enterprise deserves, we wish him God speed and the compliments of this joyous season.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

STAFF ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir.—Without arrogating to myself any special privilege which can justify an intrusion into the *aura penetratis* of the Militia Department; I trust I may be allowed to say a few words as to the adaptation of the English Staff system to the requirements of the Canadian army, whether in peace or War. To those who were at the Brigade Camps, the necessity, for the extension of staff was sufficiently obvious. I am quite well aware that the duties that fell to the lot of the temporary staff appointed for these camps were, in most cases, efficiently performed;—but in all cases, difficulties arose; and these officers were overtaxed in the performance of the very onerous duties that fell to their share; or by their non performance caused very considerable discomfort to those who were dependent on their efforts. Such a contingency should not be possible in a well considered organization, and with all humility I venture to suggest my ideas on the future staff organization of our divisions or Brigades, with a view to prevent the recurrence of such unpleasantnesses. And first, let me reply to the arguments of those whose prejudice or parsimony leads them to decry the services, or necessity, of a staff; in the words of a distinguished military writer, "The staff is to an army what steam is to a locomotive. The machine itself may be of the highest order, the engineer who directs it may be a man of first class talent, but without the motive power it is merely a huge collection of well polished material." For the necessity of completing such an organization in time of peace, I can reply, in the words of the veteran Sir William Napier, "War only tries the strength of the military framework; it is in peace the framework itself must be formed." With such apology, and such authorities I will proceed to the consideration of my task.

Under present circumstances the staff of a territorial district, numbering at its quota

from 3,000 to 5,000 men of the Active Militia, consists of a Deputy Adjutant General, one Brigade Major for each division and a District storekeeper; during the time that the Active Militia are not on service, this staff is amply sufficient. When the period of drill, or active service arrive, these officers are drawn from their respective posts in order to undertake the duties of command, and to act as the field staff. To question such an arrangement is not my intention, but it seems a doubtful policy which takes from the headquarters of each district or division the only men who are familiar with the character and resources of their respective districts, and through whom only the organization of the Reserve Forces could proceed and the forwarding of men and supplies could be maintained were the country in a state of War. For purposes of annual drill such considerations are not material, although it would be better if it could be otherwise arranged.

We will consider the Active Militia of a district ordered into camp for annual drill. The Deputy Adjutant General by virtue of his command, occupies a similar rank to that of a Major General in the British service. For his assistance in the field he should have an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Quartermaster General, and an aide-de camp for each Brigade. These officers should be regularly appointed and commissioned, receiving the pay of their rank during the period of annual drill, and being required to familiarize themselves with the duties of their respective officers.

The duties of the A. A. G. should be to issue orders, conduct all correspondence on all subjects connected with the discipline, duties, drill and efficiency of the division, and to act as chief of staff.

The A. Q. M. G. would provide for the transport, camping and moving of Troops. He would provide maps, lay out routes for marches, or sham fights, and arrange with proprietors about the occupation of their ground. He would issue camp equipment and other stores, select sites for camping and Rifle practice, and lay out the ground to those purposes; provide for water supply and see that the regulations for cleanliness were carried out by the Regimental Quartermasters.

The aides-de camp might be selected in rotation from amongst the subalterns in the cavalry or Artillery—one should, however, remain permanently on that duty during the camp.

The present Brigade-Majors should be attached to their several Brigades, it being important that their personal knowledge of the officers and men composing them, should be given to assist the officer commanding. He should be the senior officer (qualified) of the division, and should receive the rank of Colonel, an aide-de camp should be allowed him.

For the supply branch should be appointed an assistant, and a Deputy Assistant Com-

missary General (or supply officer, if the name were preferred) whose duties would be to make all contracts for the supply of food, fuel, and light; and to see that they were issued. They would also issue ammunition, clothing and intronching tools if required.

From the surgeons of each brigade should be appointed a Surgeon Major, who would issue all medical stores, keep the roster of medical officers for hospital duty, and superintend the hospital. All arrangements for the discharge or conveyance of sick or wounded would be made by him through the A. A. G. or A. Q. M. G. He would be responsible for, and certify to, any accounts incurred for hospital service of his brigade. In case of a division hospital being established the senior Surgeon Major would act as principal medical officer.

The paymasters department being under the control of Headquarters at Ottawa; its organization does not come within the province of this article; but I should suggest that sufficient assistance be allowed these men who worked and underpaid officers, to enable them to discharge their arduous and responsible duties.

