

facility for changing front, which characterized their blundering generals during the war, immediately changed their tone; a change came o'er the spirit of their dream, they realized the danger of further demands and now offer to an admiring world the touching spectacle of a cowed bully. England, quiescent and obliging, is a safe butt for small Yankee politicians to aim their arrows of malice and conceit at, but England, roused to punish injustice and insult, is a giant they are very loth to offend, consequently we can understand the change that has lately come upon the "feelings" and expression of the American people.

In the last issue of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW a letter, over the signature of "L. C.," from the pen of a valued correspondent, asks a series of questions with respect to the Militia Law which had better be answered as propounded. The readers of the REVIEW will please refer to page 370 for the interrogations.

1st. Sir George E. Cartier, is a Canadian born, and has had sufficient knowledge of the material from which a military force must be improvised in Canada to organize the best Militia system, excepting the Prussian, in the world, his knowledge has been acquired by experience and confirmed by a thorough acquaintance with the people. An organization of a primary character whose sole object is to supply the material from which trained soldiers are to be made does not necessarily require anything beyond good administrative ability, which does not always follow exact military knowledge.

2nd. The Reserve Militia are more available because the present law renders their services compulsory when the country requires them. Under the old system there were an infinite number of officers, more than nine-tenths of which were worse than useless. Under the new the existing battalion officers would be employed solely in keeping up the organization and are not intended to act in the field.

3rd. When it becomes necessary to embody the Regular Militia they will be drafted, and for this contingency the law provides, it also leaves them the option to fill up all requisitions for men by *volunteering*, thus enabling them to have a choice of their own officers.

4th. The status of the officers of the Regular Militia will be according to their rank and respective dates of commission. As there is no Regular Militia yet enrolled there are no officers; but if such existed and the case to occur, the officer of highest rank would necessarily command. The case of the Reserve Militia would be the same, but it is supposing every available man in the Dominion under arms to put the case in this manner,—a contingency not likely to occur.

The objection to the Memorial of the Volunteer Officers is simply that they had over-

stopped the strict line which should always be maintained in a country where the same individuals are soldiers or civilians as the exigencies of the State require. In the former case they should have brought their case not before the Minister of Militia at all but through their Representatives in Parliament.

The *Irish Volunteers* in 1782 pursued a similar line of conduct and brought the country to the verge of a military revolution which was only averted by the good sense of their leaders.

Any body of men in this country can procure constitutional redress without resorting to unconstitutional or extra constitutional acts, and in this direction lay the error and danger of the memorial.

The VOLUNTEER REVIEW has never had but one opinion of the *Volunteer Force* of Canada and it has always upheld their value to the country and the justice of their claims for all reasonable considerations; it has also held, and events have proved the truth of the proposition, that the *Militia Law would keep the Volunteer ranks full*, for obvious reasons. The only way to injure that force and make it inefficient is to reduce the service therein to compulsion; patience is a virtue which Volunteers must exercise as well as other people, and there is no doubt but all their lawful desires will be granted within a very limited period.

Under existing circumstances it is impossible to *keep politics out of the Militia*, but it is not the fault of the Bill or the Minister of Militia that abuses of a very grave character have been perpetrated, in one instance so far as to place a man who had been convicted as a criminal in command of a Regimental division because it was necessary to place the selection of those officers in the hands of the members of Parliament, and, if those people betrayed the trust reposed in them, the people who elected them as their representatives are alone to blame. If L.C. would for one moment reflect on the vast amount of work to be done in the department of the Minister of Militia he will only wonder that so very few errors have been committed.

In conclusion Sir G. E. Cartier has achieved a most difficult task and one at which a distinguished military officer totally failed, and simply because he did not know how to adopt his scheme to the social condition of the people.

The New York *Imperialist*, a paper from which we have made some selections of late, to give our readers an idea of that political retribution which is overtaking the United States is steadily forcing its opinions upon the consideration of the people, and has already made its mark upon the political features of the day. We hope it may obtain an abundant success and that the daring truths it publishes may become known throughout the confines of the Republic. There can be no doubt but a great revolution is coming upon the American people,

and it will be well for them if they adopt the wise counsels freely given in that daring and able paper.

Below we reproduce a paragraph copied in its columns from the *Courier-Journal* of Charlotte, N. C., as an instance curiously enough supporting the views often enunciated in these pages:

"THE IMPERIALIST.—The paper is a handsome specimen of typography, and as regards its sentiments we believe very few Southern men would hesitate to endorse it and encourage its policy. We are free to say we most heartily subscribe to its principles, and express the hope that we may live to witness the return of the prodigal Colonies to their proper positions under Her Majesty's crown. We are decidedly in favor of this grand effort to secure redemption.

Two events of great political magnitude have taken place within the last few days. The first is the ratification by the Commons of the agreement for the transfer of the north west territory from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion of Canada, the second is the motion by Sir J. A. Macdonald for the admission of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island into confederation. Of the first we may briefly summarize the Bill for the temporary government of the North West as follows:—

"First, the territories, when admitted, shall be styled the North West Territories; second, Governor in Council may make laws for the government of the territories, and authorize such officer as they may appoint as Lieut.-Gov. to make provision for the administration of justice, and generally to make laws, institutions and ordinances necessary for the peace, order and good government of her Majesty's subjects and others, provided that all such orders, laws and ordinances so made shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as convenient after the making or enactment thereof; third, the Lieut.-Governor shall administer the Government under instructions given him by order in Council; fourth the Governor in Council may constitute and appoint by warrant, Councils, not exceeding fifteen or less than seven, to aid the Governor in the administration of affairs; fifth, all the laws in force at the time of admission into the Union shall, as far as consistent with the British North America Act, and with this Act, remain in force until altered by the Parliament of Canada, or by the Lieut.-Governor under authority of this Act; sixth, all public officers and functionaries holding office at the time of admission into the Union, excepting him or them at the head of the administration of affairs, shall continue to be public officers and functionaries of the North West territories, with the same duties and powers as before, until others are ordered under the authority of this Act."

With reference to Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island the following are the resolutions submitted and considered by the House in Committee last Tuesday:—

The terms for the reception of Newfoundland into the Union demand that Canada should assume the liability of the debts of Newfoundland at the time of union, and that the interest on the debt should be placed on the same footing as that of the