

Service but to Civil and Military Engineers; the examples and problems being the best as well as simplest we have ever seen.

The *Westminster Review* for January contains the following articles:—

- Sophocles.
- Parliamentary Eloquence.
- The Decline of the Old French Monarchy.
- Religion as a Subject of National Education.
- The Republicans of the Commonwealth.
- The Christian Evidence Society.
- The Gladstone Administration.
- Contemporary Literature.
- The LEONARD SCOTT Publishing Company, 110, Fulton Street, New York.

The *Science of Health* for March has been received from the Publisher, S. B. Wells, 389, Broadway, New York, it is replete with interesting articles.

The *Illustrated Canadian News* for 22nd February contains—

ILLUSTRATIONS:

- Hon. E. R. Caron, Lieut Governor of Quebec.
- The Snow Lion at Laval University.
- Arrival at Halifax of H. M. S. "Himalaya."
- Hon. Alex Vidal, Senator.
- The Lieut. Governor of Ontario at Belleville.
- Practice of B. Battery, Quebec School of Gunnery.
- The Critics.
- Napoleon III. after death.
- Quebec Sketches, No. 1
- Fashions, &c.
- "Kli va-La?"

ORIGINAL ARTICLES:

- The Schoolmistresses and Governess of Charles Dickens.
- Biography of the Hon. E. R. Caron.
- Biography of the Hon. Alex. Vidal.
- Gossip on Popular Scientific Subjects. No. 4, Waterspouts, Whirlwinds, and Hurricanes.
- Mr. Sprouts, His Opinions.
- Mistresses and Maids; Is Another Conference Necessary.

ORIGINAL POETRY:

- Sonnet.
- Atter Dolorosa.

SELECTIONS:

- Alexander Dundas' "Grand Dictionnaire de Cuisine."—(*Pall Mall Gazette*.)
- Quebec, as Seen by English Eyes.—(*Queen*)
- Curiosities of the Piano Trade.—(*Cincinnati Gazette*.)

Miscellaneous Items.

- Editorial.
- Notes and Queries.
- Notes and Comments.
- Courier des Dames.
- News of the Week.
- The NEW MAGDALEN, Chap. xx. By Wilkie Collins.
- Chess.

The March *Aldine* opens with a very of fective const scene: "After the Storm," by Tavernier. The black and rugged cliffs are in powerful relief against the moonlight-bursting through the broken clouds and reflected from every rippling wave,

"Break, break, break
On thy cold, gray crags, O Sea!"

The "White Birches of the Saranac," the famous ride from "Ghent to Aix," and "The Fox and Grapes," are gems of art. The literature too is more excellent than usual. The most noticeable articles are "Interludes," a sparkling story, by Elizabeth Stoddard, and "Tawny Mustache," a bright social sketch, by Sue Chestnutwood. Charles Dawson Shanly contributes a pleasant paper about "Giants, Real and Mythical;" W. W. Bailey a little study in natural history about "Pussy Willows and Alders;" and Henry Richards a bit of gossip about "Short and Pithy Letters." The editorials, which are in Mr. Stoddard's best vein, are "A Few Thoughts about Water," "The Horse and his Riders," "White Birches of the Saranac," and "Love's List Service." Elizabeth Akers Allen opens the number with a pathetic poem, entitled "Inconstancy;" Edgar Fawcett follows with "Apostacy," a melancholy poem; and John Sydney with an amusing nursery song on "Baby's Toilet." Music, Art, and Literature are intelligently and critically treated. Altogether the March *Aldine* is the best yet issued. Subscription price \$5.00 including Chromos "Village Belle" and "Crossing the Moor." James Sutton & Co., publishers, 55, Maiden Lane, N. Y.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Toronto, 22nd February, 1873.

SIR—In the REVIEW of the 18th inst., you say, "Ottawa can boast of having the best Field Battery of Artillery, the best Brigade of Garrison Artillery, and the best Battalion of Infantry, in Canada;" and you add, "the soldiers serve at their own expense."

My impression on reading the above was, some great change has taken place of late for the better. For on referring to the last report on the state of the Militia of the Dominion, I find quite a different statement about the Artillery, one corps in particular; did not perform its duty as they should have done, they were not complete and they were paid.

I would rejoice to know that Ottawa has now a very efficient force, but I must say you adopt a very injudicious mode to convey the information to the rest of the volunteers,

Would you be kind enough to point out, why you think the force at Ottawa the best in Canada.

And oblige yours truly,

RUFMAN.

If our correspondent wants "hard facts" like Tom Gradgrind, he will find them if he comes here. We are always thankful for small mercies, and therefore accept his rebuke with meekness.—*Ed. Vol. Rev.*

RUSSIA AND KHIVA.

Russia, contrary to the advice of Prince Gortschakoff, is about to inaugurate a campaign against the Khan of Khiva. This khanate occupies an oasis of extremely fertile soil, highly productive and well peopled, owing all its prosperity and its very existence, indeed to irrigation from the river Oxus, which passes through the heart of it. For ages, which go back beyond the dawn of Oriental history, the great stream has performed its annual task of feeding and enriching the dwellers on its banks, a very mixed people of Turanian and Iranian elements, strongly wedded together not by sympathies of race, but by long submission to her edifying government and by fanatical adherence to the tenets of Islam.

The people are born horsemen, wealthy agriculturists, honest, energetic, and brave to desperation. Only thirty years ago they literally destroyed an army of 12,000 men sent against them by the Emperor Nicholas, and Russia has not since had the heart to retiate. But Khiva intrudes herself and intercepts communication between sundry outlying sections of the Czar's Asiatic provinces; and, from its central position, it threatens several surrounding points at the same time. Hence Russia is collecting her gigantic resources to surround and crush her adversary, and her legions are even now marching through the drifts of winter, against the enemy.

In the meantime, England looks upon the movement with jealous eyes, as threatening her allies of Afghanistan. Yet her newspaper organs keep up a show of indifference. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:

"With all this grand preparation we are assured that Russia has nothing so little at heart as the annexation of Khiva. We shall see. Looking at geography only, it would seem almost impossible for Russia to dispense with the acquisition, or at least the control, of the khanate, if she means to retain any hold on Central Asia. The khanate is all but an 'enclave' of Russia already, save on the side of Bokhara, and Bokhara is now a submissive dependency. And as long ago as the reign of Peter the Great, the Khan of Khiva according to the Russian authorities, rendered forever allegiance to his majesty the Czar."

A HAPPY AND INDEPENDENT PARISH.—With a view of providing for the wants of the poor, funds were got up at Ceres, in Fifeshire, amounting to 30l. for the purpose of setting on foot a soup kitchen. Not one was found in a position requiring support therefrom, and in order to get rid of the funds it was agreed to distribute bread among those who would take it; but as in the case of soup, not one individual would take in the leaves, although offered to be delivered by the bakers.