

paper his disjointed sentences. There is a bourgeois roughness in his demeanour as he leans forward over the table in front of him, his shoulders rounded, and takes up his blue spectacles to refer to some article of war, which he hurries through as fast as he can speak, afterwards beginning a reply with 'You must know as well as I do, Monsieur le President, —' There is a something about him which seems to say, 'I don't care a straw what any of you think, for I know more about the matter than you do.'

*Broad Arrow* of 18th October seems to be in a vein of fault finding with its friends the Whig-Radicals. The service appears to be going down hill at a rapid rate. Under their jurisdiction and management, the following extract shows the utter recklessness and incapacity that, under the specious names of economy and efficiency, are suffered to run riot in British Arsenal:—

"It is not unreasonable to suspect that the unsatisfactory character of some of the work recently turned out of our Government dockyards is to a certain extent owing to those defects in the staff of the yards and that loss of skilled workmen upon which we have lately commented. Among some of the more prominent examples of recent indifferent work we may instance the main shaft of the new screw corvette *Encounter*, which had to be taken out and sent to the workshops at Portsmouth to be altered as the vessel had to be stopped several times in the short run from the Nile to the Nile, on account of heated bearings. The trials of the *Hellerophon*, after she had been somewhat elaborately fitted for flagship on the North American and West Indian Station, proved unsatisfactory from a similar cause—"The white metal having run from hot bearings." Then the engines of the *Esmeralda*—just got ready the other day at Portsmouth for service at Gibraltar—would not work well on trial, and some alterations were found necessary in her paddles. The *Victor Emmanuel*—the hospital ship for the West Coast of Africa—is said to be overmasted with the *Royal Oaks's* "sticks" with which she has been fitted, although this, if it be a fault, is one of design and not of workmanship. Still for the resources of the yard in which it is done. Altogether, under the circumstances, it is far from satisfactory to learn that Gen. Stosch, the German Minister of Marine, has been visiting Chatham and Portsmouth, and has carried off some of the best hands in the various workshops for service in the dockyard at Kiel. There is also, we understand—to put it mildly—a want of harmony between the Lords of the Admiralty and some of the heads of the dockyard departments which must necessarily exercise a certain prejudicial influence on the working of the yards. We are glad to know that Devonport is but little affected by these little blots apparent elsewhere."

The question naturally arises as to how such people can have either soldiers or sailors. It is a notorious fact that there are no seamen in the Royal Navy; and the following from *Broad Arrow* shows what sort of an army they are likely to turn out:—

Sir,—As the difficulty of obtaining recruits is daily becoming more and more apparent, perhaps a few words on the subject may not be inappropriate from one who has experience in the matter.

In the first place. Wages are high in the labour market, and men of really good character, who might enlist and bring our regiments up to something like a good stalwart appearance (if proper inducement were held out to them) will not now entertain the idea of, as they say, "going as a soldier for nothing"; and their reasons are very cogent, and to the point.

The line, as rule, is very distasteful to the better class of would-be recruits, and very few now will take service in it under the present rules, except those who, in nine cases out of ten, are absolutely driven to it either by their own fault, or being out of employment, with no prospect of getting any, have not any alternative but to take the shilling as a last resource, and possibly, as is too frequently the case, abscond before attestation, or desert (if not en route to join their regiment) very shortly after joining their respective corps.

And why this unwillingness to enlist?

These are the replies to the recruiting sergeant:—

Enlist? No! not for short service, no bounty, and no prospect of pension! If I want to soldier, I can get 10s bounty to join the militia, and take away tolerable kit with me after each annual training; after that return home and follow my trade, and by paying 18s I can go and be free. But to enlist in the Regulars for six years and forget my trade, with no prospect of any sort of description, on completing my service certainly not! I would go for long service, with pension on discharge, but not otherwise!

There is no doubt the Short Enlistment Act has seriously affected our recruiting, and I think if the old rule of long service and pension were reverted to, we should find a considerable gain in both the numbers and quality of our recruits—nothing can be worse than it is at present. I have heard many say they would enlist if it were not that the service was too short, and held out no prospect of pension on discharge.

In a word (for I think I have already trespassed too much on your valuable space), the Short Enlistment Act is distasteful to would-be recruits. What is wanted is bounty on enlistment, long service, and pension. No man will enlist for a short period, to lose his employment, possibly to forget his trade; to be sent adrift, with nothing to fall back upon when he has completed his service, in addition to having perhaps, lost his health (as many do) during his service in foreign climates.

Line parties are not open to enlist for cavalry now. I know many instances where recruits have been lost because the recruiting sergeants to whom they applied to enlist had not authority to recruit for cavalry, and could not consequently take them! Let us hope for better days!

Yours obediently,

MILES—OLD STAMP.

The *Army and Navy Journal* of the 8th inst., has an article on the trial of the Gatling Gun, which we republish in another page. It would appear to be a most perfect weapon except for the fact that its range is so limited, and this also limits its use.

If such an arm could be made to throw shell to its full range, its usefulness would be very much increased. The projectile use would be something like Shrapnel, smaller and loads, say with backshot. The value would be to have them explode on touching the ground throwing the charge in every

direction for fifty or sixty yards radius. If such an improvement could be effected, it would make the advances of skirmishers more difficult; and in ground where slight cover alone could be found, altogether impossible. The gun experimented with is of small bore 0.45. Would it not be possible to invent a shell weighing half a pound, with an explosive and charge sufficient to produce the effect intended? In which case it would be necessary to modify the mounting of the gun.

"No successor has been definitely appointed to Colonel Robertson-Ross, Adjutant General of Canadian Militia, but one or two names are mentioned of likely officers. That of General Hewson, an American, and a military engineer, has been prominent. He was at one time Adjutant General for the State of Mississippi. Long interviews between General Hewson and Sir John A. Macdonald have given rise to the rumour of his appointment, and the candidature is otherwise completely at sea."

The foregoing paragraph from *Broad Arrow* of the 25th October will be news indeed to our readers, some of the *quidnuncs* have been hoaxing our contemporary. Whoever General Hewson may be, this is the first time the Canadian people ever heard of his pretensions, which are sufficiently absurd when it is known that the law creating the office of Adjutant General of the Canadian Militia, expressly declares he must be a Field Officer in Her Majesty's Regular Service; and if it did not, we have plenty of capable officers in our own ranks without going to the State of Mississippi for one. Whoever, therefore, gave out the information was indulging in a reprehensible hoax.

"The *Toronto Globe*, commenting on the Duke of Manchester's letter on the defence of Canada, says his letter was not 'the wisest that could have been written.' The truth about the defence of Canada is, that there is no danger of attack. When will Englishmen realize the fact that the people of the Union have no intention of molesting us? If they had, we think we should be able to defend ourselves; but when there is no hostile intention, what is the use of crying out before anybody is hurt?"

The above paragraph from *Broad Arrow* of 25th October is an attempt, in a small way, to depreciate the value of the letter referred to, but as the *Globe* is neither a military authority, nor a prophet, our readers and the people of Canada set a very different value on the utterance of the Duke of Manchester. First, because he states a fact representing the defence of this country; and secondly, because it is always wisdom notwithstanding the *Globe*, to speak the truth, especially in the case before us. It is of more importance to the interests of the people of Canada that the people of Great Britain should know from disinterested witnesses, such as His Grace of Manchester, that they were able and willing to bear their share of the responsibilities of their position as the first dependency of the Empire, than that they