

a man in Canada who has the interest of rifle-shooting more at heart, or who gives the matter more time and attention. He also, I believe, pulls some of the wires in several Rifle Associations and knows what he is talking about. I have not written for the *Volunteer Review* since 1869, I think, when I used to sign myself Royal. I must however, deny any knowledge of "R's" letter beyond seeing it in print.

I am, yours truly,

ROYAL.

To the Editor of the *Volunteer Review*.

Sir—I have read some remarkable statements in your last issue, in answer to some enthusiastic rifleman, who has evidently taken in hand a weapon he knew but little of. I would be glad to hear something more on the subject.

You say "the soldiers that can't shoot is often more useful than the individual who can?" Leaving out the question of grammar, can you give some examples of superiority?

How would you manage a bayonet charge through a stump field or a bit of bush, such as are common in this country?

How do you know only sixty per cent of rifle bullets are effective? "Drawn Bullets" I never heard of, but for steel barreled rifles some of my men have a great fancy.

I do not know how it may be with others, but my men would be none the worse of being taught to "judge distance."

Yours truly,

AN ENQUIRER.

Morrisburg, 15th Dec., 1873.

THINKING SOLDIERS.

The *Review* affords its readers, in an extract from *Broad Arrow*, an article under this head, in which the author boldly prides his representative men, Messrs Atkins and Smith in contradistinction to a phantom, which he invests with a "local habitation and a name," in the "mentally iron bound soldier of the *regime*." These typical heroes—as a result of their "thinking"—possess the astounding perspicacity of actually detecting the weakness of their sergeant major, in shirking the necessity of a salute to a superior. If this is the requisite intellectual gauge for the indispensable "thinking" soldier, then, it is maintained their predecessors, of the old *regime*, ventured upon a higher exercise of an iron bound intellect, and evinced an infallibility indiscriminating between the gentleman and snob, the latter character being—as a rule—the first-horn of a successful tradesman. No military discipline can hinder or fetter the moral nature of man, and that of the old school, never attempted impossibilities, nor sought to stultify itself with ethical subtilties, but enforced and demanded implicit obedience, as the *sine qua non* of its discipline. Crochets and

theories upon mental culture may deceive or amuse, but can never substitute this indispensable to all military organization Soldiers do, and must think, but were they permitted to act upon the suggestion of their reflections, who cannot see the inevitable confusion worse confounded. Then, where the use of, and how utilize these deep thinking men? Now, as the army is not likely to absorb the literati of the kingdom, and there being no defined educational process for this indispensable, to modern warfare, to graduate through, the problem must be permitted to restore itself into its natural prosaic conditions. Take any given number of men under identical training, and the dolt, the average, and smart soldier will severally present themselves; but in no strictly calculable proportion, nature or aptitude settles that. Yet the aggregate can be moulded into good soldiers under able, efficient and gentlemanly officers.

In conclusion, I am constrained to observe, that an ungenerous, carping, and often ignorant criticism of the old *regime*, is but a dubious warrant for perfection on the new—if some adopted innovations can claim that distinction—and would remind those passionate critics, that it is the traditional fame of the old army, which sheds a halo of invincibility around that of to day; and, that to the indomitable courage and reckless daring of the unthinking soldier, the British Army is indebted for what prestige it continues to retain.

SABREUR.

New Hamburg, 17th Dec., 1873.

The *Jewish Chronicle* asks that peerages should be conferred on two distinguished members of the Hebrew community, Sir Moses Montefiore and Baron Lionel Rothschild.

A Government return gives the total number of emigrants from Ireland during the first ten months of the present year as 85,287 persons. Up to October 31, 1873, upwards of 2,247,883 persons emigrated from Ireland since May, 1851.

From a return just issued it appears that during the last twelve years England has expended a sum equal to \$3,246,933 upon coast fortifications, distributed for the most part at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Portland, Pembroke, Sheerness, Dover, Gravesend, Chatham and Cork.

Advices from Cape of Good Hope the 17th November report that disturbances have occurred near Natal. A band of natives, led by their own chiefs, and committing many excesses. The Government have set the volunteers against them. A son of the Colonial Secretary of Natal was killed in the late skirmish.

A telegram from Singapore says the body of Dutch troops, under the command of General Van Sweiten which lately landed on the coast of Acheen have had an engagement with Sulnat's army and defeated it.

General Garcia at the head of 2,000 men has defeated a Spanish column, and also captured some large fortifications, making prisoners of the entire garrison, without firing a single shot.

England has asked France to co-operate with her in instituting an investigation of the Villo du Havre disaster, offering to pay all expenses of witnesses. France cordially accepts, and promises the investigating shall be searching and complete.

The dangers to be encountered on the west coast of Africa may be estimated from the fact that out of the 110 officers and men of the marines who embarked in England a few months since, only six have been able to remain on that station.

A special despatch from Berlin to the *London Times* says that in consequence of the formation of fortified camps at Belfort, Besancon, and Verdun, Prussia will increase her military reserves. The Federal Council has ordered the distribution among the States of the German Empire of another installment of the French war indemnity amounting to 20,000,000 thalers.

The *Flying Fish*, another of the unarmored composite screw sloops, of which class a number have been sent afloat from the various English dock yards during the past year, was launched from the Chatham (England) dock-yard on the 8th Nov. The building of this vessel was very rapid, as the authorities were anxious to get her completed and ready for sea.

The Sedwick memorial fund has nearly reached the splendid total of £10,000. This amount includes £1,000 from the Duke of Devonshire, £500 from Professor Selwyn, and 100 guineas from the Prince of Wales.

There are only four old Prussian colors remaining in France, with the exception of two old flags on the grave of Napoleon I. To this number must be added the Prussian cavalry standard, which are in the groups of colors of the Second battalion of the Sixty first regiment of infantry, which were lost at Dijon during the last war. All other Prussian trophies which were formerly in the possession of the French were either taken by the Prussians in 1813, or, as the French say, burned together with all the colors kept at the Hotel des Invalides at Paris by the veterans resident there, as they saw the capture of Paris was unavoidable. It is said that they collected the ashes of all the trophies burned, threw them into a cask of wine, and drank the mixture to the health of the Emperor. The sword of Frederick the Great, which the First Napoleon took from Potsdam in 1803, could not be found in 1814 and 1815, in spite of all search. It had been concealed in the Cupola of the Hotel des Invalides, but it is said that it is now in the possession of some private gentleman. Whether the upper part of the colors of the Second battalion of the Sixteenth Regiment of Prussian Infantry, which was shot off at Vionville and found on the field of battle by the French, has been sent to Paris or not has not been ascertained. Two Prussian guns lost at Gravelotte were returned at the surrender of Metz; and, in fact, only one Prussian gun, lost during the late war at Beaune-la-Rolande, remains in the hands of the French.