

Those people who argue for the curtailment of the empire, do so from grounds unsupported by reason or experience, and though they may make out a seemingly logical case, yet facts remain uncontroverted and the best way to secure immunity from aggression is to be strong. Since Admiral Gray wrote his first letter to the *Times*, the arguments arising therefrom have occupied the attention of the leading journals of Great Britain. The following from the *Pall Mall Gazette* sets the matter fairly in a few words:—

"We may be willing to part with Gibraltar to a kingdom in whose hands it is never likely to be much of a menace, but what are our guarantees that Gibraltar would continue Spanish? The Rock once came very near to being carried by surprise from Catalan Bay, even in the face of English vigilance; and any man who has ridden past the soldier-like figures by the English sentry boxes in the neutral ground on to the slouching loungers in the Spanish lines has learned what a wide difference there is between that and what passes for vigilance in Spain. Were the Peninsula a settled country, prospering under an established dynasty we do not say that this danger need count for much, and the pride and self-respect of the people might possibly come in usefully to assure the safety of one of the strongest places in the world. But who can predict the condition of Spain to-morrow?"

One other very tangible objection suggests itself against giving up Gibraltar now, and it is the objection that it is most likely to come to the British taxpayer. If we do give it up in the face of sound reasons for staying there, we are sure to have our motives misinterpreted, and we may have to provide Europe with our commentary on them in the shape of a costly war. England may be able to "Afford" to have her intentions doubted, as well as the subsequent campaign that will clear them up; but while we are preaching economy at home, it is absurd to contract unknown contingent liabilities abroad. We shall never accept as our European policy non intervention in its most unreserved sense; but there are always people whose interest it is to persuade the world that we shall, and other people whose wishes make them jump to ridiculous conclusions on trivial grounds.—As yet the recollection of the Crimean war still strengthens the hands of our diplomats, and when individuals urge that England will not fight in an case, those whom they address shake their heads dubiously. Abandon Gibraltar as we have retired from Corfu, and you furnish those individuals with proofs that will not fail to use."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE NEW DOMINION MONTHLY for February has come to hand and is as usual attractive and interesting. We are glad to see this Canadian Magazine still continues to meet with good support and we have great pleasure in adding our need of praise to those who are endeavouring to create a Canadian literature.

The death is announced of Sir J. A. Gordon, the Governor of Greenwich Hospital, at the age of 86. The deceased, who attained the rank of Admiral in 1862, has held the post which is now vacant during more than fifteen years.

ON account of pressure on our columns this week we are compelled to hold over a lot of correspondence and other matter until our next issue.

THE CITY OF OTTAWA AND COUNTY OF CARLTON DIRECTORY.—We direct attention to this work for which Messrs. Stevenson and Small, are now collecting information, and hope that every success will attend their canvass.—Clubs and Societies are requested to advise the publishers of any change they desire to be made from the last edition.—Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., will publish the Book, and Mr. James Sutherland will edit and compile it, which gives a sufficient guarantee of its reliability.

REMITTANCES

Received at this office on subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, up to Saturday the 6th inst., viz:—

CORNWALL.—Judge J., \$1.
BROCKVILLE.—Lt. Col. J., \$2.
OTTAWA.—Lt. S., \$1.
GUELPH.—Capt. H. H. S., \$2.

MODERN HEROES VERSUS ANCIENT ONES.

From the New York Weekly Book of Nov. 21st, 1868.

The practical utilitarian spirit of this age has asserted itself in no more conspicuous manner than in the wonderful revolution it has produced in regard to the estimate of deeds of heroism.

In these days of steam power, of railroads, of the magnetic telegraph, and of stupendous improvements and inventions in all the mechanical arts, as well as in the implements of war, we have ceased to estimate as the ancients did, deeds of prowess, valor, and self sacrifice.

Hercules was the most celebrated hero of antiquity, and by his feats, then considered superhuman, won for himself divine honors. Among other deeds performed by him, was the slaying of the Nemean lion and the Lerna hydra with his club, the cleansing of the Augean stables, and the abstraction of the famous golden apples from the garden of the Hesperides. At this day a party of hunters with repeating rifles would despatch the Nemean lion in very short order. The many headed monster could be disposed of in the same way, and with the use of explosive balls the aid of the hot poker of the friendly Jolas, might be dispensed with, as the constantly renewing heads would be shot off faster than they could grow again. If the manure which cumbered the famous stable had been sold to market gardeners of the present time, it would have been removed much more speedily than by the patient labour of the hands of the ancient hero. And as to the golden apples, a celebrated hero of the present age, surnamed "The Beast," would not only have accomplished the task of their abstraction much more easily than it was done, but he would have stolen them from Hercules himself.

One of the most noted instances of self sacrificing heroism of ancient times is that of the devoted Curtius, who, in full armour and mounted on a war horse, plunged into a yawning gulf in the forum at Rome, and thus saved the future mistress of the world from impending destruction. In this day the sacrifice would not be appreciated, and if such a chasm were to open in the capitol square of the modern model Republic, a contract to fill it would be given to some enterprising Yankee, who, with the aid of improved implements and machinery, would accomplish the job quite as effectually as Curtius did his, and much more profitably to himself.

We have got rid, in this age of progress, of all those antiquated notions which rendered such heroes, and such acts as these mentioned famous, and brought them down to these times. Now success, however achieved, is the true criterion of merit. The successful politician, trader, or soldier, is the hero of the hour, and he becomes so without the danger of having too close a scrutiny made as to the means by which he has accomplished his success. The unsuccessful man is nobody. Success is genius, it is heroism, it is patriotism, it is everything. The successful general is a great warrior, and a great hero, without regard to the means by which he succeeds, while the unsuccessful one is neither a warrior nor a hero, whatever odds he may have had to encounter, or difficulties to overcome. This is all right in a utilitarian age, for success pays and failure don't.

When Sheridan, in October, 1864, after his troops had been driven back by the attack made by surprise upon him at Cedar Creek, took his famous ride from Winchester to the position at which his forces had been rallied and formed in line of battle by Wright and his other Major Generals, what matters it that he had been able to take his breakfast before starting, that he had a well groomed horse to ride, a smooth and easy road of only eight miles to pass over, and that when he avowed he still had more than three to one against his opponent, with his large force of cavalry intact? "Fortune favors the brave," success followed, and hence it was right that the ride itself should be rendered immortal by the sister arts of poetry and painting.

When afterwards in the collapsing days of the Confederacy, at the head of 10,000 well mounted and thoroughly equipped cavalry, he rode up the valley and captured Early's force of 1,000 at Waynesboro, he again won the applause due to success, and this famous exploit is thus extolled by a writer in the *London Review* of September 26th, 1868, in a criticism on Denison's "Modern Cavalry."

"This is a work written by a very intelligent officer of the Canadian Volunteer service who has had the temerity to attempt to adduce some useful lessons from the operations of Confederate cavalry officers. The English reviewer takes him sharply to task for his presumptuous tem-