

geography, which is sadly deficient. They are shrewd and sinister in England, and, therefore, a steady campaign should be inaugurated to educate the public eye to the point whence they can see for themselves that your great North-west is of infinitely more value to the individual Englishman than the heated deserts of India, where the bones of so many of their friends are bleaching in the fiery sun. Not that I am in the least an advocate for any reduction of our power in India, which is of such benefit to the toaming millions of that country, but because, as Byron said, we have "stomach for them all," viz: we can hold India and also people your North-west.

Our population is continually increasing, and it would seem a fortunate matter for us that your Ministers should come here and invite the surplus population to go and reside on your rich lands, and that a series of bad harvests should force the voices of your leading men upon the ears and interests of their hearers.

General Roberts, "Bobsey," as his friends call him, has marched for Candehar. He is a capital soldier, and has certainly picked the best troops we have, English and native, for his campaign. Still he ought to have more guns, especially heavy ones, but he no doubt has not forgotten this. Transport has to be considered; we must therefore hope that Guzni has not been re-armed and strengthened, and that he may not be forced to try a siege. It is thought that General Roberts will probably avoid the fortress by making a demonstration before it while his baggage and stores defile on the road to Candehar. As the General, then Colonel Roberts on the staff always appeared to enjoy himself heartily when visiting the officers' mess of my regiment in India, I took advantage of our friendship to write to him to Cabul and warn him against assassination. He is a short man, though active, and would stand a poor chance against a huge young mountaineer, active as a deer, and as practiced in the use of the dagger as a skilful surgeon in the use of his instruments. I warned him that to be protected by men with swords and guns was of no use for his protection, for while firing and hacking at the assassin the mortal injury would be done him, but that active and powerful unarmed men should precede and follow him always, with orders to lay hold of any suspicious individual approaching him. I had a most kind letter to say that he appreciated my advice, but that he had not moved in the matter in any way, but he observed that his staff had, and that whenever he moved he was partly surrounded by native foot soldiers, picked for personal strength.

Colonel Williams, of the Canadian team, has made himself popular everywhere. Last Friday he returned thanks for the auxiliary forces at the splendid banquet of the Fish Mongers' Company. His speech was truly a stirring one, and when he alluded to the Canadian forces, and the important position they occupy in the British Empire, he was received with loud and prolonged cheering.

Colonel and Mrs. Williams are now the guests of Lord and Lady Stanhope, at their beautiful country seat, Chiddingfold, Kent.

"VIEUX SABREUR."

New Books.

A very valuable work on military law—treating specially of the new army discipline act 1879, is being brought out by Major General, Royal Artillery, Professor of Military History and military administration at the Royal Military College of Canada, printed at Ottawa.

The defence of Great and Greater Britain, published by Ed. Stanford, Charing Cross, London, is from the able pen of Capt.

Colomb, late Royal Marine Artillery, is perhaps the warlike voice of the day, if it is only listened to by English men on all sides of the Atlantic and Pacific. The author Capt. Colomb is one of four distinguished sons of the late General Colomb, one is in the Royal Navy another in the Royal Artillery, a third in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and the author himself in the Royal Marine Artillery, and have ably served the Empire with sword and pen in every quarter of the globe.

Defence of Great and Greater Britain.

To solve the problem of Imperial and Colonial Defence, the question must be answered, "what are the general principles on which the defence of the Empire must be based?" Captain Colomb says:—

1st. That it is of vital importance that the safety of the Imperial communications be secured,

2nd. That it is essential to the military strength of the Empire that forces created or existing for the defence of one portion be not so constituted as to preclude the possibility of using them in the defence of another.

If the Imperial communications are not secured, our enemy can make it *physically* impossible for the several parts to afford "mutual assistance when attacked." On the other hand, although they may be tolerably safe, if the military forces of each part are by law so constituted as to preclude the power of removing them to another, we ourselves render it a *moral* impossibility for the several parts to afford "mutual assistance when attacked." In the one case the enemy cripples the necessary power of concentration; in the other we save him the trouble by doing it ourselves. What then becomes of the military value of forces constituted as our militia and volunteers are, at home or in the colonies, when weighed in the Imperial scales?

If the Empire is to be defended at all we must apply on a large scale the ordinary and common military principle applicable to the defence of all territory, large or small.

The fundamental principle is briefly this. The success of all operations of war, whether defensive or offensive, depends upon the disposition of force in such a manner as will best secure the base of operations, and ensure safety and freedom of communication. It is useless to do one without the other, for in the one case neglect to the rule must lead to a "lock-out," in the other to a "lock-up" of military force. Our former disposition of our force risked the "lock out" of military force by rendering the capture of the base impossible: our present plan endangers, nay courts, the "lock-up" of military force at the base by leaving our communications exposed and outposts undefended.

In the late war we saw first of all an attack upon the advanced position on the lines of communication; next the cutting of the lines of communication; and lastly, as an inevitable consequence, Paris fell.

The United Kingdom is our Imperial base. The Imperial main lines of communication are:—

1. To British North America across the North Atlantic.
2. To the West Indies.
3. To India, China, and Australasia by the Mediterranean.
4. To India, China, and Australasia round the Cape.
5. From Australasia and the Pacific round Cape Horn.

It is just one of those things which "no fellow can understand" that the originator of the "Defence of Great and Greater Britain" has not been implored to sit on the Royal Commission, except that he has sat on it already by forestalling all it can say, for without any sort of representation from the Colonies the question of payment for the Imperial paper cannot be decided. We are evidently the same fat-witted Saxons so deficient in organization that we lost England to a handful of Normans after one battle, and the thin Norman stream has perhaps spent itself in watering the world to build up an Empire we desire to drift out of.—Ed. C. M. REVIEW.