

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

Published EVERY MONDAY MORNING, at OTTAWA, Dominion of Canada, by GEORGE MOSS, Proprietor.
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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 Province 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 it may reach us in time for publication.

CLUBS! CLUBS! CLUBS!

For the purpose of extending an advantage to the NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of the FORCE, we have decided to send "THE REVIEW" to BATTALION and COMPANY CLUBS of TEN and UPWARDS at the rate of \$1.50 per annum for each copy.

ANY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER or PRIVATE sending us 15 names at the above rate, will receive a copy of "THE REVIEW" for one year, free of charge.

"THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW OFFICE,"
OTTAWA, August 1st, 1867.



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Untribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, hence the Law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1867.

A BATTALION IN BAD HANDS.

The old Niagara District is entitled to one of the brightest pages in the military history of this country. The pioneers of the wilderness, which has now blossomed into the garden of Canada, were for the most part U. E. Loyalists, who abandoned every thing in the revolted colonies to follow the banner of their king, and to assist in planting it on Canadian soil. In the brave old days, when their quaint log cabins and knickerbocker chimneys shook to the thunders of Lundy's Lane and Queenston Heights the fathers of Canadian loyalty tossed off their cup of mead, with stout hearts shouldered their muskets, and taking their lives in their hands went forth to defend their sovereign and their country; and gallantly they did it. The ashes of the immoral Brock slumber in their midst and few indeed are there of their descendants who have not, beneath the shadow of the column erected to his memory, resolved to maintain, to the death if need be, the British character and institutions which their fathers fought and bled to trans-

mit to them untarnished. Knowing all this, it is with the most profound regret that we feel called upon to say a word in disparagement of even one man among them, and that one holding a high position, and residing in the principal town of the district, which should, and would under better management, take the lead in demonstrations of loyalty and military spirit. From time to time we have wondered why military operations in St. Catharines and vicinity required no record at our hands. Then every few days we received hints of mismanagement and carelessness on the part of the officer commanding the 19th Battalion to which we were slow to give credence. But at last the conviction is irresistably forced upon us that the great lack of military spirit in St. Catharines and the surrounding country is entirely owing to the carelessness, incompetence and consequent unpopularity of the Lieut.-Col. of the 19th Battalion, the Hon. J. G. CURRIE. Knowing, probably, his unfitness for the position, Lt. Col. CURRIE at one time resigned and we believe his resignation was accepted; but before a successor was appointed the Fenian excitement arose and he again assumed command. However much this step may redound to his credit as a patriot, if the charges made against him of incompetence are correct, his renewed services in the hour of danger would have been a detriment rather than of real service to the battalion. But resume the command he did, and there he remains, and we are informed on the very best authority that if the present state of affairs continues he will soon not have an officer in his whole battalion. From all we can learn the objections to the Lieut.-Col. are solely on the ground of neglect and incompetence, and an arbitrary spirit which it is difficult for either officers or men to bear cheerfully from one who is himself wholly oblivious of the first duties of a soldier. We have known officers to be objected to on account of their political proclivities; but unless there were evidence of treason and disloyalty, we would be the last to encourage complaints on that score. In Lieut. Col. CURRIE's case, however, both parties are of one accord in his condemnation; and this renders it the greater pity that a fine battalion, in every other way harmonious and enthusiastic, should lose its enthusiasm and be rapidly approaching demoralization and disruption because of the wrongheadedness of one man. Nothing could have given us more regret than to make these remarks; but we have felt it to be a duty we owe to the officers and men of the 19th Batt., and to the force generally: and when we are satisfied that we have a duty to perform, we hope we shall always have the courage to perform it, no matter how high the position which the person obnoxious to criticism may occupy. If, however, there is anything to be said on the opposite side, we shall gladly give it a place in our columns. To show that a journal friendly to Lieut.-Col. CURRIE's political party feels bound to join in his condemna-

tion, we append some remarks from the St. Catharines *Star*, premising that similar remarks would apply to the celebration on the Queen's Birthday. Under the heading "The Volunteers—Official Mismanagement," the *Star* says:—

"The want of public spirit and enthusiasm displayed in the celebration of Confederation Day, in this town, contrasts very unfavorably with the manner in which the occasion was honored in other places throughout the Dominion. Our exchanges contain reports of the proceedings in other towns and cities, where an energy and liberality has been shown by the citizens, which should make the people of St. Catharines ashamed of the very poor celebration here. The military at any rate might have been expected to make a great deal better display than they did. One company, Capt. Parnall's, did not turn out at all, and the others, through the Colonel's mismanagement, did not appear together on the square, or fire their *feu de joie* at the same time. Two companies came in from the country, the Grantham Cavalry Troop, and the St. Ann's Volunteer Company. On their arrival they found no one to receive them, and no provision made for furnishing them with refreshments. They had been invited to come to town by Colonel CURRIE, to participate in the Grand Volunteer Review, which it was originally proposed to hold, but had received no intimation that the idea had been given up. The whole duty of preparation was left in the hands of the company officers, the Colonel being too much occupied with politics to give the matter any attention. After the arrangements for the day had been completed, however, and a portion of the Volunteer Force were on the Square, and the rest at the Drill Shed, the Colonel quite unexpectedly took command, and instead of at once marching the men on the square to the Drill Shed, as had been arranged, he occupied so much time in going through the exercises, that they were too late to fire the *feu de joie* with the others. The Colonel is much blamed for the neglect and apathy he has shown, respecting the celebration, and Volunteer matters generally. He appears to take the least possible interest in the welfare of the force, and to leave all the work of keeping up the organization, in the hands of the officers, rarely giving them any assistance in their arduous duties. By this course of conduct, he is fast rendering himself unpopular with the force here, and to this cause, the failure of the proposed "Grand Volunteer Review," is largely to be attributed."

VOLUNTEERS AND CIVIL TUMULTS.

This subject has for some time created a great deal of discussion in England, a keenness having been added to the opinions pro. and con., by the action taken by the Volunteers in suppressing the Fenian riots at Chester. At the time we took the ground that it ought to be the duty of Volunteers, in order to aid the civil authorities effectively, and with as little damage to themselves as possible, to act together on such occasions as a military body, using such skill and discipline as their military education had given them, to overawe and put down lawless attempts to set at naught those civil codes, without which life and property could not be safe. In this country it is still more important that the Volunteers, i