In the provision of the above staff I have borne in mind the possible contingency that the services called for would be rendered necessary by the outbreak of war. It is fully to sneer at such a provision; for if we are not preparing for such an emergency, to what purpose is our \$1,500,000 spent annually? In such a case the appointment of these officers would be a great step towards completing the organization of "our Canadian army," and would be a great guarantee against that hurry and confusion which generally occurs on a sudden call to arms, and which is generally so disastrous in its consequences. The item of pay for their sixteen days services would be a mere nothing, while it would afford a grateful opportunity to many who have served for years in command of a battalion, and are ambitious of further service, though desirous of relinquishing their active duties; and would give them that promotion to which long and honourable service has entitled them. If a farther provision were made for their retirement retaining their rank, at the end of three years services; a reserve of officers qualified for staff duty, would be obtained that would be available in case of need.

The main object gained would be in the perfection of that organization which must be our sole dependence in case of war. Let each division be farther provided with its supplies of reserve ammunition, equipment, and stores, and rendered independent in its organization; so that it could take the field at short notice; and the country would then realize that its defence was provided for; and that its expenditure of money for that purpose was repaid. Until this is done, I fear that "our Canadian army," must bear the same stigma as that applied to the volunteers of Great Britain, who were char-

authorized by a distinguished officer, as "a giant lying prostrate on the ground, who though powerful in outward appearance, was destitute of bone and muscle, and therefore incapable of action." True, it has stood the proof of repeated calls for active service, and responded nobly; but that partial test proves only the willingness of the individual, and not the resources which would be required to be drawn upon, were a protracted service rendered necessary, and for the efficiency of the supplies which were rendered during the three days service before Ridge way, those who were glad to breakfast on a herring and a cracker can testify. There is no reason why the division staffs should not be organized, and a requisite supply of commissions is only necessary to call them into existence. Hoping that our next *parade* may see us more thoroughly provided, and asking for forbearance to my long-winded communication, I conclude.

December, 12th, 1871

CENTURION.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

If there be a weak point in our present militia system it may be found in the conduct of our military schools. If the object be simply to educate the youth of cities who have idle time upon their hands, sufficient to obtain the gratuity of fifty dollars, then, the object is fully attained. But I fancy the projection of the scheme of military schools never contemplated this as the acme of the institution. It might not be time ill-spent for the D. A. G.'s to prepare a statement of the number of cadets who have obtained certificates; are residents in cities; and have or have not applied the education received at the expense of the country to its benefit, by becoming volunteers in the army of the Dominion. The men who fight and win battles are not those of sedentary habits, effeminate from the very nature of their employment; but those engaged in the rude work of life, clearing and tilling the soil or buffeting the storms of the ocean.

If this theory be correct, which class under our present system, is enjoying the advantages offered by the training of military schools? Of the number of cadets that I have from time to time observed in attendance, three-fourths, will, I think, be found to have been residents of the city of St. John.

An energy on the part of this large number, prompted by a higher motive than obtaining gratuity would doubtless have prevented so lamentable a failure as that now exhibited in the wreck of the 62nd.

Where the real work of military training should be done is in the country. From the young men, the bone and sinew of the country, must be formed those regiments which endure the hardships and fatigues of a campaign and the shock of battle. Because less migratory in their character, the training too is less expensive, and the motto *pro avibus* et *focis* to them more than mere sentiment.

With your permission, I will continue this subject in another letter.

X.

We shall be happy to hear from X again on this subject.—ED. VOL. REV.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir:—I take the liberty of addressing you these few lines, depending on your generosity to have them occupy a small space in your most valuable columns.

There are still, in this place, a few loiterers who were connected with the late Fenian raid: that number includes the celebrated outcast O'Donahue, who is loitering around here apparently penniless, and living on the scanty means of a worthy Roman Catholic Priest in this neighborhood. O'Donahue has the appearance of a disappointed desperado.

Pembina is remarkably quiet since a company of Canadian Volunteers arrived at the Hudson Bay Company's Fort at north Pembina.

If you are agreeable, dear sir, I will keep you posted with the news of this place.

The mails run very irregular since the snow fell, we have had nothing but storms which prevents travelling greatly.

By inserting this you would greatly oblige
Yours &c.

CANADIAN.

Pembina, Dakota Territory, Dec. 7th, 1871.

FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

The inspection of Colonel Stevenson's Field Artillery took place on Saturday last on the Champ de Mars. The snow was very deep, and as no sleighs have been provided for the battery, it made it pretty severe work on the horses in drawing the heavy cannon. The variety of evolutions performed by the battery showed considerable efficiency. On Colonel Strange's, the inspecting officer, arrival accompanied by Colonel Bacon, acting D. A. G., he was received with a general salute, after which both men, horses and equipment were minutely inspected. At this point His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis arrived accompanied by his suite, with his worship the Mayor and others. The Duke remained some time on the ground, holding conversation with Colonel Strange, with whom in parting he shook hands. The inspection being concluded the men were addressed by the inspecting officer in complimentary terms, after which they moved off to their headquarters and were dismissed.

The papers have contained such minute lengthy particulars of the visit of the Grand Duke to this city that I will not detail any further than to say that he has won golden opinions, for his deportment, conduct and looks.

Captain Chagnon of Mount Royal Rifles has been committed without bail to take his

trial for withholding pay due to his men. There is a screw loose somewhere.

Captain Hyndman's (late paymaster of 5th Military District,) defaultations are not supposed to exceed \$2000, which his securities will have to make good. Several are spoken of as likely to be appointed to the vacancy. It is generally supposed that Major Dowker, M. G. A., will be the man and a better selection could not be made. His long and meritorious services deserve some recognition, and the opinion is that he will be "the right man in the right place." As supply officer at Laprarie Camp he performed his duties in a very satisfactory manner, and had considerable experiences in various capacities.

Major Bailey 1st Battalion G. T. R. Brigade died on the 15th. He had a Military funeral which was largely attended.

B

SHIP-CANAL BETWEEN INDIA AND CEYLON.

A discussion at a meeting of the East India Association held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Tuesday week, on Sir James Spinnaker's proposal, for cutting a channel for ships between the Madras and Ceylon coasts, exposed the Indian Government and the Admiralty to much blame and animadversion on account of their shortcomings, neglect, and parsimony in dealing with the long existing want of a channel for ships between India and Ceylon; the Admiralty, also, was convicted, on sufficiently strong evidence, of neglecting the harbourage, and the survey of the dangerous coast in those parts. We proceed to explain on what grounds these charges were made. It appears that for a quarter of a century or more, plans have been devised for improving the navigation of the shoaly and dangerous waters between the Ceylon and Madras coasts. In 1832 the Indian Government granted the munificent sum of £200 for the survey of the Paumotu passage, Ceylon. Previous to that time it had been only very imperfectly surveyed. General Sir Arthur Cotton stated it to be within his own recollection and observation that fifty years ago plans were devised for the improvement of the communication between the two coasts, and that the first survey was entrusted to "a mere boy," who was a Midshipman belonging to the old Indian Navy. The Admiralty survey of 1832 was followed by another a few years afterwards, when the liberal sum of £400 was granted in the expectation of serving Indian shipping, and Indian merchantmen, using the Paumotu passage. After another long rest in Rip Van Winkle fashion, the Admiralty, in 1845, granted £5000 for the purpose of deepening the channel, when a moderately good passage of nine feet draught of water was made for ships of limited tonnage.

The torpedo boats laid down on the German Coast, have been all taken up, and the regular navigation resumed.

A list of all the villages and hamlets in Prussia, with detailed information respecting their population, industry, and resources, is being prepared.

The English Indian troop ships are to be supplied with extra screw-fans, in case of accident owing to the intricate passage through the Suez Canal.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 22nd December, 1871.

GENERAL ORDERS (30).

ACTIVE MILITIA.

STAFF.

The resignation of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Topping Atcherley, Deputy Adjutant General commanding Military District No. 4, is hereby accepted.

Lieutenant Colonel Jackson, Brigade Major 8th Brigade Division, will take over the duties of Deputy Adjutant General of Military District No. 4, until further orders.

Three months leave of absence, from date of embarkation, is granted to Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair, Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 9; to proceed to Bermuda for the recovery of his health.

Lieutenant Colonel Laurie, Brigade Major 1st Brigade Division, N. S., will take over the duties of Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 9, during the absence on leave of Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Stormont Troop of Cavalry.

No. 5. Company (Cornwall), 59th "Stormont & Glengarry" Battalion, gazetted "to do mounted patrol duty when required," is hereby struck off the strength of the 59th Battalion and formed into a Troop of Cavalry, to be styled the "Stormont Troop of Cavalry." Arms and the necessary equipment will be furnished when the Department of Militia and Defence is in a position to do so.

To be Captain:

Captain Carry J. Matice, M. S.

Prescott Troop of Cavalry.

A Troop of Cavalry is hereby authorized at the Town of Prescott, to be styled the "Prescott Troop of Cavalry." Arms and the necessary equipment will be furnished when the Department of Militia and Defence is in a position to do so.

