

Our last issue contained the "Report of the Director of Stores," Lieut.-Colonel Wily, and concludes the series which make up the "Report of the Adjutant General on the State of the Militia." Never before has such an interesting or valuable document been placed in the hands of the people of Canada, showing as it does the working of the system under which their military force has been organized, and the manner in which the various duties of the department to which it belongs, as well as of the small but efficient military staff employed have been performed. To the political economist it must recommend itself on the grounds of full value and more being received for the money expended; while the statesman and patriot will view the results of this successful experiment with unalloyed satisfaction. Affording as it does an efficient and easily managed military force without the drawback of creating a class or burthening the resources of the country. Lieut.-Colonel Wily has given ample details of the multifarious duties confided to him, from the distribution of clothing, hospital stores, bedding, firewood, and rations, to the fitting out of the Red River Expedition, with all and every portion of its supplies, provisions and equipment except boats; the receiving from the Imperial authorities the land reservations on which the various forts and cantonments are built, the batteries, guns, magazines and innumerable small stores belonging thereto. And we fancy the most rigid *Backwoods* economist will admit that the people of Canada have received full value and something more for the pittance expended on this department. The cry of an overgrown staff has been several times raised, but the reports now concluded are suggestive of an *overworked staff*, and inquiry will establish that as a fact.

This report of Lieut.-Colonel Wily dispels of the shameless, reckless, and untruthful assertions of the redoubtable writer of the notorious "Narrative of the Red River Expedition," whose mendacity is the more remarkable, inasmuch as he must have known that it could be officially contradicted. Like all other gamblers he had a point to make, and never looked or cared what the consequences might be. The report accounts for every one of his charges by showing that they were purely fabrications to excuse the blundering incompetence displayed in the command of the expedition. It is a point made in the "narrative" that political expediency was consulted in the contracts for supplying the force; that the harness and horses were inferior to those to be obtained at the Imperial stores, and that the *drivers* were incompetent. Lieut. Colonel Wily shows that the contracts were made for the provisions by himself alone, although the truthful author of the "narrative" credits the *control* with all the perfection of the arrangements, that it was without the slightest reference to any

consideration but the one of public service; that the harness was approved of by a *board* of the Royal Artillery, and that the horses of that corps were totally unfit for the service is proved beyond a doubt. Any one reading Lieut. Colonel Wily's report will come to the conclusion that the writer of the "narrative" drew liberally on his imagination and did not detail facts at all, and that all the delay, loss, and blundering was very justly to be charged to the account of the commander of the expedition and his advisers. Those people have carried off all the honors however, but if the *Moral's* College should be puzzled for motto's it might be as well to adopt that of "*Istuta non virtute*," as it graphically describes how they were won. In this issue will appear a part of Mr. Dawson's report, and at its conclusion a few more of the *truths* of the narrative will be illustrated.

The following kindly notice of "The Battle of Dorking" appears in the *United States Army and Navy Journal* of the 17th instant:

"We have so many demands for the report of the St. Louis Board on small arms that we have concluded to reprint the main portion of it, at the cost of the addition of an extra four pages to this number of the *Journal*. We avail ourselves of the opportunity to reprint also from *Blackwood's Magazine* the whole of the "Battle of Dorking," to which we alluded last week. There is a very general desire to see this article, as it is suggestive to us as well as to our British cousins, and the style makes it unusually readable in spite of its length. It may comfort our friends across the water, to know that the picture this writer gives of the possible future of England is one from the contemplation of which we derive no satisfaction. The Treaty of Washington aside, the instinct of race is too strong within us to think without indignant sorrow of England crushed beneath the foot of the invader. It is instinct rather than charity, for we do not yet forgive that class in England who would have welcomed our own overthrow with unmitigated satisfaction, and who are to this day more ready to praise and fête our Davises and Beauregards than our Shermans and Sheridans, as some of our officers have learned by experience.

Whatever of freedom, morality, religion, and social order obtains in the United States were acquired from England, and it would indeed argue a callousness of heart entirely foreign to our civilization to find a people whose welfare, whether as colonists or an independent nation was always her primary consideration rejoicing in her downfall. It is nevertheless true that if the episode in the history of the world shadowed forth by the *jeux d'esprit* in *Blackwood* should ever be realized, this same United States would be sure to endeavor to acquire the western possessions of the moribund empire, so that the sentimental aspect of the question may be fairly taken for what it is worth—a passing shade of feeling. The reference to this subject by the *Army and Navy Journal* awakens further interest in what has really en-

abled the author to create such a sensation at home and abroad—the inefficiency and disorganization of the British army, and the total inability of the Whig-Radical Government to remedy the evils under which it labors. It appears to us that two great mistakes have been committed by the popular party in England—the first is the violation of the constitution by which the control of the army has been assumed by the Minister at War, a member of the House of Commons, and accountable to his majority therein but not to the nation at large for its management. Second—in order to place it more completely within the power of a portion of the people the system of purchase, by which wealthy and influential men were enabled to serve their country, is to be abolished and a system of selection—in other words, the political exigencies or influence of the faction wielding the power of the state is to be served by appointing its nominees to all the offices therein. A few isolated cases of neglect does not prove that the system of purchase was bad. It has been the system of the British army since that force had an existence, and officers trained under it have fought and conquered those trained under the principle the Whig-Radicals are trying to adopt. It is only necessary to refer to the events of the Peninsular war to prove that the soldiers who fought under the cold shade of an aristocracy were better led, better cared for, and had more faith in their officers than the legions opposed to them, where every conscript was taught to believe he carried a marshal's baton in his knapsack. With the example of the late Franco-German war before them it is matter for astonishment that even the stolid English mind cannot see the difference between the class of officers by selection of the French army and the trained aristocrats of the Prussian. The latter outfought, outgeneralled, and outwitted their opponents, and surely the artisans and small shop keeper class of England can find no quicker intellects than the corresponding ranks of French society.

To carry out the abolition of purchase Mr. Cardwell asks for £10,000,000 sterling; and he does not deign to place before the public the precise scheme to supply its place. Possibly it is something like that of "Old Lenthal's Parliament," where they nominated a committee of women as *tyrers* for the selection of officers for their cavalry. Radical vagaries of this description has destroyed more English capital, sacrificed more lives, and done the world more mischief than all the wars aristocracy has engaged her in for the last five hundred years.

Would it not be as wise and a little more statesmanlike on Mr. Cardwell's part to put £2,000,000 of the money he wants to fleece that patient ass, the British taxpayer off, to the laudable purpose of encouraging emigration, lessening the pressure of a starving and discontented class on the industrious portion