

THE SOLDIERS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY.

(From the London Standard.)

A splendid monument in memory of the Canadian Volunteers who sacrificed their lives in defending the frontier against the Fenian raiders of 1866 has just been unveiled by the Governor General at Toronto. The event reminds us of the no less gallant conduct of the Canadian Volunteers in the present year, and of a certain proposal made at the Mansion House a few weeks ago during one of the meetings of the British and Colonial Emigration Committee. On that occasion the Lord Mayor threw out a suggestion that the citizens of London should subscribe the necessary funds for presenting the Rifle Volunteers of Canada with a handsome challenge cup to be shot for annually. The meeting cordially adopted the idea, and a committee has since been formed to give effect to the resolution. The Duke of Cambridge appropriately appears as President, with the Lord Mayor as chairman and treasurer. The knowledge that this undertaking is on foot has produced an excellent feeling among Canadians—a result in itself very desirable. But we fear lest the engrossing character of recent European events should distract public attention at home from this particular effort. A certain importance attaches to the subject, inasmuch as its success or comparative failure will naturally produce an effect on public sentiment in Canada. The Lord Mayor's suggestion pointed the way to a felicitous recognition of Canadian loyalty, and the opportunity is one which we trust will be turned to good account. It is proposed not merely to present one prize, but if possible more than one, and the recognition is intended to include the general defence of the Canadian frontier, reaching back, therefore, to 1869. Promptitude is necessary, in order that the prizes may be shot for during the present season. It is further proposed that any surplus beyond the necessary cost of these prizes, shall be invested in securities of the Dominion, the interest to be applied to Volunteer purposes in Canada. In magnitude the aggregate fund raised by the committee should obviously bear some relation to the dignity of the metropolis and the nature of the service which it is intended to commemorate. If the subscriptions prove insufficient, the result will be hurtful rather than otherwise. But we trust the committee will be duly remembered, notwithstanding the excitement attendant on the outbreak of war among the continental states. Policy as well as gratitude would demand that we should not look coldly on any of our friends, or even have the appearance of doing so.

"A BOLD LITTLE BULLY."

The New York *Tribune* thinks England is "a bold little bully," yet it expresses its opinion in a manner not at all uncomplimentary. Here is what it says:—

What a bold little bully England can be on occasion? The two greatest military powers of Europe are just about fighting, each putting nearly a million of men in the field, when Britain seizes them both by the throat and demands a more satisfactory explanation of the secret treaty. Apparently she has half a mind with her 60,000 troops, to give them both a good whipping. It is rather an absurd attitude; but in reality England would be a formidable enemy in a struggle like this. She has the strongest

navy the world ever saw, and the prowess of her seamen is proverbial. Her standing army is small; but with her excellent volunteer system she has a vast reserve of men trained in the mechanism of the military art, upon whose patriotism, in case of emergency, she could call with confidence. Moreover, the English people are beginning to suspect that Napoleon's next movement, if he should be victorious over Prussia, would be against Great Britain. He has fought with three of the great powers which humiliated his uncle; perhaps Frenchmen will want him to complete the avenging of Waterloo by fighting with the fourth. We do not say this is probable; but Englishmen are beginning to think about it.

As affairs now stand there is not much danger of France avenging Waterloo by fighting England, for some time to come. She has more on her hands at present than she can well attend to; and it is not improbable that, instead of making war on England, she will be looking round for a national head, before many weeks are over, just as Spain has been looking for a national head for the last two years.

The *Tribune*, though it acknowledges that England is a mighty power on both land and sea, under estimates the strength of the Empire. The British Islands are but the centre of power. The people who are proud to claim Victoria as their Queen are to be found in every quarter of the globe. The Emperor of China is the only monarch on the face of the earth who has a larger number of subjects. It is estimated that there are 1,000,000,000 people in the world; and of this number 150,000,000, or nearly one-sixth of the whole, are subjects of England's Queen. In case the Mother-land were threatened by the combined powers of Europe, millions of men from Asia, America, Australia, and the far-off isles of the ocean, would be found prepared to rally round the standard of the Empire. Situated as she is—"a precious gem set in the silver sea"—and having a navy which is more than a match for the combined fleets of the world, England has no necessity for such immense standing armies as continental powers are compelled to maintain. But she has the raw material in the one hundred and sixty millions of people over whom her flag floats; and, were the necessity to arise, were her existence as a nation threatened, she could place such an army in the field as the world has never yet seen.—*Telegraph*.

