

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us, confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.



The Volunteer Review, AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1868.

WE WOULD DIRECT the attention of our readers to the able historical critique on the "Campaigns of 1754-64," the third part of which appears in the present issue. As the character of General Braddock, and the whole conduct of the campaign in Virginia has been strangely misrepresented, it is high time that justice was done to the memory of a good and able man. The writer is one well qualified to deal with the subject he has chosen; and we are glad to present our readers with an historical essay containing the fruit of much labor and research, and from the pen of one of the ablest of Canadian Military writers.

We are happy to inform our readers that we have secured the services of several eminent Canadian writers, whose contributions will appear from time to time in the Review. In this we have spared neither trouble nor expense to render our publication worthy of the liberal patronage bestowed upon it by the public.

THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

In the last issue of the Review (Vol. II, No. 10, March 9th,) the positions assumed in an article from the *Saturday Review* were considered with reference to their connection with the Military and Political relations existing or likely to exist between Canada and

Great Britain on the one hand, and the United States on the other, in the event of war. The writer of that article asserts that "England would be a loser," "but that the loss of British America would be insignificant,"—as the Military question has been already discussed and the fallacy of the reasoning put forth by the *Saturday Review* confuted, it only remains now to consider the matter in its economical and commercial bearings.

The Trade of those Colonies amounts to \$150,000,000 Imports and Exports, of this amount fully one half, or £15,000,000, are with Great Britain; a very large proportion of our import trade is drawn from England and our raw material affords remunerative labour to her artisans and manufacturers. Every soul of her surplus population that finds his way to Canada becomes at once a producer and consumer, and as a matter of necessity one of her customers. How would those matters be if, as the writer in the *Saturday Review* intimates, the people of the United States succeeded in wresting this country from British controul? Why emigrants would be permanently alienated and 4,000,000 good and loyal subjects would be converted into rivals, if not foes—two-thirds of the trade she now enjoys from us at a merely nominal duty would be directed to other sources by the imposition of the high imports already existing in the United States which amount nearly to a prohibition on English manufactured goods, and our powers of purchase would be restricted in a corresponding degree. Moreover the manufacture of our raw material would be diverted to the United States, and would cease to furnish employment to British artisans or manufacturers. Next to the United States the North American colonies consume the greatest amount of the manufactured goods of Great Britain, and much more profitably as far as the interests of that country are concerned, because in that process they add to the material wealth of the Empire the value of their own surplus labour in addition to their custom, while the United States affords the profits of their trade alone.

The acquisition of Canada would enable the latter power to controul the commerce of the world within a dozen years and realise the dream of Universal Western Empire. And this would be a far less difficult achievement than is generally imagined, the mode of operation would be at first the nearest possible approach to reciprocal trade with every European nation except England; she would be carefully excluded from American markets as far as her productive industry was concerned; investments for her surplus capital, and profitable ones too in the shape of Public Works, would be afforded and every inducements held out to the monied interests to embark in these speculations. Three hundred million, Sterling, is required to open up all the necessary communications towards the ends in view, such as the Atlantic and Pacific Railways, the various pro-

fitable navigation projects throughout Canada and the States, and other matters connected therewith; at the end of the period specified a slight manipulation of the fiscal regulations of the country, by which a large amount of taxation would be levied on those productive works and the increase of population owing to emigration from the British Isles promoted by the outlay, would place the American manufacturer in the market of the world prepared to under sell the British in every way. This project or idea must not be looked on as at all extravagant; look at the recent acts of the Government and people of the United States to carry out an idea, and that a very profitless one, they have voluntarily submitted to taxes and privations which the most despotic monarch in Europe, backed by the most powerful army, could not enforce for a year; in fact, what would break down the most powerful despotism is borne as a very minor evil indeed. Now Canada as an appendage to the British Empire prevents the consummation of this policy, by rendering it impossible for the United States to exclude Great Britain, her trade and manufactures from this continent; consequently the position assumed by the writer in the *Saturday Review* is untenable, inasmuch as the annexation of British North America to the States would be the prelude to the downfall of the Empire; and therefore whenever a proper opportunity arrives the States will provoke a contest having that object in view, which can at all times be easily frustrated by vigilance on the part of Great Britain.

The political aspect of the question is not its most alluring feature, owing to the crude manner in which the constitutional balances have been devised in the Governmental machinery of the United States; the loose state of morality consequent on the utter absence of all restraint, the constant succession of elections for every office, Judicial or otherwise, and that the standard of all excellence is money, political parties are resolved into the *ins* and *outs*, those who enjoy the loaves and fishes, and those who desire to, consequently periodical returns of intense excitement occurs ever fourth year, and it must happen, as on the occasion of the war of 1812-15, that the party in power will precipitate a contest which, from its popularity, would secure to them a further tenure of office. This is the real danger against which England and British North America have to guard—it will not be evaded by truckling to the throats of the United States Government, by paying the *Alabama* claims, nor by eating the dirt pie such astute politicians as Mr. Seward has cooked. Although, Philosophers like Mr. Mill, whose experience of Republican institutions are purely theoretical, and who therefore worships the idol of his brain, would advise avoidance of all cause of contention, forgetting, poor dear man, the fable of the wolf and lamb. Magnanimous as such conduct might be, it would be thrown away on