



# THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

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## A GRIM & N EPISODE.

"Give us a song, the soldiers cried,  
Their outward trenches guarding,  
When the heated guns of the camp allied  
Grew weary of bombarding.

The dark Redan, in silent scoff,  
Lay dim and threatening under,  
And the tawny mound of the Malakoff  
No longer belched its thunder.

"Give us a song," the guardsmen say;  
We storm the fort to-morrow:  
Sing while we may, another day  
Will bring enough of sorrow,

They lay along the batteries' side,  
Below the smoking cannon;  
Brave hearts from Severn and from Clyde,  
And from the banks of Shannon.

They sang of love, and not of fame—  
Forgot was Briton's glory;  
Each heart recalled a different name,  
But all sang Annie Laurie!

Dear girl, her name he could not speak,  
But as the strain grew louder,  
Something upon the soldier's cheek  
Washed off the taint of powder!

Voice after voice caught up the song,  
Until its tender passion  
Rose, like an anthem, rich and strong,  
Their battle eve confession.

Beyond the darkening ocean burned  
The bloody sunset embers;  
And the Crimean valleys learned  
How English love remembers.

And once again the fires of hell  
Rained on the Russian quarters—  
With scream of shot and burst of shell,  
And bellowing of the mortars.

And Irish Nora's eyes are dim,  
For a singer dumb and gory;  
And English Mary mourns for him  
Who sang of Annie Laurie!

Ah! soldier, to your honored rest,  
Your love and glory bearing—  
The bravest are the loveliest—  
The loving are the darest!

For the Volunteer Review.

## OUR POSITION.

The approaching consummation of that "official revolution," by which British North America becomes an aggregation of Provinces under one controlling and supreme legislature, naturally suggests the necessity of some more complete and effective military organization than what the Provinces severally possess. Our safety hitherto has resulted from the independence and patriotism of our people, and the aid and protection of the mother country. It is not necessary to suppose that either the one will become dormant or the other will be withdrawn to perceive that the time has come when our people must fully realize the necessity of providing for their own defence. As Provinces separate, we have been treated by Great Britain with the indulgence of beloved children; and when the full time of adolescence has arrived, no portion of our people would wish to render the tie which binds us to the mother country weaker or less effective. But our duty as well as honor will compel us to look well to that portion of our political economy which will enable us to fulfil the double obligations involved in the duties of children and effective allies. In every well regulated household, the sons of the father are brought up with a thorough knowledge of their duty to the honor of their name, and to the necessity of helping their kindred at all cost and any risk. These relations are clearly ours, so far as the parent State is concerned. We are members not of the confederation of British North America, nor are we subjects of the Kingdom of Canada; but we are parts of the glorious British Empire, the others being mere trivial designations, of no importance beyond mere municipal government.

Now, our duty in those outlying dependencies of the British Empire is very plain: it is to assist the parent State in defence of the country we inhabit: not because it is more vulnerable than any portion of our dominion, but simply because it is a duty we owe the parent State as well as ourselves. The question before the public is not what political party shall hold the reins of power under our new constitution, but how the question of "Military Organization" of the Confederation can be most effectively answered. The solution of the proposition of Military Organization must be governed by two conditions: First—It must be

effected at a minimum of cost. Second—It must put every man capable of bearing arms in the field if necessary. As the first condition involves the great difficulty of the whole matter, it will be necessary to deal with it as a question of simple calculation connected with the fiscal arrangements of the Provinces, and in the consideration of these, certain well defined principles governing the commercial prosperity of the country must be taken into account, as well as the geographical position thereof.

The true basis of taxation is the surplus produce of man's labor. When taxes are imposed on his industry, the consequences are a rapid transit to his necessities, the paralyzation of commerce, oppression in the worst sense of the term, discontent and impending social disruption. Such taxes in any form should never be imposed for the support of a military force, as one of the great objects for which that force was embodied—national conservation—would be entirely annihilated thereby, and a non-producing class constituted to prey on the industry and resources of the remainder of the population. Such are the great evils of the large standing armies in continental Europe, that the loss of a single battle is frequently decisive of the fate of a powerful Empire, and simply because its monetary resources are exhausted.

Exceptional causes led to the establishment of large standing armies. The governments were "despotic," and could only be held in place and power by the creation of a sort of order of nobility, dependent on the King or Kaiser for rank or wealth; while the experiment of putting arms in the hands of the people was particularly dangerous, as they might be used for the overthrow of a selfish and irresponsible tyranny. England, with free institutions, could always rely on her people; and up to the commencement of the present century a standing army was almost unknown there. With the smallest force, in comparison to her dimensions, of any nation in the world, she has attained a place in the foremost rank by being enabled to detach a small but perfect number against any strategical point; and this has been effected partly by her naval force, and partly because her Militia could be at once embodied to meet any contingency. A look at the civil list will show that the support of her army covers about one-third of her fiscal expenses.

Taking the gross revenues of the Provinces as follows, we have

Canada, say	\$12,000,000
New Brunswick	1,000,000
Nova Scotia	1,500,000
in all \$14,500,000 per annum, of which one-	