

S. M. FETTINGILL & Co., 37 Park Row,
New York,
GEO. P. ROWELL & Co., 40 Park Row, New
York,
Are our only Advertising Agents in that City



The Volunteer Review, AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1871.

In another column will be found a letter which appeared in the *Broad Arrow* of 2nd inst., and which is copied because it affords a fair exemplification of the knowledge of Canadian affairs possessed as a general rule by barrack yard officers of the Imperial army who have been "through an experience of thirteen years public life in Canada with ample opportunity for forming an opinion;" the writer's estimation of Mr. Gladstone's honor and honesty is not of a high order, and from that view of the character of the accidental leader of the English people very few people in British North America will dissent. That the withdrawal of the troops was a political blunder and, therefore, a crime of the first magnitude, is beyond the shadow of a doubt, and the reason given by the Foreign Secretary "that the retention of a garrison in Canada was a source of irritation to the Government of the United States" was as true as it was shameful to the manhood of the British people. But we utterly repudiate the consequences which the *Broad Arrow* correspondent alleges to have followed. We have not lost a farthing or a farthing's worth in financial or commercial matters, nor has one immigrant the less sought our shores because some five or six thousand British troops were withdrawn by Whig treachery to swell the proper population at home; on the contrary, at no period of its history has the commercial and financial condition of British America been in so prosperous a state, and as far as regards security we have 45,000 soldiers as well prepared to defend this country and far more effective for that purpose than any troops Great Britain could send us, and the United States repressed the last attempt at Fenian invasion, not because she was afraid of Great Britain, but because the Canadian people gave her to understand very distinctly on the conclusion of the raid in 1870 that in future they would pursue those ruffians if it were to New York, and if the Yankees could not control their vagabonds the people of British North America would not be restrained from doing so by a boundary line. What the *Broad Arrow's* correspondent calls "the force of a

Canadian Militia minus 'regulars,' is in reality a better organized and more easily concentrated force than any Great Britain possesses; it is not as *au fait* at barrack-yard manoeuvres, but it has just as much discipline as the country in which it is to operate requires, and we would call his attention to the fact that the actual fighting for defending this country was done by its Militia, neither as well drilled or organized as the present force, and in every case of disaster it was sure to be brought about by the ignorance or incapacity of a regular officer.

If this *Public Servant* "at home," whom we presume he has ample leisure, will turn over Christie's History of the War of 1812-15, he will find some strange revelations about the means by which British North America was preserved to the Empire, and learn therefrom not to underrate a military force because every man therein has not spent half a life time learning the goose step or at setting-up drill. We wished to have the "regulars" amongst us because they were the visible exponents of British sovereignty and a practical illustration of the fact that Canada was a British Province. The shameful deed of lowering "the flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," has fallen to British hands, no Canadian would participate therein, they kept it flying at Quebec when Yankee rebels aided by British Whig traitors, tried by force and fraud to humiliate it, and they will still keep it there despite both. The United States know that the "happiest results" they can expect from us will be what they have frequently had before—a good licking—if they dare to meddle in any of our affairs and we care as little about them as we do about their allies the English Whig Radicals. For the rest we can assure the correspondent of the *Broad Arrow* that we are perfectly well able to take care of ourselves, we will give the Yankees all they can take which is precious little; our people will hold on to Old England till Gladstone and Co. elevates Dilke, Odger or Bradlaugh to be President or Lord Protector of the Commonwealth, with Cardwell for Commander-in-Chief, and then we will try whether among the descendants of the good Queen Victoria we cannot find one to whom we can offer the diadem of the Empire of Nova Britannica.

THE *St John Globe* of the 9th December, has a long article on the late 62nd Battalion which we think to be in very bad taste, inasmuch as it contains a direct attack on the Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian army, with the view of excusing a breach of military discipline on the part of one at least of the officers of that Battalion. It is very unfortunate that any portion of the press of British North America should endeavour to drag military affairs into the political arena, and to allow their columns to be used for private and selfish purposes. No officer has

a right to appeal to the people till he has tried every legitimate means of redress from the proper authorities; in this case no excuse could exist for positive disobedience of orders, neither ignorance nor inadvertence will avail because it was extensively published and well known for months previous that the 62nd would be required to put in their annual period of training in camp. The fault that the regiment disobeyed orders rests entirely with its field officers, and it would be a waste of time as well as nonsensical to grant a Court of Inquiry to prove what was a self-evident fact, that they had been guilty of a gross breach of discipline. Field officers should remember that their promotion does not release them from the responsibility of keeping up the strength of their commands but rather adds thereto. In what manner the Staff of the Battalion would attempt to clear themselves or make this matter appear in a different light before a Court of Inquiry, we are at a loss to imagine; there is only one way of punishing disobedience of orders, and that alone was resorted to, and if the *Globe* is anxious to know from whom the Adjutant-General made enquiry it was, as a matter of course, from the Deputy Adjutant-General and Brigade Major of the District; the officers guilty of the breach of discipline were no proper parties to consult in the case, they were in the position of men condemned for the greatest of military crimes and their evidence in their own case did not avail. We are sorry to see a journal of the character of the *Globe* indulge in such nonsense as insinuating that a military force could be kept together by unpaid officers; why the very case before the country shows that even with a reasonable allowance made to officers on duty, men will be found who will not comply with the lawful commands of their superiors, and if thoroughly independent, if their service was that of holiday soldiers, of what use would they be to the country? The interest of that country demands that an efficient military force should be maintained for the protection of its people and their commerce, that such force should be drawn from the mass of the people without interfering in any appreciable degree with their industrial pursuits and as a necessary corollary that it should be under complete military discipline, allowing of no appeal to irresponsible tribunals nor in no way under the control of any political party. We need hardly point out to the *Globe* what a dangerous engine of oppression an armed force in the hands of unscrupulous partisans would be, nor how very dangerous it is to meddle with discipline or military jurisdiction; no man can be aggrieved in our military organization because he can leave the force at any time, the service being purely voluntary, and, therefore, the greater necessity is laid on the press of the country to evince its patriotism by strengthening the bonds of discipline instead of abetting those who have set it at defiance. Every man in