

## THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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### 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.



## The Volunteer Review, AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1867.

### NOTICE.

Agents and others are informed that we cannot supply back numbers. Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 are entirely gone. On the receipt of lists, we send promptly the back numbers as far as possible. We regret our inability to comply with requests for numbers from the first, but as large editions have been completely exhausted, it is unavoidable.

### VOLUNTEERING FINANCIALLY CONSIDERED.

Assuming for a fact that the great mass of British Americans desire that fuller development of national life in this country which the consummation of Confederation will bestow, it would argue that their aspirations deserved no higher character than mere egotistical whims, if they did not also exhibit a readiness to adopt such measures as will be calculated to maintain their advancement in the national scale when they have got it. We think no one can justly accuse the great majority of British Americans of such folly and; the question therefore is, how will they be enabled to support their position and independence most effectively and most cheaply? Although we have peace at present and are much in the habit of glorifying "this enlightened nineteenth century" for the advancement of that christian principle which teaches peace and good will, the stern logic of facts must convince us that the epigrammatic couplet—

"This is the patent age of new inventions  
For killing bodies and for saving souls."

is even more applicable to our times than when it was written. Taking it for granted then, that in order to carry to their legitimate conclusion the aspirations of the majority, we must prepare for war, as every other nation is preparing, even the least patriotic must see that, whether they will or will not, they must eventually be compelled to contribute to the strength of the national forces. There are but two ways of doing this—by a standing army and a drafted Militia, or by volunteering, or by both combined. A standing army, such as we could sustain, would be utterly useless, unless backed by the whole Militia force, properly organized and under trained officers. In that case it would undoubtedly be the most effective and most easily managed defensive force which the Government could have; but it would also be the most expensive, for however small the standing army, it would be costly, and drafted men could not be expected to turn out without being provided with, at least, the necessities of life. Let any one figure for himself the cost of even ten days pay at 25 cents for say 400,000 militiamen, with the cost of maintenance and the education and pay of officers, and he will be convinced that a well-drilled force of 50,000 Volunteers, however liberally they may be treated, would be much less expensive. We do not by any means insinuate that even with that force in the very best state of discipline we could dispense with the enrollment of the Militia; but with it to act as an advance guard in case of emergency, the organization of the Militia and cost comparatively little, except in the face of immediate danger. If the Northern States had during a few years prior to the war devoted to organizing and training a volunteer force, even the interest of the vast sums poured out in conquering the South, they would not have been subjected to the disgrace of Bull's Run; they would have been able to put down the South in as many weeks as it took them years, and withal they would have been saved from the grinding tax which their enormous debt entails, and which paralyzes every branch of their trade. That lesson cannot have been lost on our statesmen, and we may assume that preparation in one way or other will be enforced. If drafting must be resorted to, every able-bodied man will be liable to it, or be compelled to pay a large bounty for a substitute, besides paying his share of the whole expense. Putting the question therefore on no higher grounds than pounds, shilling and pence, it is the interest of every man, and especially of business, men to make the Volunteer force as large and effective as possible, by treating it liberally and fairly, and thus inducing the youth of the country to enroll themselves in the Volunteer ranks. We have been led to those remarks by complaints which are constantly coming to us from Volunteers in our towns and cities, that instead of their patriotism securing for them

the countenance and consideration of their employers, it is actually a bar to their receiving or being able to retain employment. Besides the grasping disposition on the part of wealthy men which such conduct exhibits, it is in the highest degree suicidal. We hear no such complaints from the rural districts and as the great body of our voting population is rural, and as they will insist upon proper defensive measures, if they are not secured through the Volunteer system they will sustain their representatives in a coercive policy; and the commercial population, being vastly in the minority, must submit. We, by no means, wish to be understood that a very considerable portion of the commercial community is chargeable with this unpatriotic and foolish conduct, but it requires only a few cases in each locality to beget a feeling highly prejudicial to the success of the Volunteer movement, and the merchantile community owe it to their own interests, if for no higher object, to bring such cases to light and denounce and expose them. In England, even among a nation of shop-keepers, and burdened as they are with an expensive standing army, they understand their own interest better, and every encouragement is given to the Volunteer movement, for they see there, as they ought to see here, that in the event of successful invasion, commerce and trade would be the very first interests to suffer, while rural property would escape to a great extent unharmed. As an illustration of the way the Volunteers are treated there we will give a single instance from the 'Volunteer Service Gazette': On Saturday, the 5th of January, at Westminster-hall, the annual distribution of prizes to the 11th Middlesex Rifles took place. The total strength of the regiment was 653 men, and as rewards of merit to these "two large side tables and a centre-table were well filled with prizes, one hundred and eleven in number, and worth about £400," or in our currency about \$1000! One of the prizes amounted to £100, another to £50, and so on. And yet their commanding officer, Col. LINDSAY, demanded that the Government should do more than they had hitherto done in adopting some mode "for the purpose of more amply filling the Volunteer exchequer. He believed that there was no unwillingness on the part of members of Parliament to meet these requirements, as he believed it to be the wish of the people that it should be done." We hope that when duty of the hour is known and appreciated, self-interest if nothing more will act as a preventive to such complaints as we have noticed, and that hereafter well-disposed Volunteers will be able in all cases to obtain employment because of the position they hold as defenders of their country, instead of being rejected on that account; and for our part we shall feel it a duty to give publicity to every well authenticated case of the latter kind which comes to our