

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR.—You cannot take up a newspaper now a days without finding allusion to drunkenness. Some, advocating temperance in all things; others, teetotalism, and many for prohibition. I think that these last are putting the cart before the horse, by prohibiting the sale of liquors you do not stop the demand, and as long as there is a demand there will be a supply, which is a well-known commercial axiom. The way I would stop the demand would be by making drunkenness a misdemeanor and punishing by flogging any one found drunk in the public streets or if complaint be made that the party is an habitual drunkard. I am strengthened in these remarks by having read in the Paris correspondent of the *Moniteur* of the 28th ult., who writing about drunkenness in the French Army says.—“It was formerly the custom, when a soldier was intoxicated to treat him tenderly, as if he was an invalid. Now the rule is to punish him severely and since the adoption of this new treatment drunkenness has rapidly declined. The Cantons are also prohibited from selling absinthe and in each soldiers *liveret* is conspicuously printed that in case of dereliction of duty, intoxication will never be accepted as a mitigating circumstance.” This is coming down to first principles as can be verified by referring to Deut. xxi. 18 to 21 ver. without going the length of the sentence of the Divine Lawgiver, I would advocate the use of the cat and that not sparingly; please observe in the above reference that the sinner is not sentimentally called a patient, a term that has been used in recent times very injudiciously. Flogging for drunkenness was formerly reported to in the British Army, but Pseudo Humanitarians got it abolished as too degrading (as if it was possible to degrade an habitual drunkard) and afterward substituted a system of fines, and recently the Commissioners appointed to receive these fines report that they have amounted to so large a sum that they do not know what to do with it, evidently this system has not proved a success. We have seen how efficacious flogging proved to be in arresting garrotting when every other punishment failed. There is also another treatment for drunkenness adopted in the Austrian Army, and Medical reports state that out of 139 cases 128 cures of confirmed drunkenness have been effected. The plan is as follows: The soldier taken in a state of intoxication or purposely inebriated is confined to his room where his diet is carefully and amply supplied to him according to his choice, for drink he is allowed brandy and water in the proportion of one

third brandy to two thirds water. All his food is prepared in a weak solution of brandy and water. Coffee with a small quantity of brandy is also allowed him. At first the treatment throws the patient into a constant state of intoxication and he sleeps much. At the end of three or four days he takes a dislike to his food and drink and asks for a change, which request were it acceded to, would entirely prevent the completion of the cure. On the contrary it must now be persevered in, until the patient can no longer swallow food or drink, and even the small revolts and nauasates the stomach, when the cure may be considered as effectual. The shortest time for the continuance of the treatment is seven days—the longest nine. In order to prevent the constipation which might ensue, the patient must now be given gentle emetics that is one grain of emetic to one bottle of water—a wine glass full to be taken every quarter of an hour in the morning fasting. This is followed by forty grains of magnesia daily, given in broth or gruel, placing the patient at first on a low diet and then gradually increasing to his original rations. If during the first part of the treatment spitting of blood or convulsions should result it must not be persevered in, therefore this mode of remedy cannot on any pretence whatever, be adopted but by a medical man.” If you will refer to the charges given by the *Jurges* to the several grand Juries throughout the Dominion you will find that they impute three-fourths of the criminal matter to Drunkenness. Now to every Gaol there is attached a Physician and what is there to prevent the Government from selecting one of the Gaols in one of the largest cities of Ontario or Quebec, as an experiment for carrying out the above treatment for six or twelve months, and if successful, it could be applied to all the Gaols—thus making them inebriate asylums accessible to all. I would also charge every inebriate \$1 per day while under treatment; and I have no doubt if such a system was properly carried out it would help considerably to diminish the expenses of the Administration of Justice. Many of our inebriates are sent to the water cures in the States to have the taste for the Ardent washed out of them, and there it is called Canadian Rheumatism—this treatment is however only temporary—for as soon as they return to their old haunts and associates they fall away shortly. To attain even this short cure they have to spend eight or ten months.

I have put these few ideas forward, hoping some one more competent than myself will take them in hand.

Z.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Telegrams were received at Greenwich Observatory this afternoon from India, announcing that the observation of the transit of Venus had been successful. Over one hundred photographs were taken.

troops from the greater part of British America, carried away out of sight the flag which for more than a century had waved over and protected us, we felt indeed that the bonds were loosening, and that at no distant day we should stand an independent nationality, or form alliances under another flag, and with another people.

To work out this destiny was engrossing the most earnest consideration and careful thought of the statesmen and Press of the Dominion, when suddenly a new Premier assumes the reins of the British government, and we are told not to go, that the bonds are not unloosed, that our love is not a burden. More than this we are encouraged to believe that the day dream of the Emperor is about to be realized, that England has in view not the disintegration but the consolidation of the Empire, and that her dependencies scattered over all the earth are to be amalgamated into one mighty federation, having a voice and representation in the government of the nation. Contemplating as allied British subjects such a commercial and political future as now rises up before our mental vision the power of language fails. All ideas of separate and distinct nationalities, become merged in the thought that welded together as one mighty whole the colonies east, west, north and south, Canada on the one hand with Australia and India on the other, gathering fresh strength as they onward roll, shall hasten to unite with and participate in the glories of a nation, the greatest upon which the sun has ever shone.

To carry out this grand idea successfully there should be no subordinate parts in the combination; the word dependency, should be blotted from the national dictionary, and we should be joined together upon terms at once free and equal.

This of course would abolished hereditary and titled aristocracy, it would bring down to the level of their own merits the men whose principal boast has been a dead ancestry, it would abolish the last vestige of state churchism, conserving at the same time the fundamental truth that true greatness is the inheritance of virtue rather than wealth. Thus would be built up a power the mightiest among the nations of the earth, when the Anglo-Saxon family would become the great arbiters of the destinies of the world.

Should this prospect become realized, of which there is now every probability, instead of Canada being absorbed in the great mass of the American Republic, we may find the United States knocking at our doors for admission. This of course would involve a struggle between monarchism and republicanism, but it matters little under what name we are governed, seeing that we are united upon the fundamental principle that all power is vested in the people, *Vox Populi est vox Dei.*

The recent utterances of the British Premier have therefore given a new direction to Canadian thoughts on independence or annexation. We trust a greater future is before us, in which the Dominion of Canada will assume a proud and conspicuous part to the glory of the nation and the lasting benefit of the world.—*N. B. Reporter.*

The *Times* states that England, in reply to Russia's invitation to attend the International Law Conference, to be re-opened at St. Petersburg, has declared her willingness to do so, but regrets that she is unable to anticipate any practical result of its deliberations.