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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, TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1873.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and in the corner the words “Printer’s copy” written; and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage

OUR respected contemporary the *Sherbrooke News* has an article on the reduction of the expense of the Militia force as defined by the last financial statement of the Canadian Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which the reasons for such reduction is given in rather a curious fashion for a *frontier* journal. Like all true prophets the *Sherbrooke News* has lived to witness the fulfilment of the utterances of its own prescience, but we doubt the soundness of the theory on which those utterances are based. The Treaty of Washington is not a valid excuse for a partial paralysis of the machinery by which our Military organization was being perfected: nor is it a sound axiom to depend on the chapter of accidents, in our international relations. As a set off against the supposed saving of \$653,000 this year, and the contingent saving in labour our contemporary would have done the State good service if he furnished the country with an estimate of what the loss incurred by the Fenian raids covered, how much in actual expense, and how much in deterioration of actual value in

stocks, securities, and business generally? Setting one against the other we are of opinion he would find that his supposed savings were in reality the worst of wasteful extravagance, inasmuch as it not only paralyzes the security against a recurrence of those pleasant visits from our neighbors territory, but actually invites them! And as the Washington Treaty provided no reparation for outrages already committed, we have to learn in what way it will act to prevent them, especially as the Yankee negotiators refused to acknowledge any liability whatever for those pleasure excursions of their Irish citizens.

Further reasons given do not improve the position. The plea of economy can be well understood, but where is the necessity of curtailing the expenses of the Militia? It was money expended on the people, it was not as in England expended in defending distant possessions, but it was a tax paid to a national police, and the actual truth is that it was in obedience to the pitiful whine of the Manchester school amongst the Commercial men of Canada that the reduction was made, it being in no sense sound policy. The money, as a general rule, went into the pockets of the agricultural population, and as they were benefitted why it was but reasonable that the commercial class who are neither burdened with taxes nor Military duty should be jealous.

The whole article appears in another column, and we should not have republished it but for some glaring misstatements which we are sorry to see in any respectable journal. It is not true that the *Military system was rapidly eating into the resources of the country, and certainly not improving its morality*; nor is it true that the Washington Treaty affected Canadian securities in the English market in any sense.

Since Canada has been able to show to the world that she could defend herself any loan that she tried to negotiate has been easily affected, and it is only necessary to turn to the share list in the English market before 1868 and since to show how rapidly her securities obtained the first place when English stockholders found she could protect investments confided to her charge. The Washington Treaty had about as much to do with the rise of Canadian stocks as Tenterden Steeple had with the Goodwin Sands, and the policy of the Government can be defended on far more justifiable grounds than that of the extremely questionable measure of reducing a military expenditure already too small for the vast interests it is required to protect and conserve.

Our contemporary in his complacency at being a true prophet forgets that Napoleon III. declared the Empire was peace just before the Russian war! He was probably quite as sincere in his aspirations thereafter as the *Sherbrooke News*, but history tells us what happened in the subsequent seventeen years of his reign. Another great political prophet

Mr. GLADSTONE declared early in June 1870 that the political horizon was without a cloud and his colleague Mr. CARDWELL proceeded to disband 20,000 veteran soldiers of the British Army to save the British taxpayer’s £2,000,000 sterling! In July the same parties were obliged to ask for a vote of £4,000,000 to replace those men with untrained boys!

We are no prophets political or otherwise, but our neighbors are a people rather lax in their ideas of *meum et tuum*, the political exigencies of the moment often precipitate matters with lightening speed, and a Fenian raid could be improvised in a short time that might teach our contemporary a lesson in political economy.

Coming events cast their shadows before. That our neighbors are not easy the following extract from the United States *Army and Navy Journal* shew, that at least there is a prospect of a little interference in Mexican affairs, and that once the ball is set rolling there is no telling where it will stop; and the invasion of Mexico may involve another raid on Canada, especially as the Yankees are not held liable to pay for past, present, or future experiments of that kind.

“We do not discover in the visit to Texas of the Secretary of War and the Lieutenant General the ominous signs of war with Mexico with which some of our daily contemporaries indulge their fancies. The questions as to whether a grand depot of supplies shall be established at San Antonio, and as to what extent cavalry are required along the frontier, can be best settled by the personal examination which Secretary Belknap has undertaken. An appropriation for establishing a depot at San Antonio was log-rolled through Congress, but it is not yet decided what use the Secretary will make of his discretion as to its expenditure. The extension of our railroad system into Texas is changing the conditions of transportation and making necessary a thorough inquiry into the expediency of establishing new centres of distribution for our Army posts in Texas.”

We would wish our contemporary to state how Military service operates to the deterioration of morals, and why he has libelled such a large and respectable body of his countrymen?

While quite as anxious as he is for the advent of the period when Wars will be no longer necessary, it is impossible to hide the fact or gainsay it that as long as people have diverse interests—as long as one nation has what another covets, so long will war decide between right and wrong, and be a mere question of limitation of force.

Our contemporary will not be surprised that we look on his article as being impolitic and not patriotic.

THERE seems to be a very general opinion amongst the officers of the British Army that *Mounted Rifles* is a necessary arm of any force engaged in active operations. We have already given our readers the opinions of Sir HENRY HAVELOCK on this subject, and altho’ they should carry the weight of his authority, yet it must be observed his experience was