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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 22, 1872.

LIEUT.-COLONEL WAINSWRIGHT GRIFFITHS, at present on a tour through British Columbia, has kindly consented to act as the Agent for the VOLUNTEER REVIEW in that Province.

Our last issue contained the concluding portion of the "Invasion of Canada," and it is a pleasing task to be able to congratulate the gallant and talented author on the very successful manner in which he has contrived to illustrate the actual strategy of a campaign over the very ground on which the issue of any future contest on our soil must be fought out.

As one of a series of *ante post facto* narratives of which the celebrated Battle of Dorking has been the prototype, we claim for it a high place in the professional literature to which it belongs.

Designed expressly for the purpose of awakening public attention to the difficulties under which our Military Organization suffers, the false position the British Government have assumed towards the pretensions of the United States, the danger to this country therefrom, and the absolute necessity for preparation to resist the consummation of the long cherished policy of our neighbors, the "Invasion of Canada," clearly pointing out the evils to be endured as well as the way to avoid them.

It is from the pen of a young officer of the volunteer force holding high rank, and proves we have Canada native officers who

have bestowed attention on the capabilities of the country for defence and who would in no case despair of conducting such an operation to a successful issue.

If it is considered for a moment that our whole population can be put under arms, that we should act on internal lines, that there are only three points in our whole frontier of two thousand miles from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the head of Lake Superior assailable; that in any advance on two of those the enemy would expose a defenceless flank, and that on the third his attack should be delivered in front on a confined area and a repulse would be destruction, we see little to fear in the event of hostilities of any danger of failing to realize the ultimate success described in the clever *brochure* which the kindness of our friend has enabled us to lay before our readers.

There is yet another element for the safety of Canada which has not been given the importance which it deserves; our Military Organization though far from complete enables the local force to be concentrated on any threatened point in a very few hours; Canadian soldiers have no need of costly trains, moving over a difficult country, they can be mustered in sufficient force to resist any attack which may be made on them, and a march of a very few miles at most will be sufficient for concentration. Sir Walter Scott's beautiful and graphic description of the muster of Rhoderick Dhu's Clansmen in the Trosachs glen is applicable to the rapidity with which Canadian troops can be assembled.

• • • —he whistled shrill,
And he was answered from the hill;
Wild as the scream of the curlew
From crag to crag the signal flew,
Instant though copse and heath arose,
Bonnets and spears and bended bows
On right, on left, above, below,
Sprang up at once the lurking foe.
From Shingle gray their lances start,
The bracken bush sends forth the dart,
The rushes and the willow wand
Are bristling into axe and brand,
And every tuft of broom gives life
To plumed warrior armed for strife;
That shout had garrisoned the glen
At once with full five hundred men."

And the prospect of danger would almost as speedily garrison any point in Canada with 50,000.

There is no country in the world, not even excepting Prussia, whose fighting population could be so easily and rapidly concentrated; and the cause pointed out in the narrative would make those men almost invincible.

However, as our organization has not arrived at the necessary perfection, it remains for us to seriously consider whether we should run the risk of being unprepared in the event of the complications pointed out arising.

It is perfectly certain that the probabilities are greatly in favor of the next contest being for the supremacy in the East and of the sea, and in such a case the United States and Russia are the natural allies on one

side, having little to lose and very much to gain if successful.

In such a contest if caught unprepared we would be most fearful sufferers, not only would we suffer the loss of property and life but we would be ground down by taxation of the most fearful character, governed by Yankee carpet baggers, our public finances squandered and public morality debauched, we would be in the position of those described by the prophet as having suffered the worst of physical evils—"What the locust hath spared the palmer worm hath eaten," our mercantile class always foremost as apostles of economy and peace would find their energies cribbed, cabined and confined to the market of forty millions, instead of having access to that of the whole world, while the utter ruin of the agricultural and all other classes would be the result.

On the other side a state of due preparation will enable the people of Canada to face any contingency, and, as the work we have been reviewing shows conclusively, come out of the contest triumphant; in which case the losses could be measured and easily retrieved.

Parliament is now sitting and it behoves the people to see that the defence of the Dominion receives a due share of attention from their representatives, not in the shape of economy, but in such an expenditure as will enable the conditions of the Militia Act to be carried out in accordance with the importance of the interests involved.

If the necessary expenditure presses too heavily on the country, and we know it is not fairly adjusted, a poll tax apportioned on capital and property will equalize it and afford the requisite relief.

We advise our readers to study well the "Invasion of Canada," and hope it may reach our Legislators as it contains a lesson and moral which should not be overlooked, that "the loss incurred by one month's hostile occupation of a country is greater than years of judicious expenditure to prevent it."

We congratulate the author on his very clever and useful *brochure*.

It has always been held as an indisputable axiom that the man who was his own lawyer had a fool for his client, and it may be extended to more professions than the legal; more especially with regard to experiments in practical science. A short time ago all Western Canada was on a furor of excitement over the revolutions in Railway construction and maintenance by the adoption of what was known as the narrow gauge system.

Originally devised to diminish the cost on the transmission of Slates and Iron ore on Welsh tramways where the thermometer rarely fell to the freezing point, and a day's snow would be as great a curiosity as if the fall occurred at the level of the sea under the equinoctial line, its advocates insisted