

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—Your last issue contained a letter from your gallant correspondent "L. C." on the vexed question of the effect produced by the Militia Bill on the Volunteer Force.

As that communication contains only a repetition of former arguments and assertions which have not been proved, it does not require a categorical answer.

The dilemma in which the writer has placed himself is simply that of bringing charges which must involve forgery and fraud either at the local or general Headquarters, and is a matter which should not be allowed to rest there.

In dealing with this subject I felt the delicacy of the position in which your correspondent was placing himself, and as you, Sir, are aware refrained carefully from seeking to penetrate the mystery which a newspaper *non de Plume* afforded. Having no interest whatever in this controversy beyond a desire to do my part towards securing for the country a good system of military defenses, I could have no wish to break through the modest reserve which custom properly allows to those who endeavour to benefit the public by using that mighty lever of opinion—the press—as a vehicle for the discrimination of what the writer cautiously believes to be true ideas, being satisfied that they would be more likely to obtain attention than if supported by the authority of the most prominent local name.

I can assure your correspondent that it was no want of the necessary material which induced me to leave some of his arguments unanswered, but a desire to avoid conclusions at which he has arrived by the momentum of his own statements.

I should be very sorry indeed if anything in my communications savored of impertinence; in my letter the last paragraph referred to can by no means bear that construction. It was certainly within my province to express an opinion as to the value of discussing a subject which had been pushed to the verge of courtesy before, and as I am convinced that the Press should never be used except to the interest of mankind, I could see no good to be obtained by a series of wholesale denunciations which could not fail to bring discredit on the military force of the Dominion.

There are the proper authorities whose business it is to take cognizance of offences such as "L. C." alleges to exist, it is to them that gentleman should look for the means of establishing the validity of charges of so grave a character, and not to private individuals whose only connection therewith is regret that they should exist even as aspersions.

In a controversy of this description a time arrives when it must cease, and that is generally when one of the parties losses

temper and resorts to uncourteous language, I feel that period has culminated now, and in closing this letter I would simply remark that no case whatever has been made out against the Militia Bill, and the evils under which the Volunteer force are said to labour can be remedied by proper constitutional measures. As these were the major propositions on which this controversy was founded it is fit they should form its appropriate termination.

I am, Sir,
Your obd't. servant
Ottawa, Dec. 20, 1869. F. O.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—I have to apologise to your valued and gallant correspondent "G. W." for having used the present instead of the past tense with reference to a paragraph from his admirable letter, but still must differ in opinion as to the time ever being propitious for the specified purpose. The present difficulty brought out every bit of military spirit in the country, and even then it would be dangerous to use anything like compulsion. If "G. W." will take trouble of making the necessary enquiries he will find that it was a doubtful matter indeed to determine to what amount it could be enforced with safety. If matters had come to a crisis, and actual hostilities intervened, the strictest compulsory measures might be resorted to with safety, but not otherwise.

It must be a subject of sincere regret to your readers that gentlemen like your gallant correspondent have not the required facilities afforded for the purpose of reducing their system of drill to actual practice, as the simplification he notices is what is actually needed in dealing with the Canadian Militia, and may be condensed in the idea that "whoever can make an efficient soldier of the raw material which the population of Canada affords in the shortest possible time will be doing the country incalculable service," and I believe your gallant correspondent is fully capable of rendering it.

I have always held that a grave mistake had been committed in looking to the regular British service for the great majority of our Staff Officers, thus overlooking the claims and talents of native officers like your gallant correspondent, thoroughly acquainted with the people, and able to adapt the military system of drill and discipline to their social position and habits—those are the men Canada wants and must have.

It is no flattery to "G. W." to say that the readers of the Review must derive both pleasure and profit from his sentiments as those of a man of talent, a gentleman, and a thoroughly practical and accomplished soldier.

It is to such men the country must look for the creation of a military force in the highest sense of the term, and as science demands that the soldier should be some-

thing more than a mere machine. The knowledge necessary to secure that result must be derived from gentlemen like your gallant correspondent who thoroughly understands the material with which he has to deal. I could entertain no opinion but that of sincere respect for the manly character and admiration for the talent of your correspondent, and hope he will continue to favor the Review with those valuable papers alike profitable for precept and practice.

I am, dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. O.

Ottawa, 10th Dec., 1869.

The breech-loading rifle is likely to introduce many changes into the art of war, and since the Prussian campaign in Austria the attention of soldiers has been turned to the probable reforms which will become necessary. As a consequence, various changes in tactics, &c., have been introduced in Prussia, France, and America, to meet the new difficulties created by this destructive weapon. Colonel Bray of the 4th King's Own Royals, who has the experience of long service, and has recently served in Abyssinia, has become so impressed with the necessity of changes in the English Army, that he has ventured to appear in the field of military reform, and proposes a very considerable change in dress and equipment, which, if adopted, would almost completely metamorphose the British soldier and make him an active, well, and comfortably dressed man, able to march, work, and fight with greater ease and facility, and what he would lose in tightness and stiffness, he would be likely to gain in increased efficiency. For these reasons we hope that Colonel Bray's proposal will meet with due and careful attention, as we are greatly struck with several of the changes proposed, viz: the patrol jacket and waistcoat, and waterproof cape, the light great coat, and the proposed method of carrying entrenching tools and ammunition.

Public sentiment in British Columbia seems just now to be directly in favor of Confederation with the Dominion. The *Victoria Colonist* of the 4th instant has the following: "The publication of Granville's dispatch knocked the scales from the eyes of Anti-Confederationists. All now see that Confederation is our immediate and inevitable destiny. All admit the importance of a united effort to obtain the best terms that can be got. Thus the only point of difference existing between the two parties is that, whereas one welcomes the change as a boon, the other regards it in the light of dread and inevitable destiny, and is endeavoring to submit to it with becoming resignation."

One of the most singular members of the Ecumenical Council will be a Chinese Bishop, who is at the same time a manufacturer of umbrellas. This is M. Louis Fauri, Bishop of Kong Toheon, a native of Bordeaux in France, but since, nineteen years a resident of China. The Bishop wears a long moustache and goatee, and from his crown dangles the queue of the Celestials; he is dressed in Chinese costume. The Bishop has a large orphan asylum in his charge and, in order to support it, he has started an umbrella factory, giving employment to a good many hands.