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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1875.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

LIEUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

We are now engaged in making out all the accounts due us for subscription to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW. Last week we forwarded accounts to those due us in Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, and London. This week we will make out and forward those for Fredericton, St. John, St. Stephen, Sackville, Carleton, Woodstock, N.B.; Windsor, Dartmouth, Colchester, Sydney, (Cape Breton) Amherst, and Halifax, N.S.—and will continue to do so week after week until the entire list is gone through with. Some of these are of long standing, and it is absolutely necessary that we should now insist on immediate payment. How they can expect us to furnish them with a paper for five and even seven years without receiving one dollar in return, is more than we can imagine; and we therefore hope they will no longer delay in promptly settling up their indebtedness. The field the REVIEW traverses over is rather an extensive one, taking in as it does the whole of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada, England and the United States; and if it is to be successfully carried on payment in advance must for the future be insisted on—therefore on and after the 1st January all who have not complied with our terms, their names will be erased from our subscription

books and their accounts placed in Court for collection.

The expenses attending the publication of the REVIEW are considerable, and hence the necessity of being strict in insisting on prompt payment. The postage which has hitherto been paid by the subscriber we have now to pay—and no additional charge in consequence has been added to the price of the paper.

We have endeavored to supply the Volunteer Force with a paper worthy of their support, and will endeavor to add yet more materially to its interest, if we only meet with sufficient encouragement in warranting us in the increased expenditure and labour it will involve. Let our friends therefore exert themselves in increasing our circulation in their several localities, by sending us the names of two or three additional subscribers with their own, along with the money, which will materially help us in accomplishing this end.

As an inducement to our friends to get up clubs, an allowance of twenty-five cents on each subscription will be allowed. The money must invariably accompany the order. A little exertion on the part of our friends, would at least add a couple of thousand additional subscribers to our list. Every member of the Force should take a copy, and especially the Officers. No officer can be thoroughly posted in what is transpiring in military matters unless he takes the REVIEW.

The following synopsis of a very able lecture is so instructive politically, and in a military sense, that we give it unusual prominence. According to the gallant lecturer England is not so defenceless as many of our publicists would make out, and his view of the case we believe to be correct. A great deal of the uproar has resulted from professional soldiers excited by the events of the Franco-Prussian contest, but they never seem to have taken into account the utter anarchy which prevailed in France at and during the period of the invasion. An anarchy that enabled a pettifogging attorney like GAMBETTA to subvert the Government of his country and to lay her prostrate at the feet of the invader. There was no heart in the peasantry to fight for upstarts like the Provisional Government, and the rise of that power utterly demoralized the army. The Prussians met with no resistance worth the name after Sedan, nor did levies spontaneously appear to impede their victorious advance.

Now, it is well known that a threatened danger would line the hedge rows of England with bristling bayonets and that man power would not be lacking in a contest for national existence at home or abroad.

We know the Whig Radicals did their utmost to disarm the country but to eliminate the confusion they introduced into the administration of its Army and Navy, restore the command of both to the Sovereign, give

the command of the Militia to the Lords Lieutenant, and send the Adjutants of the regular service, who are now obliged to recruit and pay bounties for every militia man putting in his annual drill, back to their proper regimental duties, and it will be found that England still has sons who are worthy representatives of their forefathers—who will not shun a militia training, and if necessary, carry pluck and physique into the ranks of the regular service.

Theorists like Captain HUME have endeavored to depreciate the value of the services of the militia soldier, and to show that the British Army at all times were recruited from the dregs of the popular—JOHN BRIGGS'S *residuum*—but if they were, it must be confessed that the morale of other armies were far inferior in every respect to the men who has filled the pages of history with the blaze of victory from Blenheim to Delhi.

But it is not true, at the worst of times, and notably during the peninsular war, the British Army was largely recruited from the Militia, and to this circumstance its value has been in a great measure due. The real hitch is that the Whig Radicals destroyed the militia and England has no reserve.

But that is easily remedied; the agriculturist is *adscriptus gubeca* now as well as in the days of Cressy, Poitiers and Agincourt, and quite as easily made a soldier.

The professional cannot conceive that it is possible to make an efficient military man except he spends half a lifetime at practising the mysteries of the *goose step* and is almost ready to commit suicide if noses are not in line on parade, but modern warfare has brought the sword into every household, and a good deal of the artistic way of handling it will have to be dispensed with.

The gallant lecturer is to be congratulated on the maritimes of his views as well as the forcible manner in which he illustrates his axioms:

At the meeting of the Royal United Service Institution on Friday, June 18, J. E. Howard Vincent, Esq., F.R.G.S., late 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, lectured specially on the subject of the "Armed Strength of Europe, relatively considered as to England and her Treaties of Guarantee." General Sir William J. Codrington, G.C.B., occupied the chair. The following passages from the more salient portions of the lecture or paper read:—

"No doubt, gentlemen, you have been struck by the peculiar fitness of the day for such a subject as this. At this very hour sixty years ago the fate of Europe was at stake. The field of Waterloo, now a peaceful plain, and now the subject of a beautiful model within these walls, was strewn with dead and dying. Backwards and forwards waved the tide of battle; but ere sunset British valour, timely succoured by Prussian bayonets, overthrow the foe to peace, and the white charger of Napoleon was extended in flight.

"This England never did, nor never shall,
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror."
Holland.—Beginning with Holland, as lying first in the route to be taken in visiting the military centres of Europe, the lecturer said:—