

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
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, OCTOBER 18, 1863.

—For the amusement of Canadian Rifle-
men we copy elsewhere from a New York
paper an account of target practice as it
flourishes in the States.

—The *Pall Mall Gazette* has heard a
rumour that an order allowing beards to be
worn in the army may shortly be expected,
and hopes it is true.

—An order from the Horse Guards directs
that henceforth the service ammunition of
the army is to be removed from the pouches
and placed in the regimental expense maga-
zine.

—COLONEL CRAWLEY, late 6th Enniskilling
Dragoons, whose fame rests upon certain
transactions which occurred at Mhow, East
Indies, has been a visitor at Ottawa for some
days past.

—The Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Boni-
face, (Red River) has been exerting himself
lately in Montreal to deter immigration to the
North West. He urged his views in private
society, in the French papers, and even went
so far as, to write to Sir G.E. Cartier, whose
answer, we learn from the *Montreal Herald*
was as follows:—"Permit me, my Lord, to
prefer to your authority, which I neverthe-
less respect, the authority of Rome. You
say that the Northwest territory is unfit for
settlement, and without any promise of
prosperity in the future. But the Court of
Rome is not of that opinion. It has clearly
foreseen the future which is in store for
that country since it did not hesitate, long
ago, to create three Dioceses there one of
which was deemed considerable enough to
be confided to a man who possessing as much
merit as your Lordship."

This is a neat and forcible application
under the circumstances, the of doctrine of
Infallibility.

DURING the past week we have been treat-
ed to another Fenian scare. In character it
was something like the former ones except
that, owing to the presence of Prince Arthur,
it had an additional element of absurdity.
The plan of the new campaign was detailed
to us as follows: Several thousand Fenians
were to cross the border by the usual chan-
nels as ordinary travellers and, collecting at
various points, seize the magazines and
arsinals, also the person of the Prince, im-
mediately after which they were to be joined
by the main body, who were to make a rush
into Canada from the States at different
places. The wisacre who conceived this
brilliant exploit doubtless filched the idea
from Pizarro, but he evidently forgot that
Canadians are not Peruvians nor Prince Ar-
thur an Inca. In the present dullness of
political affairs this raid, if attempted, would
have been a godsend, and, in view of the
talked of amnesty to the Fenian blackguards
in England, exceedingly apropos. However
it did not come off, nor is it likely to, so we
are deprived of a sensation and some fun.

In the present issue a gentleman, who has
been connected with us in the editorial
management of the REVIEW, has chosen to
reply to "L. C." in his own person. We
have often availed ourselves of his large ex-
perience and practical common sense in dis-
cussing such subjects of importance to
Canadian Volunteers as arose from time to
time in the natural progress of events.
Having seen service both as a regular and
Volunteer, and having had opportunities of
observing sufficient of the continental
modes to be justified in forming an opinion,
and moreover being long and actively en-
gaged in Canadian life in such a position as
gave him full opportunity to judge the tem-
per and feelings of our people, we believe
that he is as fully competent to deal with
the Militia questions of the day as any man
in the force. Aroused by the positive as-
sertions of "L. C." we have gone to con-
siderable trouble to procure exact informa-

tion relative to the condition of the force.
We have examined the reports of Inspecting
officers, and personally attended the annual
muster of regiments said to be rapidly fall-
ing off in strength and efficiency, and from
these means of observation we are bound to
say that, despite all that has been said and
written to the contrary, the Canadian Vol-
unteer force of to-day is in a most gratifying
and efficient condition. It is not only pre-
posterous but insulting to the whole of the
staff officers of the Dominion to accuse them
of systematically falsifying their reports and
returns. If such a strange conspiracy were
possible the fact would be a sad commen-
tary indeed upon the state of public morals
in Canada.

We are perfectly aware that many officers
find it very difficult to keep their ranks full
and that grave disabilities hinder them from
making their corps and companies all they
desire, but in all these cases we believe the
cause of their unsucccess lies more in them-
selves individually than in any fault of the
law. When an officer discovers that he can-
not keep his company up to the strength
required, a little consideration on his part
will convince him that he has only to blame
himself for the deficiency, and the best thing
for him to do under the circumstances
would be to retire and make way for another
man who can command the confidence of
his neighbours so far as to justify them in
placing their liberty and lives at his dispo-
sal. There are hundreds of active and well
meaning officers who take a real and earnest
interest in the service, but who, from some
unfortunate accident of position or tempera-
ment, cannot command that degree of in-
fluence which would make their efforts of
practical value. These gentlemen being
unable to discover the reason for their fail-
ure, and little dreaming that they are them-
selves to blame, lay the whole onus on Sir
George and his well-be-deviled Militia Bill.
Of course we are aware that the Volunteer
force is not now as strong as it was when the
danger of invasion a few years ago required
its expansion, but we are also aware that to-
day its strength is far above the require-
ments of the law, and not a week passes
but applications are received at the Militia
Department from gentlemen offering to raise
new corps and companies. Nothing would
give the Minister of Militia greater pleasure
than to accept those generous proposals,
but he is compelled by the strong necessity
of Parliamentary influence to decline them.
But should the necessity arise instan-
taneously with it would be seen the strength
of the country and, we might add, the wis-
dom of the law.

The generality of Volunteer officers un-
acquainted with Sir George Cartier's actual
position and not possessing those opportu-
nities for observing the workings of politics
as applied to Volunteering which we do, are
apt to believe that he is omnipotent in his
sphere, possessing the power without the