

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or
Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Depart-
ment, 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 com-
munications. 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 in-
formation of this kind as early as possible, so that
it may reach us in time for publication.

OUR AGENT.

We beg to notify our numerous friends and sub-
scribers that Mr. J. J. BELL is authorised to act as
General Travelling Agent for THE VOLUNTEER
REVIEW; to receive subscriptions and transact
any other business connected with the paper.



The Volunteer Review, AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1868.

On the first page of the present issue will
be found a translation of a French poem by
Benjamin Sulte, one of the most pleasing
and patriotic of French Canadian writers.
The translation, which is an excellent render-
ing of the original, is by a lady of great
literary ability and acquirements, whose
writings have become deservedly popular in
Canada. It gives us the greatest pleasure
to publish translations of this kind, for the
two great sections of our people have been
too long unacquainted with each others
literature. The Canadians of French origin
have a glorious historical record, and while
their loyalty to the British Crown has been
too well proved to require comment from
us, their fond attachment to the heroic tra-
ditions of their early history is one of the
finest traits in the character of a people al-
ways noted for their love of country and un-
swerving adherence to the principles of their
forefathers.

The Wimbledon meeting commences this
year on Monday, July 13th, the camp being
open for occupation on the Saturday pre-
vious.

MILITARY CRITICS.

As the world is to a great extent made up
of pretensions it is not at all astonishing
that critics should be abundant, nor does
it seem at all necessary to possess much
knowledge of a subject to constitute ability
for criticising. In former times the great
mass of mankind were content to be direct-
ed by a few great minds; in the present age
such is not the case, for every one who has
learned to read sets himself up as a genius,
even though he cannot get his wife to ac-
knowledge it. This will account for the
many extraordinary and startling theories
daily launched upon the world, and which
are to be accounted for on grounds equally
logical as the renowned aphorism of the
American showman's reasons for the milk
in the cocoanut. The great advances made
in military science, during the last quarter
of this century, combined with the wonder-
ful progress in all the arts of life, have
raised a class which was once content to
learn by book and instruct by rote, to be
critics of the book and improvers of the
rote. In fact, each must write a book and
insist upon his small fiat of infallibility.
Had Job lived in the present day, he would,
instead of exclaiming, "O, that mine enemy
had written a book," have said, "O, that my
friend had *not* written a book." But this
same proneness to criticise, so notable in
the present generation, is one of the best
evidences of the intellectual vitality of the
age, and though the flood may be great it
would be strange if it did not, like other
floods, bear something valuable on its sur-
face.

The British newspaper and periodical
press has of late years taken a profound in-
terest in military matters, and has doubtless
by the manifestation of that interest done
much good not only to the individual
soldier but to the service at large. As the
rank and file of the British army is indebted
to Lord Herbert of Lea, for its present
moral and intellectual advancement, so is
the service at large indebted to the British
Press for the destruction of time-honor-
ed abuses. Lord Ranelagh won no little
notoriety and abuse for his now famous
declaration that "the Volunteer Force of
Great Britain was no better than a sham."
This was sufficiently startling at the time it
was made, to cause a heated overflow of
indignant ink, but is altogether out-done by
a writer in *Fraser's Magazine*, who declares,
in an article on Military Organization, that
the whole British army is little better than
a sham. The contemptible opinions advan-
ced by the Goldwin Smith school are by
this writer carried to that extreme which
fixes upon them the immovable seal of con-
demnation. It seems extraordinary to us
how any man possessing true British
instincts and having a knowledge of the
glorious history of his country, could con-
ceive or counsel the idea of dismembering

the British Empire, for such, stripped of its
superficial sophistry, is the naked principle
advanced. No human institutions are per-
fect, but there are certain acknowledged
principles upon which all institutions of
national importance must be founded, and
it is at all times unsafe to remove old land-
marks. To keep up with the requirements
of the age, sweeping and radical changes
are not only unnecessary but dangerous.
Abuses can be rectified and improvements
introduced to suit the requirements of the
nation as they arise. The writer in *Fraser*
condemns the English Volunteers, or rather
ignores them altogether, as of no practical
use. He has, however, hit upon one fact,
which, as an indication of the spirit of the
age is not without peculiar force and signifi-
cance, which is that citizens engaged in the
pursuits of industry are averse to military
service, deeming it a waste of time, which
could be better and more profitably employ-
ed, therefore is it necessary to have recourse
to the ballot or draft for the purpose of
maintaining a defensive force of citizen
soldiers.

In Canada the working of our Volunteer
system for the last two years, shows plainly
enough that the duty of military service
which every citizen owes to the country in
which he enjoys the protection of its laws
must be made compulsory; for it is often
observable that those who possess the
greatest stakes in the community, stand the
furthest aloof when the Volunteers most
require support and encouragement, and
it is from that class which is indeed the least
able to afford the time and the means that
volunteering has received the greatest
assistance. Under the provisions of the
Militia Law which will come into force on
the first of October next, those who have
heretofore regarded the Volunteers with
indifference will find themselves necessitated
to give that support to the defensive
measures of the Government which they
have hitherto withheld, and those whose
patriotism can only be reached through the
tender point of self interest must be affect-
ed where they are most vulnerable. Pover-
ty may be an excuse for crime, but wealth
can be no excuse for apathy. And they
who have not the spirit to defend their
liberties deserve to be the bondsmen
of the first Fenian ragamuffin who takes a
fancy to them or their chattels. The writer
in *Fraser* who exposes the faults in the pre-
sent British military system is not without
his plans for the re-organization of the army,
and we wish for the credit of Englishmen
that he had shown more knowledge of his
subject, and a higher appreciation of the
duties of the nation. Ignoring the Volun-
teers, he recommends the raising of the
Militia to three hundred thousand strong
by the ballot, calling them out to drill
occasionally for three weeks at a time, and,
strangely enough, after condemning the
Volunteers, he believes that every encour-