

tors had over the bow, so that the weapon which must decide the fortune of modern wars more than any other has definitely become "the British weapon." We may remember what our ancient skill in archery did at Crecy and Agincourt, and congratulate ourselves on the shooting at Wimbledon without any *outrecuidance*, "Defence not Defence," the motto of the Volunteers, make it a positive triumph for the peace of the world that our citizen soldiers should exhibit such magnificent marksmanship. It is true that the Home Country team of English, Irish and Scotch has been defeated by the Canadian eight for the important Knapdale Cup. But, in the first place, the splendid score of the colonists is a fact almost as gratifying to us as if we were the victors; in the second, the shooting of the beaten men was so good that better could hardly be asked; and, in the third place, the very highest string of all was achieved by Private Cortis, of the 1st Sussex, who made 74 in his twenty one shots out of a maximum of 84. And when we look at past averages the general improvement is really wonderful. Last year the silver medalist scored 51, and there were only 50 and three 49's. This year there are already three scores of 52, four of 51, and 11 of 49. The highest number attainable has been repeatedly made, in the case of our own Cup and the St. George's Challenge Vase two competitors tied at the maximum. Briefly, the shooting during the week has been unparalleled for precision, and this, it must be remembered not with fancy, but with the Snider Enfield, the actual and established arm of the national forces. We maintain that in view of the extraordinary excellence, which the Volunteers have reached, a new estimate must be made of their value. Here are men by hundreds—we might say by thousands—before whose searching eyes and deadly trigger no advancing enemy could live. As skirmishers, aided by the endless cover of hedges and ditches, such men would form a line of defence which must not be judged by ordinary military standards. A Government would be worse than foolish—it would be criminal—it did not joyfully recognize that the old advantages of English nerve, and muscle, and eyesight were once more being educated for its service, and it did not take care to encourage in every proper way this hereditary skill. Here is a force of 170,000 more or less drilled citizens, of whom a third are better shots than any other army possesses, and a tenth of that third marksmen, whose bullets are sure and sudden death at a quarter of a mile. Such a reserve is most valuable; and while we hope that the season of 1872 will encourage Volunteer corps to practice more and more till they outdo themselves, we invite the attention of that vague personage, "the invader," to the averages which will be finally made up this week.—*London Telegraph.*

## THE ARMY, NAVY, AND AUXILIARY FORCES.

The Duke of Cambridge presided at the Female Orphan Asylum on Wednesday evening last. In proposing the Army, &c., His Royal Highness said—I have now to propose to you the "health of the Army, Navy and Reserve Forces," or the Auxiliary Forces, as I believe they are now termed. As regards the navy, I can say but little; though of one thing I am certain, that the men in our fleets are as gallant as ever. Although we have been most unfortunate lately, and have had a melancholy accident in the loss of some of the men in the *Aradne*, the gallantry of the crew of the ship in trying to save life was most praiseworthy, and I have no doubt that the old spirit which animated our seamen in days gone by will still distinguish our sailors. As regards the army and the reserve forces, so much has been said that I am sure the subject has become almost tiresome to everybody but I would observe that, with all the changes which are going on, it is extremely difficult to judge of the future. I believe that the character of our army, will be what it has always been, that the officers of the future will be equal to those who have held commissions up to the present time, and that there will be no cause for anxiety. But to attempt to predict what will be the result of long or short service whether the men who enlist but for a short time will take the same interest in their profession as those who used to join the army for a long period or not, is simply absurd. With respect to the auxiliary forces, I believe that they will be of the greatest possible use so long as they understand their exact place in the defensive system of the nation. But if they fancy that they can supersede the regular army, if they forget that it is only as a supplementary force they can effectively act, they will be utterly mistaken. I venture to say that nothing more unfortunate can happen than that the belief should arise that the reserve forces can entirely supersede the regular army. The idea of defending the country with the auxiliary forces alone, is simply preposterous. There is no doubt that, as supplementary forces, they would be of the greatest assistance to the regular army. The toast was duly honoured.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.—The long looked for Royal Warrants relative to promotion and retirement in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers have been issued. The Warrants, two in number are signed as "given at our court at Aldershot" on the 5th of July, and the first directs that it is expedient that a battery of artillery be commanded by an officer having the rank of Major, all first captains shall be promoted to the regimental rank of Major, and that Second Captains being second in command of Batteries, shall in future be styled cap-

tains. A new scale of pay is laid down, and it is provided that a major actually in command of a battery shall receive 1s. 6d. per day command pay in addition. The half pay of a Major is to be 10s. per day, and an unattached general officer, or regimental Colonel of the Royal Artillery, not subject to Indian retiring regulations, may retire on £600 a year after 40 years service. Any officer not subject to Indian regulations may after 30 years service, retire upon the full pay of his rank, such full pay being reckoned, in the case of a regimental Lieut.-Col. at £1 a day. All officers retiring under these provisions will, relinquish the prospect of succeeding to the command of a brigade. The new scheme does not apply to the coast Brigade, cases of retirement from which will be specially dealt with. Any retired pay in excess of 16s per day, shall not be taken from the amount of £42,400 already fixed as the limit of the sum to be annually expended for the retired full pay of the Royal Artillery. The second warrant deals with the Royal Engineers, and prescribes that after the completion of the Batteries now being formed, the establishment of general officers in that Corps on the British list shall be three Generals, six Lieutenant Generals, and nine Major Generals. All Captains as in the artillery are to be promoted to the rank of Major, and the second Captains to Captains; a corresponding scale of pay and retiring allowances being fixed, with the stipulation that the sum expended in retired full pay be not more than £21,500 a year. The appearance of these warrants has given great satisfaction to the officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, many of whom, it is expected will avail themselves of the conditions respecting retirement, by which an active promotion will no doubt, be set up throughout all ranks.

The municipal returns of Ontario for 1869 and 1870 have been published. The total number of acres assessed in the Province was 10,763,325. The total number of ratepayers was 315,763, of who 41,662 were ratepayers in separate towns and cities. The total value of assessed real estate, including the towns and cities, was \$276,983,259, showing an increased value of the confederation amounting to \$31,824,936, showing an increase of \$1,761,875 since confederation. The total assessed value of real estate and personal property in this Province for the years 1869 and 1870 was \$322,817,354. This shows a very fair amount of assets. On the other hand the liabilities were then as follows: Corporation Debentures, \$11,084,035, principal amount due the Municipal Loan Fund, \$4,761,487, interest overdue \$1,066,701; other liabilities, \$917,758; total, \$17,829,976. The total assets being \$322,817,354, leaves a balance clear of \$304,987,378. The property of the country must have largely increased since that time, so that if more recent statistics were available, a still more flattering exhibit could be made. As it is, it gives \$230.25 to each man woman and child in the Province, or about \$966 to each ratepayer.