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Similar success has attended his direction of the affairs of the Port Hope Railway, the management of which, acting for its bondholders, he reorganised in a manner which from almost hopeless bankruptcy, has secured an improved property, and an interest bearing investment.

In politics Mr. Cumberland has always belonged to what is known as the Baldwin school—a sort of 'via-media' between the extreme parties—and to this, probably, is to be attributed the fact that he has heretofore refrained from any active participation in political affairs; yet he is a fluent and popular speaker, and is said to possess and quietly to exercise great political sagacity and considerable influence.

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FERGUSON & GREGORY.

Hamilton, July 1st, 1863.

THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, JULY 25, 1863.

WHAT IS CANADA DOING?

By a recent mail from England information comes that, in reply to a question asked in the House of Commons, the Under Secretary of State for War replied thus:

'The Commissioners sent out last year to inquire into the frontier defences of Canada have made their report, but until the colonial government have taken the matter into consideration, no steps can be adopted for carrying its recommendation into effect.'

The colonial government as there spoken of, includes the Parliament of Canada which is to assemble at Quebec on the 13th of August. We are in a position to make a two-fold announcement.

First. Had the Province done what was expected, and the city of Hamilton in that case given a fair quota of volunteers when asked for in December, 1861, the British Government would have expended imperial funds largely, and guaranteed if necessary, Provincial credit in obtaining funds for defences. A fort costing the Imperial treasury many thousands of pounds sterling would have been by this time built on the brow of the hill near the unfinished line of the Port Dover Railway to the eastward of Hamilton. That fort, and others on the beach and north shore of the bay, would have commanded the defence of the city as approachable by Great Western Railway, or by land or water from the East, the South, or the North. It would have defended the waterworks, which are doomed to destruction and the city to extremest suffering, if assailed by an enemy on the east side.

Second. The British troops now in Canada remain only conditionally. If the Parliament at its meeting three weeks hence, does not undertake to prepare for the defence of the Province, the army is to be withdrawn before the close of navigation in this year 1863.

The blame is erroneously attributed solely to the Cabinet of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald. A narrative of militia affairs would refute that allegation. Let us glance at the facts on behalf of Hamilton.

When seventy-five volunteers from each sedentary battalion of nominally six hundred men, were asked for by the Governor Gen-

eral in the proclamation of December, 1861, the occasion being the panic about the Trent steamer and the demand for the release of Stidell and Mason, by Great Britain, the whole number of volunteers who offered out of six thousand enrolled sedentaries, was thirteen persons. One battalion of six hundred gave three; and two of these were black men. Several of the battalions gave none. The invitation was such a failure that some battalions were not asked for volunteers. Yet when they were asked for at that time by railway officers they were obtained freely—cheerfully.

On the same occasion, the sedentaries enrolled in North Wentworth were assembled to the number of one thousand at Bullock's Corners, near the town of Dundas, seven miles north-west of Hamilton. The Dundas troop of cavalry under Captain Robertson, and Dundas company of artillery under Major Notman, M. P., enlivened the gathering with their presence. Of the thousand sedentaries, three hundred and fifty were men measuring six feet high and upwards. Their Colonel, Dr. Hamilton, delivered a spirited speech, which resulted in nearly twice the number of volunteers requested stepping to the front offering to be enrolled and drilled for permanent service.

What was the cause of difference among people living in the same county? A majority of the sedentaries of rural Wentworth were politically of the complexion of the urban sedentaries who did not volunteer in Hamilton. Moreover, Hamilton had the benefit of the Spectator newspaper to kindle in its people the fires of lofty emulation; to charm with its burning eloquence; to strengthen the loyalty of the city with its fervent patriotism. Yet the men of Hamilton were not warmed, charmed, nor strengthened. The Spectator, assuming to be conservative, loyal and patriotic, drivelled and grovelled. It was the venal organ of a ministry then seven years in office, which rightly or wrongly had been accused of many corrupt practices throughout Canada; and which was not wrongly accused, but rightly and fairly judged of practices subversive of military spirit in the people, everywhere, but especially at Hamilton.

A small force of about 200 men was kept together through the self-sacrificing public spirit and zeal of one gentleman, Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Booker. That was the Active Force, so called, which was exercised in the field a week once a year, and underwent the mockery of being paid for that week at a rate not equal to half the pay of common labourers. It was also drilled several times a week throughout the year, without being paid, except at the cost of Col. Booker and other officers.

