

It should be provided with modern guns, or gatlings, and the authorities owe it to the people and the members of the battery, to properly equip them for the service they may be called upon to render.

To the added interest in military affairs at the time of the organization of K Company is due the present high state of efficiency of the regiment. To this company belongs the credit of securing the splendid armory building illustrated on page 831. In the summer of 1886, seven members of the company, Captain Beebe, Lieutenant Ladd, John C. Lewis, W. B. Ayer, H. J. Corbett, F. R. Strong and F. K. Arnold were appointed a committee on armory. The committee prepared a petition to the county court, which was presented by Messrs. Strong and Arnold, and supported by Mr. Strong in a brief argument, showing that it was cheaper for the county to build an armory than to pay monthly allowances, besides placing the militia in a better condition for service. Judge Catlin held that the county had no authority to purchase property and build an armory. A bill to accomplish this end was drawn up, and passed the legislature early in 1887, authorizing counties to build armories in towns of more than ten thousand people. Under this law, the county commissioners, Judge John Catlin, Hon. H. W. Corbett and J. A. Newell purchased the half block on C street, between Ninth and Tenth, and let the contract for the present building at \$30,000. The work of the committee in securing this result was indefatigable, overcoming the most formidable obstacles and discouraging delays, the final arrangements with the court being perfected by Captain Beebe, Captain Farrar, Lieutenant Arnold and Mr. H. J. Corbett.

The armory is a compactly built brick structure, with a solid foundation of stone. It is two hundred feet long and

one hundred feet wide, with bastions on opposite corners. The roof is supported from the sides by heavy cross beams and iron rods, giving a drill room on the second floor the entire size of the building, free from posts or other obstructions. The lower floor is divided into two sections by a wide assembly hall, running two-thirds of the way back from the entrance on Ninth street. The remaining third is partitioned off for the Portland Light Battery, with a large entrance on C street. On the left of the assembly hall are a large room for the Board of Officers, and five company rooms, occupied respectively by A, E, G, I and K companies. On the right are the library, headquarters room, non-commissioned staff room, two company rooms, band room and a large drill room for squads. In the center of the building is the magazine for storing ammunition. The rooms are all suitably furnished, at the expense of the regiment, some of the companies having gone to considerable expense in furnishing and decorating their quarters, which present an appearance of elegance and comfort which is extremely inviting to the visitor. The citizens expect much from a regiment so elaborately provided for, and they will not be disappointed, as it is composed of as fine a body of men as can be found in the National Guard of any state. It is in most excellent hands, its field officers (see portraits on page 832) being men of large and varied experience.

The commandant, Colonel Charles F. Beebe, is a native of New York City, where he was born in 1849, and where he entered into business upon completing his education. In February, 1871, he enlisted in the famous Seventh Regiment, National Guard, State of New York, from which he was honorably discharged in August, 1878, after nearly eight years of service. November 25, 1878, he was appointed Aide de Camp,