

reading the army newspapers and conversing with many officers with respect to the statements contained in that article, says that one and all think the writer in *Blackwood* was perfectly justified in his remarks. On one point every one is agreed—namely, that the reorganization of the army has been attempted solely as a means of defence, and not of offence. In most cases every one, from the highest to the lowest, is well aware of the position in which their country has been placed by the events of 1870. They know that France is so enfeebled that any idea of turning the tables on their victors must be put off to a far distant future. At the same time there are several generals of the old school who would fain attribute the victories of the war less to superior strategy than to good luck. Nothing will convince them to the contrary. Unhappily, moreover, their position gives them a certain weight with younger officers, and they must to a certain degree bear the responsibility of the difficulties which have been thrown in the way of army reform. No army, in fact, was more prepared to make sacrifices than that of France, yet, continues the correspondent, the opportunity has been lost, and the example set by the administration of the War Office has, of course, been followed in other quarters. Hence, generals who objected to army reform have not scrupled to follow their leader. Without method, or guide, or even precise orders, they command each one after his own fashion. Some treat the regulations of June 12th as a dead letter, and the troops manoeuvre according to the fancy of the commanders of the Corps d'Armée, notably those under the orders of Generals Ducrot, Bataille, Clinchant, and Chanzy. Even simple lieutenant colonels and majors have contributed their quota to changing the regulations for manoeuvring troops, so that the subaltern officers are naturally completely at sea as to the right or wrong manner of proceeding. This is surely a strange way of helping to reorganize the army; but in truth there are many generals who, though brave men, are in the art of war mere captains. The French army reforms should begin from the head, for the War Office and its staff are much too conservative in their ideas, and until a change is brought about no reforms would be possible. Yet individually the officers and men are working as they never worked before. The colonels pay the greatest attention to their regiments, and the progress made, more especially in the artillery, is very great. But disunited goodwill cannot do everything. The very life of the army is its organization, and this, as I have shown, is defective. It cannot be otherwise, since, four years after such terrible lessons as those of 1870, the army, as a military body, has made little or no progress. I will not analyse the matter in detail as the writer in *Blackwood* has done, but one thing is evident, that his criticisms as a whole yet remain unanswered. Those persons with whom I have talked on the subject, and who are competent to express an opinion, see but one way to reorganize the army—namely, a redistribution of the higher and almost irresponsible posts.

"The examination of the College of St. Cyr terminated on Tuesday. Two hundred and seventy cadets will be appointed sub-lieutenants on the 1st of October, and will be attached to regiments on the 1st of January. General de Lartigue was the inspector-general of the College, and expressed himself as particularly struck by the progress made by the pupils, more especially in military science. For the first time

for twenty years no cadet was found incompetent to enter the army. In some years as many as thirty have been rejected. The progress made by the other cadets, numbering 350, who now enter on their second year, is stated to be on a par with that of their older companions. M. Patrick Mac Mahon, eldest son of the President of the Republic, is among those who passed out of the College to-day. He will enter the Line, and is said to have passed in a most creditable manner."

E. J. REED, Esq., M. P., late Chief Naval constructor to the English admiralty appears to have a peculiar penchant for monstrosities in Naval Architecture. The following paragraph is based mainly on a letter of his to the *London Times*, and though the form of vessel is not actually recommended it is evident its novelty excites something more than admiration.

The question would naturally be asked by a seaman as to the conditions under which this latest monstrosity made her voyage or voyages, and whether she could keep the sea in ordinary rough weather, and whether she would be the equal of a properly constructed ship with same draught of water and armament. These are questions which will determine her value for any purpose:

#### THE RUSSIAN CIRCULAR IRONCLAD.

The following letter from E. J. Reed, chief contractor of the English navy, is published in the *London Times*:—"Sir,—It will be interesting to many of your readers at home and abroad to learn that the first of the Russian circular ironclads, the Novgorod, has recently made passages in the Black Sea which, to say the least, fully justify the Imperial Government in having adopted this form of vessel as one well adapted for providing very powerful naval defences for certain purposes. After recently steaming from Nicolaief round the south of the Crimea to the Circassian Coast, thence back as far as Sebastopol, and then on to Odessa, this extraordinary vessel has during the past week performed what was probably her chief object by entering the Sea of Azof through the Straits of Kerch, where the depth of water is but 14 feet, and where no other European ironclad carrying armour 11 inches thick and guns of 28 tons could possibly pass. I do not wish what I have previously said, or am here saying, to be construed as an approval of these circular ironclads for all purposes, and in all their details; but I certainly think the performances of the Novgorod are such as will excite the notice and admiration of many thoughtful persons besides shipbuilders, and will reflect great credit upon the Imperial Russian Government and their enterprising designer Admiral Popoff. It is true that the Novgorod is not designed for, and does not attain a high speed, but she has lately been steaming at eight knots, which is more than was intended, and she could have been made very much faster had she been increased in size. It must be remembered that although carrying the heavy armour and guns already mentioned, she is a comparatively small vessel, being of but 100 feet in diameter and having a total displacement of only 2,500 tons, which is but one half that of our Glatton, and much less than one fourth of our Indefatigable, or even of our Minotaur. She has engines of only 480-horse power. Her coat is built under like conditions with other ships,

would be roughly proportioned to her tonnage and horsepower, from which the cheapness of such a vessel may be readily inferred."

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

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

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

GRANBY, 18th Sept., 1875.

The Granby Camp of Instruction under the command of Lieut.-Col. John Fletcher, late of H. M. 100th Regiment, C.M.G., Deputy Adjutant General for the 5th Military District assembled on the 6th inst., and has been a perfect success throughout, the conduct of the corps comprising the same most satisfactory. The force was composed as follows, viz:

Commander—Lieut. Colonel Fletcher.

#### BRIGADE STAFF.

Brigade Major, Major the Hon. M. Aylmer, late H. M. 7th Royal Fusiliers; Orderly Officer, Captain Perkins, 52nd Regiment; Musketry Instructor, Captain Bulman, 79th Highlanders; Supply Officer, Capt. Smith, 60th Regt.; Camp Quartermaster, Lieut. Neale, Granby Field Battery.

#### CAVALRY.

Lieut. Colonel, Colonel R. Lovelace, Cavalry Staff Officer late of H. M. 19th, and Osmanli T. Cavalry, commanding.

1st Squadron, Clarenceville Hussars, Capt. Bush.

2nd Squadron, Capt. Bright.

#### GRANBY FIELD BATTERY.

Major Aymrauld, commanding.

#### INFANTRY.

21st Regt., Lieut. Colonel Marchand, M.P. commanding.

32nd Regt., Lieut. Colonel Hall, commanding.

79th Highlanders, Lieut. Colonel Miller, commanding.

An Inspection and Field day took place on the 15th instant, when the parade ground was filled with spectators from the village of Granby, and the adjoining hamlets, amongst whom we noticed many of the ladies who so kindly sent fruit and flowers to the Officers Brigade Mess, and tendered them the hospitality of their houses. After the usual parade movements a sham fight took place, giving the officers of the three arms an opportunity of displaying their proficiency in handling their men and knowledge of military tactics.

The Hussars under Colonel Lovelace covered the front with dismounted skirmishers, and on the advance of the Field Battery under Major Aymrauld, fired in double time to their horses, mounted, and closed to their outward flanks forming squadrons to protect the guns. The Field Battery came up at a gallop, unlimbered and made action to the front, pouring in round after round on the