But there was another force, voluntarily enrolled and drilled at the cost of its captain, now Major Skinner. At the close of the Crimean War the British government had in store an excess of soldiers' great-coats, and as Canada was then, 1856, remodelling the Militia Forces, and the ministers of the time, (better known subsequently as the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet) were making much political capital out of the project, the Home Government, ever generous, made a present to the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet of the Crimean great coats to cover and make comfortable their new Militia.

In the autumn of 1860, Captain Skinner having organized and clothed in uniform, a company which then and subsequently has cost him somewhat over \$1000; his officers \$200, and some of the men by small contributions, about \$100, applied to be furnished with as many of the Crimean great-coats then lying in store, as would give one to each of the company in the coming winter. After much correspondence the garments were in November, 1860 ordered to be sent. Half of the number reached Hamilton about the end of May, 1861, in time for the warm days of summer.

In October, 1861, Captain Skinner applied to have the complement at first asked for completed, before winter set in. December came, and with it the proclamation of the Governor General, urgently asking for active service volunteers. Half of that volunteer company already enrolled were still in mid-winter without the great coats which they were to have received at the beginning of the previous winter. The half company who had them, were by the official authority of the Minister of Militia, Mr. John A. Macdonald, Attorney General and Premier then filling that office, debarred from wearing the coats except within the

drill rooms when actually at drill. In the fiercely bitter cold they were to leave their homes in ordinary clothing, put the Crimean great coats on while warmly at drill, throw them off, and again go out in the cold in their own daily garb.

About the middle of May, 1862, the balance of the great-coats asked for in 1860, and ordered at twice by the zealous Minister of Militia reached Hamilton, again in time for the warm days in summer. They had been lying in store all the while; had cost Canada nothing. What! cost Canada nothing! Yes, the delay and mockery of the men, who were giving their time to drill without pay, had disgusted themselves and all who knew them and their treatment, at the very name of Militia Volunteers. (See further remarks on page 127.)

PERIODICALS RECEIVED.

From Leonard, Scott & Co., New York, we have American editions of the Edinburgh, North British, Westminster, and Quarterly Review, and Blackwood's Magazine. The four Reviews although bearing provincial or sectional names, are all metropolitan publications issued in London.

The Edinburgh treats of Kinglake's Invasion of the Crimea, a subject of which soldiers and politicians cannot tire. Worsley's translation of the Odyssey, a subject which for two thousand years and some centuries more, has not tired poets, scholars, nor antiquarians, nor common readers. When the writer of this remark was a boy working in the fields he heard of an old copy of an English translation of Homer's Epics which could be purchased for half-a-crown at an old book stall in a city thirty-two miles distant. He started for that city on foot, eager to reach the book stall before the worn volume was sold; traveled all night, bought it, carried it home, and in the field at the resting hours in summer time, read it aloud to the listening, wondering men and women of the farm. True, the gods and goddesses of the Greeks were sad puzzles, but there was sufficient human interest in the tale told, and the poetry of battles to captivate the reader and listeners. The casual name of Homer's Odyssey brings up these pleasant visions of a time gone by.

The Edinburgh also treats of 'Tithe Impropriation'; 'Simanca's Records of the reign of Henry VII.' 'The Black Country'; (the regions of coal mines and iron melting furnaces in Britain) 'India under Lord Canning'; 'The Bible and the Church'; 'Sir Rutherford Alcock's Japan'; Professor Huxley on Man's Place in Nature. Surely that is a fine theme for the philosophic reader; and the 'Greek Revolution.'

The name of Sir Rutherford Alcock brings up strangely interesting recollections in the editorial memory. Though he is in Japan, and we on the Niagara peninsula of Canada, we were once military comrades among the mountains of Northern Spain; he a medical officer, subsequently Inspector of Hospitals; the writer, oscillating from dragoon to drill sergeant in infantry, colour sergeant, sergeant major, leader of 'fighting Highlanders' (or, as correctly, fighting Irish—for half of our 'Highlanders' in Spain were Irish); then carried to hospital wounded, as was thought mortally, to be sewn up and made, the pieces into one man, by Dr. Rutherford Alcock.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW.—This also brings up the memory of old friends. Dr. Bowring and Colonel Perronet Thompson originated that periodical in 1828-29. We knew them both intimately in after years, and joined our literary weapon with theirs. But of late the Westminster has earned a reputation for antagonism to revealed religion under the guise of philosophical inquiry. It professes to be 'liberal,' which is, on religious subjects, as too often in politics, to be narrow-minded, presumptuous, intolerant. We had occasion lately in conversation to refer to what a Bishop of the English Church in Canada had said on a subject purely literary and secular. 'Oh,' said the interlocutor, we do not care to know what a bishop says; we are all liberals in this village!'

