

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE ZOUAVES.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR, -In your issue of the 23rd of March, you kindly gave me permission to take up the defense of the Pontifical Zouaves, and in commenting on my letter you make the following remarks: "We are well convinced of the correctness of our remarks, but would be very glad if our correspondent would show wherein we were wrong, which he failed to do in his letter." I now accept your invitation, and will strive to be more explicit than in my first letter, although as concise as possible. You assert in your issue of the 2nd of March, that the departure of the Zouaves "presents, perhaps, one of the most extraordinary episodes in the history of this extraordinary age." The rest of your article clearly shows the sense which you attach to the word "extraordinary," and I must say it is nothing to their credit. On their side you can see nothing but ridicule, and you cover them with the most acid epithets. However, let us see your own language: "They have embarked upon an enterprise of the real consequences of which they can have no very clear idea. It is a lofty spirit of religious fanaticism which animates them. As among their predecessors, all this loyalty to a system of which they as yet know nothing, will soon make room for altogether different feelings, owing to the sufferings, and the humiliations which they will have to endure. All such foreign interference is a great absurdity, and fails to be of any use to the cause. This movement is very much to be deplored for many reasons, and among others, because it carries with it the loss to the country of so many able and promising young men."

Such is, I presume, a true resume of your complaints against our modern crusaders. At this moment there is no question of intention or motives, we are only called on to judge words and facts. Far from me, the idea of accusing you of any malicious intention. You have even no need of informing us that it is through "a desire for the public good," because no one entertains a doubt on this subject, and the generous assistance which you give to the military cause, is a convincing proof of your loyalty and patriotism. But the extremes are always dangerous, and it often happens that enthusiasm for the public good leads to injustice towards private individuals. More over, it sometimes occurs that we labor under a false impression with respect to the "real public good."

Let us now examine briefly each of your assertions, and see if they do not contain some of the defects that I have just pointed out. If you accuse the Canadian Zouaves of not understanding the task which they have undertaken, you at the same time accuse the thousands of distinguished citizens, who encouraged their noble ardor, of having acted with imprudence; and you tell them that they do not know anything about men and events, and that you alone possess the

necessary qualities to be enabled to judge and appreciate. This assertion is full of pretention, and moreover is highly unjust. Let us ask each one of our young countrymen why they have left their families, and they will answer without hesitation "Our country does not require our services at the present moment; a principle which is dear to us has been attacked, and at the risk of our lives and of the greatest sacrifices of all kinds, we are going to defend it. We shall acquire a practical knowledge of the military art, and should Canada recall us we shall gratuitously give to her service what we shall have acquired by a deal of hard work." If, notwithstanding all this, you still pretend that they do not understand what they are doing, you shall have to show where their fault lies, or else take a position which you cannot hold. You reproach me with having first brought forward the religious question, but you alone induced me to it, by making use of the words "religious fanaticism." I did my efforts to show that their action was not the effect of fanaticism (for this word implies an idea of error and of passion) but simply the effect of a sincere and well calculated devotedness. As you now declare that you have not "the slightest hostility to the movement referred to, that you are glad to see such an evidence of devotedness and generosity," I will abstain from any further remarks. Nevertheless, it is still true that you were the first to bring on the question of religion, and that you made use of most unjust terms while speaking about the modern crusaders.

With respect to the malicious accusations which certain newspapers have been pleased to indulge in against the Pontifical King, although I have not been able to procure the necessary information, I am convinced that they are but pure calumnies. Several attacks of this kind have been made, but the day will come when truth will shine forth. You have appealed to the tribunal of the future, and I repeat it once more that I accept it with confidence. But I cannot admit with you that those pretended privations will alter the convictions of our young Zouaves, for were I to do so, would be to admit that they are not men of heart, that they are actuated by ideas of making money, that they only seek for their own welfare, and I am sure that nothing in their conduct justifies us in fringing such an accusation.

We have nothing to do with the result of this crusade, whatever it may be, since you affirm that you only consider the practical benefit for Canada. However, I consider that I proved clearly enough in my first letter that their interference is far from being a "great absurdity and perfectly useless." As for the loss to the country, I maintain that instead of suffering by this departure, Canada can but profit by it. Of course the Canadian Government attaches much importance to the services of those men who have experience in the military line, and hoping to soon make use of their knowledge, it smiled at their noble decision. Far from considering it a "loss" they consider it as a profit and an advantage.

In concluding, I will remark; you tried to throw ridicule on the Canadian Zouaves, by making them out despised by those that they are going to defend, by showing them fasting on bread and water; and deprived of everything; you accused them of fanaticism and of being duped to such an extent as not to know nor understand what they are doing; you assert that they would be cowardly enough to change their conviction in presence of their sufferings;

further to take all merit from their cause, you show that of Garibaldi as being still more meritorious; you have affirmed that their undertaking is absurd, because it will have no effect, and that it is to be blamed because Canada will suffer by it. I have tried to prove that not one of those assertions is well founded. In answer to my first letter you fall back to your good intentions. As I have already told you, I believe them to be good, but in presence of so many unjust accusations against our absent countrymen. I must say that the knowledge of your past history was necessary so as to prevent me from finding therein a hostile spirit.

I remain Sir,

Yours, truly,

G. AMYOT,

Capt. aux "Voltigeurs de Quebec."

[We insert the above letter because to a certain extent what it contains may give the public an opportunity of judging both sides of the question. A portion of it, however, being purely personal and irrelevant, we have for that reason omitted.—Ed. Vol Rev.]

## OTTAWA RIFLES.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—Last Thursday the officers and men of the Ottawa Prov. Batt. Rifles assembled for the third time this year for annual drill. No. 1 Company mustered 25 non-commissioned officers and men under Captain May, Lieutenant Mowatt and Ensign Browne. No. 2 Company mustered 17 non-commissioned officers and men, under Captain MacGillivray. Both companies commenced with squad drill and will keep at it until well understood. They present a neat and tidy appearance, and are an example in the way of cleanliness.

Captain May deserves credit for the manner in which he has recruited his Company. When he took command it was composed of much of boys as to earn the appellation of infantry Rifles, but now presents as fine physique as can be found. Too much praise cannot be granted to Lieutenant Mowatt for the masterly manner in which he has brought them up in drill.

No. 2 Company has not succeeded as well as expected under Captain MacGillivray, owing to the fact that he has received no assistance from Subalterns, Lieut. Cherry having been dangerously ill, and no Ensign as yet appointed. During drill Lieutenant Cherry entered the room and received the warm congratulations of his men on his convalescence. Captain MacGillivray is a most energetic officer and a favorite with his men; and it is hoped he will now push along the recruiting and bring up the company to its required strength. There are a large number of promotions to be made in this Battalion, among the rest a Quarter Sergeant who will act as Sergeant Major.

Now sir after telling so much I think it is only fair to ask where is our Adjutant and Instructor? Trusting this will receive a corner in your invaluable sheet.

I am, dear Sir,

yours respectfully,  
RIFLEMAN.