

one of March; for it is well known that the Bill of 1862 was not intended to pass. It may look very like heresy to say that there are numbers of men in Canada who would much rather see the country part and parcel of Uncle Sam's dominion than see a shot fired in its defence; who have got large interests in the United States; who are quite willing to enjoy British laws and protection so long as it costs nothing; but who would prefer to see Canada defenceless and an easy prey rather than be at the cost of sustaining a militia force which would involve their service either personally or in pocket.

Now, as the Volunteers are the only troops (the line excepted) the country has available, what is the duty of the Government in the premises? Clearly to get the Volunteers into as good a shape as time will permit, and to organize, without any more shilly shallying, the defences of the country, upon a plan which will combine efficiency with mobility and economy. As it would be impossible in one letter to comprise all that can be said upon the subject, I will confine myself for the present to what is needed to remove the apathy of the Volunteers. Let us see, first, how many there are of them, and how they actually stand.—There are, say, sixty regiments organized, with eight companies to each regiment, and averaging fifty men to each company. Thus you have a force of 30,000 men, which looks very fair upon paper; and upon paper alone does it exist; for there is not a commanding officer of any volunteer battalion in Canada who can conscientiously say that the companies of his regiment average forty men; and then, of these forty, how many are effective? About one half; the other half being made up of recruits and men not drilled. So, taking the force as it really exists, you have not 15,000 effective men in the whole Dominion. Again I ask, whose fault is this? There was a spirit aroused in the country seven years ago, over the Trent affair, with which anything might be done. There was a fresh outburst of the same feeling in June, 1866. Can it be aroused again if there is difficulty over the Alabama claims? and if it can, is it not to be utilized till then, or until disaster shows the country who have been blundering? The Adjutant General has, I believe, done all that a man can do to put the volunteer militia into working order; but what assistance has he got from the powers that be, to put that life and vigour into the system which he knows, and which we all know, it needs. Many suppose here—in Downing street they all believe—that the Adjutant General is omnipotent in the Canadian Militia Department: that like the Centurion of old he says to one man go, and he goeth; and to another, come, and he cometh; and that what he says ought to be done is done at once. It is time that both in Canada and in England we should wake up to the fact that instead of having the militia business of the Dominion managed by a professional soldier,

whose services and experience in the country makes him peculiarly fit for the position and who was specially cut out for it, that instead of his advice being taken and his suggestions acted upon, the Department is managed and controlled by a succession of lawyers, who know no more about the wants and feelings and wishes of the militia than they do of navigation. (I was forgetting, sir, when I made the comparison, that the Minister of Marine is another lawyer.) A number of the correspondents of the Review have asked the question, why are not the Volunteers now doing the sixteen days drill required by law? One would suppose that upon this point at any rate there would be no difficulty, as the drill is made imperative by Act of Parliament; but, if Mrs. Grundy of Ottawa is to be believed, the Adjutant General cannot get the authority to order the drill, intending to give the Volunteers the opportunity, as heretofore, to perform their drill at the season most suitable and convenient for the men, but is met by the reply, there is no money.

But enough of this. Let us now take up the actual position of the individual Volunteer, and compare it with that of the soldier of the line; and to do so we will take a case of daily occurrence, and perform on paper a Volunteer's life for a couple of years. A man joins a volunteer company, of his own accord or at the solicitation of some of its members. He signs the service roll, is sworn in, and forthwith begins to learn his drill. He attends with ordinary regularity the usual weekly drills (when they are carried on), with not much inconvenience in cities and town, but from an average distance of two or three miles in the country. After some six or eight months, as the case may be, he begins to know something of squad drill and company drill, and the manual and platoon exercises. He begins to like it: there is stuff in him for a good soldier, and he thinks the stories he has been told of loss of time and money are all fudge. But some fine day or night, as has happened before, his captain gets an order to report his company for active service.—The men are warned for duty, and a gentle hint is given that all absentees are liable for trial as deserters. Men who have joined but a week, men who may not know their facings, are crowded into the ranks—for what officer is there who does not wish to take a full company. Before they set out, however, there are certain preliminaries to be gone through with, the men must have a change of clothing, in other words they must have a field kit, which means an extra shirt, drawers, socks, boots, towels, brushes—all the necessary articles for personal cleanliness, and all of which an officer who knows his duty will insist upon his men getting, as sickness and disease cannot always be avoided. Now when we remember that the Volunteers as a rule are made up of Mechanics, Farmers and Laborers, in fact of the poorer and working classes, that their officers in-

sist upon their having this kit aforementioned, which is to be well used up or worn out in the service of the country. How do the men get all these things? Those who have money buy, those who have not get them on the credit of the Captain, that gentleman taking very good care to stop the amount from the men's pay. When we know that the ordinary wages of working men are a dollar a day at least, and that while earning this sum they are their own masters, and possibly eating and drinking as good as their employers; when we remember that at a moment's notice they must drop everything and take up soldiering at 25 cts. per day, is it any wonder at all that there is not much life in the Volunteer Militia. But let us proceed—the Company is at last ready to move; the roll is called, the men are present, and off they go for their destination. Are they Volunteers now? Not a bit of it. They are to all intents and purposes (except as regards their knowledge of drill and discipline) Troops of the Line, subject to exactly the same rules and regulations, the same Articles of War and Mutiny Act, as any of Her Majesty's Red Coats. After a month or so, the Company returns home, and our Volunteers find out that soldiering is an expensive amusement, that the cost of his kit and what little necessities he required in Camp or Garrison has used up his twenty-five cents a day—and that he has not money enough to pay his Railroad fare to where he was working when his Company was ordered on service. Many find out too, that their places have been filled and their work taken by others in their absence, and nearly all discover that their service has been given at a deep loss to themselves. They soon begin to find out that there is no reward for good conduct, and long service in the Volunteers, that there is no inducement for them to remain attached to their respective Companies like what is held out to the Regular Soldier. They hear it said, and they see it themselves, that the men who at the sacrifice of time and means have placed themselves for years at the service of their country, are no more thought about, have no more advantage, realize no more in the shape of bounty or reward, than the stay-at-home patriots who shout their loyalty, but take very good care to keep out of the ranks of the Volunteers. Now what does a grateful country give in return for all this? What does the man get who, at the call of duty, throws up his dollar, twelve shillings, or two dollars per day? He gets the loan of a greatcoat and cap, tunic and trowsers, and the above mentioned munificent sum of twenty five cents a day and his rations. Is it any wonder, then, that resignations come in to company officers thick and fast after each return of a company from duty? Is it not rather a wonder that there are any Volunteers in the ranks at all who have experienced for themselves whether what I have written is exaggerated or not? Now