

Most of our readers were under the impression that the Treaty of Washington had settled on a satisfactory basis the vexed question of the *Alabama* claims; the following article from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* of the 21st inst., show how entirely mistaken those who believe in that effort of diplomatic wisdom have been. It appears now that the whole is another of those sphinx riddles, the delight of great statesmen, and the affair appears to have been a social gathering for a purpose which history, perhaps, may reveal hereafter, but it is certainly beyond the comprehension of this generation. The question may well be asked, what has the Washington Treaty decided? We were of opinion that the progress of the age had established a time revered notion known as *national honor*; of course the pure republicans were so far ahead of us as to scout the idea; while they would interpret it all on their own side they would resort to the petifogger's plea to cheat the other. If those cotton bonds are not admitted as claims, on what grounds can the Yankees have the face to lay any claim at all? We have always said that the cheapest way of dealing with this question was to deny any obligation whatever and we are fully persuaded that it must result in "the last argument of Kings," if the *Army and Navy Journal* is the exponent of the Ethics of this case on the Yankee side.

"The London Spectator remarks, in good time upon the common mistake of looking upon the Treaty of Washington as a settlement of the *Alabama* claims. When the Recorder of London was appointed on the part of the British Government, it was commonly reported in England that his business was to be the settlement of the *Alabama* claims, while the truth is he was to concern himself with claims *not* 'growing out of the acts of vessels.' It is degrading the action of the two governments to constantly weaken the force of what mankind may one day regard as one of the greatest works of statesmanship. When two powers meet with the determination of wiping out all present cause of quarrel, and placing their intercourse on the highest possible ground, all yielding is honorable and any that is necessary should be possible. Even the plainest rights may justly give way to the honorable purposes of the hour, and what one side cannot give the other must yield. A great deal remains to be done. The *Alabama* claims themselves are insignificant in comparison with the claims of the Confederate cotton bond holders. Suppose the commission decides that their due is just and that we owe four hundred millions paid by our rebellious brethren to procure the means to fight against us. Does anyone believe we should pay it? The commission may decide what it will or must, certain we are that in a thousand years no government of the United States would find itself strong enough to comply with the verdict. We speak but the words of soberness when we say that if this people had the alternative between that payment and war, it would be with cheerfulness that it would take up arms. So we see the Treaty of Washington though signed has not yet been performed, and deals with such delicate questions that, great and praiseworthy as the agreement is, to carry

it out will be a far more remarkable work. When difficulties like that we have mentioned confront the two governments which have made this bold reach after future peace, we certainly cannot accuse them of any weakness in trying to arrange their troubles as they best can."

On the occasion of the surrender of Paris in common with other members of the Fourth Estate, we drew attention to the enormous war indemnity demanded by Prussia, and to the power it would place in the hands of an able and unscrupulous statesman like Bismarck for accomplishing ends apparently very remote and without necessary connection with the affairs of France and Germany.

We showed that the withdrawal of capital would seriously affect the English money market and to a very considerable extent, indeed, paralyse her power. Not only would its operations cover all the ground described, but it would seriously affect other parties not directly or necessarily interested on either side, and would give rise to political complications by disturbing commercial relations to an extent not dreamed of by the parties interested. That these conclusions have not been arrived at without good reason the following paragraph will show, and, although the source is noted for the manufacture and issuing of unprincipled canards, the conclusions arrived at are singularly logical. £25,000,000 sterling would have gone a long way to fit out a force sufficient, if properly employed, to save France from humiliation and robbery, and to avert threatened calamity to England. Gladstone and Bright's efforts as peace preservation may cost that sum many times over:—

"The New York World thinks that the rise of the Bank of England rate of interest to five per cent is as appreciation, adopted in view of the fact that Bismarck now holds in his hands the means of making a sudden demand upon London for twenty-five million pounds sterling being the amount of rates on London, in which the French Government paid its first dues to Germany. It is a true remark we should say, that the concentration of this enormous sum under the control of a single statesman on the continent puts commercial life, and especially England, in a certain danger though of a kind different from that suggested by the 'Battle of Dorking.' The idea of the strongest and richest government on the continent making a 'corner' in gold, New York fashion appears laughable enough at first, but on a second thought it has a serious aspect as well.

The reinforcement for the garrison at Fort Garry sailed from Collingwood on Saturday, 21st inst., passed through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal on Sunday night and have every prospect of making a quick passage to their destination. Our readers will recollect that it was determined to send this reinforcement on the 12th inst. and that it was organized, equipped and started in eight days. The efficiency of our Militia Depart-

ment was never more ably illustrated. The facility with which this force of 200 men were equipped is a matter for admiration.

LT.-COL. WILY left Ottawa on the 27th (Friday) for the purpose of receiving from the Imperial Officers the forts and citadel at Quebec with the stores, armaments and all other material thereto belonging. The citadel will be garrisoned by a battery of artillery, and such future dispositions made as may be required.

Colonel Wily proceeds on a highly honorable but melancholy duty. It is one hundred and twelve years, one month and nine days since the British flag first floated over the walls of the Gibraltar of America; it has been bravely, loyally and faithfully upheld there by the colonists, French and English, and it is struck now amidst the keen regrets of those whose fathers poured out their blood like water in defence of its honor. Thank God the hands of the colonists are clean in this matter and that it is by Englishmen the disgrace is to be consummated. No one can look on this transaction with greater regret than the gallant officer whose duty it is to witness it on behalf of the unwilling colonists, but as the fruits of the policy of the Whig Radicals, England will have cause to regret the step for all time, as an historical transaction it will mark an era in the British and Canadian history. Colonel Wily has a heavy and arduous task before him which will occupy some days.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE.—All communications addressed to the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW must be accompanied by the correct name and address of the writer.

In reply to our gallant correspondent "L.C.," whose letter appears in this issue, we beg leave to state that our answer to "Volunteer," in the VOLUNTEER REVIEW of the 16th was correct. A Captain's certificate of qualification is always *second class*, if he is gazetted before another officer of the same rank who holds a *first class* certificate, he takes precedence according to date of commission, and if promotion is open and he duly qualifies, he secures the step in rank although his certificate may be of later date than that of his *junior* by commission. An officer provisionally appointed holds no commission, the latter dates from the qualification. If "L.C." will please to read "Volunteer's" letter he will find our answer to the question put therein the correct one, viz.:—the date of commission is the rule of precedence.

The General Orders cited by "L.C." prove exactly the point at issue, that of 5th April, 1867, has been cancelled by that of July 15th, 1871. A certificate from a Military School confers no rank and gives no right of precedence till a commission is obtained, then it will give precedence over the provisional appointments alone—but that was not the question put by "Volunteer."