



# The Volunteer Review,

AND  
MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our words we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, hence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1876.

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 at 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.

With this number we commence Volume *Two* of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and have very much pleasure in wishing all our subscribers and friends the compliments of the season,—that the year we have just entered on may prove to all a really happy and prosperous one in every respect, and to thank many of them for the tangible support extended us in the prompt payment of their subscriptions. But what shall we say to those who, for years, have been in the receipt of the REVIEW, and have not sent us a dollar, although they have been reminded time and again of their negligence. Such remissness is hurtful to the prosperity of the paper and materially retards its usefulness, and cannot longer be submitted to; therefore, their accounts will again be made out and forwarded to them, and, after waiting a reasonable time for payment, will be handed over to an attorney for collection.

We have endeavoured, at considerable expense and trouble, to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support; and we are pleased to know that our efforts have been appreciated by some of the leading officers of the Force. Nor is it in Canada alone we have received this approbation of our efforts, but from parties holding high rank in the regular army and volunteer force of Great Britain, as well as leading officers in the United States army. These letters of encomium are very gratifying to us and will be an incentive to increased diligence on our part in the future. To all of them we return our grateful thanks.

We have a request to make of our friends—that each subscriber to the REVIEW will endeavour to procure another; and a person sending us the names of four new subscribers and the money—will be entitled to receive one copy for the year *free*. A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Force—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war

so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the VOLUNTEER REVIEW in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it?

We copy from the *United States Army and Navy Journal*, of 4th December, an article and statistical table of the "Origin of the Officers of the United States Army," which to the advocates of collegiate and higher education for soldiers will suggest some very curious reflections.

For instance, West Point has been justly lauded all over the world as the *acme* *ultra* of perfection as a military academy, and a very general impression has got abroad that all, or nearly all the officers in the military service of the United States graduate there. On this supposition we have established on a small scale a similar institution, but the advocates of the higher education will be taken aback when it is found that the model institution is only able to furnish *less than one-third* of the officers required for an army of *twenty thousand* men.

It is evident then that West Point can only provide for the Engineer and Artillery arms of the services, and the useful staff and regimental training must be acquired in the field by totally different material.

There is undoubtedly a most important lesson to be learned from the analysis before us—if an institution like that of West Point is unable to supply sufficient officers for the Artillery and Cavalry arms—and both those *higher branches* are largely recruited from the ranks, how will it be possible for our Military College without any of its advantages meeting any of the requirements of our service?

The fact would appear to be that West Point largely turns out *Engineers*. Men who, after spending a short time in military service seek civil employment or are detached from active service by the State for the peculiar employments pointed out in other articles in this journal.

In this country the profession of Civil Engineer has been debased to a mere calling, it is not even a trade. Most of the known experts therein, however, have sufficient knowledge to make good military Engineers—would it not be better to take such men into the active force as an Engineer Corps than to allow our new Institution to degenerate into a mere Engineering College.

If it cannot afford officers for the staff, artillery and cavalry, it will become worse than useless, it will become a delusion and a snare. Our contemporary says:

"We are indebted to the kindness of Captain C. S. Halsey, Seventh U. S. Cavalry, for an interesting table of statistics, which we print elsewhere, giving the origin of all the officers now in the United States Army. This table suggests many curious reflections. Statistics of any kind are dry, viewed in themselves. Looked at as factors to form a conclusion, the figures seem to light themselves up, and the circumstances they develop enables us to feel pretty sure that the con-

clusions are correct, always supposing that our method of using them is not innately vicious. First, it is interesting to notice how the States of greatest population, riches and intelligence predominate in the Army as in civil life, and how the great middle belt of the United States, stretching from New York to San Francisco, furnished three quarters of all the officers of the Army, as it does of the population of the country. The enormous disparity between the numbers hailing from New England, outside of this belt, and those to the south of it, are next noticeable, the former more than trebling the latter. The disparity of numbers between the West Pointers and the civil appointments is equally marked, it appearing that the graduates from considerably less than one third the mass of the Army officers. The number of promotions from the ranks when brought together is much larger than most people have any idea of, and runs to nearly ten per cent. of the officers. The number of foreign born is also largely in excess of the usual supposition, and reaches about the same percentage as the promotions from the ranks. The table is a very good answer to the foolish talk lately circulated as coming from the great Von Moltke of the absence of possible career to an American soldier and its presence to a German. It shows that men can and do get promoted from the ranks in our Army, if they behave rightly. Whether the still further extension of the gateway would not be advisable the table causes serious thought. If nearly ten per cent. of our officers are now promotions from the ranks, (largely in the cavalry and artillery, the higher branches, by the way), would it not be well to close all other gates to the Army save those through West Point and the ranks. To do so would be to encourage at once the enlistment of men of a widely different class in the Army, if it were once recognized as the only road save by West Point, or authorized military college, to a commission. That it would strengthen the Army is probable. That it would make discipline an easier task is certain."

The following is the statistical table referred to:

Born in	Military Academy.	Civil.	Army.	Retired.	Total.
Alabama.....	5	1	..	..	6
Arkansas.....	..	3	..	..	3
California.....	3	33	..	1	37
Colorado.....	..	1	..	..	1
Connecticut.....	20	30	5	8	63
Delaware.....	5	21	1	2	29
Florida.....	2	1	1	1	5
Georgia.....	2	..	2	1	5
Illinois.....	19	59	2	13	93
Indiana.....	18	49	1	6	74
Iowa.....	2	22	..	2	26
Kansas.....	1	15	..	2	18
Kentucky.....	33	5	2	8	78
Louisiana.....	2	7	..	1	10
Maine.....	28	25	3	11	67
Maryland.....	27	38	5	8	78
Massachusetts.....	47	51	7	19	124
Michigan.....	18	17	3	10	48
Minnesota.....	..	19	..	..	10
Mississippi.....	2	2	..	..	4
Missouri.....	19	31	1	7	43
Nebraska.....	..	2	..	..	2
New Hampshire.....	16	18	2	7	43
New York.....	139	201	29	59	428
New Jersey.....	16	25	3	5	49
Nevada.....	..	5	..	..	5
North Carolina.....	8	1	..	..	9
Ohio.....	63	78	12	21	174