

VIII.

OUR DEFENCES—SUGGESTIONS ABOUT ORGANIZING OUR MIL- ITARY FORCES.

SIR,—My observations hitherto have been based mainly on leading general principles, such as a layman might be supposed to understand or be able to master. Although the application, or carrying out of such principles in their workable details must necessarily be left to more practical and professional men, I hope that the suggestions I am about to make may advance, in some small degree, the cause which we ought all to be sincerely desirous of aiding—namely, how to provide the most efficient means of bringing out the military spirit of the country, at the least cost in money. Even though very different views, in regard to the peculiar method or organization, may be recommended to Parliament, the observations of persons having access to common sources of information, and having the same objects at heart, may be of some value by affording scope for comparison. At any rate a mere layman may hope to escape severe criticism from those who are qualified by professional knowledge for the exercise of higher efforts of statesmanship and for the suggestion of more practical details

I have favored the volunteer principle, as being calculated to come within our means, and to develop the largest amount of military enthusiasm as well as power in this country. Others I notice, favor a small standing army for Canada. I have seen some detailed estimates for recruiting and maintaining such a force ; but the writers have evidently never looked into an English blue book on this subject, as the figures are absurdly incorrect, and below the mark.

I shall briefly contrast the two descriptions of force. According to the report of the Imperial commissioners of 1860, paragraph 14 the cost of raising recruits for the regular army is £11 and cost of barracks £100 stg. per head. As labor is dearer in Canada than in England we may fairly set down the cost of recruiting at double this sum or at least at \$100 per man. All the Imperial barracks in the Province are required for the Imperial troops. We should therefore have to set to work to build for ourselves, and we cannot hope to