

elle it never takes the trouble to be correct or even to give the whole of what relates to the militia, tho' every twopenny halfpenny Coroner or pettifogging Notary Public is blazoned with due distinction.

"FRANC TIREUR"

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR—Some of your correspondents upon militia grievances appear quite as anxious to ventilate political opinions, as to suggest or find a remedy for the evils of which they complain. So disgregating a spirit, as that of politics, pervading a military body, must prove the very antithesis, and bane of a cheerful obedience: a possible discipline and of those casthetic amenities *bon camaradric*—which lend a charm to a military life, and compensate the soldier for the many privations incidental to his profession. Perhaps a little political bickering is unavoidable in a voluntary military system, but certainly the less of it the better. A corps, regiment, or battalion, torn and distracted by political strife and discord, may be said to resemble democratic institutions, and explosive projectiles, which elaborate and carry the germs for their own destruction. But the loyalty with which Canada is credited—and with few exceptions, her people continue to arrogate—will preserve her soldierly from breathing a political atmosphere so pregnant with the anarchy that would inaugurate the supremacy of the worse many—over the better few.

It has been ably maintained that our extant militia law, is elastic enough to permit of modification, and sufficiently obligatory in its provisions, to embrace any degree of stringency Government would venture to enforce. If this be conceded, then within the jurisdiction of the Militia Bill must lie the remedy for the evils asserted to exist in the economy of the Active Force. The REVIEW's suggestion of throwing the onus of providing militia quotas upon municipal responsibility, is certainly a step in the right direction. To mingle and make, in some degree, civil and military obligations identical, might tend to rouse the apathy of the former interest and shame the disgraceful obstructiveness with which the Active Force has had to contend, and at the same time obviating the degrading necessity of company officers, sacrificing their *armour* proper to professional zeal.

I regret not being able to share the optimism, that anticipate a beneficent genial warmth, is about to thaw the winter of the Militia's discontent, or that we shall have—

Houries for boys, omnisciences for sages, And wings, and glories for all ranks and ages, under the present regime. But seriously it is indisputable that no Government could enter upon its career under auspices more favorable for carrying out any policy it may adopt. Hence—the opportunity of incontestably proving its loyal attachment to the British Crown, and—in the best interests of

Canada—to British connection. A liberal appropriation for defensive purposes would be hailed as the initiative of so wise and noble a policy being inaugurated.

Pardon so great an intrusion upon your valuable space. And I remain dear sir,

Yours obediently,

SABREUR.

New Hamburg, 12th Feb. 1874.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

17th Feb. 1874.

SIR—A renewed attention appears to be now attracted to the Volunteer Force excited; we may presume by the accession to office of the late opposition. Although a Conservative. I must admit that one of the most important measures taken for the improvement of the Volunteer Force, was originated by the Sandfield MacDonald Government. I refer to the establishment of military schools throughout the Dominion. There is no denying that the schools have been of incalculable benefit in infusing a military spirit among the better class of young Canadians, yet there are many things that remain to be done to the further improvement of the force. The establishment of a staff college after the style of Sandhurst and West Point is much needed, for the training up of our officers in the higher branches of the military art. At the start officers of any age might be admitted, but eventually the entries could be confined to from fifteen to twenty one or thereabouts.

The suggestion which I see has been made, for the appointment of a commission of volunteer officers to enquire into the condition of the force. I consider a good one. They could also be instructed to report on a college best suited to the present requirements of the country.

It would be well too, if the clause in the militia act, which virtually says that no officer of the Volunteer Force, could ever possibly be fitted to fill the position of Adjutant General should be repealed. As it now stands any major in the British Service no matter how young, how recently appointed, or how poor a soldier he is, is qualified to be the head of the force, but no Canadian officer no matter how gifted, no matter how well up in his work, is considered eligible for the post. This is a standing insult to the whole force. While holding these views, I still consider it better that our Adjutant General should be a British Officer. A General holding no mediocre place in his profession. And let him be well paid, for it is an important position.

Before drawing this to a close, I desire to say, that the officers here with whom I have spoken, are unanimously of your opinion that the pay of the force is entirely inadequate. It is too small in comparison with the rate of wages received in all branches of trade. It would not be out of the way in time of peace to double the present pay granted to privates. Of course in the event

of war and a *levee en masse*, a small scale suited to the case could be fixed. Trusting I have not occupied too much space.

I am yours, &c.

GLADIATOR.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—I see that a deputation of the City Council of Quebec have gone to Ottawa, to request that the Dominion Government do make them a present of the property, heretofore used by the Imperial Military authorities. Now of all the cool pieces of impudence I ever heard of, this surely ranks first. The Imperial Government some years ago, handed over to the Canadian Government the ordnance lands; the revenue from which source cannot be less than \$600,000 per annum; with the understanding that this country would maintain an *efficient Militia force of 40,000 men*. I ask, has Canada done this? Again more recently upon taking away her troops, England handed over all the Imperial property in the country, to be applied to *aid the Militia*; now forsooth the Quebec Corporation, to recruit their own wasted finances, ask that the property in this city be given to them; who in place of aiding the Militia, do all they can to discourage it; by imposing the same taxes on a militiaman as on others—fining them sometimes when mounted on duty for not having a bell on, though to have one is contrary to the Queen's regulations; and calling out the local force on all occasions of riot, &c., to aid the civil power—then refusing payment until compelled by costly lawsuits. In striking contrast let me state that many Municipalities in Ontario, frequently vote an extra 50c per diem to their local militiamen when performing the annual drill.

If the Canadian Government can repudiate solemn agreements of this kind they must be content to be classed with similar communities across the line, by nearly every

IMPERIAL OFFICER.

Quebec, 23rd Feby, 1863.

(KINGSTON CORRESPONDENCE.)

They say there is nothing new under the sun; but, I take it, there is sometimes, and to us poor benighted creatures in the old limestone city, the *Gazette* of the 14th inst., contained something that rather surprised us, namely the fact of George T. Denison's name appearing therein. Well, if he is only half as good at working as he is at talking and boasting, he may do some little good; but wherefore is an Inspector of Small Arms wanted in our small province or new Dominion as far as that goes? Lieut. Colonel French of the Mounted Police Force of Manitoba is in town; we were sorry that he should come home to find death visiting his family. The Military School here is doing uncommonly well; there is good work doing here in this school; there are