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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1873.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and in the corner the words "Printer's copy" written; and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

The *Broad Arrow* professes to be a Journal devoted to the extension of military knowledge, the promotion of discipline and the fostering of that *esprit de corps*, that principle of love for soldiering as a profession without which an army cannot exist. It is evident that these pretensions can only be upheld by skill and discrimination, a clear sense of justice, cool judgment, and a course not wholly partizan, politically or otherwise. The very essence of military law is impartiality, and it lies at the bottom of military organization, and is the first principle of discipline. Our knowledge of *Broad Arrow* does not lead us to believe that it has kept the straight line of duty in this latter respect, we need not refer to occasions when partizan feeling has been displayed in sneers and innuendos at the dignity of the Sovereign of the

British Empire, or at the present Commander in Chief of its army, and other exalted personages; this abnegation of plain duty is reprehensible enough, it was confined however, to the faction in whose interest it was written, but in the issue of 7th June, *Broad Arrow* has essayed a longer flight and without correct information presumes to libel the officer commanding the Canadian Army in an article under the caption of "Canadian Militia Scandals" in which there is just sufficient coloring of truth to make the falsehoods pass current.

We are not aware whether the writer of the article has such a thing as a professional reputation in a military point of view to lose, but as the Adjutant General of the Canadian Army is an officer of well known standing in the late Regular Army of Great Britain, it is rather an impertinence for an anonymous scribbler under the shadow of the editorial closet to pass judgment on his character, and to decide a case from *ex parte* evidence, with the merits of which the writer, if a resident of Great Britain, could not possibly be sufficiently acquainted; and it will not argue great discrimination in the editorial management of the *Broad Arrow*, if it has allowed outside influence to dictate its course in this matter. In any case the article is one that should never have appeared in any military journal; it is a libel pure and simple on the character of a worthy, talented, and gallant soldier and an infamous attempt to assail his professional reputation, as well as to lessen the value of the Canadian Military Organization in the eyes of the people of Great Britain, by insinuating and assuming that it is radically defective.

Broad Arrow must remember its own Jeremiads over mismanagement and something worse in the British War Office, and will also please to recollect that the administration of the Imperial Army of about 70,000 men costs that representative of the tribe of Isaachar—the donkey between two burdens—the British taxpayer—over five and one half millions pounds sterling without the jobs, while we maintain a force of 43,000 men the administration of which costs us including the headquarters staff less than eight thousand pounds sterling. Frauds in the administration of the British Army has to be reckoned by the hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling. An attempted fraud with us involving a loss, if perpetrated, of thirty two pounds sterling, has given occasion to the virtuous indignation of the *Broad Arrow* to the contemptible attempt to lessen the reputation of a gentleman, and a soldier, and to cast discredit on the whole Canadian Organization. We can only account for it by supposing that it is the new ethical system introduced along with the re-organization of the British Army by those dear friends of *Broad Arrow*—the Whig Radicals; and that in future instead of honor, manliness, and fair play being characteristics of the force

and its representative press, we are to have all the rascalities of partizanship to deal with.

We present the first scandal of the Canadian Army to *Broad Arrow* with our respect I request that it may be embalmed and kept on exhibition, and we promise that the proposed investigation which is to disclose such disorganization in our ranks shall be submitted without note or comment to our contemporary's scrutiny, on condition that he borrows SAM WELLER's microscope or any similar instrument of sufficient magnifying power to enable him, at a distance of 3,000 miles, to find a fraud equal in magnitude to one thousand part of those perpetrated at the British War Office for the last twenty years, and we have to assure him that the Adjutant General of the Canadian Army is within reach of the War Office, as he holds the rank of Colonel in the British Army, in which notwithstanding all *Broad Arrow* has said on the subject there is such a thing as justice to be found, and not administered in the fashion of *Jedburgh law*.

Broad Arrow should remember Shakespeare's celebrated aphorism:

"Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;
"But he that filches from me my good name,
"Robs me of that which not encircles him,"
"And makes me poor, indeed."

And this very unjustifiable act is attempted by a military journal without a shadow of pretence that any grounds existed for such an outrageous proceeding.

In our last issue we gave a synopsis of Captain O'HEA's admirable paper on "Rifles and Rifling." As far as existing systems are concerned, the mode of grooving a rifle is stated to be by a cylinder (called a cutter, box) filling the bore as nearly as practicable in which a cold chisel is inserted, the cylinder is made to revolve at the required angle of pitch by machinery and to shift its position at each cut as required by the pattern of rifle. "Now, it is evident that is not a perfect instrument inasmuch as the exact and uniform action of the cutter on the metal of the bore must depend on the evenness of or density and texture of the metal composing the barrel, and it is simply impossible to obtain a tube of even density and texture throughout." It is further liable to derangement by the velocity with which it is made to move through the bore and the spring of the rod to which it is attached. In order to remedy this obstacle to the production of a true rifle; it has been proposed to punch or draw the rifling and this could not be accomplished owing to the obstacles presented by the length of bore.

The system of *put* rifling is taken up as follows. "This system which is the inven-