

## THE REMOVAL OF THE TROOPS—THE FEELINGS OF A BRITISH OFFICER.

While Messrs. Forster, Gladstone and Bright are engaged in the work of dismantling the garrisons of Canada, and are thus doing the best they can to bring about the dismemberment of the Empire, a gallant officer of the 13th Hussars thus writes to us from his quarters in England:—

On leaving Toronto we all felt that we were leaving our hearts behind us, when we bade you good bye; and the sting was greater when we thought that many of us would never have the good luck to meet you again. But it was a source of great pride to us to see the friendship that was extended to us, on that memorable day, at the Queen's and Yonge Street Wharves, and to think that we shall still live in memory of so many of the worthy and generous citizens of Toronto. We can only curse the misfortune that has placed a Gladstone and a Bright at the helm of the State, to cause so dire a calamity to happen to us as the "Route" for our return, although cherishing strong affection for this the Mother Country. Your citizens of Toronto made us feel that we were quitting our own kindred—hospitable and generous, almost to a fault. May God bless and prosper your new Dominion? That is and ever will be my fervent prayer to the latest hours of my existence. *I already wish myself back again in Canada; and I am fain to hope that I may one day accomplish my desire.* We had a very pleasant (if you can call it so, on board a Troop Ship) voyage across. The Atlantic was as smooth as a pond, the whole of the way. We arrived at Kingstown on the 12th and Liverpool on the 13th inst. They are not overpartial to the Military where we are. It cannot be said of us at least as the Grande Duchesse says, *Oh I love the military.* Still we had a fair reception."

That is the feeling in regard to Canada and Canadians of an officer who has seen nearly a quarter of a century's service. It surely goes to make good the old proverb that "blood is thicker than water." The soldier who dreads the Indian service almost as he would dread judicial transportation feels that when he comes here he is at home. Any feeling of that sort cannot be allowed, of course, to interfere with the strict rules of the War Office, regulating the movement of troops from one quarter of the Empire to the other; but when we find such genuine manifestation of sympathy with us as that which the private letter from which we quote discloses, we cannot but wonder that there could be a party in existence in the Mother Country that should seek to sever the connection between the Dominion and the parent State. We pay England the very highest tribute that could be paid to an independent nation by a dependency, in preferring to link our fortunes with those of the empire, to any political relationship that we could form. Looking to the division of races here; looking to our exposed geographical position, we are rendering a voluntary homage to Great Britain such as was never before rendered to her since she became a leading power in the world. If her policy is to get rid of us on a spurious theory of political economy she simply advertises to other nations that she has become too old and too indolent to retain Imperial sway, and she does her best to create here a feeling of revulsion which, in the ultimate issue will be all the more bitter that we find ourselves spurned. Surely the great Conservative leaders in England ought to take ad-

vantage of this crisis in the history of Colonial administration and makes use of it to their own advantage and for the salvation of the Empire.

## SOME GIANTS.

In 1718 a French academician named Henrion endeavoured to show a great decrease in the height of men between the periods of the Creation and the Christian Era. Adam he says, was 123 feet 9 inches high, Eve 118 feet 9 inches. Noah, 37 feet; Abraham, 20 feet; Moses 13 feet. The allegation about Adam is moderate compared with that made by early Rabbinical writers, who affirm that his head overtopped the atmosphere, and that he touched the Arctic Pole with one hand and the Antarctic with the other.—Traditionary memorials of the primeval giants still exist in Palestine in the form of graves of Abel near Damascus, which is 30 feet long; that of Seth about the same size; and that of Noah, Lebanon, which is 70 yards in length!

Pliny says that by an earthquake in Crete a mountain was opened, and in it was discovered a skeleton standing upright, 46 cubits long, which was supposed to be that of Orion or Otus. The same author relates that in the time of Julius Cæsar there was a man named Garrabus, brought by that Emperor from Arabia to Rome who was 9 feet 4 inches high, "the tallest man that has been seen in our times." But this giant was not so tall as Posio and Secundilla, in the reign of Augustus Cæsar whose bodies were preserved as curiosities in a museum in the Sallustian Gardens, and each of whom measured 10 feet 3 inches.

