

force as the Dominion Army undoubtedly is, seems the more excusable when its importance in comparison with similar bodies is made apparent. It has always been understood in this country that Canada boasted a Militia well organised and of considerable numerical strength, but the British public can have scarcely been prepared to find that the colony possessed an Army which on paper at least has such a very imposing appearance. Nor is there any reason to suppose that the Canadian Militia has not a tangible existence. The colony itself is perfectly content to be left to its own self-defence, and this self-confidence is perhaps the most satisfactory assurance it is possible to have of the efficiency of its Militia, for it is a characteristic trait in the British character to underrate rather than overrate the value of existing institutions.

As the current "Army List," however, for the first time supplies us with the details of the Canadian Militia it is rather more with a view to setting forth the materials of which the force is composed than of dealing with the question of its efficiency and utility, that we in this place comment on its existence. Commencing with a commander-in-Chief, "Her Majesty the Queen personally, or by the Governor-General as her representative," duly furnished with a brace of aides-de-camp, there follows a very complete staff, headed by an Adjutant General and an Inspector of Artillery and Stores, and comprising Deputy Adjutant-Generals, District Paymasters, and Brigade Majors. The Army itself seems to have been arranged with a view to being assimilated as nearly as possible to the imperial force. The Cavalry is headed by a troop of the Governor General's Bodyguard, which we may regard as the Life Guards of the colony, and then follows the Cavalry of the Line, consisting of forty-seven troops, some of which are arranged regimentally, but the majority having a separate and independent existence. The somewhat complicated appearance of the Cavalry force in the "Army List," however, suggests that it has been organised rather with a view to practical usefulness than to compliance with red-tape traditions, and such being the case, no fault is to be found with the uneven strength of the various corps. The same system, moreover, would seem to have been adopted with regard to the Artillery. Sixteen batteries of Field Artillery, stationed at various places, head the "List," and the Garrison Artillery is so arranged that whole brigades are quartered in the principal cities, while single batteries are located at the smaller towns. The strength of the Artillery force is not quite in proportion with the rest of the Army, but it would seem that the Canadians are alive to the increasing importance of this arm of the Service, for schools of gunnery are established both at Kingston and Quebec. The Canadian Engineers number but four companies, and as not even these possess the proper number of officers, it would seem that the ordnance corps generally were at present the weak features of the Service. It is, however, in the Infantry and Rifle Regiments that the real military strength of Canada is recognisable. Like our own Army, the Canadian Militia List begins with a regiment of Foot Guards, the headquarters of which are at Ottawa, and then follow the Rifle Battalions, of which there are three, rejoicing in the distinctive titles of "Prince of Wales Regiment," "Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto," and Victoria Volunteer Rifles of Montreal." The total number of Infantry regiments is seventy-eight, none less than five companies strong, while many

corps consist of ten companies. The average strength, however, of the regiments is eight companies, a respectable number for a Militia force. The regiments, moreover, seem not only to possess distinctive titles, but to have preserved traditions of their own. Amongst the former, the most noticeable are "Les Voltigeurs de Quebec" the Argyle Light Infantry, with "Nulli Secundus" for their motto; the "St. Clair Borderers," "The Simcoe Foresters," "The Huntingdon borderers," with "Front River" on their colours; "The Lisgar Rifles" a title suggestively recent, "Les Voltigeurs de Beauharnois," and "The 78th Highlanders." Most of the regiments boast of a motto, and many add to this a "distinctive device." Next in order, to what may be termed the regular Infantry regiments come the "Provisional Battalions of Infantry or rifles," which seem to have been organised after the fashion of our Administrative Volunteer Battalions at home; of these there are twelve, comprising about five outlying companies each, to which are added nearly fifty "Independent companies," located at places too remote to allow of their being attached to a provisional battalion. Lastly, comes the "Grand Trunk Railway Brigade," which is quite a little army by itself, comprising, as it does, Artillery, Engineers, and three substantial battalions of rifles. A "temporary corps," on service in Manitoba, concludes the list of what even, as viewed in the pages of the "Army List," is an interesting and important force.