To be Captain:

Captain and Adjutant James Morrow Walsh, M. S., from 58th Battalion.

To be Lieutenant, provisionally:

John Raney, Gentleman.

To be Cornet, provisionally:

Alpheus Adams, Gentleman.

Ottawa Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

To be Adjutant, with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant,

John Rhodes, Gentleman, (formerly Battery Sergeant-Major R. A.) vice Parsons, retired.

7th Battalion "The London Light Infantry." No. 2 Company.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant Andrew William Porte, M. S., from No. 4 Company, vice J. B. Campbell, left limits.

To be Lieutenant:

Ensign Walter Martin DeRay Williams, M. S., vice J. Busby, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

To be Ensign:

Thomas Peel, Gentleman, V. B., vice Williams, promoted.

No. 4 Company

To be Lieutenant:

Ensign Thomas Talbot MacBeth, V. B., from No. 3 Company, vice Porte, promoted.

22nd Battalion "The Oxford Rifles."

No. 5 Company Norwich.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant Montieu M. Nesbitt, M. S., vice John W. Nesbitt, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

30th "Wellington" Battalion of Rifles.

No. 6 Company, Eramosa.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant James Kennedy, V. B., vice Swinford, resigned.

To be Lieutenant:

Ensign Robert Scott, M. S., vice Kennedy, promoted.

To be Ensign, provisionally:

Sergeant John Mutrie, vice Scott promoted.

36th "Peel" Battalion of Infantry.

To be Adjutant:

Lieutenant David Lynch Scott, V. B., from No. 3 Company, vice Nesbitt, promoted Major.

BREVET.

To be Lieutenant-Colonels:

Major William Warren, junior, M. S. 34th Battalion, from 14th September, 1871.

Major John Shields, V. B., 18th Battalion, from 12th October, 1871.

Major Thomas A. Scoble, V. B., 37th Battalion, from 9th November 1871

To be Majors:

Captain John O'Neil, V. B., No 6 Company 41st Battalion, from 21st September, 1871.

Captain Donald McIntosh, V. B., No. 2 Company, 18th Battalion, from 21st September, 1871.

Captain John Bradford Cherriman, M. S., 2nd Battalion, from 7th December, 1871.

Major Cherriman's five years service not being complete for a few months, Brevet promotion to which he would have been en-

titled some time ago had he not preferred remaining attached to his Company, is now granted to him as a special mark of favor in consideration of his services in the Active Militia.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

1st. Battalion of Rifles "or Prince of Wales' Regiment" Montreal.

The resignation of Ensigns Charles Newhouse Armstrong and Richard Grant La Frenaye are hereby accepted.

58th "Compton" Battalion of Infantry.

To be Pymaster:

Captain Edmund Lockett from No. 1 Company, vice Lewis MacIver, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

75th "Colchester and Hants," or "Highlanders" Battalion of Infantry.

To be Major, from 7th December 1871:

William Blair, Esquire, Major, late 3rd Regiment, Colchester, Q. F. O.

Turner Warren Burt, Esquire, late Captain H. M's. 15th Regiment.

To be Surgeon, from 7th December, 1871.

Alexander Crawford Page, Esquire, Surgeon, late 3rd Regiment, Colchester.

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

Mapleton Rifle Company.

To be Lieutenant provisionally:

David Armit, Gentleman, vice Donald Gunn, out of limits.

To be Ensign provisionally:

John Kipling, Gentleman, vice Thomas Norquey, out of limits.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE.

1st Battalion Rifles, Montreal.

ERRATUM.—In General Order (27) 24th November last, read "To be Ensign: Frederick French, Gentleman, V. B. vice John Mills Wilkinson, whose resignation is hereby accepted," instead of "To be Captain: Frederick French, Esquire, V. B. vice Knott, left limits."

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General.

P. ROBERTSON-ROSS, Colonel.

Adjutant-General of Militia,
Canada,

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointments:—

SENATORS FOR MANITOBA.—Hon M. A. Girard the Provincial Secretary; John Sutherland, Esq. of Kildonan.

SENATORS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Hon R. W. W. Carrall, M. P.;—Cornwall Esq., and McDonald Esq., Mayor of Victoria.

Hon. Chaussegros De Ley has been appointed Senator for the Electoral District of Luzon, vice the Hon. Mr. Dushesnay deceased.

THE GOLDEN YEAR.

BY ALFRED TENNYSON.

We sleep and wake and sleep, but all things move;

The sun files forward to his brother sun;
The dark earth follows wheeled in her eclipse;
And human things returning on themselves
Move onward, leading up the golden year.

