

mere skeleton of its former greatness, and that its best material in both officers and men, has departed from its active ranks, through disgust of the shabby manner in which they were treated. It is very unfortunate that the administration of the Militia has of late been such as to alienate the Volunteers from the Government, and thus place the best portion of every community in an attitude of hostility towards those who politically manage the military affairs of the Dominion. Sir George E. Cartier, we believe, earnestly desires to place the militia of Canada on the best possible footing, but it is a great pity he has not more closely studied the temper and feelings of the people, especially that class so well represented by the Volunteers. It matters little how able and laborious the Adjutant-General and his staff may be if their best efforts are thwarted by crochety civilians with little knowledge and no experience. The Volunteers of Canada deserve some acknowledgement at the hands of the Government, and in no way could that acknowledgement be better made than by giving them free grants of land from the almost illimitable tracts which have lately come into our possession.

Here now the Government has an opportunity of performing a stroke of policy which must result in benefits the most enduring to Canadian interests in North America.

Volunteers as a class are the most intelligent, active and hardy of the population of Canada. No better material could be found for settlers. The country battalions especially are composed of men who would be invaluable in a new country. It is almost needless for us to enter upon a detail of the benefits that would arise from the scheme. The grand effect, however, would be twofold. In the first place it would immediately fill up the ranks of the Volunteer Force with men who are attached strongly to British institutions, and who would gladly give a portion of their time for sake of the prospective advantages held out in the certainty of establishing a home at the end of a given period. The next great good that would arise from a distribution of lands to the Volunteers would be that the country would secure in them the very best men for opening up a new country. They would be sufficient in themselves to leaven the heterogeneous mass that will doubtless settle in the North West, attracted thither by the immense field which it will open to enterprise and labour.

If this idea be properly carried out we would immediately obtain an accession of strength that would make the Volunteer army of Canada a most formidable and reliable force, and at once set at rest those feelings of anger and disappointment with which the Volunteers of Western Canada regard the late action of the Militia authorities. The Government has gone to considerable expense in providing emigrant

agencies in the various countries of Europe for the purpose of securing settlers for our vast unoccupied lands. It would be equally well—indeed a great deal better—if attention were bestowed upon those classes in Canada who are in reality of far more value as emigrants to the new fields of the west.

We hope the honorable gentleman who has taken the matter in hand will succeed in impressing the administration with the importance and eminent practicability of the scheme, which would ultimately confer the most lasting benefits on all portions of the Dominion.

COLONEL WOLSELEY, late Deputy Quarter-master General in Canada, has written a book entitled "The Soldiers Pocket book for Field Service," which contains many shrewd and truthful passages well worthy the attention of our volunteers. The author strikes at many things in the British military system which have long been canvassed by the press and writers upon military subjects. His long experience in the army and his intimate knowledge of the workings of its various grades give his opinions great weight, and we cannot better display the character of the work than by giving a few extracts from a review of it by an English paper.

"Colonel Wolseley has achieved the difficult and rarely-accomplished task which he proposed to himself—the production of a practical and portable book, including, in this instance, 'all the ordinary duties which can fall to the lot of soldiers when in the presence of an enemy.'" Wolseley incidentally, from a sentence in the brief preface, that "some few years ago, when Sir R. Airey was Quarter-master General of the Army, he proposed to have a practical hand-book for the staff, compiled by experienced officers of his department, and published for the use of the army. A little money was required for the purpose, which the War Office, from economical motives, would not allow." Is not this exquisite, though we are certain it is unintentional, irony? Only imagine the Quarter-master-General of the British Forces being convinced of the sore "lack of knowledge" among staff officers, whereby both they and the soldiers "perished" (*teste* Balaclava, &c., &c.), and proposing to remedy this crass ignorance or forgetful unreadiness by a pocket counsellor; a silent, portable, inexpensive, and perfectly reliable "guide, philosopher, and friend," and then, as "a little money" would be required for paper and print (which about a shilling a copy would reimburse), "the scheme failed." That is, fifty pounds worth of books would have outweighed the estimates, and brought the stigma of unwarrantable extravagance on the unimpeachable expenditure of nine millions of pounds sterling so carefully laid out on our gallant army. We are glad that the officials did not bring out their book, because we are to be, as a consequence of their "cheese-paring" in this matter, Colonel Wolseley "resolved to bring out a work of this description on his own responsibility and admirably has that responsibility been discharged. To give any adequate idea of the multifarious contents of the book we must reprint the closely packed table of contents. A few of the subjects in Part I. are: Advice to Young Officers on their bearing

towards their Men, Military Spirit, Volunteering, What all Officers should carry in their Heads, Duties of staff Officers in Actions, The Commissariat, Magazines, Rations, Money, Camp Equipment, Hospitals, Stores, Police, and Court-martial. On all and each of these does our author give sound and practical advice and clear instruction. We propose to take a few snatches from the first subject, "Advice to Officers," as a sample of the Military Mentor who herein advises his junior comrades:—

#### HOW TO FOSTER MILITARY SPIRIT.

Spare no pains to create and foster the growth of military spirit, by impressing upon all ranks the importance of their duties. Whatever may be the reason of it, it is nevertheless a fact that up to the present time we have never had an English commander who succeeded in calling forth any great enthusiasm for himself or the cause in hand. We are too prone to fall down before the old Duke, and think that everything he did was right, and that his method with soldiers was the best. Without wishing for a moment to depreciate either the general or his services, let anyone read the history of his wars, and what he accomplished, and then picture to himself what the Duke might have done if his soldiers had had for him the feelings that the French had for their Emperor. Napoleon was above all a student of character and of the passions and feelings that influence men's conduct. By means of spirit-stirring proclamations, by appeals to their love of glory and all those points upon which he knew Frenchmen to be susceptible, he was able to extract from his soldiers everything that they were capable of. It is not true that Englishmen are utterly devoid of such high sentiments, but it is only special nourishment and treatment that will develop feelings so long ignored. Let any general arise who knows how to do so, and a new era of victory will be arrived at in British history. Let officers of all ranks ponder on this subject, and in their own sphere, no matter how humble that may be, let them endeavour to call out the finer and better qualities of those serving under them. No man can respond with greater alacrity than the British soldier will when an officer who understands him makes an appeal to his honour, his love of country, his loyalty and to all those subtle but powerful influences, which alone can convert mobs into armies. "The greatest talent of a general," says Plutarch, "is to secure obedience through the affection he inspires." In fact if you want to win battles, make yourself loved by those who serve under you.

The following sensible remarks run also largely counter to the system and tendency of a late princely theorist who practised upon the equipments and dress of the British army. Its reasoning and spirit will commend itself to the thoughtful reader:—

"There has been a tendency of late to make all regiments alike in their outward appearance, and to consider them so in their feelings. Machines into which the individual talents and disposition of men enter so largely, as into those called regiments, are never calculated to keep time alike as watches do. The idiosyncrasies of commanding officers, historical traditions, and established customs affect the character of regiments more than might be imagined by those who draw their idea of our service from H. M. Regulations. The endeavour to assimilate them has not been happy. Like democracy, it has had a tendency to pull down the best to a level with the worst instead of raising the latter. *Espirit de corps* is made up of trifle; a rose by any other