



# The United Service Gazette.

Devoted to the interests of the Passed Candidates of the Military Schools, the Volunteer and Service Militia, and the Naval Forces of the Dominion

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## THE PERSONAL COURAGE OF INDIANS.

An American contemporary says:

Old General Twiggs used to say that the most formidable soldiers or warriors in modern times were the North American Indians; that in every battle in which they had been engaged against the whites they had held their own against overwhelming numbers, when other warriors would have surrendered or beat a retreat. The late fight of Gen. Custar seems to add another to the list of proofs of the high military qualities of the red man. General Custar had eleven companies of cavalry, nearly a thousand of the best armed and mounted regulars. The village which he charged and captured consisted of fifty-two lodges, and the warriors engaged in the conflict did not exceed two hundred, and yet they appear to have made a most gallant and stubborn resistance, inflicting a severe loss upon General Custar, and succeeded in making good their retreat. Now, had the poor aborigines the advantage enjoyed the ancient Greeks and Romans, and by all modern people, especially our own, of having historians and poets to record, describe, and sing their exploits, what proofs of heroism, and even of military skill and virtues, might not be afforded in the true history of this and of many other examples to be found in our own annals in support of General Twiggs's affirmation.

But, alas, we have no Indian version of the numerous battles which have been fought between them and the white settlers of this continent. What heroic details, what brilliant and sanguinary achievements by small bands of half naked and poorly armed warriors, over the best armed and disciplined troops, in greatly superior force, would not such annals present. In several of the most bloody of these encounters which are described in our own history, it is shown that white soldiers were beaten and fearfully cut up by small bands of Indians. Braddock's splendid brigade was nearly annihilated by not more than six hundred warriors. St. Clair's terrible defeat was inflicted by an Indian force of not one quarter of the whites, and at Tippecanoe there were not 500 warriors in the whole force, from which Gen. Harrison narrowly escaped with a force of five times their number. There never were more than 1,500 Seminole warriors, who defied the whole power of the United States for fifteen years, and inflicted upon our army and government the heaviest losses in men and money which were effected against their enemies by any force fifty times greater than that of the Seminoles. Never conquered by physical force, they at last yielded to gold and whiskey, and of their own will retired from the country which they had made the graveyard of our soldiers. Such facts as these ought not to be obscured or forgotten, because they are true and historical, and because they embody a wholesome reproof of that over-weening pride and pretension of superior military virtue, prowess and heroism on the part of our race.

**PLUCK OF DANDIES.**—It was a quaint conceit of Caesar that his troops fought better when well unguented and perfumed, and puts one in mind of the stories told of the dandy French officers who, on leading forth to battle, are troubled about nothing so much as the fit of their white kid gloves, and on mounting the breach, will rather prefer a neat, light riding switch to lash the foe withal, than a rule, gory sword. Where are greater dandies, too, than the pet guardsmen and heavy dragoons with whom Thackeray made us so well acquainted, and yet what devils to lay on were these gay boys when England called? How they stood at Waterloo; how they stuck to the Russian trench; how stoutly they cheered up the British grenadier against the Sepoy with a hearty "Steady, lads, steady." Dandies, let it be known, can fight. Marshal Vendome was as very a voluptuary as ever rested under a silken canopy in camp, but once wake him up and the fragile five feet five scattered everything that European science and strength could bring before it. In our time how precise were some you may wot of as to the lustre of their spurs, the cut of their coat, and set of their boots. He who, on the eve of battle, can think the thoughts of *boudoir* ease, is a man you may rely on, that will do to trust. There is in him the spirit of royal life-guards and the dash of the true *mousquetaire gris*.

## CANADA MILITARY ASYLUM.

As there is a concert advertised to be held on Monday next, the 11th instant, in the Music Hall, in aid of the widows in the Toronto district, who are outpensioners of this establishment, it will be well to refresh the memory of the public respecting the history and objects of this institution; and for that purpose we avail ourselves of the information furnished in a pamphlet issued by the Committee of the Asylum.

During the war with the United States (1812 to nearly 1815), the whole of the military force in Canada was employed in the Upper Province or on the frontier of the Lower. Quebec was principally garrisoned by militia. The effective troops were generally sent forward as soon as they arrived from England, and the women and children belonging to them were retained in Quebec, where the military authorities hired buildings, which were fitted up as women's barracks; bedding and rations of provisions being regularly allowed them. Soon after the peace of 1815, this unusual provision was all at once discontinued; in the interval many of these women had lost their husbands, some children had lost both their parents; and extensive distress was the consequence, to meet which the ordinary parochial charities were insufficient.

