

the mails, when we do get them, come in allowances of three or four days at a time.

Parliament has re-assembled after a recess of a fortnight, but still does very little work; they wait, it is said, for the return of that "Triton among the minnows" who like the "Venerable Gammon" has so graciously smile his permission for them to go on. A Mr. Tremblay is anxious that the house should express an unfavorable opinion on the appointment of Mr. Brydges, (*en étranger* he calls him) as Railway Commissioner, considering that the local government have nothing whatever to do with the matter, they will only make themselves very ridiculous if they do so.

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—My attention was a few days since drawn to an article in a prominent newspaper bearing the above heading, and its suggestive nature has prompted me to offer a few remarks on the same subject. The article to which I allude simply bore reference to the appointment of our Minister of Militia, as 'our plenipotentiary' at St. James'. My ideas flow entirely in another channel, although I concur in the writer's remarks as to the necessity of some representation of our broad Dominion in the councils of the Empire; nay, I would even go further and ask why we should not bear the same relations with England, as California does with the United States. Though 3000 miles from the Capital, they are none the less citizens, their representatives sit in the Senate, and bear their share in the entire legislation. But we are citizens only in name, we are Britons on the wrong side of the Atlantic, subjects when our services are required, but admitted to no rights of citizenship. Exposed to the attacks of a powerful and inimical nation, we have no control over our foreign relations legislated for and upon, we have no representatives in the legislature. Taxed for the support of an Imperial representative, we have no voice in his selection. Let us hope then, that the report is correct, and that tardy justice has accorded us even a single competent representative, as an earnest of full and speedy reparation. But it is not to this view of our relations with England that I would direct your attention. 'Our military relations' would more fully describe the task I have undertaken. The reduction of the garrisons in the Dominion, in the face of the unsettled state of the 'Alabama' and 'San Juan' claims, reduces us to a similar position *in reality* as that which was threatened us on the rejection of the militia bill of 1863, only that this time we are told by deeds, as we then were in words, that "we must defend our own." To be sure we have the noble pledge 'that our country should be protected to the last dollar and the last man,' but alas! as administrations change, such

pledges are apt to be cancelled or forgotten. We have therefore to accept the strong hint that Canada must furnish her own defence as the expression of the intention of Her Majesty's Ministers should occasion arise, or in other words should John Bright see fit to provoke a war with America, we must bear the brunt of the battle although the quarrel is not of our own making. Is this the manner in which the descendants of the U. E. Loyalists, the sons of those who died by the side of the gallant Brock, the men who crushed the rebellion of '37 and who later laid down their lives at Ridgeway and Fort Erie, should be treated by the land which gave them birth. None of these wars, be it remembered, were of our provoking or seeking. In 1775 the Provinces remained loyal to the British crown, though urged by the most tempting inducements to join the rebels. As a consequence of their loyalty, their country was invaded by Arnold at the head of 1200 men. Of the 1500 who confronted them, some 1300 were Canadian Militia, and these men foiled and defeated Arnold in four desperate conflicts, and the valor of Canadians preserved the Provinces to the British Crown.

In 1776, the Colonists with the assistance of reinforcements, drove the invading army, now increased to 4000 men, beyond the borders, and far into their own country. What was the relation of Great Britain to her Colonists then? The American war cost £100,000,000 to Great Britain—but the Colonists lost their all, and laid down their lives to sustain the British flag. Those who lived in what is now called the United States forsook their homes, their familiar associations, their friends and kindred, for the sake of that flag whose honor they loved better than their lives. Great Britain saved her Colonies. Which were the debtors in this case?

Again in 1812-15, British Cruisers boarded and searched American vessels. War was declared, and our borders were invaded on the instant, by between 13000 and 14000 men. There were in the Provinces but 4000 British soldiers of whom 3000 were in garrison in Montreal and Quebec. 1500 alone served with the Canadian Militia in the capture of Michilimacinae and Detroit, and out of the 1200 who opposed five times their number on Queenston Heights, one half were Canadian Militia. During the whole campaign the Militia bore the brunt of the fight, and the memorable affair at Chateaugay in which De Sallaberry at the head of about 1000 men beat back and defeated a force of 7000 infantry, 10 field pieces and 250 cavalry, sufficiently proves the ardor which patriotism lent to their arms. What need to quote that which already burns in the heart of every true Canadian? Suffice it to say they did their devoir as Canadians should.

What were the relations of Great Britain to her Colonies then? This campaign, cost

£50,000,000 to Great Britain. Her Colonies lost their budding commerce—their little shipping was totally destroyed, and ten years elapsed before the country recovered from the derangement of industry, and cessation of business caused by the war. More than this the blood of her gallant sons was spilt like water, and Chrysler's Farm, Bloody Creek, Queenston Heights and Chateaugay bore witness to their heroic deeds on behalf of their mother land. Again did Britain owe her Colonies to the loyalty of her Colonists—had it been otherwise, Canada would have been lost, before Waterloo was won. Who was the debtor here?

When in 1837 the ill-advised policy of Great Britain provoked a few misguided men to rebellion; loyal hearts and hands preserved the land from confusion and anarchy, and restored peace and confidence where mistrust and suspicion had reigned supreme. But when there grew out of this long festering sore, the boon of self-government, were the men who preserved the state, prepared to hear, that, with the concession Great Britain absolved them from allegiance, and that they were no longer entitled to her protection as her children and subjects. Had she done this there would perhaps have been a shadow of consistency in her conduct. But not so—she retains her subjects—and absolved herself from further care in their behalf. Who is the debtor here?

Before Daniel Webster so acutely chiselled Great Britain on the boundary question, and difficulties were expected momentarily to arise, the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Legislatures gave power to their respective Governors to spend every shilling of revenue, and call out every man in the defence of Britain's rights, and their bold attitude drove the wily Yankee to trust to diplomacy rather than force of arms. That he was right in so doing, the result sufficiently proved. The colonists gained peace at a cost to which they would have preferred war, but Great Britain herself stooped to the humiliation, and not her high spirited and devoted colonists. Who were the debtors here?

When our flag was insulted by the fratricidal Yankee the telegraph that told us the "Trent" affair, was not more prompt than the people of Canada to arise as one man, and at fearful cost to themselves, declare for war, rather than submit to such an indignity. No thought was there of self-interest—no hesitation for fear of consequences—but boldly and determinedly did they prepare for war which would have been annihilation to themselves and their prospects—the flag of their country had been insulted, and its honor must be sustained. This spirit doubtless had its effect at Washington, and the Yankees with many oaths of revenge, had to swallow the bitter pill. Mason and Slidell were delivered, but the

(Continued on page 163.)