

of defending the country against mere marauding bands, even thirty-five thousand men would be nothing but the nucleus of an army, such as would be required to resist an invading force from the United States. The Volunteer force is, indeed, a credit to the country. The courage, discipline, and soldierly qualities of our Volunteers are beyond all praise. But they are by no means adequate to the defence of the country in an American invasion. They would be insufficient though aided by the regulars the mother country could send to our assistance. Something more would be absolutely necessary, and that something is to be found in the training of the whole population capable of bearing arms, and fitting them for efficient discharge of their duties to soldiers. This we take to be Mr. McGEE's idea; and it is one we have occasionally put forward during the last five or six years. We believe, moreover, it is the conviction of the people of this country, that a far more efficient organization of the Militia is absolutely necessary for the defence of the country and to maintain its independence. Even England, with its magnificently equipped regular army, no longer depends upon that army for the defence of the country. It rests with more confidence upon the Volunteer force, with a Militia reserve behind. The only standing army we have are the troops sent out by the home government; and if we show no disposition to defend ourselves, if no steps be taken for the discipline of our Militia, as well as the Volunteers, it is not probable that the Imperial Government would continue to send troops here for our defence. Annexation, or efficient preparation for the defence of the country, are the only alternatives. We know that the neighboring Republic covets the possession of British North America; but if we are thoroughly prepared—if our whole people be duly qualified as citizen soldiers for the vigorous defence of the country, the United States would esteem the cost of conquest to heavy to make the attempt. Our security depends entirely upon the efficiency of our militia force; and one of the great questions for the consideration of the new Confederate Parliament, when it shall assemble at Ottawa, will be how the population can be rendered most available for the purpose of a successful defence of British North America. We do not hesitate, therefore, to endorse Mr. McGEE's sentiments on this subject, believing that they are the sentiments of all almost the entire population of Canada. We have always condemned the principle, or rather want of principle which induces some men to make party capital out of militia matters, and we think if Mr. McGEE's opponents wanted to find fault with him, there were other subjects better suited for the weapons of party warfare. To the Volunteers, as such Mr. McGEE is known, only as one who has done great service to the country by striving to instil loyalty—obedience to the law and self-reliance into the minds of all whom he could influence, and who with great power to do evil has used his utmost influence for good. For these services—every Canadian Volunteer—without respect to creed, nation or political party will gladly do him honor.

LIEUT.-COL. W. OSBORNE SMITH, Assistant Adjutant General of Militia, left Montreal on Tuesday last, the 4th inst., on a tour of inspection of the frontier corps between Megantic and Huntingdon.

THE FENIANS.

ALTHOUGH the Fenian banditti have undoubtedly been engaged for months past in moving such arms and munitions of war as they have been able to procure at various points along the frontier, it is scarcely probable that they will be able to make a raid in any considerable force, for the simple reason that they have not sufficient funds to carry out their designs; but the very reason that will prevent them from effecting any movement at all likely to endanger the integrity of the British Empire will urge them to attempt such another fiasco as that of last year. Without something of the kind to "fire the Fenian heart," no more money can be gathered from its dupes, and the vagabond leaders have already shown that they will not hesitate to sacrifice their ignorant followers, if by that means they can fill their pockets. It may be also that just at this time the government of the United States may give such intimation to the organization of its determination to maintain its international obligations, that an attack upon Canada will be postponed to a more fitting opportunity. We say postponed, for we are convinced that until the United States is thoroughly convinced, not only of our determination, but of our ability, in concert with the mother country, to maintain the independence of every inch of Canadian soil, we shall, at the recurrence of every political contest in the States, find the army of political demagogues urging on and supporting the brotherhood, in order to secure their votes. So far as the utterances of the N. Y. 'Herald' are concerned, no one in this country or in the States looks upon them as anything but sensational bombast, and yet it more than any other American journal reflects the views of the masses. In a recent article, commenting upon the seizure of three United States vessel for unlawfully navigating our waters, the 'Herald' assumes that the St. Lawrence is the natural northern boundary of the dominion of Uncle Sam, and says "We might as well open the question at once." Although such an assumption is clearly an intimation that robbery of a neighbor's territory is looked upon as legitimate by the 'Herald,' there is too much reason to believe that the same sentiment underlies the views of the great mass of the people of the United States, and although the present American Government for prudential reasons may avoid any step that would involve them in war with Great Britain, we have no hesitation in predicting from what we know of the masses of the people of the United States, that any party that makes the robbery of Canadian territory a part of its policy will be successful at the polls. The mass of the native Yankees thoroughly detest the Fenians, and nothing but a common and unreasonable hatred of Great Britain could induce the two bodies to pull together. The projects of the Fenians during the past two

years and the countenance given them in every part of the United States, show that that sentiment is strong enough to effect what nothing else could. If then the Americans impudently assume that they have a right to the southern bank of the St. Lawrence, the Fenians will of course join them, and we may expect the excitement of the past two years, intensified by the coalition of a party of native Americans with the Irish American element, to continue indefinitely. While this is the prospect in view, it becomes a question whether it would not be better for the prosperity of this country if our relations with citizens of the United States should be placed upon a solid basis, even if in doing so, we should be obliged to go through the ordeal of war. When a man has an avowed highwayman prowling about his premises, his natural feeling is not to bandy soft phrases but to grapple with him, and this is the feeling with which the people of this country and the Volunteers in particular regard our Southern neighbors, of whom Fenian scoundrelism is simply a representation, and they also feel that, whether a raid should take place this summer or not, our only hope of safety and independence is to be in such a position that our whole fighting population may be put in the field at short notice, in order to defend our altars and our firesides, and maintain those glorious institutions defended on many a well fought field and bequeathed to us by our fathers.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD-QUARTERS,

Ottawa, June 7, 1867.

GENERAL ORDERS.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

No. 1.

The 1st July next having been fixed by Royal Proclamation as the day of Union of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and having been on that account set apart as a public holiday and day of general rejoicing, there will be a parade and review on that day of the whole Volunteer Force of Canada, at the respective headquarters of the different corps, companies, battalions or brigades, as may be most convenient to the force and "feu de joie" shall be fired in honor of the occasion.

District Staff Officers of Militia will communicate with the Majors General at Montreal and Toronto with a view to the Volunteers combining where practicable with Her Majesty's troops on the occasion, and will ask the instruction of the Majors General thereupon.

Officers of the Volunteer Militia who shall attend such parade, will receive the net pay of their respective ranks without allowances; and non-commissioned officers and men will receive fifty cents each.

Parade states will be sent by the officer-commanding each corps, company or battalion to the Brigade Major of the division immediately after the parade, who will forward a summary of the same to the District Staff Officer for transmission to headquarters.

No. 2.

1st York Troop 'Governor General's Body Guard,' U. C.

Lieutenant E. P. Denison, having served continuously for seven years, to have the Brevet rank of Captain in the Volunteer Militia.