

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

And Military and Naval Gazette.

VOLUME V.

1871.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW enters on the fifth year of its existence. When it was first projected fears were entertained for its ultimate success, as two efforts of a similar kind had been made and failed for want of support; but we are happy to say these fears were groundless, and that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW may now be said to be firmly established, thanks to the support it has met with from the hands of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion. It now circulates largely through Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and even the new Province of Manitoba has extended its generous support. Nor is it confined to these Provinces only, but in the Mother Country, and even the United States it has subscribers and supporters. No other journal in the Dominion has so wide and extended a circulation as the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and therefore it offers unparalleled facilities to general advertisers. Our terms for advertising will be found liberal on application, either personally, or by letter *post paid*.

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AGENTS.

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We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

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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 be obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it may reach us in time for publication.

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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, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1871.

THE great political problem to be dealt with by the present generation is the choice between constitutional monarchy and republicanism; both have been tried on a most extensive scale. Britain, the school of municipal and legislative freedom, the parent of constitutional liberty, has tested monarchy with a thoroughness which has left no excellence unexplored and no deformity undiscovered; the results are satisfactory in an eminent degree and calculated to establish its value as an institution alike favorable to law and order, morality and civilization. As a necessary balance to the influence of the crown, our hereditary Peerage of great landholders preserves the constitutional equilibrium and protects the interests of the minority of the Commons. Of this two notable examples have been furnished during the present session of the Imperial Parliament. The first was the unconstitutional and arbitrary act of the Whig Radical Minister in using his power to induce his sovereign to exercise her prerogative in abolishing the purchase system in the army, anticipating the action of the House of Lords thereon, the bill being then under their legislative consideration; in the attempt to insult and outgeneral them his total, ludicrous and humiliating failure will be one of those incidents in which such "apes in politics" will be remembered in the history of Britain. The Ballot Bill, uncalled for by any party, was hurried through

the House of Commons under threat of a dissolution, was quietly rejected by the House of Lords as unnecessary and uncalled for as well as too crude in its provisions to answer any useful purpose. Some of our Canadian journals, misinformed as to the merits of both cases, blame the Lords for opposing the popular will, but without sufficient reason, except they believe that Gladstone & Co. represent the whole people of England on the one side, and the Peers themselves alone on the other. We believe it can be proved the reverse is the case, as a majority in the Commons of England by no means represents a majority of the people. Like all democratic institutions self-interests and class interests are the governing motives which sway the majorities in this case, and Gladstone, a poliweather cock, shapes his crochets to suit the greater number. It has been charged against the Lords that their opposition to abolition of purchase was selfish, that their own relations would be the sufferers, but this is not the case. The officers whose interests they protected are drawn almost wholly from the middle classes—tradesmen sons and the children of professional men, many of whom probably never exchanged a dozen words with a peer. Again, the Ballot Bill would have deprived the cotton spinning hierarchy of far more power than it would the landed interests; Manchester would suffer far more than the whole Peerage. The retainers of the great nobles not being likely from inclination to vote against their landlords, but if they were so determined the English Yeomen would neither care for or use the Ballot Bill. The ultra-liberals in Canada would rank as good Conservatives in England, and would find themselves waging relentless political hostilities against the miserable crew who now sway the destinies of the empire. That we thoroughly understand the full value of republicanism, and that it has been a failure when tried on an extensive scale and under the most favorable aspects, the following extract from the *Toronto Telegraph* will show:—

"The fearful cost of monarchical institutions and the thousand-and-one benefits reaped by 'the industrious working man' from a democratic system in which the heads of the Executive Government received salaries of only a few hundreds, or at most a few thousand of pounds, have been dilated on *ad nauseum*. Like a good many more 'progressionist' theories, these doctrines are receiving rather serious shocks from the course of events. It is beginning to be seen that the cost of the Chief Magistrate anywhere is a comparatively insignificant item which cannot affect expenditure in any serious degree; and that government officials cannot be had any cheaper under a democracy than under a monarchy. Our neighbors across the line have begun to open their eyes to these facts. We find the *Buffalo Courier* confessing that republicanism in the States has become more expensive than monarchy in Great Britain, and contrasting their expenses as follows:

The expenses of the Government of Great