

determination to punish them according to their crimes. And we would assure them that, whatever leniency has been extended to like malefactors on former occasions, if they place themselves in a position of like peril they need look for but little mercy; in fact a shrift no longer than the rope which will measure the extent of their conquest in Canada.

### THE MILITIA BILL.

As we have received a large number of letters from subscribers requesting us to procure them copies of the new Militia Bill, we thought the best plan would be to publish it in full in the columns of the Review, which we do this week. By this means we place in the hands of our subscribers this much talked of and abused measure, and each will be enabled to judge of its merits and defects for himself. The Bill passed its third reading pretty much as it was introduced, the alterations being merely in reference to salaries of officials. In the Bill, as first submitted, the salary of the Adjutant General was fixed at \$3,600 per annum, the Deputy Adjutant General \$2,240, and the nine Deputy Assistants each at \$1,800. By Mr. Bowell's amendment these figures were lowered to the following: Adjutant General \$3,000; each of the nine assistants \$1,200, leaving Colonel Powell's at the original amount. A careful consideration of this Bill will show that, although it may contain clauses which may be looked upon as defects, it possesses some admirable features. For some time past the pages of the Review have contained communications from many valued and esteemed correspondents, who have not been chary of expressing their sentiments anent the measure; but we believe it will have the ultimate effect of filling up the Volunteer ranks, for a few simple reasons, which we will endeavor to point out. In the first place, the Volunteer has the advantage of choosing the corps in which he is to serve, and the officers under whom he is to serve, and can retire by giving six months notice. The drafted man in this has no choice, and must serve out his full period in whatever arm of the service it may suit the authorities to place him. The great difficulty experienced by Volunteer officers in keeping their commands up to the requisite standard of efficiency will be obviated by this law, and the advantages enjoyed by the Volunteer under its provisions will be so much greater than those of the mere militiaman, that all those liable to the draft will prefer serving in a corps and under officers to their liking. There are certainly some points in the Bill capable of considerable improvement, but, as a system, we believe it will have a beneficial effect upon volunteering. What little defensive force we possess is altogether owing to the exertions of the Volunteer officers, and it would have been only an act of justice

to make some acknowledgement of their services. If, after a fair trial, the Bill just passed does not insure the purposes for which it was framed, then it will be time to condemn it and institute another in its place. It is comprehensive and elastic and is eminently adapted to the peculiar position of our country, and will we trust be found to answer all intended purposes.

### SMALL ARMS.

An esteemed correspondent sends us the following from a letter which he lately received from a relation in England which will be found interesting to that portion of our readers who take an interest in the improvement of small arms:—

"I know one of the members of the sub-committee on small arms now sitting at Woolwich very well, and the other day, I went to see him, and spent a most interesting day there, saw a number of their experiments. They are now at work selecting 'the arm of the future.' In many ways it will be a wonderful improvement, they have decided on a .950 inch bore, which will shoot as well at 1000 yards as the Enfield or Snider at 600. Then the sights will be remodelled and improved altogether when we get it it will be a very perfect weapon. They are not going to take any one in particular, but to select the best points out of all that are tried, to combine into one."

### IMPEACHMENT.

President Johnson has had a hard fight and a very narrow escape, and we must say that we are well pleased to see he has come off comparatively victorious over his ultra-Radical enemies. Had it been through any lofty motives of patriotism that the "impeachment managers" desired to displace their legislative head we would willingly accord them their full share of commendation; but when it is well known that such was not the case, and that they only sought to obtain by any means, whether constitutional or not, control of the power and patronage belonging to the Presidential office that they might further the ends of their own party, we must confess that we feel a little more than satisfaction at their discomfiture. And accord our sympathy and congratulations to the President who certainly deserves our admiration for the almost Cromwellian contempt with which he has treated the would-be omnipotent Congress.

### BRITAIN'S LAST WAR.

The Abyssinian campaign has made very little noise in this country beyond the passing interest excited by occasional telegrams, the death of our lamented countryman—Colonel Dunn; and, until the final catastrophe, there was, perhaps on account of the events being so far removed from us, less interest excited among the people of Canada than in any former war in which England has been engaged. But as a mili-

tary expedition, this same Abyssinian campaign is unequalled in the history of ancient or modern times. Some of our American contemporaries in alluding to this expedition, have treated the subject in a manner more or less flippant; one article which appeared in the *New York Sun* is thus commented upon by a correspondent of the (American) *Army and Navy Journal*:

"Let us grant, patriotically, that the exploits in our war were never equalled by *Alexes* nor *Achilla*, and that they never will be in ages to come; that all our leaders were *Shermans*; our military blunders were *nix*, and our plans all successful. Surely, we can then allow a fair merit to a successful warrior, Englishman though he be.

Three regiments—two white, one dark one—with miles of artillery, baggage-wagons, mules and followers crawling after them, writes the *own correspondent*, with Sir Robert Napier, have passed mountains as high as *Mount Cenis*, to halt at a point 7,000 feet above the sea; three hundred miles in the interior of Africa, with mountains before and behind, and only one wretched spring of water, full of dysentery.

Three hundred miles into the heart of a country, savage, yielding no food, across chain after chain of Alps, to punish a dusky king, worse than *Ivan the Terrible*! Forward the column moves; unhesitating, unrelenting, unknowing—into regions from which the successors of *Mahomet* shrunk back dismayed; carrying their own supplies; chattering their four languages, all in orderly confusion, and guided by one unerring brain, to rescue a *Ninevite*, a few Germans, and a brace of Britons!

What Sir Robert Napier did was to organize, and organization in a campaign is ten times the worth of men. Egyptian drivers and 12,000 mules, camels and bullocks, with insufficient water—a dialect in the commissariat that no officer understood, and blunders of the Governor of Bombay, were among the obstacles ready for Sir Robert when he landed in Africa. But they dissolved before him; and he carried an army of 30,000 men—for every follower was as much a burden to him as a soldier—away from pestilence at the coast to the healthy highlands. No crowded hospitals, no laggards and losses, on he tramped again, two hundred miles further inward, establishing camps as he went, until his communications were as a line of fortresses. Then he stopped a brigade for action, ordering off everything superfluous, and once more moved on—without hurrying, losing no men nor advantage on his way; over passes two thousand feet higher than *Mount Cenis*; through ravines where ten men could have stopped an army; drawing water from the rocks; using the populations he invaded as willing carriers; making no rushes and no failures; this calm old Indian engineer, pressing straight to his goal—a mountain fastness—further from his base than *Turin* is from France, and with three ranges of Alps instead of one between them.

We should like to hear *Marshal Bazaine's* idea of Sir Robert's expedition, or that of any officer who has fought in Mexico or Afghanistan, to put against the military wiseness of the *Sun*. Sir Robert is not a man of dash, but he did dash once at *Tantia Topee's* path, and turned a march that would have raised all Central India. He has had few incidents in his raid, he only wanted one—*Theodore*. His expedition was eventless, because without blunder: his foresight and judgment were superb. Few