

good lines of communication easily defended, and a force ready as well as willing to undertake that task. We hail this project as answering all these conditions.

It has been the invariable rule of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* to deal with all questions which may arise respecting military affairs with perfect impartiality, the only condition required being in all cases the preservation of discipline, and in this view the meaning of the word must be taken in its most extended sense. We do not believe that because an officer or soldier ceases to belong to a particular corps, and his service is lost to the country for the time, that the principle laid down should be in any way relaxed, for we hold with good reason that every man in Canada is a soldier, whether serving or not, and the obligation of respect to military authority is imperative, therefore, on all. The sooner our people learn that the interests of the whole country is served by conceding due respect to military authority, the greater security will be obtained for social order. In fact, redress for supposed or real military grievances should be sought, in the first place, through the regular military channels, then from the Minister of Militia, failing that, from the Governor General as Commander in Chief, and as a last resource from the House of Commons; but is it wise or patriotic to bring the whole business at an intermediate stage to the bar of public opinion through the press; for it must be recollected that the military authorities cannot defend themselves with the same weapons, and even those journals who would enter the arena on their behalf are withheld by the consideration that they cannot resort to the Department for the governing motive of action, as it is necessarily and properly confidential. In dealing with any other question the case would be different, but about military matters there must always be a reticence which can only be waived on occasions of state.

In accordance with the rules noticed in the opening paragraph, and at the request of a valued correspondent, on behalf of the late officers and men, we publish to-day an article from the *Montreal Gazette* of 2nd inst., on the disbanding of the '5th, or Royal Light Infantry," on the 3rd of June last, a circumstance noticed with regret in the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* of the 19th June. What object is to be attained by reviving the excitement at this date is not apparent; but it would seem that two courses were open to the corps, either to accept the alternative, offered by General Order, of 12th August, and quietly set about reorganizing the corps, or appeal from the Minister's decision to that of the Commander-in-Chief, but having done neither they have taken what is always a mistake and a false movement, an intermediate course, combining all the disadvantages without any of the chances of either.

We can speak positively to the fact that it is not the rule of the Militia Department to lightly disband a corps, that it is not done except with due consideration and with the positive advice of the commanding officer of the district, and, therefore, the officers and men of those corps put themselves in the wrong when they act in opposition to military authority. On what grounds the officers of the Royals deemed themselves justified in refusing to accept the conditions offered by the General Orders is hard to say. Having done so, however, the presumption would be that they declined to serve, a circumstance, no doubt, to be regretted in the interests of the country, but for which no possible blame could attach to them, their record shows they had done their duty as gallant soldiers. But it does not argue much knowledge of discipline to assume that a General Order should contain an admission of error or regret, or that it should be an answer to a petition of which the actual commander-in-chief of the Canadian army was not only the sole but undoubtedly the best judge. For the reasons previously given we do not believe either officers or men have acted judiciously in bringing this matter before their Peers—the public, as that sapient body are not generally esteemed good judges of military matters, and while sympathising fully with both, thoroughly understanding what the feelings of gallant soldiers must be under the circumstances, we cannot help saying that nevertheless the cause of discipline has not been served by this episode. We, as a people, are fond of holding up the Prussian system as the *ne plus ultra* of military organization, but would not like to see the fate of officers and men in that service who dare appeal to their Peers, the public, in a like case.

Our republican neighbors will realize that honesty is the best policy, that filibustering, piracy, and a total disregard for international law may be very fine things to gain the hurrahs of a lawless mob, but not precisely the way to enforce respect for social order or honesty in public life. The total absence of anything approaching responsible government amongst them has been exemplified in the case of the stealing of the schooner *E. H. Horton*, awaiting adjudication at Guysboro'; not only did those who had wantonly disgraced the country by a lawless act receive a triumphant ovation from their countrymen, but the collector of the Port of Boston was allowed to send two revenue cutters to sea for the express purpose of protecting the robbers, and if our people had been silly enough to send an armed vessel in pursuit grave national complications might have followed the action of a petty office holder. Where every man is a sovereign there is little law and less justice. The press of the country, however, is beginning to be alarmed at this kind of thing, and the following from the *New York Tribune* puts this transaction in its proper light:—

"Cutting out the *Horton* from Guysboro' harbor, while she was in the custody of the legally constituted authorities, was a gross breach of international law. The perpetrators have escaped or are not known, but the vessel is in an American port, and, if the British Government makes a demand for her, she will have to be given up, galling though such a sacrifice may be. It is well to cheer the brave captors and toss caps in the air when the gallant little craft, with the Stars and Stripes flying, comes into harbor, but the facts in the case are as pitiless as they were when we surrendered the prisoners from the Trent, or would have given up the Rebel cruiser cut out from Bahia, if she had not been 'accidentally sunk' in Hampton Roads. We are in a fair way to settle all great international disputes with amity and much good will. Perhaps the Canadians, who have just joined hands with us on the line of the European and North American Railway, may, in the fervour of fresh fraternal enthusiasm, overlook this cause for complaint. At any rate a wrong confessed is half redressed."

For more than two years the Island of Cuba has been the scene of an atrocious rebellion, involving serious loss of life and consequent demoralization of society. It has been charged upon the people of the United States that this state of affairs has been brought about by their political speculators for the purpose of creating an embroglio with Spain which would lead to the acquisition of the "Queen of the Antilles." If the rebellion cannot be traced to direct Yankee agency, there can be no doubt but that they have helped it forward in every way and in the most shameless manner. Some time last summer the *Hornet* sailed from New York, in open day, laden with arms, ammunition and recruits for the rebels. These she succeeded in landing on the Island of Cuba, and then with a false manifest, hoisting the colors of the United States, she took refuge at Port au Prince in the Island of San Domingo. A Spanish man-of-war made a demand on the Haytian Government for her surrender, but it was refused. At about the same time the Spanish ship of war *Tornado* made a demand for the surrender of the *Virginia*, then lying at Aspinwall, but it was refused by the United States authorities. It is stated that the Minister of the United States had recognized the *Hornet* as a vessel belonging to his country, and the consul at Aspinwall had acted in a similar manner. Both those vessels have been charged with piracy by the Spanish authorities and if any such charge could be sustained it would certainly lie against vessels furnishing a set of robbers and cut throats with munitions of war.

Latest advices state the departure from Havana of the Spanish iron-clad ship *Zara* with sealed instruction, and the Admiral's ship *Pizarro*, had gone to the eastward in the direction of Hayti. If these vessels will seize the *Hornet* and *Virginia* we may happen to have an embroglio that will be felt further than the neighbourhood of Cuba. The intrigues that centre about San Domingo, Washington and Cuba may be likely to bear bitter fruit.