

CONTENTS OF No. 17, VOL. VII.

POETRY.—

The Time-Expired Man..... 202

EDITORIAL.—

Torpedoes.....	198
Wimbledon Team.....	198
Training Officers.....	199
The Guns.....	199
Gunnery School.....	200
The Times on Republics and Monarchy.....	210
Marshall Bazaine.....	200
Reviews.....	201

CORRESPONDENCE.—

Nemo.....	193
Field Officer.....	191
Engineer.....	191
The Best Plan for Training Scientific Officers For the Canadian Military Service.....	194

SELECTIONS.—

Important Decision.....	201
The Khivan Expedition.....	201
Officers' Long Course—School of Gunnery, Quebec.....	202

REMITTANCES.....	201
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MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.....	190
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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, MAY 6, 1873.

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 in 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.

The Adjutant General's "Report on the state of the Militia of the Dominion of Canada" for the year 1872, is one of those important State documents which cannot fail to interest every reader. It is got up in the usual terse and perspicuous style with which the people of Canada are now familiar and which has established the reputation of the Commander-in-Chief of our Army in a literary point of view, as his eminent services has already confirmed his professional character.

From the Report we learn that during the past year 30,144 officers and men were in camp during the annual drill; of this force 1,666 were cavalry, 951 field artillery with 46 guns, 1,697 garrison artillery, 106 engineers and 25,724 infantry. "This army is organized into tactical brigades of the

three arms. In nearly every instance each brigade forms a little army of itself distributed according to territorial brigade divisions, and the whole active force rests upon a reserve of practically almost the entire manhood of the Dominion, and upon a Reserve organization which has called forth the eulogy and approval of eminent European Statesmen and soldiers."

"During the past year (for instructional purpose) 18 camps of exercise were formed for 16 days' training and three small regimental artillery camps for 8 days.

As it is the practice of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW to republish the Adjutant-General's Report in full, and as the first instalment thereof appears in this week's issue, it is not necessary to quote largely from that document, but there are one or two paragraphs on which we are so entirely in accord with the gallant and accomplished soldier that commands the Canadian Army, that we cannot forbear quoting them in full.

"In the time of danger the ranks of the militia of Canada have always been filled with men, but untrained men and undisciplined valor does not constitute military strength, or national security. I would, therefore, as the officer responsible for the military command and training of the militia, beg to point out the advantage and propriety from a military point of view, of obtaining such a Parliamentary vote as will admit of training annually and providing with proper equipment not merely a portion but the whole of the authorized quota for the full period allowed by law." The amount estimated by the Adjutant-General to effect this very reasonable object would be \$1,500,000 per annum; the estimates of the present year embrace a sum of one million dollars, or only two-thirds of the very moderate sum asked, and this on the plea of economy. The Report says: "Reduced military estimates means reduced military efficiency and power of defence, but should it be determined at any time to reduce the estimates it would be well to bear in mind that this can be done with least detriment to the public service, from a military point of view, not by reducing the number of men authorized to be trained annually in the whole Dominion, but by training the full number of men allowed for a somewhat shorter period of time."

Turning from what is a disagreeable subject to us, and we are fully persuaded to the mass of our people, we must content ourselves with one more extract with which our own experience is fully in accord. After alluding to the historical record of the soldierly qualities of our French speaking countrymen, the Adjutant-General says: "I have seen the descendants of those men in the camps of Lower Canada on the trackless Prairie and in the Rocky Mountains. In point of natural intelligence, hardihood, and endurance of fatigue, readiness of resource and cheerfulness of spirit, under difficulties

they have no superiors, masters in the art of travel, of camp and Prairie life they are equally courageous, and at home in the frigate amidst the foaming rapids of American rivers and in the saddle on the boundless Prairies of the North West."

The Report embraces that of the officers commanding the various military Districts and the commandants of the Schools of Gunnery, but its greatest feature is a "Report of a military reconnaissance, of the North-west Provinces and Indian Territories," which we deem of such importance as to publish out of the order in which it stands in the official document before us. The Adjutant General accompanied by his son, a fine stalwart youth of sixteen years of age, started from Fort Garry on the 10th August, 1872 for a journey of nearly 3,000 miles; by the route travelled, fully two thousand of which were accomplished on horseback the whole escort consisting of a guide and an Indian lad.

The Adjutant-General in his modest narrative gives a correct itinerary of the various stages of the arduous journey, a vivid description of the country, its capabilities and resources with the perspicacity of an experienced observer and the skill of a trained explorer, his estimate of the military strength of the Indian tribes between Fort Garry and the Rocky Mountains is particularly valuable just now, and his recommendation that a force of 500 Mounted Riflemen distributed at the following strategical points to protect settlers and cover the frontier has received convincing support by recent news of troubles between the Black-foot Indians and United States Troops which have resulted in a fight on Canadian soil. The stations pointed out for the localization of the units of the proposed force are Portage la Prairie, Forts Ellice, Carleton, Pitt, Victoria, Edmonton, and Porcupine Hill; at nearly all of those Stations sufficient accommodation already exists, and they are fortified sufficiently to resist anything except artillery, being in all cases stockade well and stoutly built by the Hudson Bay Company to protect their own employees from the Indians, and with some pretensions to military skill in design and adaptation.

It is especially to be regretted that Colonel ROBERTSON Ross's military duties detained him so as to delay his departure from Fort Garry before the month of August, and consequently compelled a deviation from the direct line of travel through the *Tete Jaune* pass in Canadian territory, to that of the Kootenay pass and through the territory of the United States, in which one-third of this interesting journey was accomplished. At the same time the necessity for a personal inspection of the frontier (the famous or infamous forty-ninth parallel) at the point where it touches the Rocky Mountains may also be said to have been a military necessity.

The route followed by the Adjutant General was nearly due south from the Rocky Moun-