

CONTENTS OF No. II, VOL. IX.

PORTAY:—	
The Song of Steam.....	130
EDITORIAL:—	
Kinglake's History of the Crimean War.....	120
Colonel P. Robertson Ross.....	120
The Swollen Armaments of Continental Europe.....	127
The News of the Week.....	121
SELECTIONS:—	
Mr. Kinglake's Inkerman.....	121
Military Education in Schools.....	129
The Defence of Canada.....	136
The Swollen Armaments of Continental Europe.....	131
The Channel Tunnel.....	132
A Memorable Anniversary.....	132
REVIEWS.....	127
REMITTANCES.....	123
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.....	128



The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1875.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

Lieut. J. B. VINTAGE, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the report of "Proceedings of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association" for 1874, from Lieut.-Colonel MACPHERSON. The details are already familiar to our readers and show the energy with which the affairs of this great National Institution is administered in a striking light. The pamphlet contains the report of the President, Lieut.-Colonel GZOWSKI; the Secretary, Lieut.-Colonel STUART—a "memorandum on the new form of Target used at the meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa in 1874," by Lieut.-Colonel BAUSER—a most comprehensive and interesting report on the "Wimbledon Team," by the Commanding Officer Lieut.-Colonel GILLMOR—the very satisfactory statement of the Treasurer, Lieut.-Colonel MACPHERSON—the rules and regulations governing the Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Volunteer force selected to represent Canada at Wimbledon—an inventory of property belonging to the Association with the rules and by-laws, comprise a very interesting and well got up pamphlet of 51 pages—of which it may truly be said that every man connected with the Association appears to have done his duty.

The London Gentleman's Magazine for January contains an able paper from the pen of H. M. HOSKIN, Esq., on the fighting capacity of the nations of Continental Europe which will be found in another page under the caption of "the coming war in Europe"—in which the power of aggression, in a military point of view, of the European powers is put forth with great calmness and precision—that of England as being the least and most unimportant being the last considered—while it is intimated that her position would be one of neutrality, which would be to our thinking tantamount to unconditional surrender. We have in a recent paper shown that a very decided and prominent part in "the coming war" must be assumed by Great Britain, on the simple principle of self-preservation; because the eventual conquerors in such a strife will not only give the law to Europe, but to the whole civilized world; and it would not be for the interests of mankind that it should be dictated by a military despotism. But the great danger to British supremacy and national independence will not be evaded by a secure defensive attitude as far as the British Isles are concerned—those sacred shores may be secured from invasion, but can by the same series of operations be secured from starvation, which would be quite as effective as a Prussian army of 300,000 men in London. In a recent article we showed that Great Britain especially has depended for her bread stuffs on every country in the world that produced a surplus. Now, since *exceptional* vessels will determine Naval Supremacy, and since such countries as China, Japan, Peru, Mexico, Chili and Brazil have become in the widest sense as Naval powers—that supposing an alliance of the Northern European powers with Austria and Italy, would the British fleet be able to do more than guard the British Coasts, and what would be the consequence it through cupidity, pressure, or any other cause any or all of those smaller powers should be induced to take part against her. In that case, what would her neutrality be worth? On the other hand, if throwing her sword into the scale with France she could reckon on Turkey as an ally, the united fleets would be more than a match for their opponents; and it is here precisely that the imbecility of allowing the Treaty of Paris to be cast aside, at once displays its ugly proportions. Russia in the Black Sea can always compel Turkey to be *en garde* and will neutralize a large proportion of her Naval force; while England will be compelled to largely increase her armaments in all her great lines of Naval communication, and to adopt such measures in connection with the lesser powers as will effectually prevent their interference, and at the same time protect her own commerce. We have purposely left the United States out of the consideration; first, because her Naval strength would hardly count in such a contest if it is

at all imminent; and secondly, because we believe she would be the ally of England if she did take a part therein. It is quite evident that she could not be allowed in such an universal imbroglio to play the roll of *ante* 1812; and it would be manifestly for her interest to follow the lead of her best customer. We do not share Mr. Hoskin's doubt as to the inefficiency of the Navy, owing to faulty principles of construction; there can be no doubt that a great deal has yet to be learned on the subject of sea going armor-clad vessels, and that all construction on the *Monitor* type are altogether faulty in principle for that purpose—but in this case the evil is merely comparative—as nearly all foreign iron-clads are built on the same principle, so that the question of final issue will be one of Strategy and seamanship. Moreover by a very simple process England can improvise an auxiliary fleet which would make it a matter of extreme difficulty if not actual impossibility for any enemy to destroy her commerce, and it simply consists in arming all her Merchant vessels—putting those officers of the Royal Navy who are now idling ashore spending the best part of their lives in miserable inaction on board—introducing discipline and training into the Merchant service—weeding out the miserable foreign element of which its seamen are composed, and by a judicious application of the means at her disposal preparing for contingencies which her great reserves of wealth render imminent at any time.

But how does the idea of "the Committee of continental bankers sitting in captured London," assessing the expenses of conquered England, agree with friend John Bright and his disciples of the peace at any price school? We believe the Rev. Dr. Grim agitator is more lavish of his neighbor's money than his own. The picture, however, is not a pleasant one, and its realization will be secured by following out the *ignus fatuus* of military defence—if ever the enemy can seize or paralyze the lines of Naval communication—capitulation would follow if every individual in the British Isles were under arms to defend their shores. Papers like this are calculated to do great service as they tend to awaken public opinion from the dreams of false security into which it has been led by stupid and fanatical theorists.

In a former article we stated that to make the British Navy formidable in men and material it would be necessary to take in the Mercantile Marine as the natural basis of organization. Our contemporary *Broad Arrow* of 23rd January, in an article on "The Navy and Mercantile Marine," which will be found in another page, shows that the preliminary steps have already been taken, and that under the cover of a Naval Reserve English ship-builders and owners are endeavoring to secure aid from the