

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 CASH 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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CLUBS of Five and upwards will be supplied at \$1.50 per annum for each copy.

CLUBS of Ten at the same rate, the sender of the names to receive one copy free for the year.

No Volunteer officer can be well posted concerning the condition, movements, and prospects of the Force unless he receives the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

We number amongst our Correspondents and Contributors some of the ablest writers on military subjects in America.

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.

AGENTS.

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.

CONTENTS OF No. 49, VOL. IV.

POETRY.—	Page.
A Bit of a Battle.....	780
LEADERS.—	
The European Crisis.....	776
Editorial Correspondence.....	777
The War.....	778
Editorial Paragraphs.....	778
CORRESPONDENCE.—	
From Montreal—B.....	774
RIFLE MATCHES.—	
At Orillia.....	774
SELECTIONS.—	
The Capitulation of Metz.....	769
Proclamation of Gen. Trochu.....	770
Our Colonial Empire.....	770
Circular of Count Bismarck.....	770
The British Commanders.....	771
The Truth Dawning.....	771
Grant's Aspirations.....	772
Russian Loans.....	772
Daily Life at Versailles.....	772
Address to Governor Archibald.....	773
Great Rebellion in China.....	773
Manitoba.....	774
Another Fenian Sensation.....	775
The Emperor's Apology.....	780
How France was Betrayed by Thieves.....	781
Carlyle on the War.....	781
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.....	775
REMITTANCES.....	779
MISCELLANEOUS AND CANADIAN ITEMS.	



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1870.

Our Subscribers in Ontario will be called upon by our Agent, LT.-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 COMMISSION of seven leading merchants and others has been appointed by Government for the purpose "of obtaining such reliable information as may furnish data on which to base a plan for the improvement of the canal system of the Dominion," in a commercial and engineering point of view. It is not probably too late to offer a suggestion, that the military element may find a place in this enquiry. While there can be no doubt whatever of the soundness of the principle which puts the commercial interests of the country in the first rank, common prudence would suggest that the means for maintaining and defending those interests it need be should also obtain a prominent place in this connection.

Our canals serve the double purpose of commercial communication and military defence, and therefore care should be taken that both advantages be secured simultaneously. We cannot tell what a day may bring forth. We have no assurance that we are to live forever in a state of Arcadian innocence and simplicity, and it will be no comfort to say that such a canal was a

good commercial investment, when it is closed as an artery of communication by the enemy's cannon, the defence of the country paralyzed, and the whole profits of its commerce and accumulated capital for years swept away in a few days because, forsooth, we were too *practical* to look forward to a contingency which is occurring around us every day.

It should also be remembered that Canada has acquired that portion of British America which lies between her northwestern frontier and the Pacific. That while railways will in part accomplish communication speedily and satisfactorily to a certain extent, yet they cannot develop the agricultural wealth of this vast region to anything like the extent the improvement of the natural water courses would do. As means of defence railways are all but useless, while no better or more effective fortification can cover a frontier than a line of canals or navigable waters. Of this the Rideau Canal is a notable example—as a commercial work it has paid nothing directly, simply because its capabilities were not developed, but as a line of military communication, and as a barrier to the advance of an invading force it is without a rival in America. Its value as an agent in settling the country between the Ottawa and Lake Ontario fully repays any outlay thereon. We think this subject worthy of serious consideration.

The readers of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW will find in another column the proceedings of the court martial on the surviving officers and seamen of the *Captain*. The writer, during a recent visit to Fort Garry, received from Lieut. Dennison the following extract from a letter which he received from his brother, a midshipman on board the *Minotaur*. It is peculiarly valuable because it was written before the court martial justified the facts detailed therein, and also because it is from the pen of the descendent of a race of soldiers—men who have distinguished themselves in Canadian military history, and the writer, evidently a young officer of great promise, bids fair to emulate their fame:—

OFF VIGO, 11th Sept., 1870.

..... We have been laying off Cape Finisterre for the last five or six days. On the 5th of the month, at about 11:50 p.m., as Admiral Milne was walking in his stern gallery, he saw the ship *Captain* close under his stern, so he made a signal to her to keep station, as she was a little out of her place. So soon as she got into her proper station again a heavy squall struck the fleet; I think every ship in the fleet had her sails torn to pieces. Every sail we had set, I know, was torn to ribbons, as the midshipmen of the middle watch were three hours in the tops getting the sails furled, and I had an hour in the fore-top getting them shifted in the morning watch, but it was calmer then though the wind was pretty stiff, our main brace was carried away and the yard swung round from side to side several times.

In the morning, of course the ships were scattered but nothing was to be seen or the *Captain*, so we went in different direc-