

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—Your gallant and esteemed correspondent SARRUK, in a late issue of THE REVIEW, takes the "Historian of the Campaigns of 1754-64" to task for certain remarks derogatory to the Highlanders comprising the army of the young Pretender in 1745. As your correspondent has done me the honor to dignify me with the title of "Historian," I must, in justice to his courtesy, state that my object in writing the articles referred to was purely to give a military review of Campaigns possessing surpassing interest and having a moral to be developed at a future day. If in this pursuit I have been so unfortunate as to run counter to cherished ideas the fault is unhappily not mine but the facts with which I have to deal. No one will deny that the Highlanders of a century and a quarter ago were the ancestors of the same brave and gallant race whose warlike deeds are emblazoned in song and story, but it would be a grave mistake to believe that they possess more than two qualities in common—valor and politeness. I need only refer your correspondent to the late Lord Macaulay's estimate of the condition of the Highland clans in 1688, to Grose and other writers of a later period, to prove that it remained unaltered till after Culloden when the abolition of hereditary jurisdictions destroyed clanship and emancipated the great mass of the people from a thralldom the more oppressive inasmuch as it was Patriarchial.

Scotland owes much to the valor of her sons, more to the keen and highly cultivated literary intellects which her system of education has trained and produced and well it has repaid her care and culture. Amid the worst and most degrading periods of her history the genius of her sons, like the wand of the magician, throws a glare of chivalry and romance which enthralled the imagination and leads the judgment captive. In the case under consideration this power has been exerted to the uttermost, the clansman that followed his chief to the field with unreasoning fidelity and unflinching bravery cared little for a Prince *de facto* or a King *de jure*, nor could he well comprehend the cause of quarrel if he was told, speaking a language nearly obsolete, belonging to a race rapidly undergoing the process of absorption, it was not likely that the subtlety of the casuists of the period convinced his reason or appealed to his understanding. Poor and ignorant—his eulogists have endowed him with qualities he neither could appreciate or understand, but which would be far more appropriately applied to his more civilized and enlightened descendant.

It is true the four or five thousand men Charles Edward led into England left less evidence of their presence than any invading army, but they left it nevertheless, and the de-

tails are unfit for publication; the smallness of the force, the open hostility of the people and the utter impossibility of any portion straggling without being destroyed, will very easily account for the comparative smallness of the depredations.

Political or religious rancor would be out of place in any publication of those days, but the simple elucidation of truth should be a primary consideration under all circumstances; your correspondent therefore will rise from a study of the facts without the romance, satisfied that the Sepoy parallel is more complete than he expects.

No one has accused General Wolfe of cruelty, he was a brave and dared to be a religious man at a period when it was fashionable to scoff; yet in 1755 he writes to his friend Rickson from Fort William that he endeavored to entrap Cluny Macpherson, (Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat's son-in-law,) and that he purposely sent a sergeant with a small party with orders if he was resisted to kill the chieftain, being fully persuaded that the detachment would be annihilated by the clan which would give him sufficient grounds for exterminating them by fire and sword—comments are needless—this letter is to be found in Wright's life of General Wolfe, page 343. It is time the characters of brave soldiers should be cleared of the aspersions cast on them by people whose motives were more than suspicious—at a period when public corruption and private profligacy were rampant, when even the Ministry that directed the affairs of the British Empire reckoned men amongst its numbers who would not have hesitated to proclaim James VIII. or James III. if the slightest prospect of success appeared.

The Duke of Cumberland and his officers have been needlessly and unmercifully maligned to cover the delinquencies of others, of this fact there can be no doubt. Nor does General Braddock's military reputation require that the conduct of the clans in '45 should be misrepresented—he went to Scotland to stamp out the embers of a rebellion kindled in that country with the facilities offered by a discontented people who were quite willing to allow the "mountain savages" to bear the brunt of the fighting and its consequences. About the motives of their leaders the less said the better, chivalry or loyalty had little to do with their conduct and the Duke of Cumberland took care to prevent effectually a repetition of it—for which he deserves the thanks instead of the reprobation of all lovers of order and civilization.

Boasting a pure Celtic descent without Saxon or other admixture I would not lightly endeavor to depreciate any member of the race, but it reflects the greater honor on the bravery, capacity, energy and vitality of the Highlanders to find such a sudden bound from almost uncontrolled savage life to the foremost rank in civilisation. The history of the British army is the history of the

British Empire and high upon its rolls are the services of the Highland clans.

I trust, Mr. Editor, your esteemed correspondent SARRUK will give me credit for other motives than a silly desire to appear exceptional, and strain after effect by maligning a brave people. such conduct could only shroud the victories of the gallant and unfortunate soldier, whose fame I endeavor to vindicate, in ten fold more obscurity. It was while engaged in collecting materials for the review of those campaigns that the truth then detailed was forced upon me, and the evidence was so overwhelming that it was impossible to controvert it. Men hardly wrote journals 125 years ago to stultify mankind as to the character of individuals with whom they were in daily contact, more especially as those documents were not intended for publication.

I trust this explanation will satisfy your gallant correspondent, to whom I beg to present my best respects.

I am, dear Sir,  
Very truly yours,  
BENROW

Ottawa, 21st April, 1863.

#### HOW TO GET A WELL DRILLED FORCE OF PRIVATES AND NON-COMS.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—I think you will agree with me when I say that the foundation for the safety of our Dominion is a well drilled and available force of privates and non-commissioned officers. Plans for the strategical defence of the country, an efficient Staff, and good commissariat arrangements are well and good; I will leave them, however, to men of more experience; but our strength must ever lie in a realization of the theory—every man a soldier. Whether the active force is to be volunteer or compulsory, the annual drill will hereafter, be put in in successive days, and away from the company headquarters. With the rural companies, it is no longer possible to get a turnout at weekly or semi-weekly drills; and the only way to get the force well drilled is to put it in camp for a certain number of days in each year. Therefore the Drill Sheds are almost useless. The plan which I propose will utilize the sheds. In every town and village where there is a Drill Shed, let a Military School be established, on exactly the same principle as those in operation. The Staff to consist of a Regular Sergeant and Corporal, and an Adjutant or Inspector, to say every three or four schools, so that he could spend one day in the week with every school. Commence no school with less than twenty five Cadets and to each successful Cadet allow a gratuity of say twenty five dollars. The standard of these schools to be not quite so high as that of the present schools, the object being to furnish well drilled privates and non-commissioned officers. The present schools to furnish officers, and the standard to be