

## The War Power of Canada.

*New York Herald.*

The Inspector of Artillery of the Dominion has recently made a comprehensive report on the military strength and resources of Canada, which is deemed of sufficient importance for republication by our own Ordnance Department. This report makes a pretty formidable showing for the Dominion, which would be by no means a contemptible enemy when supported by the military and naval power of Great Britain. An officer of the United States army stationed at Columbus barracks, who has been studying this document, writes a long letter to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, somewhat in the spirit of a scare, setting forth our helplessness in the early stages of a sudden war.

We do not share his apprehensions, but it is well enough to recognize the fact that the Dominion has six hundred thousand enrolled militia, that forty-three thousand three hundred and sixty-five of these are armed, organized and drilled; that she is very strong in garrison and field artillery, and has great abundance of cavalry horses; that her militia is so organized that fourteen thousand new men come in every year for three years' drill, and that the same number pass out every year to increase the list of enrolled militia who have received instruction and training and would be immediately available in a sudden emergency. This is a greater force than could be put at once into the field by our States which border on the Dominion. Our regular army is so small and the bulk of it is at such a distance in the Western Territories that it would be of little use in a contest with Canada. Troops could be sent over from Great Britain more rapidly than our regular army could be recruited. There is a popular notion that in case of war we could make a complete conquest of Canada in a single month; but it might not prove so easy a task.

In one respect this exposition of the military strength of Canada is of great importance. The completion of the enlarged Welland Canal next year will give ready access to the upper lakes for British gun boats and ships of war, which could shell and destroy our wealthy but defenceless cities on the lakes. This is a real danger and it is the duty of our government to provide against it. At the outbreak of a war the first thing we should attempt would be to seize the Welland Canal. But Canada could pour forth troops faster for its defence than we could land them for its capture. It is indispensable that we adopt efficient measures for preventing the appearance of a British fleet on the upper lakes, which are inaccessible to our navy. There is a treaty by which the United States and Great Britain stipulate to maintain only one small war vessel each, with a single gun, on Lake Ontario, and two such vessels each on the upper lakes. But this treaty would be abrogated by a declaration of war. Great Britain could send armed steamers through the Welland Canal in four or five days from Quebec, and we should have no naval force on the lakes until we could build it. Meanwhile our populous and flourishing lake cities would lie at the mercy of long range British guns.

It is for military engineers to judge what is most suitable to be done; but one of the first things that suggests itself is the construction of strong and heavily armed forts on the New-York bank of the St. Lawrence, which would completely command the river and with the aid of torpedoes would make it impossible for any British ship to pass up into Lake Ontario. Indeed this seems one of the most indispensable measures for national defence.

In reproducing the above article from the *New York Herald* of the 24th ult., with all sincerity we exclaim with Burns.

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us,  
To see oursel's as ithers see us!  
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,  
An' foolish notion."

It is well perhaps that others should have a better opinion of us than we can have of ourselves; it puts us in the position however of the man who kept a watch dog that had lost all his teeth—dependent on his bark. The General Commanding the Militia reports only 20,000 drilled this year out of the 43,000 men of our armed force. We confess we would like to see a numerical strength in Garrison Artillery realized by the general introduction of the rifled guns as the Inspector of Artillery recommends. Popular notions are sometimes correct, and deserving of attention. Unfortunately it is not necessary to visit our so called fortified cities with their antiquated works and armament to see our helplessness in many points. Should not our torpedo defence and the adaptation of our antiquated works to modern requirements be looked to? The Nova Scotia Field Battery with its 6 pr. two horse mountain guns must, we fear, be eliminated from our so called Field Artillery strength. What about New Brunswick and the route taken in 1861 by the men sent from Halifax to Montreal, with only one Field Battery of smooth bore bronze guns to defend its miles of frontier, and another similar battery to defend the whole line of Intercolonial Railway.

## Dominion Artillery Association. PRIZE ESSAY.

**SUBJECT.**—Taking into consideration the peculiarities of climate, physical features, means available, etc., of Canada what is the most suitable form for a battery armed with 64 pr. guns on Standing Carriages, on a water front, to oppose wooden ships similarly armed; and the best means to facilitate and encourage the construction of such works by the Militia Engineers and Artillery themselves at important points: plan, etc., to be the *bona fide* work of the writer.

**CONDITIONS.**—To be competed for by any officer or non-commissioned officer of the Canadian Militia Artillery or Engineers or by officers of any branch of the Militia service who have obtained certificates from the present Schools of Gunnery officers or others who have served in the Royal, or Royal Marine Artillery to be excluded from competition. In all cases the competitor must be a member of the Dominion Artillery Association, by personal subscription, paid on or before 30th June, 1879. The Essay to be distinguished by a name not that of the corps to which the writer belongs.

The essays to be sent to Lieut.-Col. Strange, R. A., President of Council, Dominion Artillery Association, Quebec, before the last day of August, 1879.

The Judges to be Officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers—Lt.-Col. Strange, R. A., and Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspectors of Artillery, and Lieut.-Col. Hewett, R. E., Commandant Royal Military College, Kingston.

Essays may be in English or French, subject matter will be considered of more importance than style. Quotations and extracts from works bearing on the subject, may be freely made use of; but the name of the authors so quoted, must be given in foot or marginal notes.

The best essay to be printed at the expense of the Dominion Artillery Association, and distributed to members.

T. B. STRANGE, LT.-COL., I. of A.

President of Council

Kingston, 12th March, 1879.

## The Victoria Cross.

We cannot, in Canada, boast that "every village has its hero," though "every fireside may have its story," and that noble distinction of valor, the Victoria Cross, was only instituted by the Queen on the 29th January, 1856, few Canadians have had the opportunity to deserve it, for comparatively few have entered the British army and seen service. Let us hope now that no less than four cadets annually from our