

THE  
VOLUNTEER REVIEW  
And Military and Naval Gazette.  
VOLUME V.  
1871.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW enters on the fifth year of its existence. When it was first projected fears were entertained for its ultimate success, as two efforts of a similar kind had been made and failed for want of support; but we are happy to say those fears were groundless, and that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW may now be said to be firmly established, thanks to the support it has met with from the hands of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion. It now circulates largely throughout Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and even the new Province of Manitoba has extended its generous support. Nor is it confined to these Provinces only, but in the Mother Country, and even the United States it has subscribers and supporters. No other journal in the Dominion has so wide and extended a circulation as the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and therefore it offers unparalleled facilities to general advertisers. Our terms for advertising will be found liberal on application, either personally, or by letter *post paid*.

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#### THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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#### TO CORRESPONDENTS

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We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

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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 we may reach us in time for publication.

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## The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1871.

We understand that Lieut.-General Sir Hastings Doyle, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, will administer the Government of the Dominion during the absence in England of His Excellency Lord Lisgar.

An old and trite proverb says "Curses, like chickens, come home to roost;" to this may be added, "political crimes carry with them their own immediate punishment"—the latter being simply a more refined rendering of the old aphorism. Both are illustrated by the result of the Franco-Prussian war, and the effect it is likely to have on the affairs of Great Britain. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *London Times*, *Spectator*, and other journals of the Radical school are exercised in mind as to the final result of that doctrine of neutrality of which they were such active preachers, and appear to be clearly of opinion that taking part with France to prevent the destruction of that essential element in European politics the "balance of power"—so much sneered at by the new school of political philosophers, would be far more profitable, honorable and safe than the cowardly policy of non-intervention.

In the present case the element of dis-

turbance appears to be the fact that Prussia has demanded and exacted from France the sum of £200,000,000 sterling as war indemnity, this sum being equal to one-sixth of the whole capital of that unhappy country. The direct effect of the withdrawal of so much capital from circulation would be an immediate rise of interest in the English money market, a scarcity of capital for investment, and the permanent prostration of France. Any one conversant with financial affairs will easily understand how seriously the industries of the civilized world will be paralysed by this measure; but the mischief does not end there. In Prussia there is no responsible Government, the will of the Kaiser is the law, and it is evident that this large indemnity will be locked up in the Prussian treasury for the purpose of providing what the unification party in Germany have very strenuously desired—a national marine force. It is not many years ago since people laughed at a project seriously entertained in Germany of providing a navy by private subscription. It was actually attempted, and the national aspirations are now in a fair way of being fulfilled.

The full force of the situation can be understood when it is known that Great Britain after an expenditure of £8,000,000 sterling has only thirty-two ironclad ships of war to protect a home coast line of 8,700 miles, with the dependencies of the empire and India. Assuming that Prussia has actually spent £50,000,000 sterling on the war, and with her known economy it has probably not exceeded that figure, £150,000,000 will be still available for the construction of an ironclad navy, or over eighteen times as much as Great Britain has invested or could invest in the operation. It follows that if any movement towards that object is made by Prussia, that England will be precisely in the position of France before the opening of the late contest, with the standing menace of an armed neighbor at her door, at any moment to take advantage, and by no means scrupulous on what grounds. English political philosophers with their humanitarian ideas are thus brought face to face with a contingency which they have labored so hard to create, and it may reasonably be asked how long those people would bear the strain on their resources such a state of affairs would render compulsory? Will there be a question as to the justice of the cause or nice distinctions as to what party struck the first blow? Will the Radical press denounce the British ministry who will have the courage to bring the question already looming in the distance to the arbitrament of the sword? or will they advocate the maintenance of a dignified neutrality, especially when that state of affairs demands a standing army of two hundred thousand men in the British Isles, a reserve of twice that number, and every available vessel of her navy in commission. It is safe to say no matter what the drivellers who have brought about this state of affairs may do, the British people