

THERE IS NO DEATH.

BY LORD LYTON.

There is no death! The stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore,
And bright in heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forever more.

There is no death! The dust we tread
Shall change beneath the summer showers
To golden grain or mellowed fruit,
Or rainbow taintd flowers.

The granite rocks disorganize,
And feed the hungry mosses they bear;
The forest leaves drink dai y life
From out the viewless air.

There is no death! The leaves may fall,
And flowers may fade and pass away
They only wait through wintry hours
The coming of May day.

There is no death! An angel form
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread,
And bears our best loved things away,
And then we call them "dead!"

He leaves our hearts all desolate;
He plucks our fairest, sweetest flowers,
Transplanted into beds they now
Adorn immortal bowers.

The birdlike voice, whose joy was tones,
May glad these scenes of woe and strife,
Sings now an everlasting song,
Around the tree of life.

Whether he sees a smile too bright
Or heart too pure for taint and vice,
He bears it to the world of light
To dwell in paradise.

Borne to that undying life,
They leave us but to come again;
With joy we welcomed them the same,
Except their sin and pain.

And over near us, though unseen,
Thou dear, immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless universe
Is life—there is no death!

It is of the utmost importance that the people of Canada should be prepared to take advantage of all just criticism, whether relating to their Government, military organization, laws, or social customs, as it will enable errors to be corrected and mistakes rectified.

Acting on this principle we re-publish the following article from the United States Army and Navy Journal, premising that the letter has been written by a Canadian, all its incidents are exaggerated, most of its statements untrue, and malicious in all; our force is gradually acquiring discipline, it is not composed of professional soldiers, and the remarks of the critic, therefore, are without value.

The cry that the force only exists on paper has become a nuisance, it is like other popular delusions, the stock-in-trade of a few discontented spirits; and although their prophecies have repeatedly been proven false, they still continue the whine about the inevitable collapse of the system.

In the matter of equipment and clothing, the fault lies with the House of Commons, if money will be placed at the disposal of the Militia Department, all that can be rectified; in the matter of strategy and tactics we shall gradually acquire sufficient knowledge to please a critical eye, and in the meantime, it is evident, the writer feels we need not be ashamed of the Canadian Army.

"From a letter to the World we glean the following interesting particulars relative to

the militia of the Dominion. The number of volunteers or active militia in the Dominion is as follows:

Engineers.....	232
Field Artillery.....	40
Garrison Artillery.....	3,844
Cavalry.....	1,571
Infantry.....	85,571
Marines.....	174
Garrison in Manitoba.....	318
Attending military schools.....	479
Staff.....	34
Total.....	43,174

Of these men, last year 34,414 performed their annual drill 22,500 in camp for sixteen days, 5,200 in camp for eight days, and the remainder at their headquarters.

The camps of instruction have just been broken up, and as I visited several of them, both at Quebec and Ontario, a few remarks upon the subject may not be inappropriate. The infantry are generally young men, apparently in good health, and able to stand work. They are more soldierly looking than the average American regular; better "sized," too. On parade, however, many irregularities strike the eye of one accustomed to see regular troops. Unbrushed boots, missing buttons, and similar little things, display an absence of strict discipline and soldierly pride, and there is a proneness in the rank and file to follow with their eyes, if not with actual craning of necks, the passage of the reviewing officer and staff. They march well, but judge distances badly in wheeling into column of companies, one company frequently overlapping another, or having to dress several steps to make up its distance. Between officers and men the difference is not sufficiently marked, a fact too frequently resulting in a relaxed discipline and disorderly camp. The men do not know how to surrender their individuality, and obey orders like machines, but seem to halt, question, and discuss with themselves. The officers, as a general rule, are wholly ignorant of all things military, that are not in the books, and flurry about like children at a picnic. As a specimen of thoughtlessness, I saw one man parade his guard in great coats, with the mercury up in the nineties. The arms furnished are good, and in good order, and the shooting of the men is more than fair. Officers and men, however, are neglectful of practising in the art of judging distances—a very important matter in the open field, where one has not the range measured off and announced in advance. The uniforms, generally, are badly worn; in some instances men were without regulation trousers or shakos.

In the sham fight which I saw, the effect was more satisfactory to the general public than to the close critic. In throwing out skirmishers they advanced too rapidly; indeed in almost every advance the advancing forces got out of reach of their supports. The skirmishers distained notably such shelter that did not force itself into their eyes—small stumps, hillocks, and loose stones, any one of which would have covered a man, being ignored. The firing was too fast—it always is with new troops. Two grievous errors made themselves conspicuous at one camp, where one wing of a battalion, numbering 150 men, undertook to retreat from an untenable position, exposing its full flank to a battery of two guns and a force twice as strong as its own, and where a troop of thirty sabres, "without any visible means of support," as the indictments for vagrancy run, took a bridge in front of the enemy's centre, on which—setting direct defence out of the question—every opponent of the

attackers could have converged fire, making this bridge a position akin to that described by an Irish engineer as "perfectly impregnable, and untenable if taken."

The men generally are dissatisfied. Between the English and the French there is much ill-feeling, the result of national prejudices never yet overcome, and now intensified by the fact that the Minister of Militia is popularly supposed to have condoned, if not actually to have instigated, the Rebellion in Manitoba, in which the French exult as a victory over Protestant influence in the northwest. Further, the term for which the volunteer militia agreed to serve has now expired. They find that the glass has worn off with the general public, that employers no longer encourage their employees to volunteer, but stop their pay during their absence on duty or discharge them. Again, they complain that they are obliged to give their time and trouble while hundreds of their fellows are at home. Almost every officer says that a half or two-thirds of his men will not serve again, and that the balance must be resorted to to fill up the ranks. Here comes the trouble. The Government has the power to ballot, but dares not exercise it. To draw 20,000 or 30,000 men from the reserve, and compel all who were drawn to serve, would raise a howl from those able to afford substitutes, while to permit the engaging of substitutes is to fall out with the poor devils who can't afford to serve or to buy substitutes either. How they will get out of the mess remains to be seen. At any rate the active militia will be reduced at least 20,000 men.

The reserve militia of which so much is said is composed of the following classes:

1. Unmarried men or widowers without children.....	222,000
2. Same, thirty to forty five.....	33,500
3. Married or widowers with children eighteen to forty five.....	287,500
4. Men from forty five to sixty.....	151,000
Total.....	694,000

These men are "militia" merely in the sense that every citizen of the United States capable of bearing arms is a soldier. They undergo no drill, are unarmed, and are brigaded on paper. The only provision for an emergency has been in preparing some hundreds of mere schoolboys at "military schools" by taking diplomas after studying "war" from four to ten weeks to act as officers in the reserve militia in case of war."

The following extract is from Broad Arrow of 27th July, detailing the distribution of the prizes won at Wimbledon.

The reception of the Canadian Volunteers were quite as gratifying as their success to the people of this country, and it will, no doubt, please our readers to find that H. R. H. the PRINCE OF WALES, has retained vivid recollections of the loyal and warm reception he received from the Canadian people twelve years ago, which he did not fail to mention to Major WORSLEY, who has good reason to be proud of the service on which he has been engaged, and the success of which is due in a great measure to his able and prudent management.

We feel quite certain our militia authorities will not forget the service he has rendered, nor fail to show their appreciation of conduct calculated to reflect honor on the