

the word *will* for *shall*. It is an awkward provincialism (originally, I fancy, Irish), tho' it can scarcely be called an error or a vulgarity. But it has become so universal of use by newspaper writers that, in the interests of a certain polish of style which it is to be presumed, appeals to taste of any sort of cultivation, that it is time it were noticed. The Canadian press at least might purify itself, however great a delight the Americans take in clipping, vulgarizing, and debating their language.

Another approach to the clipping of ordinary terms of speech, which creates so unpleasant an effect on the eye and ear of the reader of American newspapers (and even higher publications), which I regret to see gaining ground in Canada, is the omission of the word "on" before the day of the week recording events—as, "a fire broke out Monday morning." Some people may like that sort of thing as a new fashion, suiting rapidity of utterance, but one would be to imagine what manner of people they would be. If Canadian journalists value purity and dignity of style (which I don't think they do to any very appreciable extent) they have no excuse, with the perpetual beacons of warning held before their eyes by the vulgarities of the American Press, for falling short of a good standard.

"FRANK TITMUR."

P.S.—I had closed these desultory remarks and was about to seal them up when the Vol. Rev. of the 27th ult. was put into my hands. I perceive thereby that you have yourself anticipated my suggestions of a commission of officers to investigate the state of the Force.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—It is reported that the Government intend making a change in the "Militia system." It is to be hoped they will, for the simple reason that the majority of "officers" in command at the present time have never attended a school of "instruction," and are entirely incapable of performing their duty. If our "Militia System" is to be improved, we must have officers that have procured certificates at the schools of "Military Instruction." A commander of a Battalion or company who does not know his drill, is nothing more than a laughing stock for the men under their command.

We have in New Brunswick a great many efficient "Passed Cadets" drilling in the ranks under officers that never have obtained certificates, and I know no more about drill than as follows: "Fours right," "Quick march," "Right about wheel," or some other command that a child could give if he was told. I have seen the men in two ranks telling the captain what words of command to give to bring them in such and such a position, to the disgust of those close by; and when a vacancy occurs it's not an efficient cadet that takes the places, but some favored friend that never saw nor

handled a rifle in his life, and whose presence induces many of the men to leave. We want officers who have the interest of the Volunteers at heart, officers who command respect and who, if any emergency occurred, would know their duty and lead their men to victory. We have such men. Put them in command, and you will see our forces strengthened and respected by all.

CADET.

St Mary's, Feb. 6th, 1874.

REVIEWS

We have to thank the consideration and courtesy of Captain G. A. RAIKES, of the 3rd West York Light Infantry, for the January number of Colborne's *United Service Magazine* for January, copies of the *Army and Navy Gazette* and *Volunteer Service Gazette*, and other professional papers of the most interesting character. As it is our intention to review the various articles contained in these papers, we shall select Colborne's *United Service Magazine*, because it is the oldest military journal in the Empire, and has by far the greatest amount of well-considered professional articles in its pages.

The articles in the present number are as follows:—"The Locomotive Iron Redoubt," by ARTHUR LILLIE, (late Lucknow Regiment). Memorials of the History and Services of the old Nineteenth Regiment of Light Dragoons (Lancers), "Embodied Services of Militia Regiments," by Captain G. A. RAIKES; "Journal of an officer of the 67th Regiment during the North China Campaign of 1860; Co-operative Enlistment," by J. CAMERON, Deputy Inspector General; "The Volunteer, the Militiaman and the Regular Soldier; The Trial of Marshal Bazaine; At Montmedzy during the Investment; The Ashantee War, by Captain E. ROGERS; The Navy in 1874; Foreign Summary; Editor's Portfolio; Critical Notes; Naval and Military Intelligence, with an Obituary List; Stations of the Royal Navy in Commission; Promotions and appointments.

Of these articles the most interesting are the first on the Locomotive Iron Redoubt, the third by Captain G. A. RAIKES on the Embodied Services of Militia Regiments, which is a kind of Supplement to the "History of Reserve Forces of the Crown," by the same author, containing valuable information respecting the constitutional forces of Great Britain; destined to exercise considerable influence on the future organization of the Imperial Forces of the Empire, whenever the British people awake to the full appreciation of the condition in which their military system is now placed, and learn that a national army must be drawn from all ranks of the community.

The sixth article on the Volunteer, the Militiaman, and the Regular Soldier, is the most important in the number; especially as it is a most able dissertation on military organization, on the relative duties of the subject to the State and on the Legislative and Administrative bodies to the army, discussed in a thoroughly practical manner by one evidently well acquainted with the historical, political, and social bearings of this most interesting subject.

It is our intention to republish such portions as bear upon the question of an armed nation, being that most likely to instruct our readers, seeing our *Militia Bill* was designed to solve the problem involved.

The January number of the *British Quar-*

terly Review (Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York) opens with an article on "The Ballad, its Nature and Literary Affinities." It begins by giving the original meaning of the word, "a dancing song," and showing that the name was subsequently applied to poems of very diverse character. After describing the main features of the genuine ballad, the fountain-head of history and the drama, it gives many interesting illustrations of the light which poems of this class throw, not only on the manners and customs, but also on the beliefs and feelings of people of old.

"Modern Scientific Inquiry and Religious Thought" shows that science and religion can, and often do, go hand in hand; deep researches in geology, theories of creation, evolution, etc., in no wise interfering with a belief in God, but rather strengthening our faith in the presence of an intelligent Creator.

It is followed by an essay on "Inductive Theology," which takes the ground that man is so constituted that "he must theorize; he must trace effects to their cause, and argue from the cause to the effects it will infallibly produce;" and goes on to say: "There are facts enough at our command, both in the Universe and in the Bible, and we shall not alter the facts by changing the point from which we view them; we shall not be unfaithful to the truth by endeavoring so to conceive it as to make it tell on our generation." The main purpose of the article is to show the application of the scientific method of inquiry to a few of the fundamental truths of religion.

"Mind and the Science of Energy" is a dissertation on the connection between physical and psychical phenomena, which really seems to be a consideration of the question, What is thought? After looking at the subject from all sides, and quoting Lyndal, Huxley, Buchner, and Herbert Spencer, the writer is compelled to admit that no positive conclusion has yet been arrived at.

In "Revision of the Text of the New Testament," after briefly presenting the reasons for a revision of the text, the reviewer considers, in some detail, the principles of the two schools of criticism represented by Dr. Fregelles and Dr. Scrivener. We find here many interesting details relating to the various readings of many ancient manuscripts, together with observations upon the tests by which their genuineness may be tried.

The "Autobiography of John Stuart Mill" does not place before us a very pleasing picture. The poor child, three years old, studying Greek, is certainly a pitiable object. He must have possessed wonderful mental and physical strength, for the precocious brain does not seem to have worn out the body, as so often happens in such cases, and it certainly preserved its vigor to the very last. The impression given is that his life was incomplete—that something was lacking which the reader misses—and one can well believe that the work is, as the reviewer says, "one of the saddest books ever written."

The present number of the Review also contains a pleasant account of Henry Thoreau, the poet-naturalist; Masson's "Milton and his Times;" Mr. Bright's Return to the Ministry; Note to the Article on Herbert Spencer, No. VI., October, 1873; and the usual notices of Contemporary Literature.