Ah, though the times when some new thought
can bud

Are but as poets' seasons when they flower,
Yet seas that daily gain upon the shore
Have ebb an' flow conditioning their in-rech,
And slow and sure comds up the golden year.

Thou' wealth no more shall rest in mounded heaps,
But smit with freer lands shall slowly melt
In many streams to fatter low lands
And light shall spread, and milder filter man
Through all the seasons of the golden year.

Shall eagles not be eagles? wrongs be wrongs?
If all the world were falcons, want of that?
The wonder of the eagle were the less,
But he not less the eagle. Happy days,
Roll onward, leading up the golden year.

Fly, happy, happy sails, and bear the Press,
Fly, happy with the mission of the Cross;
Kilt land to land, and blowing heavenward,
With silks and fruits, and spices, clear of toll,
Enrich the markets of the golden year.

But we grow old. Ah! when shall all men's good
Be each man's rule, and universal peace
Lie like a shaft of light across the land,
And like a lane of beams athwart the sea,
Through all the circle of the golden year.

THE LATE MAJOR BAILEY.

Our obituary column has already contained the announcement of the death of Mr. Henry Bailey, Major 1st Batt. Grand Trunk Railway Brigade. The deceased gentleman was the oldest surviving son of Lieut. Col. Bailey, commanding the first battalion, and Superintendent of the Eastern Division of the Grand Trunk Railway. He joined the Victoria Rifles when they were first organized, and served under Colonel Osborne Smith at Windsor, remaining in the regiment for many years. On the formation of the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, his knowledge of drill and of the internal economy of a regiment was very useful, and he was appointed Captain and Adjutant, acting for some time as Brigade-Major, and afterwards was promoted to a majority in the 1st Battalion. In his civil capacity, Major Bailey acted for many years as Assistant Superintendent of the Eastern Division of the Grand Trunk, under his father, and being a young man of agreeable manners and unassuming disposition made many friends in the cities of Montreal, Quebec and Portland, as well as at Richmond, where he was recently stationed.

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, and a very large number of sympathizing friends testified by their presence their respect for the deceased and his sorrowing family. The military escort was composed of a hundred men of the Battalion, under the command of Captain McLeod; and there was present a large number of officers belonging to the Staff and regiments of Montreal volunteers, as well as Lieut. Colonel Bridges commanding the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, and Lieut. Colonel Hickson, and all the officers stationed in Montreal, together with many who came from distant points to pay the last tribute to their late comrade. Two bands of the Grand Trunk Brigade, under bandmasters Hunt and Hawkins, furnished the music; and among those present were noticed the following:—Majors Watts, Lebranch, Shuckell, and P. Clarke, and Capt. J. Taylor and Wm. Wainwright, pallbearers. Lieut. Colonel Bailey and Captain Winifred Bailey, chief mourners; and Lieut. Colonels Routin, Ferrier, Buhane, David, and Hogan; Majors Crawford, Dowker, and

Grant; Captains F. Brydges, Farrell, F. W. Kay, Simpson, Milloy, Whitehead, Atkinson, and Macpherson, T. S. Freer, H. Thomas, S. Waddell, J. Ostell, T. D. King, Rawlings, O'Brien, Benning, D. G. Major, S. Major, McHue, Leckie, A. Brown, E. S. Reekie, Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Rev. W. Carmichael, Rev. W. Curran, W. McNaughton, T. Workman, M. P.: J. Burroughs, J. Hervey, Lewis Black, W. Clendenning, H. Mackenzie, Mark Molson, Grant, G. Scott, Jones, Dowker, Tilstone, Fleet; Messrs. Shipman, Samuels, Crean, Hall, Beaman, T. White, and Captain Harter, from Quebec; Mr. J. Murphy; Messrs. Cooper and Dean, from Island Pond; Lieut. Trihey; Messrs. R. Clarke, A. Armstrong, Forman, Westley, Major Drumm, of St. Johns; Messrs. Wickham, Robers, McKneown, Belanger, and many others.

The funeral cortege, which was under the direction of Major Worsley, Brigade Major, Grand Trunk Brigade, proceeded to the Church of St. James the Apostle, where the funeral service was read by the Rev. Canon Ellegood, the organ, under the direction of Dr. Davis, pealing forth the most impressive music. After leaving the church the funeral proceeded to the Mount Royal Cemetery, where the coffin was placed in the vaults.—*Montreal Gazette.*

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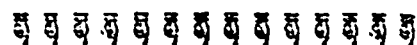
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