

CONTENTS OF No. 12, VOL. X.

PORTAY:—	
Birds of Spring	220
EDITORIAL:—	
Harbour of Montreal	222
Captain Gerard H. W. Noel's Naval Prize Essay	223
Gun Recoll.	224
Artificial Cover	224
Ident.-General Blissett on South Africa and her Colonies	225
News of the Week	227
SELECTIONS:—	
Annual Report on the State of the Militia	218
The Imperial Title	221
Military Telegraph	225
The Indeflexible	225
Prince of Wales Rifles	227
South Africa and Her Colonies	228
Extradition	228
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS	221, 228
REMITTANCES	221
REVIEWS	223



The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1876.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

We have for the past nine years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but, we regret to say, have not met with that tangible encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their chivalry and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money—will be entitled to receive one copy for the year free. A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Force—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

We regret being under the painful necessity of again appealing to our subscribers to pay up their indebtedness. Of better than three thousand dollars of accounts made out and forwarded, not more than two hundred and fifty dollars have been received. How our subscribers can imagine we can regularly week after week furnish them with a paper and receive comparatively nothing in return, and pay all the expenses connected

with its publication, is more than we can conceive. Our subscribers must *immediately* pay up their indebtedness, or we shall be obliged to give up the publication of the *Review*; and if forced to this step—then, as a consequence, their accounts will be placed in the Courts for collection and payment enforced.

Broad Arrow, of 18th March, has an article on "The Impossibility of the *Times*," which we reproduce for the benefit of our readers. That leader of public opinion occupies itself in alternate Jeremiaades over the "Royal Titles Bill," and excuses for the advance of the Russians in Central Asia. *Broad Arrow* is unduly exercised over the assumption of the title of "Empress of India," so is JOHN BRIANT and the whole horde quakers and cotton brokers who can't see beyond Manchester or Birmingham, and whose ideal of Government would be a President representing calico's or hardware and a Council of the Chambers of Commerce of each Empire—the *residuum* of the Empire to be governed on strict commercial principles. However, the great mass of the British people don't see it exactly in that light, and even our neighbors are able to read a part at least of the statesman-like policy which prompted the measure.

If India is to be preserved, it is as an integral portion of the British Empire, and not as a series of conquered dependencies. The first step in the programme is then to place the Queen of Great Britain in her proper position, at least, with respect to the Indian Empire—her old title Queen of the *British Empire* will answer well enough, although rather anomalous—but it is a future question whether it would not be better to confine that title to the British Isles. In any case the policy attributed to the British Premier by the United States *Army and Navy Journal* is the true key to this movement, and it is one every way worthy the greatest statesman of the age. It is only in Great Britain patriots of the stamp of BRIANT and the opposition could be raised. The British people are sick of the imbecile and monotonous wail of Russian advance on one side, and the sturdy, but not disinterested denials of the *Times* and its confederates, on the other. In the present case when the first step is taken to erect an effectual barrier against Russian aggression by consolidating British power in India, a howl is raised on both sides because a pet grievance is done away with and the opportunity for the possibility of mischief on the part of such men as BRIANT and his followers removed.

To us who have as great a stake in the prosperity, honor and existence of the Empire as Manchester or Birmingham traders can have, it is simply incomprehensible how they should be allowed to compromise the dignity of the House of Commons with their mischievous nonsense.

Well may the *Times* deplore the lack of

statesman-like power and immaturity of ideas in the politicians of the day—the debates on the question under consideration is a proof positive of the fact if one was needed—and it may be traced to the Whig Radical innovations that has filled the House of Commons with half-educated paves, whose only recommendation was the cash acquired by trade.

"It is 'the impossible' that generally happens; and we must all remember the insurmountable difficulties attributed to the Russian advance in Central Asia by the 'leading' organ of public opinion in England. The annexation, however, of Khokand shows how easily the impossible may be converted into an historical fact. But there are other 'impossibles,' according to the same authority, and in the following extract we discover an amount of complacency that does not quite satisfy those who have been watching the march of events:—

"It may be said that the real spring of danger lies at the south and south-east of the Caspian Sea. Russia has already encroached on the Persian shore, and she will soon encroach further. 'Scientific' exploring parties will find a way to Merv, and an army of occupation will follow. Several routes from Astrabad to Meshed are practicable for artillery, and the intervening country is fertile enough to sustain a considerable army. From Meshed to Herat the road would meet more than suffice for troops hardened by desert marches, and a Russian force would soon capture the great earthworks which defended for a whole year the army of Mahommed Shah. The invaders could next traverse the four hundred miles which separate Herat from Kandahar, and another march would take them to the gates of India. The best way to show the wildness of such an enterprise is simply to describe the successive stages of advance. It is absolutely preposterous. If this country wished to run the power of Russia for half a century, it could desire nothing better than the accession of a Czar bent on invading India by way of Persia and Afghanistan."

"But why necessarily, 'by way of Persia and Afghanistan'? The real danger is not immediate, and will probably be averted until Persia, in the course of time, is absorbed by her great neighbour. Thus, in possession of that kingdom, why should the latter run her head against immense natural barriers, when, by taking a still more southerly, or, as it then would be, a more easterly direction, from the Persian Gulf, India might be struck a blow at, perhaps, her most important seat of Government and of trade, inferior only to Calcutta."

"Further on, the same writer says:—

"The march to Moscow was a smaller enterprise than a march from Astrabad to the Bolan Pass would be made by the employment of the resources at the command of England and India. At several points on the way, or at either end of the Bolan Pass, a reduced band of invaders could be met by an army uniting all the strength of the Empire, at least as capable of resistance as Russia. It may be said, no doubt, that the advance would be made gradually, Meshed being seized one year, Herat a year or two afterwards, and Kandahar some years later. But what should we be doing all that time? The truth is that India is far better protected against invasion than England, guarded as England is only by a ditch twenty-two miles broad. The nearer Russia comes to our Indian frontier, the more clearly will