

induces a condition of lethargy and corpulence, which, to the political economist, is an ideal to be achieved at any cost. He begins, indeed, by comparing his science to mathematics, and so confessing it to be not applicable in itself to life; but he presently forgets his limitation, and lays down his laws as emphatically as if they were the laws of God. A nation's pride and self-respect are as little to him as the common legends of the ages. As regards ourselves, the men and women of Victorian England, the Crimean war conclusively proved to the nations at large that we were vigorous as of old, and herewith enriched our record; while that other crisis, the Indian mutiny, defined our true position, and showed the Hindu exactly where we were strong and ourselves exactly where we were weak—both to our infinite advantage. In time of peace, “only the ledger lives”; but even the basest are roused to valour by the peril of their household gods:

“For I trust if an enemy's fleet came yonder round by the hill,  
And the rushing battle-bolt sang from the three-decker out of the foam,  
Then the smooth-faced, snub-nosed rogue would leap from his counter and till,  
And strike, if he could, were it but with his cheating yard-wand, home.”

If you had been a Border farmer three centuries ago, it would have been exasperating enough to have your cattle lifted and your harvests burned. But O the delight of following the “bould Buccleuch” on the return foray! the long ride across the moor, the swimming of the “wan water,” the dash forward till Carlisle towers loomed overhead, and your forehammers clanked and rang on Carlisle yett! And at Otterbourne did not the Douglas render thanks to God that his end was not peaceful but on the battle-field? In truth, the fighting instinct is the strongest—save one, perhaps—in all the armoury of human nature; and the nation it departs shall surely perish miserably, even as the man it is known to have departed is ever a byword among women and a reproach to his fellow-men. “With it or upon it,” said the Spartan mother when she brought her son his shield; and to say that her words are dead were to say that the race itself is in the throes.

#### CANADIAN REMOUNTS.

The following letter, addressed from Quebec to the editor of the *Army and Navy Gazette*, London, England, will be read with general interest in Canada:—

SIR,—As a constant reader of your valuable *Gazette*, I am much interested in the many suggestions which appear from time to time in connection with the difficulty of obtaining remounts for the army, whether in peace-time or war. As one who contributed his mite towards the establishment of the present Remount Department, over which Gen. Ravenhill presides, I am amazed to find how the only really practical solution to the question is shirked by every one, in the hope, no doubt, of protecting the depressed agricultural interests of the United Kingdom. I take it as an established fact that the sample of Canadian horses purchased a few years ago were satisfactory; the cost, of course, was increased somewhat, like any other new venture, through the necessary travelling expenses, &c., of the commission visiting the immense territories of the Dominion; but even with this added, the cost per head of a Canadian horse on parade in the ranks for a five-year-old was less than what an English troop horse costs, adding his keep until matured and “fit.” In 1886 Gen. Ravenhill's commission addressed an open letter and a most valuable address on horse-breeding to the Minister of Agriculture, who had it printed in pamphlet form and distributed throughout the country, causing great interest to be taken in the question. Now, as there is plenty of energy and public enterprise about people in America, who are quick

to seize on any new source of profitable trade, very many thoroughbred horses were at once imported, particularly in Ontario, and the Government of the Province of Quebec established a haras near Montreal. Rancho owners generally followed suit in improving their stocks, and everyone naturally expected that a number of horses would be purchased in Canada annually by the Remount Department of the War Office. All this, however, was suddenly put a stop to in consequence of the alarm caused to the agricultural interests in England. And now various devices are suggested by correspondents in your columns for meeting the difficulty of a supply of reserve war-horses, such as “establishing farms for buying and maturing horses,” “stopping the export of horses to the Continent,” “purchasing horses and giving them to the yeomanry to keep,” “the registration of cab and dray horses,” &c., at best only a makeshift sort of policy. I cannot help thinking that it is much better at once to look facts in the face, no matter how unpleasant they may be, and recognise that Canada is the true and natural reserve depot for England's war-horses, such as Australia and the Cape are for India. But in order to create an unlimited supply of this article in reserve, at regulation prices, it is necessary to purchase a few hundred remounts annually in the Dominion. At the present time the United States are the best customers, but their requirements are for fast road horses, or cheap draught ones, and some heavy Clydes or Percherons. Unless the British people learn to view the question from a broader national standpoint than they do at present, there will be little use in Canadian farmers continuing to breed cavalry horses. I have no hesitation in stating that a contract could be entered into with reliable parties, either in Toronto or Montreal, to deliver 500 suitable, well bred, sound five-year-old horses in England this season, at the regulation price—viz, £40 for cavalry, and £45 for artillery horses. But it is not the question of cost so much that should influence the action of the War Office as that of the creation of a reserve. This could have been done readily enough had not political exigencies undone the good that was effected by Gen. Ravenhill and his commissioners.

VIEILLE MOUSTACHE.

Quebec, Sept. 3.

#### “THE SWORD.”

A very interesting lecture on “The Sword” was given by Sir Frederick Pollock in connection with the Inns of Court R. V. school of arms, at the drill hall, Lincoln's-Inn, London, recently.

The lecturer pointed out that the small sword of modern days was a late product of swordsmanship; he traced the development of the weapon through ancient and mediæval times, illustrating the subject at every step by the aid of an interesting and complete collection of swords and daggers of European as well as of Eastern types. Both the straight and the curved types were extremely ancient, and it was impossible to say which was the older; among European nations straight swords had been the most prevalent form, while the curved form generally indicated an Eastern origin, and indeed it was still preferred by Eastern nations. The original European sword was a straight one, and through the middle ages it was straight and double-edged; and, showing the modifications it underwent and the art of fencing itself as time went on, he mentioned that it was impossible to understand the Elizabethan literature without some idea of the rapier play of the 16th century. Out of the rapier play grew the brighter and finer methods of modern fence, the first step in the evolution being the discarding of the dagger which was used in the left hand. In the 17th and the early part of the 18th century there was a series of transition types, and then came in the French three edged sword, the type of the French duel sword. Dealing with the development of the cut and point play, he