

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

VOLUME IV.

1870.

ON account of the liberal patronage extended to the Review since its establishment we have determined to add fresh features of interest to the forthcoming Volume so as to make it every way worthy of the support of the Volunteers of the Dominion.

On account of the great increase of our circulation we have been compelled to adopt the CASH IN ADVANCE principle. Therefore, from and after the 1st of January next the names of all subscribers who do not renew their subscription will be removed from the list. The reason for this will be obvious to our friends, as it will be readily understood that a paper having so extended a circulation must be paid for in advance, it being impossible to employ agents to visit all the points to which it is mailed.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it may reach us in time for publication.

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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, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1870.

In the pages of the *New Dominion Monthly* magazine for March, 1870, will be found a carefully written article entitled "Mounted Rifles our best protection against Invasion," which is a critical review of Lieut.-Colonel Denison's elaborate work on "Modern Cavalry," and from the data furnished in that admirable military text book the writer deduces the corollary that "corps of mounted rifles," are the future arm on which the defences of Canada must mainly depend.

Colonel Denison's propositions do not go quite so far, as a writer on military tactics, as far as cavalry is concerned he is unequalled, but he confines his operations to what they ought to be, the eyes and hands of an army.

That their utility, disciplined and equipped as he prescribes, cannot be overrated, is and will be the opinion of every soldier who reads his book and gives the subject calm consideration; but that the defence of Canada should altogether depend on any force of trained horsemen the country could supply is a proposition which cannot be maintained.

Apart from the geographical consideration the employment of cavalry unsupported by infantry is only warranted when they can operate against the latter by surprise. When they are opposed to cavalry, when engaged in reconnoitering, which is their principal duty, or in one of those dashing advances which modern nomenclature has

dubbed with the title of "raids," immortalized by the Confederate cavalry under Stewart and Mosby. In all those operations under a skilled strategist cavalry may be made the direct means of the annihilation of any army provided the other arms of the service are sufficiently formidable to achieve their part. But as no ground gained by cavalry can be held by them it is evident that infantry and artillery must still hold their own positions in all well organized armies.

The defence of Canada must depend on and be governed by the lines of assault, and those are through the valley of Lake Champlain, the Erie Canal, being the old line of the Mohawk River to Oswego, on the Niagara, Detroit, and St. Clair frontiers. Those five points are available under certain conditions, and if invasion has to be met at all or any of them the main defence of the country must depend on the efforts of its local militia defending well planned lines. Such a force would not have that mobility necessary in countries where large standing armies relieve the mass of the population from military duty, but on that very account it would require proportionally a larger trained cavalry force than a standing army. Bad roads will tell with greater effect on a cavalry than on an infantry force, all other conditions being equal, and it will decrease the odds by many degrees against the success of an invading force.

It is to be hoped that the writer in the *Dominion Monthly* will ventilate this subject as it deserves the attention of all practical and scientific soldiers in the Dominion. We quite agree with the writer that a well disciplined cavalry force is indispensable, and regret that any circumstances should have arisen which deprives this country of the services of such a brilliant and talented soldier as Colonel Denison.

The United States press announces that the basis for a settlement of the celebrated Alabama claims has been found, and will be shortly announced, and the adjustment will involve a money indemnification. It is quite possible that the English Radical Government will sacrifice the public money to gratify Democratic insolence, and as the shortest way to get rid of the effrontery and persistent assertions of the United States politicians. To be sure they can humbug the people of Great Britain by shewing a saving of three-quarters of a million sterling on the naval estimates, and a reduction of 12,500 men from the ranks of the army, but thinking people will look on all this as a dangerous experiment, weakening the defences of the country to an extent no saving will justify, and at a time when it is proposed to settle a vexed question involving the hazard of being bullied or cheated out of millions by a hostile power.

This very Radical Government decline to take the measures best adapted to free Britain from a tax of at least £10,000,000 ster-