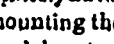


Canada is by law a soldier, and the positive duty of the press consists in teaching as well as enforcing due respect for discipline and authority.

Our last issue contained an article on field fortification as applied to intrenchments for covering infantry, in order to render it available for its second condition, that of "creating an obstacle to an enemy's progress;" the system must be combined with artillery and as the effective use of small arms forbid salient angles, batteries of position should be established in such a manner in front or rear of the entrenchment as will permit their fire to enfilade and sweep all the approaches thereto. It would appear, therefore, that such batteries should be established on a higher elevation if in the rear and a lesser if in front of the intrenchment, so as to offer no impediment to the fire therefrom. As it is necessary to have guns and gunners under cover the general design for such works should be of the simplest and as the conditions of the system require that the fires should be both divergent and convergent, the existing modes of fortification, involving salient and re-entrant angles, is obviously inapplicable, and one of segmental bastions must be substituted, because it will not only be easier of construction but dead angles are avoided and enfilading preserved. To secure the full value of redoubt of elaborate design it will be only necessary to construct a certain number of segmental fleches alternately advanced and retired, thus  mounting the same number of guns as the more elaborate redoubt, and all the advantages claimed can be attained with the flank fire of the angular system preserved without its disadvantages; in addition, if placed in advance of the line those defences serve to cover and mask the movements of the troops in the trenches and will offer no impediment to their advance to take advantage of the moment when their fire has shaken the enemy's columns, while they would effectually cover a retrograde movement and afford shelter for rallying from an unsuccessful attack. If Captain Moncrief's invention can be applied to field artillery the strength of the parapet need not be weakened by embrasures, as the recoil of the gun brings it under the level thereof till it is loaded and ready to fire. Within the limits of an article of this description it would not be possible to discuss the value of the simple system proposed. Its great recommendation in this country will be the ease and rapidity with which it can be constructed. Allowing that each *Fleche* should mount three guns and a space of twenty-one feet between each, we have thus a frontage of eight, four feet which will provide ample shelter, and as the parapet should be at least six feet six inches above the platform (it may be two feet lower if the Moncrief carriage is used) and the distance between the exterior and interior crest thirteen feet, each foot in length would be equal to six cubic

yards, so that the labour of eighty-four men in five hours would construct the main body of the work; the excavation would leave ditch in front about ten feet wide at the bottom, eighteen feet at the top and six feet six inches deep, which should be swept by the flanking *Fleches* on the right and left; an ordinary plank platform laid on rough sleepers or sills, firmly bedded in the soil would be easily constructed and all the conditions of an efficient field work complied with. If necessary traverses for magazines and closing the works in the rear could be easily built as in nearly every case timber is at hand and with active as well as intelligent men a formidable system of defence could be improvised in a few hours. The principle rule to be observed is that the position of the batteries dominates the area within the range of the guns and commands all the approaches. A series of intrenchments such as we have described are of the simplest character, but circumstances may arise which would add considerably to their complexity; it might, for instance, not only be desirable but absolutely necessary to intrench the face of the slope in front of the guns for infantry, this would involve a repetition of the shelter trench with a difference that its parapet should be nearly as heavy as that of the *Fleche*, or that the trench should be of sufficient depth to protect the occupants altogether, in which case the spoil or earth should be wadded down the slope. If cavalry are employed they should be well in the rear of the infantry in trenches completely out of sight, covered either by undulations of the ground or by patches of timber, or any other cover. Before laying down more fully the principles which should govern field fortifications in Canada it will be necessary to consider the conditions under which the Canadian army would be called on to act.

Warfare in this country means simply defence, and the first element therein is a thorough knowledge of the topography and the facilities it affords therefor. Premising that outlets to the seaboard are kept open we can only be assailed over the Eastern frontier at the famous Eccles Hill, through the valley of Lake Champlain, and on the Western and North Western frontiers, all involving a considerable degree of preparation and consequently giving sufficient warning. The mode of defence on the Eastern frontier has been settled by the Eccles Hill affair; the natural strength of the country needs little artificial aid but towards Huntingdon and the Eastern shores of Lake Champlain that advantage disappears and artificial means must be resorted to. Isle aux Noix in the Richelieu and St. John are fortified on the old system, they are respectable points d'appui for a base of operations but would offer small obstacles to a well equipped invader; throughout the whole front of the "old gate of Canada," the duty of covering Montreal must be performed by a system of intrenchments such as pointed

out. If advantage would be taken of the line of the proposed Caughnawaga Canal during its construction a series of very respectable permanent works could be constructed of its spoil on the north bank to which the Canal itself would afford a formidable wet ditch. The Western and North Western frontiers oppose great obstacles to an invader; in any case every march carries him further from his supplies with an impassable river in rear, a hostile population in front and great natural obstacles to overcome, to which the proposed system of field fortifications would add materially and by keeping the enemy in check hasten his destruction. But now comes the question as to whether accurate information of the best positions for effectual defence is possessed by the Canadian military authorities, and we fear it must be answered in the negative; an Engineering Staff to every Military District is absolutely necessary, and that Staff should by no means be allowed to enjoy their honors in idleness.

An invasion of Canada to be successful must be made simultaneously on four lines, if any one fails it ensures the destruction of the rest, while the success of one by no means decides the contest. In such case each Military District, acting wholly on the defensive, should hold its opponents in check till aided, and in order to be able to do so the position best adapted for covering its vital strategical point should be known and decided on long before its occupation would become a necessity, and a topographical knowledge of each District is the first requisite in that important decision.

The hearts of the people of Canada have been stirred to their inmost depths by the dangerous illness of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the heir of the glorious British Empire, the son of their best beloved sovereign, popular feeling in British North America has been moved in no ordinary degree and no event in our history has created such excitement or been watched with such feverish anxiety. It has been repeatedly stated by those sentimental and liberal revolutionists of the British press that he was unpopular, that his life was stained with moral delinquencies which would define his character as a compound between that of Caracalla and George the Fourth, that he was in the cant of the pharmaceutical hypocrites of the "day a bad young man and that his conduct had sapped the foundations of monarchy in England. We wonder if in the practice and growing irreverence for all things; the sceptical sneer of the learned and the cynical sneer of the cowardly traitor that the new fangled philosophy of the day has developed in Great Britain, to the extinction of honor and manhood, amongst a large majority of its newspaper writers, and to some extent public men, whether that old commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," has ever found an answering echo in the con-