Although no doubt the organisation of this army by the Canadians is due to the instinct of self preservation aroused by occurrences which have taken place on the border, yet it is impossible not to feel that this country owes much to Canada for, even at this late period, taking on herself what some conscientious statesmen might take it into their heads was the business of this country. It is here that Mr. Cardwell's colonial policy has long since scattered to the winds the principle that England should pay for the protection of her dependencies, and the "Army List" sufficiently shows that even the poorest and most defenceless of our colonies are alive to the fact; but should a hostile force invade one of our dependencies it would be questionable how far the counsels of imperial economy would be allowed to prevail, and Canada is undoubtedly the ground on which the question would be most likely to be put to the test. It behoves us, therefore, to appreciate the public spirit which has, partially at all events, relieved this country of a grave responsibility. In the improbable case of an invasion, we should no doubt send a considerable force across the Atlantic with all speed; but it is something to feel that in the meantime the Canadians would be in a position to hold their own till succour came if, indeed—thanks to their admirably organised Militia—they could not dispense with assistance altogether.

Our former colonists at Boston quarrelled with their bread and butter, and even with their own cup of tea, rather than pay a moderate tax whereby an army and navy for their defence was to be provided. We then had no Cunard steamers, no Atlantic telegraphs, no practicable means, in fact, whereby the Honourable Rip Van Winkle could have taken his seat in St. Stephen's as an evidence of the union of representation and taxation. Our Empire is smaller and larger now, and were it not for the millions of civilised barbarians to govern in the East there would be nothing to prevent the honourable member for Ottawa and the hon-

ourable member for Melbourne embellishing London society, and becoming material for the divinations of Punch's two augurs. As it is, we have, rightly or wrongly, devised another means of developing the military strength of the Empire,—we have gracefully recognised the age and vigour of our big sons, released them from pinafores and apron strings, and proposed them for ballot in the military club of the world. Already New Zealand has proved herself able to cope effectually with all her military difficulties. Already Canada has quietly and firmly pushed back into its native whisky-shops the great and loud-sounding Fenian nation in arms. Our colonies, once our sons but in future our brothers, have acted nobly and wisely. Under a more just and liberal policy that under which the old American colonies *thought* they ought to groan, Canada and our colonies of to-day have been promoted to self-respect and self-dependence. It must be the future policy of England to throw the whole power of the Empire forward to the support of Canada, whenever, under any pretext, her territory is threatened. Meantime, what a satire it is on the narrow-minded modern military nomenclature to speak of Canadian, or in fact any other British Militia, simply as *auxiliaries*.

CANADA.

In spite of reiterated denials, the status of Canada is still an open question. The mere fact that it is discussed, that the ultra loyal politicians have arguments raised by Canadians to answer, proves that the present settlement is not accepted as final. We clip from the *Pall Mall Gazette* of a recent date an extract from a letter written by a correspondent at Toronto, which exactly confirms a view of the matter advanced by us last fall; and we doubt if any Canadian will venture to deny that it is a truthful statement:

"There is always present to the Canadian politician the notion of annexation to the United States, which is regarded with the utmost aversion by the leaders of all parties. But of the people who takes no active part in politics, I must say I do not think their loyalty very strong. The Canadian of English birth is always loyal, but the Canadian born is as often the reverse. Every Canadian I have met who has lived in the United States would like annexation. Among things which cannot be allowed to pass without mention is the conduct of the people of Kingston when the troops were withdrawn. They cried out 'Annexation,' and I have heard an echo of the word in Toronto when the articles of the *London Times* were republished in the *Toronto Globe*. Still the general state of feeling in Canada, I should say, is against annexation."

We reproduce this and other statements to the same effect, not with the hope or the desire to hasten what we cannot help regarding as the inevitable destiny of Canada, but as matter of record. The latest indication of the drift of opinion to the North of us is an able article in the last issue of the *Canadian Monthly*, the leading magazine, and we believe the only magazine of its class in the Dominion, arguing openly in favor of independence. The writer admits the unparalleled generosity of the mother country to Canada; but he also points out that where colonial interests and imperial necessities conflict, the former must give way. This is not complained of but it is nevertheless a strong argument why Great Britain should be relieved of a great care, and why Canada