The Rev. Dr. Mills, then chaplain to the forces at Quebec, at this time adopted the system of making a collection of alms at the attendance of the military for divine service in the Cathedral; and from the funds so raised, assisted by contributions from charitable individuals, a large house in St. Roch's suburb was hired by the year; the military government sanctioned from time to time a transfer of condemned barrack bedding, some stoves, &c., in the aid of the charity; and at the request of the chaplain to the forces, some officers of the garrison met him periodically, to assist in the administration of relief, and in making the necessary arrangements; and thus was formed the Committee of Management.

About the year 1830, the Committee entered into a contract for the washing and repairing of barrack and hospital bedding, by which regular employment was secured for widows on the list of the asylum, and a source of permanent income for the asylum was obtained. More extensive premises being consequently required, the Committee, in 1833, succeeded in purchasing the house since occupied as the asylum, in Coteau street, St. John's suburbs. As the Committee was not vested with corporate power to enable them to sell, mortgage or otherwise convey the property, a legal transfer of it was effected by the Lord Bishop of Montreal, as rector of Quebec, whereby its permanence was secured.

In the session of the Provincial Parliament, 1852-53, an Act of incorporation was obtained, and the Committee were consequently invested with full legal power over the property under their care.

The objects of the asylum are two-fold: 1st. The entire maintenance of a limited number of very decrepid widows as inmates of the asylum, as well as children who have lost their parents. 2nd. The partial support of widows by out-relief, varying in amount according to their respective capacity and destitution; and in some cases relief is afforded to extreme cases of distress among old pensioners. The income of the asylum is also of a two-fold character—permanent and casual. Under the former head is embraced a small grant from the Provincial Government, and the profit on washing barrack and hospital bedding; Under the latter head is classed collections after divine services, and voluntary contributions of all kinds.

The Committee at Quebec, having found that the funds they can command there are only adequate to maintain the in-pensioners of the asylum, have called upon the sub-committees and secretaries of the respective districts to raise sufficient funds for the relief of their out-pensioners, so as not to tax further the Committee of Management. And hence the Toronto Committee, consisting of the Major-General commanding, and the colonels of the different regiments quartered in the district together with the chaplain of the forces, who is secretary *ex-officio*, seek the co-operation of all persons, both civil and military, in the neighborhood to compass this end, believing, that, from the fact of many of the 20 widows whom they have to assist being Canadians by birth, as well as widows of soldiers who have died whilst serving in this Dominion, their appeal to general sympathy will not be made in vain.—*Globe*.

## SERVICE ROLLS OF THE LONDON LIGHT INFANTRY--THE ARTILLERY AND CAVALRY.

The time allowed by the Militia Act for enrolment under the new law having expired, the service rolls of corps in the 1st district were called for by Col. Taylor, District Deputy Adjutant General, to be forwarded to his office for transmission to the Adjutant General.

It is gratifying to notice that the rolls of all the city companies are sufficiently advanced to ensure their acceptance at headquarters, and also to obviate the enforcement of a draft.

Col. Shanly's Battery of Artillery has been almost entirely recruited anew to nearly full strength.

Capt. Dempster's Cavalry Troop have re-enrolled to a man, and the captain is anxious to obtain permission to increase his troop to a squadron, abundant material being available for that purpose, should the clothing and equipment be provided by Government.

The battalion of Light Infantry, seven companies strong, averages 54 men per company, exclusive of officers, the maximum strength being 55. Several of the companies are over strength, but the returns to the Militia Department only give them credit for the regulation complement, which makes the strength of the battalion appear less than it really is. The rolls stand as follows:

No.	Returned Strength.	Actual Strength.
No 1, Capt D C Macdonald	55	64
" 2, " H Bryce	55	58
" 3, " J Walker	42	42
" 4, " W R Meredith	55	58
" 5, " M D Dawson	49	49
" 6, " J A Craig	52	52
" 7, " E Teale	55	55
Total Returned	363	
" Actual Strength		378

—London Advertiser.

## CONFEDERATE RECORDS.

In his article on the flight of Jefferson Davis, in the current number of *Puckard's Monthly*, Mr. Edward A. Pollard makes the remarkable statement that the bulk of the valuable documents of the Confederate Government, including the correspondence of Jefferson Davis, exists to-day in concealment: that many days before the fall of Richmond there was a careful selection of important papers, especially those in the office of the President, and letters which involved confidences in the North and in Europe, and that these were secretly conveyed out of Richmond, and deposited in a place where they remain concealed to this time, and will probably not be unearthed in this generation. Where is this repository of the secrets of the Confederate Government Mr. Pollard is not prepared to say.

