

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, OCTOBER 16, 1871.

The autumn manoeuvres of the British Army must possess to all our military readers a very peculiar interest; the inefficiency and disorganization of the regular forces of the crown has been the theme for all agitators, journalists, and public speakers for a long period: under the manipulation of the Radicals the army had almost disappeared as an organization, and the so called reforms are of such a doubtful character as to render any opinion on their tendency impossible. One of them, the notorious Control, has miserably failed; but, in justice, it must be recollected that those manoeuvres were instituted for the purpose of testing the details of army organization as well as training the soldiers in the operations of actual warfare. The knowledge acquired is not only useful to the people and government of Great Britain but valuable as tested examples to ourselves, and, therefore, we have determined to give our readers the full details of the various operations as they reach us from the columns of the *Broad Arrow*, believing it to be the most useful knowledge that can be laid before them. So far as they have been conducted the manoeuvres reflect great credit on the strategical ability of the Commander-in-Chief and the officers who planned the campaign, and the skill with which the divisional commanders carried out the necessary evolutions, must

satisfy the British people that the much abused *Purchase system* gave the nation a body of officers inferior in talent and ability to those of no other army. A little grumbling has been indulged in at the expense of the Militia and Volunteers, but there is a beginning to all things and we very much mistake it both those divisions of the forces of the crown will not dispute the palm for supremacy and efficiency with the regulars before two more campaigns are over, whenever mistakes of commanding officers have occurred it has been found that those gentlemen never saw actual warfare nor its mimic representation on such an imposing scale, and nearly every one of those mistakes is to be traced to the bull dog pertinacity of the British race which always impels them to fight at any odds. It is a hard lesson to instil into the minds of officers and men that they are mere machines, or rather the intelligent motive power that put those machines in motion, and that it is not individual power or daring that wins victories, but the judicious application of the available power as a whole. Science has so modified the art of war that the soldier in the use of his weapon must be taught that it is not by the headlong charge, or the undaunted exposure of himself and commander that victory will be obtained, but by steady obedience to orders, a sparing and intelligent use of his weapon, and a careful attention to such means of cover as will enable him to do the greatest amount of mischief to his enemy whilst suffering the least. The officer's business is to see that his men are not out-manoeuvred and to take care and work the machine and its parts to the best possible advantage. Victory rests with the greatest weight of fire; in other words, with the greatest numbers, and that party having the least number seek to neutralize the odds by such manoeuvres and positions as will prevent their effective use, and thus comprises the science of strategy in its most extended sense; each and every one of those details are exemplified in the proceedings of the army during the autumn manoeuvres, and their value as examples need no comment. It is to be hoped our Canadian army will be placed in the field next year and profiting by the example, their manoeuvres will be both extended and successful.

It is with great regret we learn the intention of the British Government to remove the skeleton garrison from the citadel at Quebec and thus practically abandon her immense possessions on this continent. It will be in the recollection of our readers that her naval supremacy began with the conquest of Canada; the 18th Sept., 1759, that saw her red cross displace the *drapau blue* and golden lilies over the castle of St. Louis lost her undisputed mistress of the seas. We, her sons, may now ask what is the position she occupies on the 18th Sept., 1871, when her Radical rulers despatched the *Oronoko* troop ship to carry away the