

Encampment of the Third Regiment at Plymouth.

The Third Regiment of Infantry, Second Brigade, First Division of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, Col. Stephen Thomas, have had their annual encampment at Plymouth during the past three days—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The spot selected for the encampment was one peculiarly suited to the purpose, and we doubt that a better could be found in Plymouth county. Situated about a mile north of the centre of the town, upon the grounds of Moses Bates, Jr., Esq., the camp commanded a beautiful view of the bay with its islands, the time-honored town of Plymouth, and the surrounding country. The tents were pitched immediately west of the railroad track, and the parade ground in front was admirably adapted to that use, being perfectly level.—The waters of the Bay washed the shore a short distance in the rear of the encampment, and the cool sea breezes rendered the spot exceedingly comfortable.—The encampment was denominated "Camp Miles Standish." The land was gratuitously granted for the use of the Regiment by Mr. Bates.

The following is a list of the officers composing the staff of the Regiment, together with the several companies and their commanders:—Col. Stephen Thomas, of Middleborough; Lieut. Col. Thomas Weston, of Middleborough; Major, Rogers L. Barstow, of Rochester; Adjutant, E. W. Wilbur, of Middleborough; Quarter-Master, Chas. T. Thatcher, of New Bedford; Pay-Master, S. H. Churchill, of Plymouth; Surgeon, E. Webster, of Plymouth; Surgeon's Mate, Norman Webster, of Plymouth.

Company A, Halifax Light Infantry, Captain Otis Pratt; Co. B, Standish Guards, of Plymouth, Captain Charles Raymond; Co. E, Fall River City Guards, Capt. William Cole; Co. F, Old Colony Guards, of Middleborough, Capt. R. M. Thomas; Co. G, Assonet Light Infantry, of Freetown, 1st Lieutenant James R. Mathewson commanding; Co. H, Samoset Guards, of Plympton, Captain Cephas O. Bumpus; Co. I, East Freetown Light Infantry, Capt. Tracy Allen; Co. K, Bay State Light Infantry, of Carver, Capt. Seneen R. Thomas; Co. L, New Bedford City Guards, Captain Timothy Ingraham.

All of the companies, with the exception of the Standish Guards, went into camp Tuesday night, and were to remain until this morning.

The Fall River City Guards and the New Bedford City Guards appeared upon the field with the largest number of men, the former company showing fifty-five and the latter fifty-three guns. The other companies of the Regiment turned out remarkably full ranks. The New Bedford Brass Band, the Regimental Band, furnished music during the three days encampment. The Regiment were saved much trouble and expense in one particular, the water used for culinary purposes &c., being taken from a hydrant near the residence of Mr. Bates, and but a short distance from the camp ground. This is a decided improvement upon the usual method of carting water a long distance to the muster field.

Outside the lines, upon the west side of the parade grounds, refreshment booths, auctioneers' stands, exhibition tents, and various other attachments of a military muster were extensively displayed. Notwithstanding that a large crowd of spectators were present at the encampment, but two arrests were made. These were made on Thursday. The offenders who were caught fighting on account of some trivial matter, were promptly taken before a Justice of the Peace, at Plymouth, and fined for making such a display of their pugnacious propensities. The people were almost universally disposed to maintain good order and quietness, and we do not hear of a single instance of pocket-picking, robbery, or other offence to the laws, save the one above mentioned. This fact speaks well for the citizens of Plymouth and vicinity.

The first and second days of the encampment were consumed with the ordinary routine of camp duties. Thursday morning, Brig. Gen. Ebenezer Pierce and Staff, of the Second Brigade, visited the encampment, and establishing their headquarters at the Samoset House, in Plymouth, remained with the troops through that day and yesterday. We subjoin a list of the officers composing the Brigade Staff—Brig. Major Inspector, Silas P. Richmond of Freetown; Brig. Aid-de-Camp, J. F. Winslow of Abington; Brig. Quarter-Master, Cyrus W. Brown of New Bedford; Brig. Engineer, David W. Wardrop of New Bedford.

On Wednesday, a very pleasing episode occurred, in the shape of the presentation of a splendid gold mounted sword to Col. Thomas by the New Bedford City Guards. The affair was a "surprise" to Colonel Thomas. The company was drawn up in front of the Colonel's quarters, when Capt. Ingraham, in a few words, made the presentation.

The compliment was most worthily bestowed upon a most excellent military commander by a most noble corps. The sword bears the following inscription:—"Presented to Col. Stephen Thomas, of the Third Regiment of Infantry, by the City Guards of New Bedford; Aug. 13th, 1856."

Lieut. Col. Thomas Weston, was the recipient of a similar gift from the Old Colony Guards of Middleborough, of which corps he was formerly commander. Engineer Daniel W. Wardrop of the Brigade Staff also received a present of the same kind from a number of his friends. The swords are very costly, and bear suitable inscriptions.

The encampment was favored with much more auspicious weather than were our military friends of the First Brigade at their muster in Quincy last week. Between three and four o'clock yesterday afternoon, a slight shower of rain occurred, but not sufficient to cause a suspension of the military exercises. Wednesday night, the New Bedford Brass Band serenaded Charles G. Davis, Esq., a citizen of Plymouth, at his residence, and afterwards together with Col. Thomas and Staff, partook of a collation by his invitation. Thursday night, Moses Bates, Jr., Esq., editor of the Plymouth Rock, was the recipient of a similar favor, and invited Col. Thomas and Staff, and the Band to partake of his generous hospitality.

At ten o'clock yesterday forenoon the Regiment was reviewed by Brigs. Gen. Pierce and staff. During the remainder of the day, at intervals, the troops were drilled in various battalion and other movements, and manifested an unexpected degree of excellence. The firing by battalion and companies was remarkably well executed.

On Thursday, the New Bedford City Guard went through with Maj. Hardee's new drill in a manner that is exceedingly well spoken of by competent military judges who were present and witnessed the exhibition. The company have practiced these movements but a few weeks, and their proficiency in them is commendable. Among the many military gentlemen who visited the camp yesterday, were Adjutant General Ebenezer W. Stone, and Major General B. F. Edmunds and a portion of his staff. Many of the fair descendants of the Pilgrims were also visitors at the camp, yesterday afternoon, and received a hearty welcome from the gallant soldiers.

We must here draw our report to a close, but before doing so, however, we would render our most grateful acknowledgements to Col. Thomas, Quarter Master Brown of the Brigade staff, and other military gentlemen, for their many courtesies extended to us during our stay upon the tented field.