He has repeatedly sought access to these papers out of historical curiosity, but he has been invariably met with the explanation that, while this indulgence might be allowed him for such legitimate purpose, it would be unsafe for private reasons, and the information, if published, might be productive of serious consequences to persons of importance yet living, and within the jurisdiction of the Government. It has been impossible to surmount this objection, and there is no doubt that many of these papers do really involve discoveries of some curious negotiations in the war, the parties to which might astound the public. During the war it was well known, in some circles of confidence in Richmond, that Mr. Davis maintained a large secret correspondence in the North; that he had sources of comfort, information, and advice there; and indeed it would have been strange, considering the volume of disaffection in the North—a remarkable peculiarity of the late war—if it had not found some expression in secret negotiations, or some sort of surreptitious communication with the Confederate authorities. Mr. Pollard mentions the case of a single secret document which he was once permitted to see in Richmond, wherein certain parties offered to assist the Confederacy, by supplying its Western armies for a whole year from the granaries and magazines of the North. Such important letters and other secret papers (says Mr. Pollard) still exist, were preserved from the wreck and fire of Richmond, and at this moment are kept in a manner and place which render them secure against discovery, loss, or mutilation.

The mysterious information which Mr. Pollard thus communicates is much more agreeable than the belief which we had before entertained that the papers in question

had perished. We can testify that on the capture of Richmond the offices of the Confederate Government were found to have been carefully stripped of every document which was thought important, and that the Rebel Archives now preserved at Washington are of very little historical value indeed.—*N. Y. Sun*.

**THE NEGRO MEMBER OF CONGRESS.**—The *New York World* says of Menard, the negro Member of Congress from Louisiana:

"In October, 1865, as appears from Diplomatic Correspondence, Vol. I., pp. 37, 114, 115, for 1868, this fellow was prominent in those troubles among the negro population of Jamaica, which resulted about that time in those bloody massacres which the British Government found necessary to repress with great severity. Being detected in the possession of speeches and letters breathing the most venomous hostility to the whites on the island, and openly instigating bloodshed by declaring himself 'for black nationalities,' he was, on recommendation of the clerk of the peace in the parish where his instigations to violence were most frequent, deported from the island as a turbulent incendiary and make-bate. On this he beseeched the State Department for redress of alleged injuries, but the facts appearing from the diplomatic correspondence which ensued as above stated, the matter was dropped by Mr. Seward; and the next appearance of this pestilent creature was on the Louisiana reconstruction stage. In the evolution of this scoundrel-drama, he now presents himself as a Representative in the Congress of the United States, and, in verification of his right to a seat as such, presents, under what is called the broad seal of Louisiana, a certificate of election from the prowling white Illinois adventurer who styles himself Governor of that State."

**GUNPOWDER AND PRINTING.**—It has been curiously remarked that whereas gunpowder was invented by a priest, the peaceful agency of printing came from a soldier, and the singularity has met the explanation that, by the substitution of fire-arms for the cold steel, war has become so much more terrible as to have become far less destructive, while from the printing press has poured forth such a flood of antagonistic books, papers, and pamphlets, moral, political, social, and religious, as may be said to have set the whole of Christendom chronically by the ears, not to speak of the impetus given to the carrying of civilization, with its attendant ills of unknown vices and diseases, into heathen lands. From this the cynical conclusion is reached that old Bacon was indeed true to his priestly calling of good when devising the operative principle of these vile guns, these mines, these saps, these magazines, *chassepots*, Sniders, needle-guns, Paixhams, Napoleons, Lancasters, and Whitworths, while, in hitting on the printing press, and thereby infinitely increasing the conflicts of minds, fighter Faust set more squadrons in the field than were ever hairs upon his head or thoughts in his brain.

—This story is told about John Bright's appearance at Court as a British Cabinet Minister:—"Sir," said Mr. Bright, or "My Lord," as the case may be, to the Lord Chamberlain, whose duty it was to introduce the new Minister to her Majesty, "Remember that I never swear, and never kneel except to my Maker." Well, the swearing of course course could be dispensed with. But not kneel to her Majesty when you kiss her hand! The official was horrified—thought, indeed, that the difficulty was insuperable. There was no precedent for such a thing since the first sovereign reigned in the world. He must go and consult her Majesty. He went, laid the case with all gravity before her, when, to the astonishment of the official, Victoria, instead of being annoyed, angry, or peremptory, burst into a hearty laugh, and ordered Mr. Bright to be brought in, and on his approach allowed him to kiss her hand without bending a joint.

The Paris *Charivari*, in a caricature on the Prussian finances, represents Prussia addressing a cannon placed upright on the ground and supplicating contributions. Prussia—"But I have not a penny left to give you? You have already devoured all I possessed?" Cannon—"I have not treated you worse than others, my dear?"