



# The Volunteer Review

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### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

At Belleville, on the 30th ult., the Engine Shed of the Grand Trunk Railway Station was destroyed by fire, together with nine Locomotives and a quantity of stores. Loss about \$155,000. How the fire originated is not exactly known, but the supposition is that a defective stove-pipe was the cause.

At the Inspection of the Montreal Field Battery of Artillery, on Friday evening, Col Strangesaid it was the intention of the Government to form a Dominion Artillery Association with annual contests.

Colonel Fletcher has presented a bill to the city of Montreal for \$1,600, being the cost of turning out the volunteers at the Guibord funeral. The City Council refuse to pay it, and say the Dominion Government is responsible.

David Merrit, an old veteran of 1812, passed away on Saturday 27th ult., at his residence in Caistor, at the advanced age of 81 years. He leaves his numerous posterity the priceless legacy of a good name. The old man was down to St. Catharines a few weeks ago to draw his pension.

The report of the Minister of Militia, in course of preparation, we are led to believe, will show that of the 23,000 Canadian militiamen who served in the war of 1812, there were 3,000 well authenticated survivors to claim a share in the bounty voted by the Dominion Parliament last session. This shows the extraordinary longevity of our people. Most of these men were in the vicinity of eighty years, and many much older.

The sentences of Dr. Davis and his wife have been commuted to imprisonment for life, and their evidence will be used in the case about to be instituted against ex-Alderman Clements of Toronto.

Hotchkiss, the Belleville murderer, has also had his sentence commuted to confinement for life in a criminal lunatic Asylum, having been declared insane.

The United States authorities are busily engaged in increasing and perfecting their naval armament, in view of a probable rupture with Spain.

E. S. Tobey, of Boston, has declined the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, tendered him by Secretary Chandler.

An "affair of honor" occurred between an ex Union and an ex-Confederate officer, at Edgemoor, Del.

Spain protests against the further sale of Cuban bonds in the New York market, claiming that the permitting of such sales on the part of the U. S. Government is a flagrant violation of the laws of nations.

The purchase of the Suez Canal shares by the British Government is approved by the press and public of Britain. A despatch to the *New York Herald* says that the stock was first offered to France, and the people of that country now think they have let a favourable chance pass. It is believed in England that Parliament will be called together on Dec. 14 to ratify the purchase.

The Insurgents are vigorously pressing the siege of Goranko, while the Turkish garrison within the town is completely cut off from all hope of escape.

General Jovellary is to supersede by Count Valmaseda as Captain General of Cuba.

The Cuban General Sagunta has won an important victory over a division of the Spanish army.

The Protestant Church in Toledo, Spain, has been closed by order of the Government.

The British and French Governments have arrived at a satisfactory understanding in regard to the Newfoundland Fisheries.

The *London Times* publishes a special telegram from Danilooograd, which states that military operations are impeded by heavy snows in the mountains round about Goranko. The insurgents are well provisioned, and tolerably sheltered, while the besieged Turkish garrison is reduced to extremities.

It is stated that, with a view to preventing Austrian intervention, Montenegro has proposed to Servia an offensive and defensive alliance in favor of Herzegovina, and if the offer is accepted, both countries will take joint action in April.

There is to be an International Postal Conference at Berne, Switzerland, on the 17th January, 1876.

A special to the *Herald* from Paris states that the Khedive of Egypt offered shares in the Suez Stock for sale to France, previous to their purchase by England. Minister De Cages wanted to accept the offer of His Highness, but the Bank of France made some difficulties and the opportunity for the acquisition of the property was lost. Mutual recriminations are now interchanged among the French officials. Marquis Prones is specially blamed in the matter of the failure.

M. De Lesseps has issued a circular, in which he says he regards England's purchase of the Khedive's shares as a fortunate thing, and the consequence of which will be the renunciation by the British Government of its former hostility to the interests of the shareholders of the Canal.

The *Daily News*' special from Alexandria says:—The Abyssinians had surprised and killed a body of 1,200 Egyptians, including 17 officers.

The Russian organ, believes however that the consequences of England's purchase of the Suez Canal shares may be the transaction cannot endanger the peace of Europe. The purchase affects the countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, especially France, and it seems impossible for the affair to be complete without an international arrangement. It would amount to sheer confiscation for England to undertake the management of the canal. It is not to be desired to be civilizing, the work of the canal will become a mere instrument of trade. Arrangements must be made to render the change compatible with the interests of the world, and by means of solid guarantees.

The French Assembly have accepted the Electoral Bill in a modified form.

The British Ambassador has not yet succeeded in obtaining any redress from the Chinese authorities on account of the Margary murder.

The Russian losses in the recent battles around Khokand are said to have been very heavy.

The French Assembly have adopted the clause of the Electoral Bill providing for voting by arrondissements, by a vote of 401 against 200.

It is not expected that the British troops will meet with any serious opposition at Perak.

The Carlists are again bombarding San Sebastian.

A cable telegram of the 28th from Plymouth says:—The British iron turret ship *Monarch*, of the Channel fleet, came in collision to-day with the *Holden*, from Pensacola, for London. The *Holden*, was badly damaged, her bows being smashed in. The man-of-war was seriously injured, and both vessels have put into harbor. The *Holden's* officers assert that the *Monarch* tried to cross their bows, and after the collision steered away without offering assistance.

A telegram from New York says: Private advisers assert that the Cuban General Sanguini has slain a Spanish force of 300 men under Col. Campillo at the intersection of the main turnpike running through the centre of the island and the road leading to Remedios. A decoying force of sharpshooters was displayed to lead them into ambush, where they were attacked by the main body of rebels.

British reinforcements from India have arrived at Perak, on the Malayan Peninsula.

The Prince of Wales has arrived at Colombo, Ceylon.

The Egyptian troops have occupied the district of Juba and Kismaco, disarmed the Zanibar forces there and hoisted the Turkish flag.