

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

VOLUME IV.

1870.

ON account of the liberal patronage extended to the REVIEW since its establishment we have determined to add fresh features of interest to the forthcoming Volume so as to make it every way worthy of the support of the Volunteers of the Dominion.

On account of the great increase of our circulation we have been compelled to adopt the CASH IN ADVANCE principle. Therefore, from and after the 1st of January next the names of all subscribers who do not renew their subscription will be removed from the list. The reason for this will be obvious to our friends, as it will be readily understood that a paper having so extended a circulation must be paid for in advance, it being impossible to employ agents to visit all the points to which it is mailed.

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We number amongst our Correspondents and Contributors some of the ablest writers on military subjects in America.

Full and reliable reports of RIFLE MATCHES, INSPECTIONS, and other matters connected with the Force appear regularly in our Columns. Also original historical reviews of America, and especially Canadian wars.

AGENTS.

Liberal terms will be offered to Adjutants, Instructors, and others who act as agents for us in their several corps. The only authorized agents for the REVIEW at present are

Lt.-COL. R. LOVELACE, for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

MR. ROGER HUNTER, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

REMITTANCES should be addressed to DAWSON KERR, Proprietor VOLUNTEER REVIEW, OTTAWA.

DAWSON KERR.....PROPRIETOR.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

Is published EVERY MONDAY MORNING, at OTTAWA, Dominion of Canada, by DAWSON KERR Proprietor, to whom all Business Correspondence should be addressed.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum, strictly in advance.

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.

CONTENTS OF No. 20, VOL. IV.

	Page.
POETRY.—	
The Hens in Council.....	460
THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.—No. 20.....	400
LEADERS.—	
Debate on the Colonial Question.....	450
Sir G. E. Cartier.....	457
The Spectator (Eng.) on Canada.....	457
The European crisis and our position.....	458
End of the Manitoba troubles.....	459
Departure of H. H. Prince Arthur.....	459
CORRESPONDENCE.—	
From Montreal—B.....	462
Notes en route through Ontario.....	462
Presentation and Address—R. L.....	462
RIFLE MATCHES.—	
Match between 17th and 48th Batt.....	451
Match—No. 5 Co.—Prince's Wales Own.....	451
SELECTIONS.—	
The operations of War explained &c.....	449
Letter of Anglo Canadian.....	459
Resolutions of Public Meeting, Montreal.....	451
St. John, N. B., news items.....	451
Posting of old color 16th Regt. in English Cathedral, Quebec.....	452
Unveiling of Monument to Volunteers who fell at Ridgeway, Toronto.....	453
Canada as an Ally.....	453
A Canadian on the Fenian Raid.....	454
Nation making.....	455
The Imperial Policy.....	455
Opinions of the Press.....	455
A fool's errand.....	461
Longevity in the British Navy.....	461
REMITTANCES.....	451



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, JULY 25, 1870.

Our Subscribers in Ontario will be called upon by our Agent, LIEUT. COL. LOVELACE, (Agent for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec,) during the present month, and we will feel obliged by their promptly meeting the demands made on them for subscriptions due this office on account of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

As anticipated in our last issue, the European crisis has culminated in a declaration of war, in which France and Prussia, as principals, will probably involve the other European powers, and possibly the United States. The coming contest will go far to solve the military problem of the value of weapons of precision, and their effects in determining the issue of battles. It will be in fact and reality,—a combat of giants before which all previous struggles will appear tame and devoid of interest, and this not only in a scientific point of view, but for the political interests at stake.

The majority of leading journals in Canada concur in ascribing the precipitation of the contest to the inordinate ambition of the Emperor of the French, and hold that he had no right to interfere in the selection of a Spanish ruler. This is all very true as viewed from the outward aspect of affairs, and taking general principles as a guide, the conduct of the chosen ruler of France would

be reprehensible in the extreme. There are, however, circumstances which entirely alters the case between the French and Prussians, and makes it a piece of that astute statesmanship which has characterized his political career for the Emperor of the French to force his antagonist into a contest on which the political equilibrium of Europe, and consequently of the civilized world, depends. The political status of Europe may be briefly described as composed of military despotisms and constitutional governments,—the former compact, overbearing, and able to mask all their designs to a considerable extent, till the carefully calculated period of action arrives,—the latter, without cohesion, incapable of fixing any purpose or project, where execution would be indefinitely delayed. The antagonism, then, is a question as to which of these conditions the civilized world is to accept, and France, from her peculiar geographical position, has been compelled to confront the danger. Russia is the great exponent of the despotic principle, Prussia being merely her subordinate agent, and as a matter of consequence her tool. France, England, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Denmark (Sweden cannot be counted on being too near Russia), and in revenge for humiliation Austria represents the constitutional principle. The throne of Spain would be a matter of no consequence to any of those powers, provided the person who filled it was the uncontrolled choice of the Spanish people; but when he is notoriously a Prussian, elevated by intrigues for the express purpose of checkmating France, which an unfriendly power on her Southern frontier would do, while Prussia pressed on her Eastern and Northern borders, it was time for the astute Louis Napoleon to bestir himself, and it was as well to make this daring intrigue the occasion of forcing the issue, as to wait in a state of chronic warfare for another year or two, exhausting the resources of his people and really weakening his own power, while, on the contrary, Prussia would suffer nothing, her iron, military despotism enabling her to make war and preparations on the most economical scale. It is, in reality, a contest for the maintenance of the balance of power on the part of France—a contest for the just and right principle that every government should be allowed to conduct its own affairs without being dictated to by its neighbors, or forced, in accordance with some traditional or fancy policy, to submit to impositions most repugnant to the people, as well as to their interests. It is to maintain the right of the minority (the smaller states in this case), to be considered, a right Prussia was most careful to extinguish after the seven days campaign of 1866, when she dismembered the Austrian Empire and appropriated the spoils. There can be no doubt of the fact that in the event of Prussia being hard pressed Russia will aid her, either by mediation, or, if that is rejected, by material force, especially if England can be kept neutral, a position per-