

most important upon which the flag of Great Britain's wide Empire flies. The health of the Army and Navy is one of these stereotyped toasts which my brethren of both services have the satisfaction of knowing is rarely omitted wherever our countrymen gather round the festive board, in whatever clime, in whatever land it may occur. We are grateful for it, and we thank you always, as the strong pillars of the Empire, which have protected the commerce and extended the dominion of Great Britain into every quarter of the world. It comes home to our hearts when far removed from home—from family and from all the associations of our youth—in words of soft persuasive power, which tell us that though far distant we are not forgot. There is much to be said about the Army and Navy, too tedious to detain you with on such an occasion. Many important changes have recently occurred. Some improvements, some questionable experiments whose prudence remains to be proved. The political horizon of Europe is at the present moment dimmed by a lowering cloud. When or where that may burst, none can yet distinctly conjecture, but we must trust sincerely that the new army of the present day, when ever called upon, may rival the deeds of the historic old army of past years, and that whatever occurs the army and navy of England may prove as capable and as willing as their ancestors to devote their duties and their lives for the protection of this Empire and the Sovereign of these realms. I thank you heartily, gentlemen, on behalf of the army, and in the absence of a naval officer I may be allowed to include the navy, but I have still an equally pleasing duty to perform in thanking you on behalf of the Canadian Volunteer Militia. I am gratified that even in the autumn of my military career, my duty should have called me into the Dominion of Canada to become associated for a time so responsibly with its Militia. I have had the satisfaction of seeing much of this force during the past summer. I have been greatly pleased with the efficiency and the extreme enthusiasm which animates the powerful military organization of this country. I have not hesitated to say so at considerable length at the head of those stout regiments I had the honour to inspect on various occasions in their Brigade Camps. They only require time and practice to develop them into powerful troops, with some aid in the preliminary education of young officers and men which I trust you will obtain through the liberality of our Legislature. It is a military force in every sense of great promise, and I trust I may in the limit of my duty here be permitted in some degree to promote its efficiency. I have no doubt that in years to come, when the health of the army is proposed, there will be associated with it not alone the Volunteer Militia, but the Army of Canada, whose manly people can produce as splendid military material as the population of any nation in the world. I have to offer my thanks also to you, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, for your kindness in allowing me the privilege of being present at this festival in commemoration of the Patron Saint of Scotland. Though not born north of the Tweed many of the happiest recollections of my early years are connected with that.

"Land of brown heath and shaggy wood:
Land of the mountain and the flood."

And we must remember that old "Caledonia, stern and wild," has sent forth some of the foremost statesmen and ministers, not only to the Imperial Government, but to many important dependencies of the Crown. Many a gallant officer and stubborn soldier, too,

with some of whom I have had the honour to stand shoulder to shoulder on more than one eventful occasion. I apologize for detaining you, by touching even briefly upon happy memories of past years, but I could not refrain from thanking you all for inviting me on this auspicious day. (Loucheur.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Military Drill in Public Schools.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—Although the motion of Dr. Brouse, M. P., in the importance of military drill in our public schools, received some attention during the last session, it is hoped that something definite may be decided upon at the next meeting of Parliament. There can be no doubt that "Drill" calls into exercise all the powers of the human being, and hence, when wisely applied under proper control, essentially promotes the health and favorable growth of the frame. The School Board, of London G.R. have for some time past acknowledged its value, and have included it among the duties to be performed by their teachers. A late English paper gives an account of a public school drill in one of the parks, under the auspices of the School Board, for the purpose of inspection as to the efficiency and extent of the exercises, and to test their usefulness when about forty boys from each school took part in the performance which is said to have been very creditable. In addressing the teachers Sir Charles Reed, Chairman of the Board, in the course of his speech said,—“We owe it to you that all over London and under great difficulties, you have been so earnest and persevering in endeavouring to lift up the poorest and neglected. In giving them habits of obedience to command, and precision of movement, you do that which tends to create self respect, and you do that which improves a whole community.” Of course there were to be found some silly writers in the interests of peace, who discovered that the thing which had been many years used in all the chief collegiate establishments as a recreative means of promoting sound health and correct deportment, was to be deprecated and discountenanced as conducing to the growth and sustentation of the military spirit of the boys of England. The *Herald of Peace*, the organ of the Manchester party of peace at any price, was particularly severe in its comments in an article headed *The Conscription and Board Schools*, and took an occasion to misrepresent some words of Sir Charles Reed. Sir Charles however has publicly corrected the misrepresentation, and indicated in a few strong and sensible sentences the conduct and policy of the School Board. It is to be hoped that the School Boards of the several provinces of the Dominion, will be alive to

the importance of school drill, and include it in the programme of every scholastic institution having any pretension to completeness and excellence.

MONITOR.

HALIFAX, 22nd November, 1875.

The War-Cloud.

A New York report says.—“The work of fitting out cruisers and generally strengthening the navy is reported to be actively but quietly progressing at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Ordnance Bureau is busily engaged in preparing the armaments of the frigate *Colorado* and *Minnesota*, which are being fitted out for sea service. All the necessary stores for a three years' cruise are ready to be put upon them. The triple-turreted monitor *Roanoke*, six guns, is in the hands of workmen making ready to go into commission. The ship of war *Hartford* will be ready to receive her crew in ten days. She will be fitted with torpedo apparatus. Other vessels, now lying up in ordinary, are to be brought to the Brooklyn yard and placed in fighting condition. Every department of the navy is reported busy preparing the navy for active operations.”

A Boston report of the 1st Dec. says.

“A statement is circulating to-day which seems to be well authenticated, that one cause, at least, of the naval activity now employed has arisen from the neglect of Spain to comply with the provisions of the protocol relative to the *Virginius* affair. In that protocol, Spain agreed to try and punish the *Virginius* prisoners. That promise has not been kept, but on the contrary, some of the officers engaged in the massacre have been promoted, notably the butcher Barriel.

“There is reason to believe that the Administration has decided that the protocol must be respected. If this is actually the cause of the activity which seemed to threaten such menacing eventualities, the cause seems to have now been removed, for a communication has been received to-day from the State department at Madrid, stating that the Spanish Cabinet had decided to arrange for the trial of these officers.

“It is reported that the Government used the cable wires for two hours in the transmission of despatches between Secretary Fish and Minister Cushing at Madrid.

“A rumor is also added that Spain has remonstrated against the United States Government permitting the sale of Cuban bonds in this country, claiming that their issue here is in violation of treaty obligations.

“Orders have been received at Brooklyn navy yard to place ten war monitors in commission, and the various naval rendezvous throughout the country are instructed to enlist available men of all grades.

“It is well known that President Grant is in favor of the annexation of Cuba to the United States, and it is probable that in his forthcoming message to Congress he will favor the purchase of the Island with an intimation to Spain, that if she will not sell, the American Government will take steps to put an end to the present condition of affairs there. In other words, peaceable annexation, if we can, forcibly if we must.”

A witty Frenchman defines universal suffrage as the art of multiplying several rogues by many fools.