

It is pleasant to those who love "Canada, First," to receive the "Canadian Monthly" for January, in a new garb better befitting its claims as the first magazine of the Dominion, and a first class magazine anywhere. If I do not accord to its contents unqualified praise, it is for the love I bear it, and by reason of my earnest desire to see it attain as near unto perfection as may be. Those articles stand first in its pages, and may perhaps be fairly styled its "leading articles," as the "Ten years progress" of the January number, are always valuable not only from the mass of information combined in them, of the highest import to the student of his country's progress, but from their statesmanlike tone, a tone which also pre-eminently distinguishes the able and impartial summaries of "current events." The extract from "French Home Life" entitled "Furniture," is an attempt to reduce the system the slippery and almost intangible abstractions of "taste," which is in itself graceful and interesting to a cultivated mind, and is worthy of the keen insight and earnest observation of a writer, who has shown remarkable power of appreciation of the habits, manners, customs, virtues, and vices of a people whose extreme dissimilarity of tone to that of the Anglo-Saxon race, renders their peculiarities an interesting, if sometimes provoking study. Provoking is the only term also to apply to the kind of folly which furnishes the staple of such stories as the "White Rose," nor do I see why a magazine of a high order should feel it necessary to inflict trivial romance on its readers. One good novel is doubtless necessary and surely sufficient. "Wild Duck" is fresh and pleasant, but I do not like to see a good writer debase the precision and tone of his style by the use of the vulgarism "hunting" for "shooting." "St. Januarius" is amusing and not uninteresting, but I fancy Robt. Houlton or the Wizard of the North, would not be very hard put to it to combine a liquefaction as evident as that of the saint's blood, even if they should fail to discover the actual secret of the present miracle. The poetry of the number is not above par, except perhaps "Salutary," by Alice Horton.

It is satisfactory to common sense to observe that the writer of "current events" speaks of the Upper House as "the anomaly of a Senate which represents nothing." An upper chamber is the representative of an aristocracy; where, therefore, there exists no aristocracy to represent, such second chamber is an useless excrescence, which only represents an useless expenditure. The timid apprehensions of hasty legislation which have usually influenced its advocates are the remnants of English conventionalism of ideas from which so far as it is mischievous, it is to be hoped emancipation is not far distant.

(To be continued.)

A MILITARY SCHOOL FOR CANADA.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—The conclusion to which all who have given the subject any practical and careful attention, is that Canada now requires a small regular Military Force to support the civil authority; and since the whole Imperial Force has been withdrawn, it is necessary that a regular force should be placed in charge of the strategic points, as well as centres of population. The Force being small it should be thoroughly efficient in officers at least. The officers should be thoroughly educated military men, and should be Canadians.

The scheme of Lieutenant Col. Fletcher, as outlined in his Report, seems fairly adapted to meet the case, but if carried out as he proposes would still leave us practically dependant on the British Army for the higher officers. We shall be dependant on them for any scheme for some time, but let us have Canadian officers as soon as we can educate them for the position.

In the Military School at Quebec we have the place, and the *modus* to organize a Military School of permanent character, where young Canadians can get military education, the term of attendance being, say three years, the outlet being 18 or 19 years of age on entering, and on completing the course a commission should be given him in the Regular Force, or he can be employed on Public Works. The Military School would thus give us a class of educated men quite as important as those educated at Literary Colleges, available as railway and civil engineers, as well as military men.

The Regular Force proposed by Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher, should be organized, gradually, as they are required, and placed as indicated above at centres of population, and important points, but wherever placed, and of whatever arm of the service it may be, it should be "a school" which volunteer officers should be required to attend for say three months on appointment to the lowest commissioned rank, and should also be a school, or, its officers, a board, which officers should pass on promotion to the rank of field officer of volunteers. There is no need to argue about Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher's proposal for officers of volunteers to attend a military school for six months on first appointment and three months again on promotion, for it would be simply impracticable to get proper men as officers to attend so long.

St. John, 24th Jan.

M.S.

MONTREAL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The No. 1 Troop Cavalry, Lieutenant Tees in command, was inspected on Tuesday 26th inst., by the acting D.A.G., Colonel Bacon. The troop was put through several

movements, single and double ride, increasing and diminishing the front by files, half sections, fours, &c., also sword exercise by Lieutenant Colonel Lovelace, the instructor. The whole inspection was very satisfactory, and the troop had a thorough soldierly appearance. Colonel Bacon complimented Colonel Lovelace and Lieutenant Tees on the efficiency of the men and intimated that he could not do otherwise than to send to Ottawa a very favorable report.

A movement is on foot to purchase the Rifle Ranges at Point St. Charles as they are about to be encroached upon for building purposes,

Montreal, 29th Jan., 1874.

B.

REVIEWS.

We have received from the Publishing House of LEONARD SCOTT & Co. No. 140 Fulton Street, New York, per Messrs. DUNN & SON of this city, *Blackwood's Magazine* for January. It contains the conclusion of "The Parisians," which adds one more to the list of Bulwer's charming novels. Another serial, "The Story of Valentine and his Brother," is commenced in this number, and promises to be a narrative of great interest.

We also find the second number of "International Vanities," treating of "Forms." It tells of the wording of diplomatic and other documents and the languages in which they are written, is interspersed with quotations showing the style of royal letters, treaties, etc., and is written with a touch of humor that makes it quite an amusing article.

Then we have "John Stuart Mill: an Autobiography," telling the story of a precocious and isolated childhood, and its effect on the whole future life of the man. It will have a peculiar interest for those who have the guiding of youthful minds, though no one should pass it by without a careful perusal.

The "Note relating to the Story of the Missing Bills" is as entertaining as the story itself, and should be read by all lovers of the marvellous as well as by those of a more practical turn of mind. As yet no one seems able to find a satisfactory solution of the mystery.

It is followed by "Piece of Heather," a saucy little poem ending with a slight dash of sentiment.

"The Indian Mutiny: Sir Hope Grant." The writer of this article evidently feels deeply on the subject of this terrible revolt, and portrays the sufferings of the British from the heat of the climate, as well as the barbarities of the rebels, in a graphic manner. He does not fail to recount deeds of heroism, nor to give honor where it is due.

An account of the "New Years Political Aspect" brings us, all too soon, to the end of this number.

The increased size of the type is a decided improvement, making the page larger and handsomer, and still more closely resembling the original.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 31st ult.

Brantford, Ont.—Cornet C. Weir, to Sept. 1874 \$2.00
 Brooklyn, Ont.—Lt. Wm. Batty, to June, 1874 4.00
 Clarksburg, Ont.—Lt. S. Robinson, to Aug. 1874 2.00
 Elginburgh, Ont.—Ens. J. Healy, to Jan. 1874 8.00
 Elora, Ont.—Lieut. Jos. Whimp, to June, 1874 2.00
 Frankville, O.—Capt. A. Lauder, to Aug. 1874 2.00
 Halifax, N.S.—Capt. L. J. Bland, to Oct. 1874 2.00
 Sackett's Harbor, U.S.—Lt. C. Chase, to J. 1875 2.00