Writing to the Mail from Oshawa on the 16th instant, G. H. Grierson, "Retired Lt. Colonel Militia," thus refers to the origin of our volunteer force :- "The institution is as old as 1812. They were known in those days as volunteer flank companies, attached to the Sedentary Militia; they frequently clothed themselves and got arms from the Government. I myself belonged to one as ensign raised in 1830. I went out with the same company in 1837 as captain, and was immediately attached to No. 3 of the four battalions raised at that time, and incorporated with the British army. The commanders of these four battalions were: -No. 1, Sir Allan McNab; No. 2, Kenneth Cameron; No. 3, William Kingsmill; No. 4, J. Hill. They were all to a man volunteers, and largely if not altogether composed of flank companies which had, like my own, been in existence for years. True, there were many other bodies of militia subsequently called out, but they were merely local organizations and totally different from ours. The four incorporated battalions I have named were in the pay of Great Britain, and all their regimental business was done through the War Office in England. They were a unique body, taking precedence, I conceive, of anything that has been seen in this country before or since. Montreal and Quebec certainly have no claim to precedence in the matter of volunteers."

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The London Times of April 6 has an interesting letter from its Philadelphia correspondent on the new American Navy. In an editorial accompanying it the Times says:

"With the international issues involved in America's new policy we are not concerned. Each nation must be the judge for itself of matters affecting its strength and security. It is not for England, whose very existence depends upon her power at sea, to withhold her sympathy from the efforts of her children across the Atlantic, to tread in her own footsteps; but the growth of the new American Navy has an interest for us independent of national issues and naval constructors. The statesmen of a nation which already possesses a distinguished and even glorious naval tradition, renowned for the novelty and audacity of its mechanical inventiveness, are now dealing independently and, as seems to many, rather too boldly and light heartedly with the problems with which we have long been engaged ourselves."

Then follows a critical comparison of the new American vessels with the latest types of those employed by England, which is entirely in favour of the latter country, the chief authority for this being Mr. White, the naval constructor. It next criticizes the naval armament as likely to lead to the guns interfering with one another, and says English vessels are the best with regard to such qualities as speed and the carrying of coal. On this subject it says:

"No. 12 could not catch the City of Paris or the Teutonic in time of war with a full supply of coal, and if she could not she would run the risk of being caught by the Blake, which was built to run."

"Nevertheless, all the naval authorities of this country will watch the performances of the newer ships of the new American Navy with the utmost interest and attention. Our own extensive experience and frequent disappointments at the contrast between the expectation and the reality, between theory and practice and between calculations on paper and realized results at sea have made us a little more cautious and distrustful of innovation than behooves an adventurous and ingenious people like our American cousins. the greater boldness of the American designers is rarely based on sound judgment and not merely on lack of experience we need not regret it. We shall in the long run profit by their experience, whether it results in failure or success,"



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