

than disgrace the historic walls of old Quebec.

We are sorry for these men, grieved that they should act in a manner which can only bring upon them the contempt of all right-minded people at a time when the very government which they denounce is doing the utmost for that land for which they presume to speak. What sorry champions are these to take up the cause of Irish political regeneration and dare to lift their tiny legs against the prone body of that nationality which they and others like them for centuries have helped to degrade by the worst passions of bigotry and political infidelity. We protest against such people presuming to speak in the name of the Irishmen of Canada, they may represent a small section but every true son of the Island, whatever may be his convictions on other questions, must at heart be in accord with the British government in their earnest and honest endeavours to do justice to Ireland. Therefore is the action of these people in Quebec not only presumptuous and disloyal but ill-timed and mischievous.

This is not the only instance which the Quebec Society has given of the ill feeling which animates them, for a rumour has found its way into the press that the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal and the Hibernian Society of Quebec are sending several hundreds of letters to Cork, Tipperary, Waterford and Kerry, and all through Connaught, warning the people against Mr. J. G. Moylan, who has been sent home to induce emigration to this country, and denouncing him as worse than Corridan or Massey.

This is just like what they would do, and if the report is correct, they are not only a public nuisance but actual enemies to Canada and should be dealt with accordingly.

Our last issue contained a letter from our esteemed correspondent L. C., on the new Militia Bill,—a measure which has occasioned a good deal of discussion, but which we hold has had no fair trial to warrant its condemnation. Very choice articles have appeared in its defence and reprobation, and it would seem that those who denounce it do so without sufficient cause, honest and patriotic as their motives undoubtedly are.

In L. C.'s last letter the question of political influence is again brought up, and can only be answered by stating that no military force is free from its operations. The Prussian Government is guided by a civilian and he disposes of the army patronage for the purposes, real or supposed, of his administration; to such an acute observer as L. C. such an argument must be obvious, or the Executive Government of the country would lose all control of its military force. In a country like Canada where representative Government is carried to as close a proximity to perfection as any human institution

can attain, a military system as arbitrary as the Prussian could not exist compatibly with the liberties of the people.

As L. C. has accused the Militia officers in the House of Commons of tergiversation and neglect of duty, a question which must rest between those gentlemen and their constituents, so by his bet he indirectly charges the Volunteer officers of Ontario of falsifying the records of their various corps, and challenges the honor of the Staff of the force, whose business it is to ascertain the truth of the returns. What means may be employed elsewhere to lead the whole Militia Department into error is unknown, but in this neighborhood full and accurate re-enrollment lists, since tested by actual musters, have been made out.

In writing of the Prussian system L. C. forgets that the REVIEW did not refer to the present administrative organization of the army created under it; but to whom was the initiation of the administrative organization itself due? Since 1815 the military force of Prussia has been re-modelled three or four times, and it will be found that civilians had quite as much if not more to do with it than soldiers, and it is more than probable the present system was the emanation of one mind, and that not a soldier's by any means. It is by no means a necessary qualification of a good General that he should be able to organize a military force from the populations of either Prussia or Canada. There are other considerations besides those of adaptability which do not often enter into a soldier's mind; for instance, such as social condition and the interests of the State.

The first and second volumes of the REVIEW contain a complete analysis of Lieut.-Col. Jervois' Report on the "Defence of Canada," and a careful perusal will satisfy L. C. that "Canada does not need to be an armed nation, as her frontiers are not easily accessible;" a proposition proved by the events of over a dozen campaigns. Canada never has been conquered by direct attack on her frontiers, although that has been tried in every instance by forces and appliances at least quadruple to any that she could put in the field.

We have always advocated the principle of a militia law similar to that now in existence, and in many respects identical with that of Switzerland, where the Militia soldier drills 128 days during his twenty-five years of service.

In answer to L. C.'s inquiry the Volunteer has at least one advantage over the drafted man under the present Militia Law, and that is his right to choose what officers he will serve under, and his right to leave if he is dissatisfied, very important matters indeed to those who value real freedom. The Militia Law does not enable the zealous officer to fill up his ranks from the Reserve under any conditions as it would be placing a dangerous power in the hands of individuals at a

time when its exercise would be injurious. Volunteer officers are perhaps right in assuming that to make corps efficient greater compulsory control of their men and a larger devotion of time to purposes of drill is necessary; the social condition of Canada would suffer neither one or the other and the law has not provided for any such exercise of power, it has nothing of the Prussian system connected with it as that could not flourish in Canada, but it endeavours to inculcate the duty of defending the country or the people in the way best adapted to their social condition, the rest it necessarily leaves to the patriotism of the people who generally are wise enough to follow the most prominent man amongst them.

It would probably be advisable that an enquiry should be made into the grievances alleged to exist as there must undoubtedly be some foundation therefor. How it can be caused by the Militia Law is not easily comprehensible, as no modification of that Act could possibly place in the hands of officers or any other person the right of drafting men at pleasure and calling the force so formed a Volunteer organization. If officers have not sufficient influence to keep up their corps it is better to give place to others at once, and indeed there ought to be a period at which the services of officers should terminate and they should be placed on the retired list for future service. If Canada wants soldiers and is content to take Voluntary service for three years as a means of training the whole population the officers should also be changed to give place to others as in the event of actual warfare a scarcity of officers would be severely felt; in the meantime such grievances as manifest themselves should be redressed and the law amended as required. This course will be no doubt followed; Volunteer officers should wait and ask for what can be given without unnecessarily interfering with the rights of the great mass of the people.

#### REVIEWS, &c.

STEWART'S QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, St. John, N. B. This periodical is fast gaining position as a valuable avenue of thought for the leading literary men of Canada, and from the ability with which it is conducted, and the high standard of its articles we predict for it a brilliant career, and recommend it to all who wish to become acquainted with the best of our Canadian writers. The present number contains many excellent contributions in prose and verse, and we have taken the liberty in this impression of transcribing an exquisite translation of one of the most beautiful lyrics of Lemay, a French Canadian poet of some standing among his own people. There is also a "Ballad of Acadia" of great merit, Historical Sonnets, by Professor Lyall, the "Lark and the Reapers," by the Rev. Jas. Bennett, a pastoral of great sweetness, "Ad Hesperum" a poem of great taste, Canadian Characters, by