

## AN AUSTRIAN VIEW OF THE DEFENCE OF ENGLAND.

(From Macmillan's Magazine.)

BY BARON VON SCHOLL, MAJOR GENERAL, AUSTRIAN ARMY. EDITED BY LIEUT. COL. O. C. CHESNEY, R. E.

Since the death of Sir John Burgoyne, there is perhaps no one living who has made that special branch of strategy which deals with the value of fortifications so completely his own as the writer of this memoir. His Excellency General Baron Scholl is well known as lately occupying the post of Minister for National Defence in the Austrian Cabinet, an office which may be said to have been created for the time in order to give the reviving Empire of the Hapsburgs the special benefit of his counsels under new military conditions. He had previously held a post equivalent to our Inspector-Generalship of Fortifications; and his services had been specially called on for the necessary defence of the great Quadrilateral fortresses in 1859 and 1866. The very strength of their works, and the defensive strategy adopted by the Austrians, combined to prevent their engineers from being called on for more than preparation. But Baron Scholl is far more than an engineer. No scientific part of the military profession has escaped his grasp; whilst his study of military exigencies in other countries than Austria is so close that it is the Editor's belief, the result of personal conversation on the subject, that it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to find any Frenchman at this moment so thoroughly conversant with the past and future of the defences of Paris (for example) as this distinguished foreigner. It cannot be a matter of indifference to the public to see his thoughts on our own defences frankly given us, and they are the more important as his views differ widely from those of the highest authority we possess.

The Editor of *Macmillan* having kindly offered this memoir, as of national interest, the benefit of its wide circulation it is necessary to say that its late appearance, considered as a review of Colonel Jervois' Royal Institution Lecture on "The Defences of England," delivered last year, is explained by the latter's having only fallen, in a complete form, into Baron Scholl's hands this spring, when visiting England after a close professional inspection of the works of Paris and by the delay of translation—for it was in English dress that it came over. The duty of compressing it has fallen to me in order to bring the paper within magazine limits; but I have striven to do this without treading on the author's ground, or depriving the reader of the benefit of any of his opinions on important questions. It is enough to add that the subject which Baron Scholl treats with such startling knowledge is doubtless studied on the Continent elsewhere than Vienna.—C. C. CHESNEY.

Colonel Jervois' pamphlet\* was put into my hands during my last visit to England, with the request that I would give my opinion frankly upon the whole subject, and especially upon the fortifying of London.

The circumstance of my not being an Englishman may arouse suspicion in the reader, that I may not care to write what I really think, or that the proposals I may make would be contrary to the public inter-

ests of the country. May I be allowed as far as possible to clear myself beforehand from suspicion of this kind?

As an Austrian, I belong to a country which has never yet been at war with England, but, on the contrary, has often been its ally, and it is hoped may be so again. That Austria is the natural ally of England has indeed become almost a proverb; and when I had the honour, in the year 1851, of being presented to the Duke of Wellington, he said, "It is always a pleasure to me to see one of our old allies." I have also been personally connected with England, through a series of years, by ties of friendship and relationship, which my recent visit has served to strengthen. And if a man's word has any weight with the reader, will he accept mine, that I shall endeavour to treat this subject as though I were myself none other than a loyal Englishman?

Colonel Jervois' pamphlet appears to me divisible into two parts. For, while the first eight chapters treat of the general conditions affecting the defence of the mother-country its coasts, its colonies, and its commerce, the rest are exclusively directed to the necessity of the fortification of London. And it would seem to me as though this were in the main the object the writer had in view.

I not only agree with Colonel Jervois in all that he advances in his first eight chapters, but would also add to his arguments the following:—

## I. AS TO GIBRALTAR.

In an article which appeared in 1869 in the publications of the Austrian Engineer Committee, I endeavoured to set forth the great importance of Gibraltar to England. The Straits, indeed, are not actually so narrow at that point that they could be closed by means of heavy guns planted on Europa Point; yet the bay of Algeiras, adjoining on the west, affords good shelter for a fleet ready to attack in flank any enemy who should venture to pass the Straits. By this means, England, in the event of war, at once cuts in two the navies of all such Powers as possess fleets on both sides of the Continent, as is the case with Spain, France, and Russia; she may at her will confine the navies of the Mediterranean (as the Italian and Austrian) to that sea, and prevent all others from entering its water.

Besides this, Gibraltar forms a station for coaling on the all-important road to India through Egypt; and Nature herself has already so fortified it that it has become a proverb to say of any other very strong place, "It is a second Gibraltar." I agree therefore, in strongly combating the opinion of those who talk of giving up Gibraltar.

In view of the interests of England I would not even hear a word in favour of taking Ceuta in exchange for Gibraltar, for Spain could not reimburse the expenditure which has been made upon Gibraltar; and besides, the Bay of Ceuta is unfavourably situated with regard to the Straits compared to that of Algeiras, and is more exposed to the weather. Ceuta could never be made by any art so strong as Gibraltar; and finally the glorious memories which attach to the Rock would be wanting to inspire the garrison in case of an attack.

It is undoubtedly true that the Spaniards could incommode ships lying in the Bay of Gibraltar, and could even cannonade the harbor. But for this there are two remedies—either let England acquire the Spanish

territory about the Bay of Algeiras and fortify it; or let England keep good friends with Spain, which is all the easier, because Spain is at present much interested in cultivating the support of England.

(To be continued.)

**BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.**—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 1lb., 1/2lb., and 1/4lb tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, England



TO CONTRACTORS.

## INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

THE Commissioners appointed for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, give Public Notice, that they are prepared to receive Tenders for the erection of Passenger and Refreshment Building, Freight Building, and Engine House, at Campbellton, N.B., and for Passenger and Refreshment Building, at New Castle, N.B. Plans, Specifications, and forms of Tender may be seen at the Office of the Chief Engineer, Ottawa, and the Engineers' offices at Rimouski, Dalhousie, New Castle and Moncton.

Tenders may be for the whole, or any less number of the buildings, and will be received marked "Tenders for Buildings," at the Commissioners' office, Ottawa, up to 12 o'clock noon, on FRIDAY, the 31st January, 1873.

A. WALSH,  
ED. B. CHANDLER,  
C. J. BRYDGES,  
A. W. McLELLAN,  
Commissioners.

Commissioners' Office,  
Ottawa, Dec. 4th, 1872.

51-1111



## WELLAND CANAL ENLARGEMENT.

## Notice to Contractors.

CONTRACTORS are hereby informed, that the Plans, Specifications, &c., of the nine Locks, Weirs, and other works, on the new portion of the Welland Canal, between Thorold and Port Dalhousie, will not be ready for inspection before FRIDAY, the 20th instant.

By order,

F. BRAUN,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works,  
Ottawa, 7th Dec., 1872.

51-1111

\* "The Defensive Policy of Great Britain considered in a lecture delivered at the Royal Institution on May 14th, 1871." By Colonel W. F. Drummond Jervois, R. E., C. B., Secretary of the Committee on Defences, and Deputy-Director of Fortifications. London: 1871.