

## THE THREE BELLS.

The following poem by Whittier which will appear in the *Atlantic* for September refers to the well known rescue of the crew of the San Francisco, with United States troops on board, bound for California, in December 1853, and from sinking in mid ocean, by Captain Leighton of the English ship Three Bells. Unable to take them out in the night and storm he stood by them until morning, shouting to them from time to time through his trumpet "Never fear, hold on, I'll stand by you."

## THE THREE BELLS.

Beneath the low hung night cloud,  
That raked her splintering mast  
That good ship settled slowly,  
The cruel leak gained fast!

Over the awful ocean  
Her signal guns pealed out,  
Dear God! was that thy answer,  
From the horror round about?

A voice came down the wild wind,  
"Ho! ship ahoy!" its cry;  
"Our stout Three Bells of Glasgow  
Shall stand till daylight by!"

Hour after hour crept slowly,  
Yet on the heaving swells  
Tossed up and down the ship-lights  
The lights of the Three Bells?

And ship to ship made signals,  
Man answered back to man,  
Whife off to cheer and hearten,  
The Three Bells nearer ran;

And the captain from her taffrail  
Sent down this hopeful cry,  
"Take heart, hold on!" he shouted,  
"The Three Bells shall stand by!"

All night across the waters  
The tossing lights shone clear!  
All night from reeling taffrail  
The Three Bells sent her cheer.

And when the dreary watches  
Of storm and darkness passed,  
Just as the wreck lurched under,  
All souls were saved at last.

Sail on, Three Bells, forever,  
In grateful memory sail!  
Ring on, Three Bells of rescue,  
Above the wave and gale!

As thine, in night's rude tempest,  
I hear the Master's cry,  
And towing through the darkness,  
The lights of God draw nigh.

## THE CANADIAN ARMY.

(From the *Saturday Review*.)

Rather more than a year ago we gave an account of the military organization of Canada, and of the efforts she was making to render herself independent of any permanent assistance from the mother country. Since we last wrote on the subject, the Dominion has been thrown almost entirely on its own resources, for the whole of the regular forces, save a small portion constituting the garrison of Halifax, has now been withdrawn from the colony. The result is by no means that Canada is defenceless. To use the words of the Adjutant-General of Militia in writing of Quebec and Kingston—"The British flag that floats over those strongholds is as vigilantly guarded, and the morning gun as regularly fired, by the Dominion Militia Artillery Corps, who have replaced the regular troops at those stations for garrison duty. The Canadians have only seen in the departure of the Imperial troops an argument for increased exertion, and for developing and perfecting their arrangements for defence. The official report of the militia for the military year 1871-2 shows that marked progress has been made both as regards numbers and efficiency. At the last enrolment in 1869, the enrolled reserve militia, comprising every man liable to military service, numbered 556,066 men. In 1871 it had increased to

694,008. There is, it is true, a slight falling off in the paper strength of the active militia which at the close of 1870 was 44,510, while on December, 31st, 1871, it was 43,174. We fancy, however, that this decrease is more nominal than real, and that many of the 1,345 men who make up the difference existed only on paper. It is certain that in 1871 the training was far more systematic and extensive than it had been previously. Out of the total number borne on the rolls of the Active Militia at the close of the military year 1871-72, 34,414 officers and men underwent the annual training, of whom 22,544, with 1,996 horses, were assembled at brigade or division camps of exercise for sixteen days' continuous drill, and were paid and supplied as on actual service; 5,210 officers and men, with 319 horses, were assembled in camps for eight days' training, being paid and supplied under ordinary regulations; while 8,760 officers and men performed the annual drill at corps headquarters, or, in case of many garrison batteries, at certain forts where they were put through a short course of gun drill and practice. Hitherto these latter have been chiefly trained as infantry, but in 1871 the services of competent ex-officers and non-commissioned officers of the Royal Artillery having been obtained, the garrison batteries have been trained to the use of their proper arms, and have fired the regulation allowance of shot and shell. The field batteries have also received due gunnery instruction. A great step in advance has been taken by the establishment of two schools of artillery under the command of specially trained officers of the Royal Artillery. These schools have not only been employed for purposes of instruction, but also as permanent garrison batteries to guard certain forts hitherto occupied by the Imperial troops.