The subjects treated in the Westminster are: 'Austrian Constitutionalism'; 'The Reformation Arrested'; 'The Resources of India'; 'The Jews of Western Europe'; 'Lady Morgan'; 'Truth versus Edification'; 'The Antiquity of Man,' and contemporary Literature.'

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW.—This was once remarkable for its unreasoning, obstinate Toryism, the violence of its political and personal antagonisms; yet even then it was the organ of learning, and occasionally of the best current literature. It is now more refined, reasonable, literary and philosophic.

Its articles in the issue before us are: 'Industrial Resources of India'; 'The American War—Fort Sumter to Fredericksburg'; (Not fairly written as a matter of course; and as regards the early future of Canada, one more contribution from the English press leading to the immersion of this Province in all the calamities of war.) 'History of Cyclopedias'; 'The Salmon Question'; 'Biblical Criticism—Colenso and Davidson'; 'Poland'; 'Sensation Novels'; and 'Kinglake's Crimea.'

THE NORTH BRITISH REVIEW.—This periodical began soon after the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843, and was intended to be the organ of the seceding party, known as the Free Church; 'Free' in their case not meaning freedom from pecuniary impost, or freedom of opinion in the individual, but freedom from the intervention of lay patronage on the part of the crown, or of the proprietors of landed estates, in whom was vested the nomination of ministers to parishes.

Lay patronage was in practice a grave mistake in State politics. But the different religious seceders who separating from it repudiated State payments, and endowments seem to have gone into the extremity of another mistake. The 'Free Church' and 'United Presbyterians' of this Province have joined as the 'Canada Presbyterian Church.' We were present at one of their seditious, when lately they met in Synod at Hamilton, and listened to a debate on a case where the congregation had failed to pay their minister according to moral and religious obligation. By repudiating the law of the land, and substituting their own ecclesiastical law, the Canada Presbyterian Church were in this predicament; that they could not recover the stipend for the injured minister by suing defaulters at the Division Court, but could only refuse to the defaulting heads of families, church ordinances. That is, because some father refused to pay, the children were to remain unbaptised, and their mother, if she believed in Christian baptism, to see them growing around her the heirs of perdition; and she and her husband living under the penalties of excommunication, unless they separated from the Church where they had not paid their dues and joined one where that was not an objection. For the credit of the Synod, a majority seemed to dissent from excommunication, and some expressed themselves that the refusal of church ordinances to defaulting members was, 'little better than popery.'

In that same week at Quebec, newspapers told that on the Plains of Abram a female of unhappy reputation gave birth to a child on the open waste. A woman who lived near carried the infant to the place for receiving such for baptism into the Catholic church, leaving the mother to perish, if she might, without help and without compassion, for she was a sinner. The difference between that case and the one debated in Synod at Hamilton, was the measure of difference between the two churches on the power and practice of infant baptism. The man or men in the Presbytery of Stratford, C. W. were to have their children placed in jeopardy of perdition, (had not the better sense of the Synod, or their fear of scaring members of theirs into other churches, prevailed) because of default in paying dues to a Protestant Church. The child of the outcast woman at Quebec was to be christened and so far saved to the Catholic Church, but the woman in her helplessness was left to perish.

The articles in the North British are 'Disintegration of Empires'; 'Danish Literature,—Past and Present.' 'Kinglake's Crimea,' 'Vegetable Epidemics,' 'Hill Tribes in India'; 'Modern Preaching,' M. M. Saisset and Spinoza, and 'British Intervention in foreign struggles.'

All these articles are the product of minds accustomed to the discipline of thought; but we have not yet read them with that careful attention that might excuse a decided opinion on their merits. Any reader who can afford the slightest indulgence in luxuries can afford to purchase those four Reviews. In the course of a year they are a library.

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL MAGAZINE.—While closing this page the prospectus of this projected serial has come to hand. The first number is to be published in September next, if a sufficiency of subscribers be obtained. The name of the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee, M.P.P. as Editor in chief is in itself a tower of strength. Three other Editors are announced, followed by the names of twenty-nine contributors.—We shall refer to this great project again. Any periodical having in view the exaltation of the literary standard of Canada has our earnest sympathy.