



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada.

VOL. II.

OTTAWA, CANADA, MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1868.

No. 10.

For "THE REVIEW."

MY SOLDIER SIRE.

We gathered round the hearth-stre,
And watched its cheerful glow,
In the night hours, dark and lonely,
Of the winters long ago.

Then the sweet songs of my sisters
Fell often on my ear;
But my father's battle stories
I dearly loved to hear.

Adventures wildly thrilling,
Almost as strange, in sooth,
As those in old romances
Which stir the heart of youth.

And as I, by the fire light,
Heard of War's brave array,
My mind with thoughts was busy
That never came by day.

For 'mid the blazing pine-logs,
Which seemed as though alive,
Methought I saw the phantoms
Of those past days revive.

I saw plumes proudly waving,
By vanished breezes stirred;
A strain of stately music
Clashed in with every word.

The quivering brands then falling
Showed me, 'neath trophies torn,
Their unfamiliar features
Who died ere I was born.

My father's voice is silent,
His martial themes are o'er,
Some places by the hearth-stone
Are vacant evermore.

Yet oft on wintry evenings
Beside the pleasant fire,
I trace these long lost pictures,
And hear my soldier sire.

To him who spake to mortal ears,
"Seek, and ye shall find."
For the maiden wiped away her tears,
And spoke her grateful mind.

O God! I thank thee, ever true
As none but thou canst be;—
He open'd his eyes of asure blue—
He speaks, and 'tis of thee!

AMT.

FOR THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1754-64.

NUMBER II.

History presents no episode in the life of nations so extraordinary as that enacted on the eve of this great contest by the cabinets of St. James and Versailles. While the ports and arsenals of both kingdoms were ringing with the notes of stern warlike preparations; while fleets were preparing and expeditions fitting out; while fighting was the order of the day on the banks of the Ohio and the shores of the Bay of Fundy; while naval engagements distinguished for slaughter were taking place on the high seas, the ministers of both powers were engaged in courteously disclosing to each other the wishes of their respective courts for the maintenance of peace and amity. The contest for a continent, the struggle that led to the series of events which altered the political destinies of the world, was looked upon as a quarrel between a race of semi-savages, aided on either side by real savages, for the possession of the monopoly of a trade in a little peltry—in fact, "nothing more than a few beaver skins"—by the dillitane philosophers of the day. Few, if any, knew enough of America to understand that the development of her resources would speed the progress of civilization and furnish a happy home for the superabundant population of Europe;—nay, that the fields in which this contest was first initiated should, within a century, furnish the country of the eventual conquerors with ample supplies of bread to feed her surplus population.—While ministers and politicians were trying to hoodwink each other, the initiative was taken, as far as England was concerned, by the appointment of Major General Edward

Braddock to the command of an expedition fitted out to protect the interests of the British Colonies in America. The British Cabinet at this period was led by the Duke of Newcastle, and filled with his creatures. At no period of our constitutional history has Europe witnessed so much imbecility, arrogance, faithlessness, or utter ignorance of the duties of statesmen or politicians, than that displayed by this ministry during the period it held office. The leader has well been characterized by a great writer as an "ape in politics"; and, were it not for the shrewd common sense of George II., and the capacity of his much maligned son, the Duke of Cumberland, it would have gone hard with the British Empire in this contest.

Newcastle's plans were borrowed from whatever sources could be most easily made serviceable, generally some obscure party, whose reclamations would not be attended to. They were then cooked to suit his own purposes, and entrusted for execution to parties as imbecile as himself. Thus there could be no recriminations in case of disaster, and he could claim the whole credit if by any chance success should attend the scheme;—if ever so well concocted, his own garrulous folly generally insured its defeat by premature disclosures. On the receipt of the despatches detailing the fall of Fort Necessity, it instantly occurred to this sapient blunderer that with a little care something might be made out of the transaction to bolster up his waning power; and, as the question at issue properly belonged to the Duke of Cumberland, as head of the army, and the Earl of Halifax, as President of the Board of Trade, under whose control all matters connected with the plantations were transacted, it would be natural that they would be first consulted, especially as both were men of considerable ability, and having a thorough knowledge of their respective departments. But such was not the course pursued. The Premier called to his secret councils, Hardwick, Lord Chancellor, and the Earl of Holderness, both men partaking in no small degree of the worst features of his own character, and the trio endeavoured to concoct a policy which

IDA.

For "THE REVIEW."

THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER.

A soldier lay on a gory field
Midst comrades dead and dying,
A weeping maiden by him kneeled
Whilst the vanquish'd foe was flying.

Soft and low she breathed a prayer
For the dear one so near to death,
And the gently sighing summer's air
Was mingled with her breath.

Father in Heaven, who doth see
The fluttering sparrow's fall,
Grant him to this world, and to me—
O Father! hear my call!

And it seemed as if the zephyr's light
Wafted her prayer to heaven,
To him who said, for our delight,
"Ask, and it shall be given."