

plete success—"Another Lieut.-Colonel" to the contrary notwithstanding. Every step in the process shows what is or may be necessary to amend or alter; and it is writers of his description who, by detracting from the value of the force, vilifying its chiefs, and misrepresenting everything connected therewith, that deters the youth of the country from giving their services more freely; and in all probability whose personal popularity would be insufficient to keep a company together. Those men never pause to consider that they are inflicting an irreparable injury on the country by this line of conduct. One of the great causes of our present unexampled prosperity is to be found in the security given to investments in Canada, by the fact that there is an ample, reliable, and well organized military force in the Dominion. Any one who will take the trouble to look at the share list of the stock exchange will see the difference between Canadian securities in 1865 and in 1871, and nothing in the condition of the country or increasing development of its resources will otherwise account for this remarkable advance. Now "Another Lieut.-Colonel" and his confederates are engaged in the laudible task of trying to make the public believe the whole Volunteer Force is a myth of the Militia Department, that they are the only honest men in Canada, and that the militia staff, all the people (except this precious four or five), and the press, are included in this grand conspiracy. No wonder the *Globe* should hint that its correspondent needed the advice of a medical man. Leaving those pure patriots however to their own dyspeptic reflections, we have another batch, of a very few also, who are seized with the idea that they could manage the whole affair in a better and more comprehensive manner than those officers especially charged with that duty,—those gentlemen have set themselves to the task of persuading the Volunteers that the great requisites of a campaign should be:

"A feather bed to every man,
Warm slippers and hot water can;
Brown Windsor from the captain's store,
A valet, too, to every four.
Should they with thirst in summer burn,
Lo, Seltzogenes at every turn,
And on all very sultry days
Cream ices handed round on trays."

The world undoubtedly moves apace, and why should Canadian army reformers lag behind.

The Gladstone administration has signalized its tenure of office by many senseless and mischievous acts, but that of the 20th instant has completely thrown into the shade all their former efforts to bring British constitutional law and usage into contempt. Their Army Reform Bill had passed the House of Commons shorn of all its distinctive features by the votes of their own followers, except the abolition of the purchase clauses. It had been sent up to the Lords in the usual course, and it was rumored that the clause would be amended there, al-

though that was contrary to the advice of the Earl of Derby. The bill was under discussion when Mr. Gladstone announced in the Commons, and his obsequious tool, Earl Granville, in the Lords, that they had advised the Queen to cancel the royal warrant by which purchase was allowed in the army, thus making the Sovereign a tool in the hands of faction, to insult and set at naught the action of one of the three estates of the realm. It was the desperate act of a demagogue, clinging to that power which his incapacity and propensity for mischief has used with such fatal effect on its institutions. Having destroyed the Monarchy and the aristocracy, he has ended by bringing the democratic element in the British constitution into contempt, and it yet remains to be seen what consequences are likely to follow. It is not likely that the sober after thought of England will sustain him; and it will be found that this single action has done more to shake confidence in representative institutions than all the vagaries of the Commons' House of Parliament since its first institution. People will naturally feel that their property and lives are at the mercy of a chance majority led by an unscrupulous demagogue—no statesman would ever have contemplated the step Gladstone has taken. Fifty years ago it would have ended in the impeachment of himself and colleagues for high treason. The House of Lords will probably proceed with the consideration of the bill as if nothing had happened—luckily it is not subject to the excitement of a popular assembly, and it may be able to set the Whig-Radicals right. The only question raised on it will probably be those relating to compensation for purchase. Meantime it is a startling commentary on British statesmanship—in the first place the raising of the question at all, when it could have been disposed of without legislative interference; in the next, the throwing away a sum of money which would relieve Great Britain of a large proportion of her surplus population to abolish rights which might safely be left to lapse of time.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The event which has caused most excitement in Great Britain during the past week is the action of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues, by which the House of Lords was needlessly insulted and the constitutional usage of England outraged. The Army Reform Bill had dwindled down to the single clause for the abolition of the purchase system, and in that state had passed the House of Commons, and in the usual course was referred to the Lords. As the bill itself was utterly objectionable and as it barely passed the Lower House by a small majority to save the ministry, it is no great matter for wonder if the Upper House in the laudable desire to protect private interests from unjust legislation, proceeded to make further changes, and this so affrighted Mr. Glad-

stone that he induced the Queen to issue a warrant abolishing purchase in the army, which Mr. Cardwell laid on the table of the Commons on the 21st instant. As the purchase system had been established by Royal warrant its revocation by the same means was strictly constitutional, but it was beyond the Royal prerogative to provide compensation for those officers who had purchased and whose interests were arbitrarily set aside thereby. Such a gross and uncalled for over-riding of constitutional precedent and right has never yet been exhibited in a British House of Commons since the infamous Long Parliament declared its sittings permanent; and it is beyond doubt the severest blow constitutional government has ever yet received. It remains to be seen whether the country will submit to this innovation. Under Whig-Radical rule the Commons of England have become the laughing stock of the world, and this peurile attempt at legislation was the whole fruit of a long session. In fact, as a representative body, it is a disgraceful failure, and the next question growing out of this must be the reconstruction of the Empire, where it will play its proper part as a local council subordinate to that greater council in which a chance majority will not be allowed to over-ride prudence, decency, common sense, justice, and constitutional precedent. The Whig Radicals, always the loudest claimers for freedom, only understand it in the sense which our Yankee neighbors accept—the right to do wrong. The philosophy of John Stuart Mill, and his disciples, is bearing appropriate fruit—communist ideas largely permeate the idle and half-employed working class. The cry those fellows have raised about the difficulties of acquiring land for the artisan is answered by the fact that there is 100,000 acres in the market in England alone, for which no purchasers can be found. It is not land Mill, Hughes, Dilke, or their followers want, it is a redistribution of property, and to that end their teaching inevitably leads. If it should end in a convulsion the friends of law and order ought to hang the philosophers, and not their deluded disciples. A meeting of those worthies in Hyde Park, on the 24th was forcibly dispersed. It was on the anniversary of the riot in which the palings were pulled down—*absit omen*.

The Tichborne case has been adjourned—a portion of the crew of the *Bella* has been found, and it is believed the plaintiff has Arthur Orton to produce on the trial when it is resumed. If the seamen bear out the claimant's evidence there must be a decision in his favor.

The Emperor Napoleon, the Grand Duke Constantine, Nicholas, and Michael of Russia, have paid a visit to the Woolwich Arsenal.

The Prince and Princess of Wales had left England for the baths at Kissingen. His Royal Highness has since returned, and