

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it may reach us in time for publication.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

GEORGE MOSS having this day purchased the entire interest of "THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW," the partnership hitherto existing between the undersigned, as proprietors of the same, is hereby dissolved.

The REVIEW will in future be published by GEORGE MOSS, who hereby assumes all the liabilities, and to whom all accounts due thereto are to be paid.

GEO. MOSS.

GODFREY S. O'BRIEN.

Witness,

ALEX. RIGGS.

Ottawa, February 26, 1867.



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1867.

NOTICE.—The 3 cents postage marked on THE REVIEW of last week at the Ottawa Post-office, pays to the end of the quarter. The postage on THE REVIEW is 6½ cents per quarter, in advance, at all post-offices.

THE CANADIAN COMMONS.

BEFORE many weeks will have passed the electors of British America will be called upon to exercise one of the most important privileges that falls to the lot of a people in a constitutionally governed country. The first election of a legislature for the Kingdom of Canada—if that is hereafter to be our nomenclature—will be of paramount importance; for upon its character will depend, to a very great extent, the position which the new nation will assume in the eyes of the world. Thus far everything seems to have conspired to make our putting-on of national dignity suggestive of a brilliant future. The inception of the project was characteriz-

ed by an entirely new estimate of themselves and their responsibilities on the part of Canadians. Never was the proverb "It is always the darkest the hour before day" more applicable, in the political sense, than it was to the condition of the various legislative bodies in British America when union was invoked as a remedy. With no future to speak of before them, principles seemed to be lost sight of amid the scrambles for the spoils of office. By what hypocrisy and cant and double-dealing office might be obtained was the role on one hand; and by what paltry expediency and shuffling it might be retained on the other. Men went into Parliament, not as the representatives of a principle, nor even of a great party, but as the retainers of political chieftains, whose highest ambition was the aggrandisement of themselves. To be the steadfast partizan of some self-constituted idol was to be sound to the core, while the slightest independence of thought, the most trifling infraction of the dogmas of the hour, were denounced as the most deadly treason. Thus our politics came to be merely personal, and the worship of the veiled prophet of Khomassan was intelligent devotion, compared to that which was poured out at the shrine of personal ambition; for no sooner had the lieges been trained to accept one idea as the true one than the scene shifted, and the necessities of political leaders made a new delusion imperative. Of course, when such were the weapons of attack, it could not have been expected that similar ones would not be used in defence. The halls of the legislature, instead of being devoted to the higher interests of the country became the arena for the gladiatorial exhibitions of the "ins" and the "outs," and the chances of individual success were the only one that had influence or attracted support. No wonder, then, that legislation came to a dead-lock, and public policy became an apparently hopeless muddle. Amidst all this selfishness there was just enough of the leaven of true patriotism left, when the opportunity offered, to rise superior to the contemptible trammels which had dwarfed legislation during the preceding ten years. The country was weary of broils that led to no result, and the leaders of parties became tired of a conflict in which they lost more than they gained, either substantially or in reputation. Upon this gloomy scene the sunshine of a new nationality opened, promising a wider field for talent, a higher aim for patriotism, and a purer air for the development of statesmanship; and it is to the honor of our public men, that without distinction of party they devoted themselves to the expansion of the national problem, with an unanimity of which the previous history of parties scarcely gave a hope. In New Brunswick principles had quite as little strength as in Canada, and it is a strong evidence of the hold which the principle of union took upon the minds of the people, that in one short year it completely changed the complexion of the Parliament of that

Province. Thus we see that the principle of nationality has elevated the views of British Americans from the contemplation of lilliputian schemes, too often sectional and factitious to the grand one of taking no mean place among the nations of the earth. Under these circumstances we notice with regret that it is proposed by a few that the personal antagonisms—we can call them by no higher name—of the past shall be carried from the Provincial into the National councils. We regret it, not because we fear that they will have any weight in the general parliament, for there, any question to receive attention, must command the interest of the Commons and Senate from a national point of view, but because of the bad feeling which they would be sure to evoke in the country. We believe that the people are prepared to give the new constitution a fair trial upon its own merits, and if it is to be as successful as we all anticipate and hope, it must be supported as a bond of union among a people whose interest, and destiny are the same. The world will no longer look upon us as mere colonies for whose good or bad deeds England is responsible, and the estimate which will be formed of us will be affected by the tone assumed by every member. The curse of Canada heretofore has been the sectional cries of the Upper and Lower Provinces, and if these were to be continued and added to by distinctions and antagonisms between New Brunswickers, Nova Scotians, Quebecers and Ontarios, the union would be but a hollow farce, which we would have been quite as well without; and it is humiliating to see the very men who professed themselves ready to make any sacrifice for the sake of union now, believing their solemn professions, and again devoting themselves to the ignoble task of arousing the demon of sectional discord. The country ought to see to it that such insincere demagoguism shall have no place in the Confederate Councils. In one respect, cordial unity is of paramount importance, and it was that which gave the project for consolidation half its importance. We allude to the subject of defence. It must from the outset be adopted as the rule that the whole must be responsible for the defence of even the weakest and least important part; and in order to grasp this subject fully the representatives of the people must be such men as will view the question from a broad and statesman-like point of view. Without a proper system of defence we would be constantly subjected to the kicks and insults of our unscrupulous neighbors; with it we can command and will receive their respect. We must maintain such a force as will sustain our freedom and independence, or instead of our aspirations being fulfilled, we shall be reduced to mere tributaries of a despotic Congress, as the South is at the present time. We must provide for ourselves a strong military organization, or in the end consent to be ruled by a military despotism furnished by our republican neighbors. We are well