

Monday, March 16th. (E. J. Reed, Esq. C. B.)—"Ironclad Navies."

Monday, March 30th. (Nathaniel Barnaby, Esq., Chief Naval Architect, Admiralty.)—"Trials of H.M.S. 'Devastation.'"

As the Lectures and Papers read at the Evening Meetings are prepared by officers and Professional Men, whose time is subject to sudden claims of public or professional duty, the dates above specified are liable to be changed; notice of such change, and of any occasional Lecture or Meeting will be duly advertized.

By order of the Council,  
B. BUNOUSS, Captain, Secretary.

Royal United Service Institution,  
29th Decembris, 1873.

Members have the privilege of introducing Two Friends (Ladies or Gentlemen) either personally or by ticket.

### REVIEWS.

We have to acknowledge the receipt from the Publishers of *The British Trade Journal* and *The European Mail*. The value of the former can be best appreciated by the articles which we have republished from time to time, it ought to be in the hands of every man engaged in Trade, as we know of no journal which contains so much valuable, reliable, and practical information on every subject.

The interesting articles on "The Fisheries of Newfoundland," "The Dartford Gunpowder Works, and British Porcelain," are taken from its pages, they speak for themselves.

*The British Trade Journal* is published by WILLIAM AGNEW, 42 Cannon Street, Parish of St. Mildred, Bread Street, London.

*The European Mail* obtained a world wide reputation and circulation, it is published at the Colonial Buildings, 44½ Cannon Street, London.

The February number of *Wood's Household Magazine* is really a wonder of what can be furnished for one dollar a year; considering the cost and the quality this is the cheapest magazine which comes to our table. Its articles have a chasteness about them which is not always found in periodical literature, which adapts it to fill a place now too largely occupied by cheap publications that are positively injurious to the young, without being exactly immoral.

We have not room to specify the articles which fill the pages before us—but they are many and excellent. The magazine contains three engravings—a pretty house design—also the New York Fashions (illustrated) prepared especially for the *Household* by Mme. Demorest. The publisher announces that hereafter the magazine will *always* be illustrated.

Subscribers may begin with any number. One Dollar a year, or with Chromo Yosemite, \$1.50. Address: *Wood's Household Magazine*, Newburgh, N.Y.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.*

### MITRAILLE.

(Continued from Page. 57)

It is worthy of remark, in connection with Sir Garnet Wolseley's operations on the Gold Coast, that the Government which has, for the last few years, so well produced towards their ultimate result (the reduction of England to a second rate power) the principles of the Manchester School, not very long since disbanded one of the three West India Regiments. It may, I suppose, be presumed, that the corps so reduced might have lent serviceable aid to Sir Garnet in the present war. Fatuous in policy, sordid in action, false in her sympathies, sluggish, supercilious, ignorant and apathetic, I fear too-late waking from her premature imbecility of the once grand old country will be a sad one. By the way I do not believe a more hopeless chimera than that of a Federation of the Empire now occupying the thoughts and pens of some men of otherwise sound mind, ever tantalized the brains of an empiric. Diplomatic imbecility, fear of war, and a spirit of the meanest adulation towards an unscrupulous power, have done all the harm to Canada that it has been in the power of England to do. All the good that it remains in her power to do is to be accomplished by emigration, and that is sore against the will of her governing classes. Federation would do little for us were it accomplished to-morrow.

I suppose we shall not be very long now without new Field Exercise. It is time that some advance towards definite rules for the conduct of the skirmish line, its supports and reserves, should be indicated. Captain Parker's system, as explained in the Vol. Rev. of 23rd December, does not, if I remember rightly the system proposed by Col. Macdonald of Edinburgh, vary much in principle from it. That skirmishers should be re-inforced by their own company seems to me an all important point. At least it is tolerably certain that Canadian soldiers of different corps mixed together in a skirmish "swarm," would scarcely be amenable to the orders of chance officers. I scarcely see why Captain Parker adopts the idea of making the supports twice the strength of the skirmish line, and the reserves only the same strength, (viz., one section skirmishing, two in support, and one in reserve) thereby reversing, as it seems, without due cause, the old established proportions.

The editorial remarks (23rd December) in advocacy of increased stringency of drill are unquestionably correct, but it is to be hoped that when a new Field Exercise is prepared, its compilers will not suffer themselves to be

led away by pet crochets into confounding stringency with complication. There are instances of this tendency in the Field Exercise of 1870, immonso as was its advance in simplicity. I think Colonel Macdonald points out one, the retention of the absurd countermarch by ranks, instead of that by the files. He might have gone further and deprecated the drill, essentially non pivot. It is only a demonstration of the great difficulty of clearing the mind from the cobwebs of old conventionalities. The absurdly demonstrative salute too, is a perfect crochot.

But apart from the abstract question of the undoubted expediency of strict drill, without which it is clear that what has come to be called "appel" cannot be attained, as any one will know who has ever commanded inexperienced skirmishers in even a sham fight—exists the stiff fact that for the Canadian soldier, stringent training, or at least enough of it, is unattainable. This consideration does not present itself to the compilers of a manual for regular troops, with whom, it may be said, time is scarcely an object. There is therefore some temptation to retain formations and manoeuvres of a character more showy than strictly useful or practicable under fire, and it reflects credit on the whole, on those who have constructed the successive Field Exercise; for the last few years, that they have withstood that temptation with considerable success. It is most to be regretted, for our sakes as Canadian soldiers, with whom, in the early stages of training, time, and therefore simplicity of formation, are above all things precious, that anything like a complication in squad drill should be suffered to hold place. I think the English formation of fours to which our military authorities seem wedded, a mistake in this respect. Some very sensible adaptations from the cavalry took place in the Field Exercise, 1870. Why did they not extend the principle to squad drill, and inaugurate the wheel of sections of fours (or threes) instead of the present formation, which is no small bugbear to some recruits? I remember that this was advocated some years since by one of your correspondents. I have seen the work in it among American soldiery, and its superiority is manifest.

I was talking some few months since with a distinguished American General Officer on the subject of drill. His knowledge of foreign systems was extensive, and generally accurate. I had mentioned my preference for the wheel of fours in moving to a flank, as I had that day seen it exemplified by a regiment of National Guard under his inspection. It was a regiment which would have done credit to any nationality. "By the way, said the General, I do not remember precisely the details of your way of 'forming fours,' but I was struck with it some time ago, as very neat, but I thought a little complicated, and I go for