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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, JUNE 10, 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 dearly beloved cousins are never at a loss for an excuse to justify any international outrage of which their officers or agents may be guilty, if a precedent does not exist they are at no loss to invent one. The *Army and Navy Journal* (United States) puts into the mouth of General GRANT a speech which, if uttered by the President of the United States, proves that such a quality as simple truth is not a necessary requisition of the Station.

In its issue of the 31st May, that journal endeavours to excuse the conduct of a Colonel MACKENZIE who has endeavoured to make war, à la WILKES, on his own account and at his own will and pleasure, by violating Mexican territory on the Rio Grande, in a raid across the border after some cattle stealers. Our readers will remember that General SHERIDAN and Mr. BELKNAP, the United States Secretary of War, reconnoit-

ed this neighbourhood quite recently, and that we directed attention to what was likely to occur in consequence in the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*. When our neighbors begin to preach about peace and international obligations our wisest plan is, to look out for some stunning violation of both. If General GRANT has stated, what our contemporary gives him credit for, we can only say that the role of Philadelphia lawyer is played by more than one of the United States celebrities, and that the President of that great country can invent facts to suit his purpose or fit any object he has in view.

The *Fenian raids* are awkward stumbling blocks to Yankee philanthropists and politicians, the violation of territory came altogether from the United States and they refused to give any compensation therefor, we repelled the raids without violating their frontiers, and General GRANT in his anxiety to find an excuse for a deliberate and unwarranted violation of territory, makes a deliberate misstatement in attributing to the British authorities a single act of territorial violation during the whole period of four years over which they extended, and it was not necessary to maintain an army "sanctioned by Congress" to put down the raids organized in open day on her territory, which was done by her municipal law when she was compelled to put it in force.

We believe the *Army and Navy Journal* has invented the tale of the pig and the corn field to aid and abet the action of Colonel MACKENZIE, which was devised by the Washington authorities as the result of the late reconnaissance, and we should not be surprised to hear of the necessity for annexing a strip of territory along the Rio Grande in order to protect the frontiers. In the mean time this very act illustrates the assertion we made in reviewing the life of the great chief tain of the lost cause, and that was "that nations like the United States were regularly engaged in training a large portion of their servants as leaders of rebellion." The following is the article, and we recommend the earnest study of its moral to our readers.

"That an officer of the United States in time of peace, should cross the frontier of a friendly State, and levy war therein, is undoubtedly a subject for great surprise and apprehension to his own nation. When that officer is well known to be a man of great prudence as well as boldness, one not likely to act rashly; and when his acts are approved by men of great caution and experience in affairs, such as Grant, Sheridan, and Secretary Belknap, our first impressions are apt to change to those of deep attention. There must be something behind all this; exactly what, it is not so easy to say without careful examination of the circumstances connected with Colonel Mackenzie's late exploit.

"For a long period of years past, the Rio Grande border of Mexico has been infested with horse thieves on both sides of the river; Indians of all tribes, from the Comanche to the Kickapoo; turbulent border men dis-

guised in borrowed plumes, worse than the red men; and finally Cortina's gentry, with others of the like persuasion, who have been industriously making their living by "lifting" their neighbor's cattle, in the style of Mr. Robert MacGregor of old, celebrated by Sir Walter under his nickname of "Rob Roy." That the extent of these ravages has been greatly magnified by the sensational daily press, is best evidenced by the fact that we only hear of them now and then, when it is necessary to get up a cry against the "administration." That they do exist, and take place at intervals of greater or less length, is however, a settled fact. The "raiders" come from both sides of the border and seem to be no worse in Mexico than in United States territory. When we consider what a wilderness said United States territory is, just in that neighborhood, and what trouble we have, in land undoubtedly our own, with a handful of Modocs, it will be readily seen what a task must lie before a cavalry officer, on either side of the Rio Grande, set to watch Indians. The Mexican side of the river undoubtedly offers the most inducements to a savage gentleman to take up his abode there, if disposed to "lifting." On our side he must keep moving to escape the troops, whereas on the other side he can sit down under his own vine and fig tree, if they happen to grow wild, and meditate on future expeditions to plunder "Los Gringos." When not actually raiding on Mexican soil, he is absolutely safe; and this immunity has gradually drawn most of the free lances to the side of Mexico in the course of years. That one of these bands, the Kickapoos as it happened, should go on the warpath after American cattle is a common thing. That Mackenzie should follow them is not surprising. He was sent there to do it. That they should cross the border, is but the experience of all border raiders. They started out to do all the mischief they could, and then to run to just that crossing to escape. So far all is mere everyday incident. That Mackenzie should cross the Rio Bravo del Norte, as Caesar once crossed Rubicon, is indicative of a similar resolution. In calm deliberation Caesar violated the territory of the republic; with equal coolness Mackenzie rode into Mexico. That he did so, argues that he was, if not under orders, at least pretty certain of approval. If the end justifies the means, the complete victory he obtained over the brigands he was following will plead for him in judgment. That he did right we have no doubt. The simple and forcible illustration ascribed to General Grant puts his conduct in such a clear light that we are tempted to append the extract.

"If your neighbor's pigs come into your cornfield and destroy your crop, what use is it to complain? That will not restore the corn. You would naturally say remove the cause. But somebody says the cause of the trouble is the pig. I don't think so. The pig will be true to his instinct. The real trouble is we have no fence. The river has been, diplomatically, the dividing line. The United States has been willing to consider the weakness of Mexico and its inability to protect its borders. It would be foolish for us to complain now. That point was made against the United States during the Fenian raids. We did not pretend that the border was inviolate. All that the British government argued was that the United States, being at peace with England, and having friendly relations with the United States, the crossing of the boundary line in pursuit of an enemy, equalled the United and Great Britain could not institute a cause for misunderstanding."