The Emperor Maximus (very much of a man) was nine feet high, and was in the habit of using his wife's bracelet for a thumb ring. His shoe was a foot longer than that of any other man, and his strength so great that he could draw a carriage which two oxen could not move. He generally eat 40 pounds weight of flesh and drank six gallons of wine every day. Not at all a desirable or profitable guest to the "St. Nicholas," even at the current price of board; though not so tall as one whom Josephus tells, viz. Eleazar, a Jew, who was one of the hostages whom the King of Persia sent to Rome after a peace. This giant was over 10 feet high. But these are pignions compared with him of whom Kircher writes (though this is what a Yankee philosopher would denominate a whopper). The skeleton of this giant was dug out of a stone sepulchre near Rome in the reign of the Emperor Henry II., and which, by an inscription attached to it, was shown to be that of Pallas, was slain by Turnus; and was higher than the walls of the city! The same author tells us that another skeleton was found near Palermo that must have belonged to a man 400 feet high.

## ARMY AND NAVY.

The most heavily armed and heavily armed fleet in the world has just rendezvoused at Gibraltar, from whence it will proceed on a month's cruise in the Atlantic. It will be under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir T. M. C. Symonds, K. C. B. and will consist of the following vessels.—Iron-clads—Agincourt, 38, flagship of the Lords of the Admiralty; Minotaur, flagship of Admiral Symonds; Northumberland, 28; Belterophon, 14; Hercules, 14, Monarch (turret) 7; Inconstant, 16; Lord Warden, 18; Royal Oak, 24; Caladonia, 30; Prince Consort, 24; Pallas, 6; Enterprise, 4, Wooden—Helioc, 2; Psyche, 2.

## REGIMENTAL MOVES.

The moves of regiments for the coming winter will be as follows:—The Boys, 90th, 82nd, 1st battalion 23rd, 93rd, and 102nd regiments return from India, being relieved by the 15th Hussars, 39th, 1st battalion 17th, 66th, and 89th regiments from home, and the 83rd from Gibraltar, the place of the last-named on the Rock being taken by the 81st, from Ireland. The 47th will likewise return from Barbadoes this autumn, being relieved by the 53rd, from Canada, the latter not being relieved. The 2nd battalion 14th will shortly return from Australia, the battalion being sent out in its place. The 1st battalion 5th will probably return from the Cape next year, without any relief from home. As regards the Indian reliefs of 1877, the 15th Hussars, 77th, 95th, 88th, 1st battalion 7th, and 103rd regiments will come home. The relieving cavalry regiment will be the 10th Hussars, and among the five infantry regiments to go out, the 53rd and 65th may be put down as certain to be included. After them the three next regiments for foreign service are the 72nd, 36th, and 44th, which returned home early in 1876, but it is likely that a battalion or two from the Mediterranean may be selected, and it may be presumed that the selection will be among those that went out in 1868 and did not spend the whole of their last period of foreign service in India. There are the 28th and 71st at Gibraltar, and the 48th at Malta. It is understood that some of the Mediterranean battalions are anxious for service in India.

Lord Strathnairn, Commander of the Forces in Ireland, has removed to the Curragh for the drill season.

General Codrington and other English officers are at Chalon, and have had the honour of dining with the Prince Imperial.

Another case of insubordination among the non-commissioned officers of the 33rd Madras Native Infantry is reported. It is said one of the havildars approached one of the senior officers of the regiment and, in menacing language, demanded promotion. The language was, at all events, grossly insubordinate, and appeared to be inspired by the belief that the officer in question could be frightened into compliance with the demands made. The offence would have justified an immediate arrest, but it was not till several hours later, when the commanding officer had been communicated with, that the havildar was sent to the guard room to await his trial by court-martial.

A "Field Officer" makes a suggestion to the *Pall Mall Gazette* in regard to the arming of the soldiers when off duty which is worth considering. Instead of depositing them of ammunition when in barracks, he would put their rifles under lock and key. Why not place a bar, with a hasp and lock, across the 'arm rack' in each room, giving the corporal in charge the key? He would then give out each only when duty required for guard or other legitimate purposes.

Some capital experiments have been made of late by the Royal Engineers at their field-works in "spade drill" to see how rapidly a force could shield themselves from an enemy by means of earthworks thrown upon an open plain, in face, it is supposed, of an enemy.

RIFLE BRIGADE.—The 4th battalion commanded by Colonel Elrington, will break up their camp at Cove common in a few days, and occupy the Centre Infantry Barracks, Aldershot. Surgeon-Major Fraser, 2nd battalion, has been granted leave of absence from the 11th to the 25th instant.