

Congress had come to its relief and is trying to legislate it into some channel of relief. If the Congressmen could only get their own fingers upon the money a solution of the problem would be at once made. As it is, their ablest financier can only make something approaching an equitable claim to eight million dollars, by including losses and probable losses.

If the eight millions be thus disposed of what will be done with the remaining seven? It is proposed to recognize claims for benefits upon speculations never entered upon, but which might have been if there had been no *Alabama*. In this way they may dispose of the surplus; but the Geneva Arbitrators would have done the United States a favor, if they had not obliged the British Government to pay them more money than they know what to do with."

The following extract from the *Broad Arrow* of January 25th, is a fair specimen of how history is, and has been written. It is not yet twenty-five years since the event to which we suppose it refers, occurs, and we find no less a personage than the Assistant Quarter Master General of the British Army credited with the arrest of the late SMITH O'BRIEN on the Railway platform at Thurles in 1848.

It was well known at the time and it was proved on the subsequent trial that a Railway Guard (in Canada a conductor) of the Great Southern and Western Railway named HULMS arrested Mr. O'BRIEN, and received £500 sterling, the reward offered for his capture by the British Government. For the same, Colonel KENNETH DOUGLAS MCKENZIE might be then an ensign quartered at Thurles with a detachment of his regiment, and had about as much to do with it as with the discovery of the North Pole; but it is a curious illustration of how history has been travestied to serve personal adulation, or for even worse purposes. What the object of the learned "Flat, &c., Ruat Cælum" in assigning to an unknown individual, when the event occurred, a prominent position in an historical episode, now almost forgotten, is hard to say, but it is too bad to rob the Railway Guard of the honor, as it cannot add much to the Assistant Quarter Master General's laurels.

"The following letter relating to a memorable episode in the military career of the present Assistant Quartermaster-General at the Horse Guards, has been addressed to our contemporary the *Globe* (under the signature of "Flat &c., Ruat Cælum")—"Gister" will be glad to hear that though "Ireland revisited" contains a "sneer" at the monument of Smith O'Brien, individuals are sometimes seen doffing their hats as they pass. The like honor was probably paid to the effigies of Roman heroes whose stars had recently risen amongst the constellations. Justice ought to be even-handed. There is room for another monument opposite to that which is "sneered" at. Poor Smith O'Brien was doubtless grateful to the officer who terminated the cabbage garden campaign by taking its hero prisoner on the railway platform at Thurles, for it exiled him from a painful and embarrassing

position. Let Ireland be grateful too, and erect a peaceful drinking fountain near Carlisle Bridge in honour of Colonel Kenneth Douglas McKenzie."

On Thursday last, the fine and imposing battalion of the Governor General's Guards, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel T. Ross, marched through the principal streets of the city, preceded by their admirable band; the various companies mustered strongly, and altogether, presented the best military display this city has witnessed for some time.

This battalion is composed of the late Civil Service Corps, and of young men from the different classes in the city, the officers being in about equal proportions. At present there are only six companies, but there would be no difficulty in raising its strength to ten companies; and, as a movement has been made in Montreal to change one of the battalions in that city into guards, we hope to see Colonel Ross's battalion numbered as the 1st Royal Canadian Guards, which ought to be their proper title.

The city has been indebted to the liberality and enterprise of the gallant colonel and officers for the best military band in Canada, whose services have been given with unchecked liberality on every public occasion. Although we cannot boast of reciprocity on the part of that same public, seeing that the band is supported at the expense of the officers altogether, and they have given the best (as well as the only series for this year) of Assemblies, and Promenade Concerts, this city has yet seen. As might be expected, the Guards are tolerably well drilled, and in the hands of Colonel Ross and Major WHITE will speedily take precedence in that as well as every other soldierly qualification.

Ottawa can now boast of having the best Field Battery of Artillery, the best Brigade of Garrison Artillery, and the best battalion of infantry—the Guards—in Canada, the whole force numbering close on 800 non-commissioned officers and men—a very fair proportion of soldiers in those piping times of peace, to the population, considering the said soldiers serve at their own expense. The city has good reason to be proud of its military force, and especially of the Governor General's Guards.

REVIEWS.

The *Canadian Illustrated News* for 8th February contains a portrait and *fac simile* of the autograph of Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin, a double page illustration of the Montreal citizens' ball, a sketch of the fancy dress skating entertainment held in honor of their Excellencies; the wreck of the *Germany* on the French coast, an illustration of Professor Pepper's curious optical illusion of the

Ghost with a paper explaining the means whereby it is produced, and other well got up illustrations; a column of Notes and Queries have been added, as well as a ladies' department.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the first number of the *American Protestant*, a monthly Journal of choice literature compiled from the best magazines and authors. It is published by S. M. Kennedy, editor, at No. 26, North Seventh Street, Philadelphia, United States. The subscription being \$1.75 per annum; the present number is for the month of March.

The *New Dominion Monthly* for February, 1872, has a portrait of the late Emperor Louis Napoleon, a spirited historical sketch by J.B. Lamoine of *la guerre des Bostonnais* under the heading of "Trifles from my Portfolio," a notice of "Letters from High Latitudes," and some good poetry. The *New Dominion Monthly* keeps up the reputation with which it started.

Notwithstanding the favourable construction put upon the Alsatio Lothoringian conscription by the official *Provincial Correspondent*, independent Prussian journals prove the result to have been by no means satisfactory. Instead of 5324 men as was desired, only 3039 men have been actually brought under the conscription from a contingent of qualified persons amounting to 7454. The 3039 are obviously not exclusively conscripts of the usual order, but reinforced by reserves of the first and second class; for as in the ordinary course of conscription only 250 men are taken to the colours out of 1000 able-bodied persons, if the same proportion had been observed only 2000 ought to have been selected out of the 7454. Even the ratio of 7454 is, however, low, for a population of 1,597,219—especially of the strong and healthy build of Alsatio Lothoringians—ought to yield at least 18,000 or 22,000 able-bodied youths liable to the conscription after the German average. Two-thirds of the ordinary number are thus shown to have escaped their military obligation. Such men as have been taken are described as strong and well built, and a large proportion have been drafted into the Guards.

The Marquis of Lorne, in a speech delivered at Glasgow on the evening of the 7th expressed regret at the emigration of Scotch men from their native country, which is capable of supporting an immense population and where labourers are scarce. If, however he said, people were determined to emigrate he hoped they would stick to the old flag and go to one of the British colonies. No doubt the advice given to the Scotch people by a son-in-law of Her Majesty the Queen will have the effect of materially increasing the stream of emigration to the colonies, and a splendid opportunity is now afforded the Dominion agents in Scotland to secure a larger share of the emigrants who leave North Britain than has hitherto been directed to Canadian shores.