The Engineers are few in number, and have scarcely received any instruction in their special duties. It is proposed, however, that in future instruction shall be given at the gunnery schools.

The proportion of cavalry is as small as that of Engineers, there being only one regiment, five squadrons, and nine independent troops—giving a total of 1,571 officers and men—in the whole Dominion. The increase of this arm and its organization in district regiments is suggested. It is also urged that, as is recommended in the case of artillery, the training should be extended to thirty-two days, and that the horses should be enrolled. That the cavalry is however, very efficient, even under the present conditions, may be gathered from the fact that the New Brunswick regiment marched from its headquarters into camp in two days, each troop accomplishing on an average eighty miles, including the distance between troop and regimental headquarters. The infantry consists of 636 companies in 76 batts, and several independent companies. The great defect in this branch of the service consists in the weakness of the companies, which number rather under 56 men each on an average, and in the fact that there are many independent companies, and that battalions are consequently too small, many battalions at the annual training only turning out about 250 or 260 strong. The men are, however, fairly drilled, well armed, clothed and equipped, and remarkable for their discipline. In the course of a few years this arm cannot fail to be at all events highly efficient as regards officers, for the schools of instruction, of which there are four, turned out in 1871, 315 candidates for commissions. Of these 42 obtained first-class, and 273 second-class certificates.

But the Canadian military authorities are by no means content with imparting merely theoretical instruction. For all over the country troops were assembled in camps and practised in field manoeuvres. It is to the credit of the officers commanding that these manoeuvres were carried on in such a manner as to prove that the changed conditions of modern war, and the modifications in tactics consequently rendered necessary, are as fully recognized in Canada as in the most advanced school in this country. Nor were the Canadian Militia altogether without experience in earnest campaigning. In the beginning of October 1871 the distant Province of Manitoba was disturbed by a Fenian invasion, and the Government consequently determined to send a reinforcement of 275 officers and men to strengthen the small force occupying Fort Garry. On the 12th October, the Adjutant General received the order, a force was promptly raised, and on the 15th of the following month the expedition reached its destination, having thus accomplished at an unfavourable season of the year, in less than one month a journey for which the previous expedition had required three months.

The great difficulty which the Canadian Government has to face is that of volunteering. It seems that this method of keeping corps complete is nearly worn out, many captains finding it necessary, to the great detriment of discipline, personally to entreat men to join. There is also this great evil, that as long as the voluntary system lasts, it is often necessary to grant commissions to incompetent men solely on social grounds. Besides, the willing men have become somewhat tired of taking on themselves a duty which ought to be shared by all; and though a certain number of re-engagements for a second period do occur, they will, it is expected, soon cease. Such being the case, a strong feeling, shared by the Adjutant General, himself, is growing up that the time has arrived for making service in the Active Militia compulsory. The obligation indeed already exists, but the law has not yet been put in force. It is, however, certain that a change in this respect will soon take place, and when it does, the military position of Canada will be strong indeed. Even without reckoning British Columbia, where the reserve Militia system is only now being introduced, the Dominion numbers nearly 700,000 men between the ages of 18 and 60 liable to military service. In the course of six years a large proportion of these will have passed through the Active Militia—already indeed many have done so—and will be thus fairly trained soldiers. Even as it is, 30,000 men, thoroughly fit to take the field, could be assembled at any point on the frontier within four or five days, and these would have in support a reserve of about 670,000 men, of whom 13,000 men would belong to the Active Militia. Nor have the authorities contented themselves with a mere vague enactment that every man between the ages of 18 and 60 is liable to serve when called upon to do so; but the whole of the reserve militia is enrolled by districts, and there is a permanent recruiting staff of officers whose sole duty is to forward the number of men required. Indeed in this particular the Canadians seem to have borrowed from the Germans. It might be as well were we to take a hint from our colony. There is at present in England a strong but, we believe, daily diminishing objection to universal liability to military service. That it will be necessary ere long to have recourse to it we can scarcely doubt. Until, however, we learn, with or without the lesson imparted by a Jena or a Sedan, what is the only sound principle of national