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The Volunteer Review.

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1876.

CORRESPONDENTS—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must invariably be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

We have for the past *nine* years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but, we regret to say, have not met with that tangible encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their chivalry and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money will be entitled to receive one copy for the year *free*. A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Force—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

The following on "England's Maritime Rights" is copied from *Broad Arrow* of 15th April. It takes a sensible view of the case, but our contemporary should remember that the *Whig-Radicals* are accountable for the "Declaration of Paris," and opposed during their late tenure of office all attempts at having it officially disavowed.

However, nothing is necessary in case of hostilities more than a simple paragraph in the QUEEN'S Proclamation disavowing the

principle. We, in the Colonies, cannot see the point of the objection so factiously insisted on by a portion of the English press against Mr. D'ISRAELI's measure—we know and believe the title of "Empress of India" is the proper and fitting one for the QUEEN of Great Britain—if, as urged, the title of Emperor is a military designation, it could not with more propriety be applied than in this case, when that country was really conquered in the fullest sense of the term, after a long struggle; but by the mismanagement of "*John Company*," as the nations called the late East India Company—and there is nothing in the title to rub up the susceptibilities of any true Briton except the little knot of Russian sympathisers that cluster about Manchester and Birmingham, and that smothered whatever energy the foreign policy of the GLADSTONE Administration might possess. We say then that nineteen twentieths of the British people would support the "Royal Titles Bill," looking at it as a more vigorous and comprehensive line of Foreign policy than Great Britain has taken for the last twenty years.

Our contemporary is quite right in placing the dangers entailed by "the Declaration of Paris" on the mercantile marine and power of Great Britain before the parties most interested. However much we may blame the present Administration it will secure for them a great accession of strength, as the people whose property is immediately endangered, will naturally place confidence in those who have the will and show the power to protect it.

"No attentive observer of the march of events can fail to perceive that there are clouds in the East. It may be that to the eyes of many they are as yet but small, only showing above the horizon like a man's hand. Still they are there. To others, again, they may appear to be banking up in ever denser and denser masses, and to already materially darken the whole of the Eastern sky. All therefore, save perhaps a few ultra optimists, agree that the clouds are there, that they are increasing, and that, therefore, unless they can be dispersed, the heavens will presently be black, and that there will be a great rain. To be forewarned should be to be forearmed, and, therefore, it behoves us to bethink ourselves: whilst there is yet time, how we may prepare ourselves to meet the threatening storm. Mr. Disraeli, conscious of the vague but very general feeling of uneasiness existing throughout the country, regarding the security of our Eastern possessions, in view of the steady advances of Russia towards our Indian frontiers, would find in this universally prevailing apprehension a means of forwarding a pet conception of his own, and would have us believe that there is a magic sound in the title of Empress which will sway the hand of the aggressor and remove all cause of fear. But the common sense of the country is too strong to allow it to accept the assurance, and neither the Prime Minister himself nor any of even his warmest supporters, have ventured to insist strongly upon it. But counsellors, whose utterances are more in accordance with the feeling of the nation, have come forward and their views are very forcibly put forth in a remarkable pamphlet, which has recently been published, in which it is demonstrated with much

moderation that the first step by which to oppose any possible hostility from Russia must be to abrogate the Declaration of Paris.

"And it is well that the attention of England should be drawn to this matter; for, probably, but few among us have ever fully and clearly realised how much we forewent when by our silence we acquiesced in the provisions of the Declaration drawn up and signed by the plenipotentiaries sent to Paris to conclude the peace after the Crimean War, but never ratified by the nation. In that document it was laid down, firstly, that privateering is and remains abolished; secondly, that the neutral flag covers enemy's goods, except contraband of war. By accepting these conditions we renounced our most important marine rights, to maintain which we did not hesitate in days gone by to engage in a mortal struggle with an armed league of European powers. In the pamphlet we have alluded to, it is very clearly shown how disastrous to our influence in continental affairs has been the result of our tacit and indolent acceptance of conditions proposed to us by military States, who, being themselves comparatively weak on the sea, sought thus to deprive naval Powers of their most formidable weapon, and how fatal to us in future complications may become our apathetic and voluntary abandonment of those maritime rights, which we formerly upheld with such firmness and wonderful energy when European Powers vainly strove to make us renounce them, and which enabled us to take the lead in Europe during the long wars with which this century began. It requires no very profound knowledge of political economy to appreciate the proposition so clearly demonstrated, that if the commerce of a nation, or in other words, its foreign trade, is cut off, that country will be unable to conduct a war, and more especially to actively carry on foreign hostilities. We, to a greater extent than any other people, possess the power of thus interfering with an enemy's commerce, and, therefore, by acceding to the maxim that "free ships make free goods," we wantonly and unnecessarily deprive ourselves of our best protection against the assaults of a foe. A nation at war with us will send its goods under a neutral flag, and we, debarred by the provisions of the Declaration of Paris, shall not be able to stay and seize them. Nor will this be the only evil which will accrue to us. The moment hostilities begin our own merchants will cease to send their goods by English ships. In them the property will be liable to seizure, in neutral bottoms it will be safe, and, therefore, such vessels will be employed in preference to those flying the British flag. Thus our Mercantile Marine will be ruined; whereas, if the neutral colours gave no such protection, our own ships would be still used, since we possess the most powerful Navy with which to protect our commerce.

"And there is yet another way in which the relinquishment of our once cherished right of seizing an enemy's goods when under a neutral flag will work to our prejudice. When war breaks out we shall necessarily have to commission many ships to place our fleet on a war footing. But our Navy has no large available reserve of seamen. The men enrolled in the Royal Naval Reserve will go but a small way towards supplying us with the number we shall require. We shall, therefore, have to trust to Volunteers, to men of the Mercantile Marine who may be induced to enter, at all events, temporarily into the Naval Service. But of all attractions likely to lead such men to join, none will be so powerful as a fair prospect of prize money. It was this which in the *long ago* brought men into our ships of war, which surrounded