

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

STATE OF THE MILITIA

FOR

1877.

HEADQUARTERS,

OTTAWA, 1st January, 1878.

The Honorable

The Minister of Militia and Defence, &c., &c., &c.

SIR,—The longer I reside in Canada the more strongly I become convinced that both as regards material and spirit, and also as regards proficiency in ordinary drill, acquired under disadvantages, the Militia of the Dominion is of great value.

In stating this I am not influenced by any partial or professional proclivity, but by the broad experience of the world's history, which has never failed to prove that military protection is an indispensable, though it may be a costly insurance for the safety and independence of every nation.

Prestige is power—it permits the effects of power without constant recourse to it—it makes people obedient to rule; and if any one thinks that good rule alone will restrain the hands of either foreign or domestic foes, or, unaided, make a nation respected in its sway, he has not advanced far in the study of human nature.

It is our duty, therefore, whether through the sunshine of peace or the darkness and gloom of war, still to advance shoulder to shoulder, helping the weak and cheering on the strong, until we have prepared for those who come after us a safe camping ground on the shores of the great future; then, and not till then, can we take the rest of the weary—confident that so far as in us lies we have done our part to ensure that this land shall remain one and indivisible—till wars and contentions shall cease in all the world.