

will to grant them all they desire. For their information we will say that he would be delighted to accede to their every reasonable demand, but is prevented from doing so by a large and important class in the Commons who regard the Volunteer movement with disfavour if not disapproval. To those people who have done their best to hamper Sir George in his honest endeavour to act generously to the force, "L. C." and others should look for an answer to their complaints.

The pitiable system of economy which has crept into such great favour of late years has done much to injure the Volunteers, and its sublime apostles who make Ottawa hideous during session are entitled to their thanks for the miserable manner in which they have been treated. We are no apologists for the Militia Department or its shortcomings, save that whenever led thither by business we have always received the utmost attention from the gentlemen entrusted with its duties, but it is only fair that the saddle should be placed on the right horse.

This subject has been well ventilated in these columns and we have always been glad to open them for its discussion as we are aware that Sir George Cartier notes carefully the opinions of our correspondents. In all cases we have allowed the fullest latitude to those who have taken up the matter and our whole endeavour and desire has been to promote the interests of the Volunteers. The injurious remarks quoted by "L. C." in his letter, concerning us can in no way affect our feelings or objects. We abide by our honest convictions and perform our duty fearlessly. We are in no way bound to uphold or "whitewash everything done by the Militia Department."

Like all measures merely human the Militia Bill possess faults, and we believe if some of the suggestions offered by the memorialists, referred to by our correspondent, were acted upon much good would be the result. These changes will doubtless be accomplished in time and we will lose no opportunity to further them, but the wholesale condemnation of man and measure cannot be acquired in without seriously endangering the well being of that force whose interests it is our pride and duty to represent.

UNDER the heading of "Bungling in the Militia Department" the *Brampton Times* perpetrates a silly blunder which we observe has been shared in by a number of Ontario papers. In the article referred to it prefers two charges against the head of the Militia Department which, in charity to that much abused individual, we will briefly dispose of. In the first place our contemporary accuses the Minister of Militia with disregard to the interests of the Volunteers of western Canada in ordering them out for annual drill during the harvest season, to assemble at Toronto, and of countermanding the order at the eleventh hour. We know not, but

think it probable, that the *Brampton Times*, desires to make a little political capital out of these charges, however, it is well known that no corps is ordered to turn out for drill without a careful consideration of the time and after consulting the commanding officer, and it was upon representations made to Sir George, pointing out the desirability of corps performing their drill at regimental head quarters on account of the season and the interests of the farming population, that he countermanded the order.

The other charge is so apparently false that it can be disposed of almost in a word. Referring to the Review proposed to be held at Toronto during the visit of Prince Arthur to that city the *Times* says, referring to the countermand:—

"The officers and men were thus most needlessly insulted and ill used:—put to considerable expense, trouble and loss of time—all through the blundering of the Minister of Militia. It is such usage that is making the Volunteers of Ontario indifferent, as it shows such miserable incompetency in their chief, and whilst the battalions would have mustered in full strength at the Review had the order not been countermanded, should a similar one be issued to-morrow, not ten per cent of the members of the force would heed it; they would treat it with perfect indifference! Whether the motive of the Minister of Militia was economy or disgust at the meanness of the Torontonians, we shall not trouble ourselves to discuss—All such points and contingencies should have been studied and ascertained, prior to the issue of the order—and when once given in such a peculiar case as a demonstration of loyal attachment to the Queen and our ardent welcome to one of her sons, it ought to have been adhered to. The Volunteers feel mortified and irate, and well they may."

Now this review was conceived and the orders for it issued altogether without the knowledge of the Minister of Militia, and even without consulting the Adjutant General. We know not who is accountable for the blunder, but certainly the Department at Ottawa is not. We have the assurance that Sir George would be glad to sanction the proceeding if he had had the funds at his disposal which he had not. Will our contemporary be kind enough to set these facts and remove a wrong impression.

THE visit of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur to the Capital of the Dominion, has given the people of Ottawa and vicinity an opportunity for the display of their loyalty which they were not slow to avail themselves of. He arrived by special train on the afternoon of Monday last, and was received at the station, which was carpeted and decorated for the occasion, by the Governor General, Sir John Young, the members of the Government and of Parliament at that time in the city, judges, clergy, and the City Council.—The last, with the Mayor at their head, presented him an address, as follows:—

To His Royal Highness Prince Arthur Patrick William Albert, K.G., &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—The Corporation of the City of Ottawa respectfully

approach your Royal Highness and offer you a cordial welcome to the Capital of the Dominion of Canada.

As British subjects representing the various races which compose the population of this city, they earnestly hope that the time may never arrive when the connection between Canada and the Mother Country shall cease.

The experience of the past leads to the firm belief that the prosperity and greatness of the British Empire can only be upheld and perpetuated by the maintaining and strengthening of those bonds which now unite Great Britain with her Colonial dependencies.

The corporation desire to express the sincere feeling of respect entertained by the citizens of Ottawa towards your Royal Highness as a member of the family of their beloved Queen, and indulge the hope that your welfare may be commensurate with the exalted position you occupy and worthy the son of your illustrious mother, and trust that during your residence in Canada you will be enabled to make frequent visits to the Capital, the citizens of which yield to none in loyalty and attachment to the Crown of England.

JOHN ROCHESTER,  
Mayor.

W. P. LETHBRIDGE,  
City Clerk.

Ottawa, October, 1869.

Alderman Martineau then read the same in French.

Both addresses were then handed to the Prince, who returned to them the following reply:—

To the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Ottawa

GENTLEMEN,—Pray accept my sincere thanks for the hearty welcome on this my first visit to the Capital of this vast Dominion.

With it terminates a most interesting tour which has been to me alike a source of true enjoyment as of the highest gratification.

The general appearance of prosperity, wealth and contentment, as well as the high state of cultivation, have far exceeded all my expectations; while the vast extent of the natural resources still undeveloped, coupled with the enterprising, yet orderly spirit of its energetic people, hold out promises of a splendid future for this Dominion.

As the son of Our Gracious Sovereign I have been most deeply touched by the universal declarations of attachment to the Queen the unanimous loyalty and patriotism that pervaded all classes of people and have been expressed with an enthusiasm that I have seldom seen equalled.

I know that you will rejoice to hear that these loyal demonstrations which I find here again repeated with earnest sincerity, and the hospitable welcome accorded to her son have given profound pleasure to Her Majesty.

Pray accept my thanks for your kind wishes for the success of my future career, and rest assured that it shall be the constant effort of my life to prove myself not unworthy of the love and confidence of this loyal and generous people, whose happiness and welfare I shall ever have at heart, and upon whom I earnestly pray, that God may pour down His choicest blessings.

ARTHUR.

His Excellency Sir John Young introduced His Worship the Mayor to the Prince. His Worship afterwards introduced the members of the Council, all of whom His Royal Highness received most cordially. On receiving Mr. Martineau Prince Arthur said he regret-