

defended during the last century the whole country between the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi against all the power of England and her then North American Colonies.

In 1812-15 a population of *one-tenth*, that of the United States successfully defended Canada against the whole force of the latter power; and will it be said that the people of this country are not prepared to repeat the same actions. It is well known to all military men that Canada is only really accessible through the valley of Lake Champlain, but an invasion of Montreal would not be a decided success as long as an English gunboat could cover St. Helen's Island. No soldier would risk the passage of a navigable river without having complete control thereof, and any attempt on their part on the Western Peninsula would result in disaster.

The Militia Bill of Sir G. E. Cartier is about to apply the only requisite necessary to render a successful invasion of the West impossible, by furnishing the means of concentrating the population for their own defence. It was stated by some of the speakers against the grant that Colonel Jervois's report on the defence of Canada ended at Montreal—such is not the fact it contemplated a single line to Hamilton—which was so far right, but all those places which he enumerated were only strategical points in that line. With an organized and armed population the defensive measure proposed by Sir G. E. Cartier's Bill will be amply sufficient—he proposes to erect permanent works at Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton and London—the nature of these works are of course matters of detail, but there can be no doubt that at Montreal they will take the character of an entrenched camp and lines of considerable extent; at Kingston the construction of a dockyard with necessary defence, and at Toronto a strong position with similar defences at Hamilton, while London will have an entrenched camp with lines.

This is evidently the commencement of a system which will reduce the defence of the whole country to that of a series of lines and forts supporting each other, which it would be utterly impossible for any force brought against them to turn or occupy. The value of the Ottawa river has been recognized as a line of communication in this connection for the first time in the debate, and it will doubtless occupy the attention of Ministers, because, as General Sir John Michel remarked, "wherever a merchant vessel can sail a gunboat can follow."

#### A KING FOR CANADA.

Martin F. Tupper, the "proverbial philosopher," has written a small book of poems entitled "Our Canadian Dominion," which is certainly a far better display of patriotism than poetry. For this reason and for sake of the principles advocated, we are inclined to

look with leniency upon the faults of the composition. The feeling displayed towards Canada by this author is the more pleasing when we remember the number of contrary opinions which have found utterance through the English press, anything but complimentary to us as a people, and sadly different from traditional British sentiment. But as usual, Mr. Tupper surrounds his leading principle, which we cordially endorse, with a great deal of absurdity. The idea of establishing a member of the Royal Family of England as Viceroy of the Dominion is by no means a new one, such having been advocated in the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* more than a year ago. The growing importance of our country, and the love of British institutions evinced on all occasions by our people, are reasons why Her Majesty should confer upon us this honor, but the establishment of a Canadian Peerage and Order of Kinghood is pushing the principle altogether too far; for while we would be delighted to have a Prince of the blood royal rule over us, we would by no means like to see him surrounded by such a lot of parvenu Peers as would be created from amongst us. Earl of Ottawa or Duke of Quebec, though doubtless very euphonious and high-sounding titles, would be more apt to subject their owners to derision than commend them to respect.

The first poem in the collection is certainly poor poetry, but, nevertheless, not devoid of common-sense, something not always found in the works of this author. The second is in favor of Confederation, and dedicated to "British America," the third prays the Queen to give us Alfred for a Prince. In reference to this, Mr. Tupper explains that as Prince Alfred is destined for the Principality of Saxe Cobourg Gotha, to which he is at present heir-apparent, he added the fourth poem, in which he recommended "sweet young Arthur, antitype of Arthur in old days." There is a slight confusion of ideas in this line which places the "sweet young Arthur" in an amusing state of pre-existence. The remaining pieces are merely funny, so we will pass them over without further comment. The kind-hearted and obliging Author is, however, deserving of our thanks for the good feeling which he has displayed towards Canada on this as on former occasions, and we sincerely wish that the idea he celebrates may be eventually carried out, and we hope his little work may have a wide circulation both in England and the Dominion.

#### THE TRIAL OF BREECHLOADERS.

Our readers may remember that in October, 1866, the War Office authorities issued an advertisement inviting the inventors and patentees of improved rifles to send in plans of breechloading rifles to replace those now in use in the army. To ensure a competition in which the best inventions would be

produced, three rewards were offered. The first or highest, £1,000 sterling, was offered for the best rifle, forming a combination of all qualities; the second, £600, for the best breech mechanism combined with a sufficiently good degree of accuracy in other particulars; and the third reward of £400, was offered for the best cartridge. For properly conducting the competition, a number of rules were laid down, and certain conditions imposed as requisite in military rifles. In reply to the Government invitation one hundred and four breechloading rifles were sent in for competition, of these sixty-seven were at once rejected for non-compliance with the terms of the advertisement; the remaining thirty-seven were again reduced after the first trial, to the number of sixteen, for various reasons given in the report of the committee appointed to conduct the competition. Another examination brought the sixteen down to nine, which were subjected to a most rigorous ordeal; these nine were the Albini and Braendlin, Burton No. 1, Burton No. 2, Fosbery, Henry, Joslyn, Martini, Peabody, and Reamington. Each competitor having supplied ten of the required arms and 1,000 rounds of ammunition, the experiments were commenced, and extended with slight intermission, from November, 1867 until February, 1868. This time was occupied in testing 1st accuracy; 2nd, rapidity; 3rd, recoil; 4th, penetration; 5th, trajectory 6th, fouling; and 7th, capability of sustaining continued firing, exposure and rough usage. In all the above trials the Snider breech-loading naval rifle was made to take a part, and endured, with the competing arms, all the required tests except that of accuracy, which the regulations fixed by the War Office had set so high that none of the competing rifles could reach it; and also penetration, to which, however, much importance was not attached. All of the rifles showed a satisfactory degree of capability in sustaining rough usage, and the greater number seemed to be superior in this respect to the naval Snider. As might be expected great difficulty was experienced in conducting the experiments with uniformity owing principally to defective ammunition and the diverse calibre of the various arms. The final result of the experiments was to place the Henry first; Burton No. 2 second; and Albini and Braendlin third. It may be observed however, in reference to the prizes, that none of the competing rifles came up to the standard required by the War Office, and consequently the first prize of £1,000, was not awarded, although the Henry is considered to have approached nearest to the required qualifications, the use of tallow in the lubrication of the bullets being the principal cause of objection; the inventor of this rifle however receives the £600, for having the best breech mechanism. The £400 reward was carried off by Mr. Daw for