

## THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

VOLUME IV

1870.

ON account of the liberal patronage extended to the REVIEW since its establishment we have determined to add fresh features of interest to the forthcoming Volume so as to make it every way worthy of the support of the Volunteers of the Dominion.

On account of the great increase of our circulation we have been compelled to adopt the *CASIR IN ADVANCE* principle. Therefore, from and after the 1st of January next the names of all subscribers who do not renew their subscription will be removed from the list. The reason for this will be obvious to our friends, as it will be readily understood that a paper having so extended a circulation must be paid for in advance, it being impossible to employ agents to visit all the points to which it is mailed.

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Full and reliable reports of RIFLE MATCHES, INSPECTIONS, and other matters connected with the Force appear regularly in our Columns. Also original historical reviews of America, and especially Canadian wars.

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Liberal terms will be offered to Adjutants, Instructors, and others who act as agents for us in their several corps. The only authorized agents for the REVIEW at present are

LT.-COL. R. LOVELACE, for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

MR. ROGER HUNTER, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

REMITTANCES should be addressed to DAWSON KERR, Proprietor VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

DAWSON KERR.....PROPRIETOR.

## THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it may reach us in time for publication.

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## The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1870.

OUR Subscribers in Ontario will be called upon by our Agent, LIEUT.-COL. LOVELACE, (Agent for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec,) during the present month, and we will feel obliged by their promptly meeting the demands made on them for subscriptions due this office on account of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

A hue and cry has been raised by many papers in the Dominion against the proposed fortifications. We are sorry to observe this, more especially as the great mass of argument used shows a very limited knowledge of defensive warfare, or of the works necessary in the present age to protect large cities, which are the natural depots of armies, from falling easily into the hands of an enemy. Of course we are well aware that the gigantic improvements made of late years in the science of artillery have modified in a great measure the elaborate system of Vauban, but it would be absurd to suppose that, because great guns have been brought to such perfection, there will be no further need of defensive works. Many arguments bearing upon this subject have been adduced from the present war. The "cooping-up" of large armies has been cited as a triumphant proof of the worthlessness of fortifications, whereas it actually bears out the reverse proposition. The armies of France which were divided and beaten in the field had time to reform and recuperate within the walls of Strasbourg, Metz, &c.,

and had not the whole machinery of the nation been disorganized by treachery and rebellion, it is but reasonable to suppose that these garrisons would have successfully resisted the besiegers. The great lesson, however, which this war has taught us concerning the value of fortifications is that of Sedan. Here was an army greater than that which the first Napoleon led to Waterloo captured in the open field? Could the Emperor have fallen back upon a fortified post his resistance could have been prolonged indefinitely, and, by keeping the larger part of the Prussian force employed, would have enabled the rest of the country to hold the invaders at bay, and possibly turn the whole fortune of the war.

We have not yet learned the nature of the proposed fortifications, or what are the intentions of the Minister of Militia concerning them, but, of this we are convinced, that no plan will be adopted for the defence of such places as Montreal for instance, which will not be fully up to the requirements of the advanced state of modern warfare. We do not suppose that it is intended to build costly stone forts which could be battered to atoms by heavy ordnance. We are rather inclined to believe that entrenched earthworks, constructed on the principles now adopted by the Royal Engineers, will be the system adopted. Such are now a necessity for checking the advance of an enemy upon a city exposed as Montreal. Our contemporaries should bear in mind while dealing with this subject that if ever we are engaged in war it must be in a great measure a defensive one on our side. It is, therefore, of primary importance that we should have fortified positions to fall back upon in case of disaster, and which would also answer as places from whence expeditions could issue and the necessary business of campaigning kept in that order which is imperatively required to insure success.

We will again allude to this subject when we have obtained the data we require and further knowledge of the nature of the works intended.

METZ, after a protracted siege, has at length been compelled to surrender from want of provisions. Bismarck gallantly defended the place, resorting to many stratagems before finally resigning his sword. He had thought, it is said, of allowing his troops to make a desperate attempt to cut their way through the Prussian lines at Gravelotte, but came to the conclusion that the sacrifice would be too great and bloody, and it is possible that his repeated and unsuccessful sorties impressed him with the hopelessness of making an attack *en masse*.

Metz was looked upon by the Prussians as the key to France, and the news of its fall was naturally received throughout Germany with great rejoicing. In Berlin a salute of one hundred guns was fired in honor of the event. The German papers make the de-