



The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our sword we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1875.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

LIEUT. J. R. VENTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS, of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

Owing to the frequent removal of subscribers from one place to another as well as the difficulty experienced in collecting from those living in remote parts of the Dominion, and some leaving the country altogether, we are forced to adopt the pay-in-advance system. We, therefore, call on all who wish to have the paper continued to them to send in their subscriptions without delay—as this rule will be strictly adhered to in the future. Subscribers in arrears will have their accounts made out and forwarded to them, and if not paid within a reasonable time, will be placed in the hands of an Attorney for collection.

It is again our pleasant duty to greet our patrons at the opening of a New Year and to wish many happy returns of a period which has been marked with such happiness and prosperity to her Majesty's loyal subjects of British North America. The events marking the past year, in a military point of view, have not been characterised by such striking incidents as distinguished preceding periods, but on the whole the condition of the Canadian Army warrants the belief that its development will eventually be effected in accordance with the intention of that wise, just, and vigorous Legislative action which called it into existence. Experience has taught us that the worst of all evils to which a military force can be subjected is that of incessant legislative interference, and it must afford every true lover of his country intense satisfaction to know that in this respect Canada furnishes a marked contrast to all other constitutionally governed countries.

Several changes have taken place in the command and administration of the force during the past year, all tending to its advantage. A distinguished British General has accepted the Command-in-Chief, thus evincing his faith in the soundness of the

principles on which it is organised, and we trust that under his fostering care its full development will be effected.

The distinguished civilian who filled the onerous and important position of Deputy Minister of Militia has retired to enjoy well earned leisure, his place has been fitly and appropriately filled by a trained Canadian soldier, to the contentment of every man in the force. Another distinguished Canadian soldier, has succeeded to the command as Deputy Adjutant General of the Fourth Military District; and a most successful expedition in the North West has been brought to a close by the late inspector of artillery and warlike stores in Ontario, Lieut. Colonel FRENCH.

In literary efforts Lieutenant Colonel STRANGE, commanding B Battery of Artillery at Quebec, has furnished a most valuable and intellectual treat in his "Artillery Retrospect," a synopsis of which has appeared in the columns of the REVIEW. And now, while chronicling the achievements of the force of which the VOLUNTEER REVIEW is honored in being the literary representative, we have in the first number of our Ninth Volume to say a word for ourselves, disclaiming any attempt at egotism.

Most of our readers are aware under what difficulties the VOLUNTEER REVIEW made its first appearance in 1867, one or two able attempts had been previously made to start a Military Journal in Canada—but although sustained by most powerful literary talent they proved failures—the events of the year 1866, with its Fenian raids and the proved necessity of organizing a respectable military force, rendered it necessary that a reliable organ of that force should exist—whose role should be that of dealing with its purely military needs eschewing all political matters or anything tending to weaken the bonds of discipline—the writer of this article was the author of the first article in the first number of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and he appeals to his brother officers as well as the force generally as to how that programme has been carried out. Whether it has been a literary success is not for its Editor to say, but there is no difficulty in assuring its patrons that it is anything but a commercial success.

In this department of the Volunteer force there is and has been as in all others where individuals discharge faithfully the obligations they owe their country, a much greater amount of abnegation and self denial than the outside world will credit, but the answer of a quiet conscience is as necessary to the soldier as the theologian or the Statesman.

Embarked in a cause which has for its object the upholding of authority and the preservation of the authority of the laws, we look to the justice of the State to aid our efforts to strengthen the hands of authority and to disseminate that knowledge without which any army, no matter how well organ-

ised, must be a mere mechanical engine incapable of self action.

To the officers of the Canadian Army we look for those literary efforts in the cause of scientific knowledge which alone will prove its presence, and we invite their communications on matters tending to the benefit of the force or the advancement of its interests.

The year just closed has been marked, in an unprecedented degree, by the most frightful casualties that has ever fallen to the lot of a journalist to record. What with earthquakes, tremendous tornadoes, and fearfully destructive fires, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives, and the destruction of billions of property, both by sea and by land, no previous year's record can compare with it. And one of the most harrowing, and the last that has reached us, is the account of the burning of the British ship *Cospatrick*, which sailed from London for Auckland, New Zealand, on September 14th and was destroyed by fire on November 19th off the Cape of Good Hope, an account of which we copy from the New York Sun and and is as follows:—

"A telegram from Madeira says that the British ship *Cospatrick* which has been burned at sea, was bound from London for Auckland, New Zealand. She sailed from London on September 14, and was spoken on October 28 in latitude 11° south, longitude 34° west. She took fire during the voyage, and was totally destroyed on Thursday, November 19. The vessel was then in latitude 37° south, and longitude 12° east, off the Cape of Good Hope. The British ship *Scythre* picked up one of the boats of the *Cospatrick*. It contained three survivors of the wreck. These were the second mate, Henry McDonald, and two sailors. They had been ten days drifting about in the boat. A greater part of this time they sustained life by drinking the blood and eating the flesh from the bodies of their companions who died in the boat. The remainder of the crew of the *Cospatrick* four cabin passengers and 424 steerage passengers, who had emigrated under the general regulations for Australia, are supposed to have been lost. The Government emigrants were for the most part agricultural laborers, who left England in consequence of the recent labor strikes. Many of them were married, and were accompanied by their families."

The following further additional particulars we clip from the N. Y. Herald of the 29th ult. :—

"She took fire and was totally destroyed on Thursday, the 19th of November. Her crew and passengers numbered 500 souls. Of the passengers lost there are four cabin 424 steerage, who had emigrated under the Government regulations for Australia. The Government emigrants were for the most part agricultural laborers, who left England in consequence of the operation of the recent labor strikes. The *Cospatrick* had been employed for many years past in the carrying of British troops to India. The last voyage she made previous to the fatal trip was when carrying coolies from Calcutta to Demerara. She was frigate built, in the fashion of all the teak ships built by the East India Company, and was valued at £60,000."