

PREFACE.

Military or Militia matters being generally at a discount in Canada, the author of the following pages can scarcely hope that his efforts to awaken public attention to the subject, will meet with any better success than those of his predecessors in the same track, who wrote with the same object in view.

The only apology then necessary for republishing the letters of "L. C." which appeared in the *Hamilton Times* in May last is furnished by the following extracts, one from a speech of Hon. Mr. Langevin, acting Minister of Militia and Defence, the other from the *Volunteer Review* of June 24th, 1873:

"Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN agreed to a certain extent with the member for Lambton. The intention was not to continue the system as at present. They had about seen that it had not produced the results expected, and therefore the Militia Department had decided, instead of admitting young men indiscriminately, that admission should be restricted to men holding commissions or wishing to qualify for such position. The Department hoped to come down next session with a new proposition. He admitted that the camps had not given the result expected. Nothing would give the Government more pleasure than to improve the system; and he would inform the House that after next year when the stores purchased from the Imperial authorities would be paid for, a reduction in the expenditure would take place."

The *Volunteer Review* commenting on a letter in the *Woodstock Times*, says:

"We hope the *Times* will keep the subject before the country, it needs ample discussion, as the Volunteer officers in the House of Commons appear to have ignored their connection with the force altogether."

YORK, October 20, 1873.