



# The Volunteer Review

## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

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#### FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Victoria, B.C., Jan. 2, 1873.

Som 25 years ago, there appeared in London for a few months a publication called "The Man in the Moon," which deserved a longer existence than the ephemeral one it attained. In one of its numbers appeared the representation of a knight and lady, in a baronial hall, the knight enraged, and pointing to delapidated armor straps, the lady half sulky, half deprecating.

"Gramercy, Ladye mine!" says the warrior, "I fackins here be the hundredth time I have spoken, and not a strap put to mine armor yet? Gad so, of a truth it is too bad."

This was headed "Medieval prototype of modern shirt buttons."

British Columbia is eighteen months confederated; the necessary appropriations made by Parliament, arms, uniforms and accoutrements, arrived two months since; one gentleman at least, who has long been understood to have received ministerial promises kept in suspense for six months, and not a step yet taken towards militia organization. "Gad so, of a truth it is too bad!"

The Americans, it is said, intend to fortify and garrison San Juan, and there ought to be a Dominion battery of Artillery established here on the same footing as those at Quebec and Kingston, a measure which might commend itself to the politicians who control military appointments, as affording a little more political patronage. In the meantime the Ministry which, having lost Sir George Cartier is (*pro tem* only, I hope) probably shorn of a great share of its resolution and its brains, is of course, too much occupied with the task of finding a Governor for Manitoba, and with the abominable railway squabbles, to attend to anything else.

The former question might have been

solved long ago, by appointing Judge Johnston, or Judge Gray, were it only a matter of putting the right man in the right place. With regard to the latter it is worthy of remark, that the most damaging actions to a nation are sure to emanate from the mercantile classes. To the shameless greed of a body of avaricious merchants, (the British merchant, forsooth!) England owes the disgrace of the Alabama affair, and the three millions which has now to come out of the pockets of her taxpayers. To the British merchant and manufacturer, she owes her descent, under Mr. Gladstone's auspices, from her proud position of old to the insignificant position she holds in the eyes of the world. To the squabbles of two sets of Canadian merchants, capitalists, we are now, according to all accounts, indebted for a very possible weakening of the administration at precisely the time at which it is most desirable that it should be strong and united.

The local legislature met here on the 17th inst., on which occasion fourteen file of marines were scared up for the occasion as a guard of honor; there being, I suppose, no remnant of the old volunteer corps sufficient even for that small duty, tho' as far as I have been able to learn, the volunteer corps which have existed here have been very efficient, well drilled, and well practiced in rifle shooting. A good deal in that way, was, I fancy, due to the exertions of Mr. Vinter, the Adjutant of the Victoria Corps, and, I believe, to Mr. Wolfenden, who was Adjutant of one of the New Westminster Corps. In that city there are still a Rifle corps, and an Artillery corps, and, I believe in fair order, tho' small in numbers. However, I have not met a man, who has been pointed out to me as a member, or a former member of one of these companies, who has not been everything that could be desired as a Volunteer man of excellent physique, and smart, gentlemanly fellows.

I observe an advertisement in the *Canadian Illustrated* of a Dominion map, from ocean to ocean, and I am sorry to observe of it, that they are going to spoil it by adopting a scale of 25 miles to the inch for the

eastern provinces, and 50 miles to the inch for the western. I for one would not give 12 cents for such a hybrid production. 5 miles to the inch is a quite small enough scale; too small. It does not matter how long the map is. Publish it in sheets like Kerth Johnston's map of Canada, Upper and Lower. Three sheets if necessary. But if they mix up two scales, I would sooner have one of the common, coarse American maps, which at least, carry you over it at one scale.

The debate on the address at the opening of the legislature having resulted in the defeat of the late Ministry on a direct vote of want of confidence; a new one is now installed, with Mr. De Cosmos at its head. I believe that gentleman to be a thoroughly sound man, and one who looks to the fitness of man, rather than to their connections. As is well known he has, for years, been the champion of representative and responsible government, and he has gathered good men round him. This Province has been for years in the hands of a clique, to which the old Family Compact of Upper Canada was no way superior in the art of feathering nests. It is said, and I believe truly, that it was rendered almost impossible to the settler to obtain land under their regime. If a man went to the land office, and indicated a spot which he desired to pre-empt, he was civilly asked to call again in a day or two, as they would not at that moment say positively whether or not it had been selected. On his return the name of some Government official would be found recorded possessor of the lot. It is to be hoped, and may no doubt be anticipated, that the new Ministry will find means of opening the country to the settler, and attracting what the province so much wants, population.

The king of the Cannibal. (Sandwich I mean) Islands, having elected to shuffle off his mortal coil, the *Scout* and the *Carnelion* are off down there hot foot; the *Yankées*, as usual, having the start. The *Juno* another sister ship to the *Scout* is ordered up here.

The weather is wonderfully fine and mild, and all Victoria was busy yesterday in performing the duty of New Year's calls.

G. W. G.