



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada.

VOL. IX

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1875.

No. 47.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The navigation of the Ottawa River is closed for this season; the Steamer *Victoria* being unable any longer to make her usual daily trips owing to the accumulation of ice on the river.

Brigade Major Mattice, made his semi-annual inspection of the arms, accoutrements, and clothing of the O. B. G. A., the Field Battery and Cavalry, at the Drill Shed on Thursday. The Officers commanding corps were present. The stores were found in perfect order and in a proper state of cleanliness.

The Dominion coat of arms on the new Ottawa Post Office building is now completed, and reflects much credit on the workman who carved it.

Mr Sanford Fleming received a despatch on the 17th from Mr. Marcus Smith, of Victoria, B.C., informing him that six axemen employed on the Pacific Railway Survey were on board of the illfated *Pacific*, and went down with her; viz., Samuel Nicholson from Alexandria; George Stephen, from Ailsa Craig; John Tarbut, from Walkerton; Thos. J. Robinson, Edmund C. Jaynes, and Ira Moulder, from Oshawa; all from Ontario. Also the following persons from New Brunswick, viz.:—William Palley and Thos. Palley, of Peteraville, and Mr. Webb, of Peteraville or Hampstead. The all had property in Queen's County, and had been on a tour of inspection of British Columbia.

At a reception given to a party of prominent railway men who came over the New York and Canada railway, on Wednesday afternoon, the Mayor of Montreal made reference to the Guibord burial, which he was gratified to state had passed off satisfactorily, and also said Her Majesty's Representative here in Canada had expressed his gratitude that the affair had ended peaceably, and that there was no bloodshed; while the Queen herself on hearing the news expressed her joy.

A Boston telegram says:—"Extraordinary naval preparations are going on. Great secrecy is observed; every sea going vessel is getting in fighting trim, and officers are ordered to duty. Careful inquiries made by Washington correspondents establish the fact that the navy is once more in a state of extraordinary activity. The fact seems incredible, as there is no apparent reason for warlike preparations being made, but this is stated on the best authority. Nobody seems to know the reason for such activity at the Navy Department. There are very few persons here willing to believe that the Government proposed another demonstration against Spain in Cuban waters, but Minister Cushing's recent note to the Court of Spain

respecting the struggle in Cuba may have much to do with it. The truth is, however, that Secretary Robeson has issued orders to have every sea going vessel in the navy got ready for ocean service at the earliest possible moment, but what makes warlike indications more marked is that special orders have been issued relative to iron clad. Orders have been sent to all the yards to have new sloops of war ready for orders at once. At Charlestown yards the contractor has been instructed to hurry up the work on the "*Adams and Essex*." At Washington a special force of men have been taken on to make ready the ironclad *Catskill*. Orders have been sent out very quietly. Special pains have been taken to keep the preparations secret, that many persons connected with the navy do not realize what is going on. The Secretary waited until after the election, when it is customary to make numerous discharges, and under cover of discharge, many new employees have been taken on. Officers allowed leave of absence have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for duty. What the situation is was concisely expressed in the statement of eminent officers of the navy last evening, that if war was declared, the Government could not be doing more than it is to get the naval force into fighting trim."

Another despatch says:—"The Spanish Government's reply to the note of Minister Cushing, which was transmitted by cable to the State Department, proves to be a dignified response to the demands which our Government made in the matter of American interests in the Island of Cuba and will, it is believed, dissipate all fears of trouble between Spain and the United States. The tone of the reply is firm and very conciliatory and the justice of our demand is not ignored. The confusion of affairs in Cuba obstructs the exercise of an impartial and prompt administration of the requirements of the treaty of 1795. Spain defends her right to maintain court martial in Cuba and cites the French Communist trials and trials by courts martial in the late civil war in the United States as precedents for establishing her claim, but readily makes the concession that American citizens can have their advocates or attorneys and produce witnesses in their own behalf, conformably to the provision of article seven, of the treaty of 1795, and according to the regular course of proceedings in such cases and gives guarantees of such a mode of defence. The answer of the Spanish Government has been deemed satisfactory enough, to warrant a countermanding of the orders originally given, to put our navy in preparation for such a contingency as a misunderstanding between the two Governments."

The Paris evening papers of the 17th inst., publish the text of the letter written by Don Carlos to King Alfonso, "The attitude of President Grant." The letter says: "In a prelude to a war between Spain and the United States, if you don't recognize the independence of Cuba. The revolution which you represent is responsible for this parricidal rebellion. Had I reigned, it would not have occurred, at least it would not have gained strength. Now, however, the integrity of the country is at stake and all her children are bound to defend it. Should war break out I offer you a truce as long as the contest lasts, but I maintain my rights to the Crown, as I retain the conviction that I shall one day wear it. I cannot send my loyal volunteers to Cuba, but I will defend these provinces and the Cantabrian coast and will send out privateers manned by the indomitable population of that coast, which will pursue the merchant ships of our enemies, and perhaps chase them into their own harbors. If you accept the truce let us appoint representatives to settle conditions. If you refuse, the world will be witness that Catholic Spain has nobly done her duty."

The *Pall Mall Gazette* on the 18th has a special Berlin telegram stating that the Prussian Government is preparing proceedings before the Ecclesiastical Court against the Archbishop of Cologne and the Bishop of Treves. The object is to despoise them.

A conspiracy to seize the arsenal and to burn the town of Rangoon has been discovered by the authorities. A great many Burmese have been arrested on suspicion of complicity in the affair.

Great activity prevails at the navy yard at Norfolk, Va., probably in anticipation of a war with Spain.

Advices from the seat of war in the East, state that both sides are concentrating their forces near Geraneko, and that a great battle is imminent.

General Quesada has received a Royal order to the effect that he is to hold no communication with Don Carlos, unless it partakes of the character of an unconditional surrender of himself and his partisans.

The Spanish Minister at Washington has received advices from Madrid, to the effect that in future American citizens placed on trial before Cuban courts martial will have the privilege of retaining counsel of their own selection of their defence. The terms of the Treaty of 1795 appear, according to an admission made by the Spanish authorities, to have been most inadequate to meet such cases, and the present arrangement is owing to the effect produced by a friendly note addressed by Secretary Fish to the Spanish Government on the subject.