

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MITRAILLE.

(LETTER No. 8.)

I have just seen the "Army List" for February. The changes of nine months since are still unrecorded.

Who is "Friday"? Is he a Canadian public character? If so, is he one with whom, under that or any other name, we ought to be acquainted? Or is he a new light sprung upon us suddenly like the glare of a dark lantern? Or is he a myth, evolved from the "inner consciousness" of the *Toronto Mail*? Or is "Friday" a nickname, of which we have hitherto rested in darkling ignorance, of some light of the earth already known to us by some other cognomen? The *Mail* itself is scarcely explicit on the subject. However, if any keen intellect can extract a solution from its oracular utterances, here they are, extracted from a recent article, entitled the "Policy of Obstruction."

"Mr. Hardy having largely (sic) withdrawn from the thick of the fight, Mr. Fraser went in, in true Old Bailey fashion, to establish the correctness of Mr. Sinclair's ingenuous confession, and so completely succeeded in the settled ministerial policy of obstruction as to frustrate the intention to report Friday to the House the evidence which had so far been taken upon the McKellar letter branch of the investigation. There was no reason whatever why the evidence should not have been reported Friday."

Deficient punctuation would appear sufficient to account for the exceedingly involved nature of this singular and puzzling statement. *Prima facie* it would seem that "Friday" was a delinquent whom the Opposition desired "to report to the House," which intention was wickedly and corruptly frustrated by the Ontario ministry. At a second glance, "Friday" seems to be a new synonyme for the word evidence. This view is a little strengthened by the following passage, which also occurs in the article in question "there being no meeting of the Committee Saturday," according to which "Saturday" would appear to be the designation of some particular Committee of the Ontario House.

There follows, however, another passage which only adds to our perplexity.—

"The understanding was that when the Committee met Friday Mr. McKellar—time having been given him to read the evidence would have been prepared to make a statement."

Here we begin to doubt whether "Friday" be not Mr. McKellar's name; and as "Friday" seems to be a very bad, or at least a very troublesome, person; and as Mr. McKellar is elsewhere charged with "wicked culpability," there may be some ground for this view. The statement that "before doing

this, he desired that two witnesses named by himself should be examined," seems to corroborate the idea that "Friday" and Mr. McKellar are one and the same malefactor. A further passage seems to confirm this hypothesis, it is as follows.—

"Mr. McKellar's statement is certainly a curiosity. Every one who heard it made must have been forcibly reminded of the 'Heathen Chinee' Mr. McKellar was 'child-like and bland', in the superlative degree. Ah Sin couldn't have held a candle to him Friday."

Several wild ideas have suggested themselves to us in the course of our lucubrations on this curious puzzle. We wondered, for a moment, whether "Friday" was to have been reported to the House as an unlucky day?—whether the mystery has any connection with our early friend "Robinson Crusoe?"—but we only become more bewildered the more we think over it. What did the Governor of North Carolina say to the Governor of South Carolina? Eh? Long time between drinks? Let's liquor then!

An imbecile and aimless young man here suggests that the subject would be completely elucidated, if, in the passages quoted, the word "on" were inserted before the word "Friday." He means to imply, we suppose, that the whole affair only refers to the day of the week! We have not written all this speculation to put up tamely with so ridiculously commonplace a solution. No, as Sir Lucius O'Trigger says, "It is a very pretty quarrel as it stands"! So we will imitate the example of Mr. Hardy, and retire "largely," whatever that may mean, from the thick of the fight.

FRANCO-TIREUR.

*To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.*

DEAR SIR,—Perhaps the extracts, I take the liberty to call your attention to, may serve to account for the wretched state of, and illustrate the imbecile, ignorant attempts to reorganize the British Army by civilian administrators.

Mr. Cardwell said, in his explanatory speech upon reorganization (1870), "I speak of the man who does not now join the Army, but whom we wish to induce to join it: of the young man who is reluctant to spend all his life away from his own village: who may wish to contract marriage, who would give a good deal for the advantage of training in the Army for a few years. Upon which Blackwood remarks.—"Were these, could these be, the ideas of the stern ruthless men who carried with a devoted faith, the name and glory of England to the uttermost parts of the earth—who planted her standards on the green mounds of Torres Vedras, and bore them in triumph through the hills of Spain—to the tread of whose conquering footsteps the streets of Paris, and the capitol of Washington, the palaces of Lucknow and the Bala

\* The advantages of military training to a future Tradesman, are about equivalent to the inducement held out to him (8d per diem), to unfit him for, and throw him behind his compeers, in his particular calling.

Hissar of Caubul, the ramparts of Peking and the rocky summits of Magadala have rung? Were these the men who went forth to wild storm of Badajos, and when the broucher ran red with their gore, rather than give back, sank on the chained sword blades and died? Were these the men who, as the sun went down stood few, wounded, and victorious on Alburra's fatal hill? Were these the iron veterans of the light division, who rather than see their enemies escape, marched through the lonely valleys of the Pyrenees till they frothed at the mouth and died? Were these the men who gave their souls to God, that the Star of England should not sink beneath the hug of the Russian bear on the misty neck of Inkerman? And they are the men you would reject for the careful, cautious, prudent, well behaved sons of the middle classes—thinking of their marriage and their fortunes, and of the happiness of their homes to come."

But the absurdity of this piece legislation confirms the accusation, that the Gladstone Government was prompt at destruction, but created nothing but discontent, complexity, and confusion.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

SABREUR.

*To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.*

DEAR SIR,—There appears to me to be some inconsistency in your editorial articles abusing England for having civilians at the head of her military organization—while you advocate the principle for Canada.

A friend at my elbow says "what is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander."

CONSISTENCY.

[The difference is simply that the English War Minister virtually superseded the Commander-in Chief—the Canadian did not meddle in any way.—ED. VOL. REV.]

## THE MILITIA SYSTEM.

*(To the Editor of the Witness.)*

SIR,—As I understand it is the intention of the Ministry to introduce a new militia law, and to make great changes in the system, which has become perfectly rotten and worthless through mismanagement, perhaps the present would be a good opportunity to make some suggestions to Government through the medium of your columns. In doing so I propose to divide the subject into two heads, namely, Military Schools and Active Militia.

## MILITARY SCHOOLS.

The infantry schools, first promoted by the Government of the late Sanfield McDonald, though a move in the right direction, have never been thorough enough in their training, and since the departure of the regular troops, whose colonels generally acted as commandants, and who furnished the instructing staff, have degenerated into a perfect farce.

I would suggest the following alterations

1. That the cadets should live in barracks during the time of training, which should be at least three months for a second class cer-