

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

VOLUME IV.

1870.

(N 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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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 may reach us in time for publication.

CONTENTS OF No. 10, VOL. IV.

POETRY.—	Page.
Canada's Battle Cry.....	232
THE REVOLT OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN COLONIES—Chapter 48.....	211
THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.—No. 7.....	232
LEADERS.—	
Route to Red River.....	218
Indignation.....	219
The Bombay and Orissa.....	219
New York Press on Red River Murder.....	230
Pontians.....	230
Red River Refugees and Delegates.....	230
Volunteers to the Front.....	231
Volunteers on Active Service.....	231
Fire at Parliament Buildings.....	231
Suspension of Habeas Corpus Act.....	231
Militia—Military Titles.....	231
Indignation Meeting at Ottawa.....	231
Reviews.....	231
CORRESPONDENCE.—	
R. Lovelace.....	218
The Attack in Column.....	216
ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.....	231
RIFLE MATCHES.—	
At Picton.....	217
SELECTIONS.—	
The Two Routes.....	212
The Army Estimates and New Zealand.....	213
Another Old Landmark Gone.....	213
Military Hints.....	213
The Proposed Darien Canal.....	211
The Indians of Canada.....	211
A Veteran Gone.....	215
The Estimation for 1871.....	216
Ready and Willing.....	216
Making Short Work.....	217
Eight Battalion.....	231
The Shirt Tree.....	231
The Origin of God Save the Queen.....	233
Lord Thesiger as a Midshipman.....	233
Chalmant for the Peerage.....	233
TELEGRAPH NEWS.....	231
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.....	231
REMITTANCES.....	231
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, APRIL 25, 1870.

THE Fenian raid has almost become a household word in Canada, as describing something unreal, indefinite, and intangible. Except for the assertions of Sir J. A. Macdonald and the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, the existence of even that most meaningless of all things a threat of invasion would not be believed in. But the call to arms shows that the Government have good grounds for being assured of the existence of real danger; and as that has been met for so far with promptitude it is quite possible the alarm may pass away as others have done. To prevent a recurrence of this unprofitable state of affairs it will be necessary to compel our neighbors to observe towards us the obligations of international law, and at the same time increase our Volunteer force on the frontiers, so that the cost of transporting troops from a distance might be avoided.

The tactics in vogue amongst the Fenians are simply those of taking advantage of some unguarded point to slip in, plunder and be

away before they could be brought within striking distance. If every man on the frontier was armed and compelled to learn the use of his weapons, the banditti would think twice before they would put themselves into what would be a hornet's nest. The attack of a single house would rouse the whole neighborhood, and that such resistance would answer all purposes is evident from the fact that in no case could those fellows pretend to practice the most simple tactics, being without artillery or any munitions of war but what they were able to carry. To deal with their abettors will require quite as much promptitude and vigor as has been displayed hitherto in meeting their threatened irruptions, and there can be no doubt that redress will be obtained with the same facility with which the Fenians are baffled.

THERE are two questions of grave import before the people of the Dominion—the Red River difficulty and the Fenian invasion. With the former the people having had their *hour's talk* will be content to let the Government deal with the case, satisfied that its true solution is to be found in action of the most decisive kind; and to that action the very nature of the affair naturally committed the Government. One line of policy should be followed out, and that is to crush out the rebellion at all hazards, restore order, and then by a strict enquiry expose the actions of those whose intrigues have jeopardized the interests and honor of the country. It is universally admitted that the hour for negotiation has passed away; force must be the agent now used, and the country will rest satisfied that the true solution thereby may be quietly left to the Administration.

Within four years the Habeas Corpus Act has been suspended three times in a British Colony, within whose precincts a dozen constables would suffice to enforce the law, and at peace with all their neighbors. It is time the people asked the meaning of all this, and that our executive addressed to the Washington Government through the Imperial Administration the very interesting question as to whether the United States are at peace or war with British North America? Because it really has come to this, that owing to military organizations in the United States, fostered by the Government thereof, and sustained by a portion of the press; this country is put to great trouble and expense every year in making preparations to resist armed invasion using the territory of the United States as a basis of military operations, and having the sheltering facilities afforded by that country to fall back upon when defeated. The whole Canadian frontier is regularly threatened with all the horrors of slaughter and rapine at the option of a set of ruffians who occupy no legal status but are sheltered under the American flag, being nominally the citizens of the United States.

There is no need to argue about the duty