THE WARSHIP OF THE FUTURE.

Admiral Sartoris, in a letter to the *Times*, says:—"It is quite certain that we have not found out the true model for the vessel of war of the future. But war trials on a large and terrible scale tend to show that the prow, as in ancient times, and not the gun, is likely to become the great arbiter in the naval battles of the future. It alone gave the victory to the smaller squadron at the battle of Lissa; it destroyed one powerful Federal frigate, and obliged the other to haul down her colours to avoid the fate of her consort. Again, when the Russian fleet were exercising, notwithstanding all efforts on both sides to prevent the catastrophe, the ram bow sank a large vessel of that squadron. The case of the *Monitor* and the ram *Merrimac*, as alluded to in your article, proves nothing against the principle of the ram. The *Merrimac* was hastily extemporised from the hull of an old frigate. It was very slow (seven or eight knots), very unhandy. The *Monitor* was very short and very handy. Neither took or destroyed the other. The latter went down in a moderate

gale. If the ram is used mainly as a projectile (its true characteristic) it should infallibly be made to possess great strength, great speed, great handiness, and low in the water. I think for ocean service the ram would be more efficient without a gun or armour plating. In the war now commencing it will be those with the strongest nerve, guiding the handiest and quickest ram, and trusting the least to guns, with whom the victory will lie. Should it be the misfortune of our country to be drawn into this war, although official arrangements prevent, I think wisely, men of my age from having commands, yet I trust these arrangements will not prohibit my being as a volunteer on any vessel fitted out as a ram upon the principle I am advocating, ordered out for service against an enemy."

OUR FORTIFICATIONS.

The Montreal *Daily News* of the 4th of August, corrects an impression, prevalent in the minds of the people, that the fortress of Quebec had been abandoned by British troops, and handed over to Canada. The *News'* explanation is as follows:—

"It is erroneously stated that the Dominion is to receive a transfer of the extensive and costly fortifications erected at Quebec and Halifax. It has been decided that Halifax shall be permanently retained as an Imperial station. The fate of Quebec remains in suspense. The War Secretary said that England would make Halifax an Imperial fortress and denude the rest of the Province of troops. The statement led to remonstrances on the part of the Dominion Cabinet; they protested against the abandonment of Quebec. A despatch was subsequently received from the British Government, in which they agreed to maintain 1500 of Her Majesty's troops at Quebec for 12 or 18 months, but under the condition that every soldier was to be withdrawn from the country west of Quebec by the month of October. Under this arrangement the 60th Rifles, the Rifle Brigade, and the 69th Regiment, with artillery, will be stationed at Quebec this winter, while Montreal and the West will be left bare. Before this decision was reached arrangements were in progress to transfer the Jesuits' barracks to the Dominion. That idea has for the present been knocked on the head—the concentration of troops at Quebec necessitates the retention of the Jesuits' barracks. We have thus a short breathing time before us. The year's delay will soon run round, and we shall then learn whether the Gladstone cabinet intend leaving us defenceless. It is possible that the protests of the Dominion Government against the abandonment of the fortress of Quebec may cause a change in the policy of the British Cabinet. The policy of England was predicated on the ground that a general disarmament of the European powers and universal peace were to signalize the future. War, contrary to the wishes and expectations of British statesmen, is now raging in Europe. England must arm if she desires to be respected, and she must face the question of defending or abandoning Canada."

Fort Henry, at Kingston, was practically abandoned last week, and on Thursday 4th inst., the noon gun was silent for the first time in fifty-eight years. The noon discharge was first instituted in 1812 by the then town major Corbett, and in all the intervening time had not failed once to denote the midday hour.