

to a great extent the character of the warfare of which it is to be the scene. Not only may a general plan be resolved on, but the nature of the marches and of the encounters may be foreseen and provided for, and the proportion of the different arms will be adjusted to the country in which they are destined to act. The cavalry that would have been only an encumbrance in the Apennines or at Rivoli found fitting fields at Eckmühl, Borodino and Ligny.

The powerful artillery that was easily transported and manœuvred in Belgium and which almost crushed the British at Waterloo, would have choked the narrow roads of Spain. Not only the army, but the character and extent of its supplies and equipment must depend in great degree on the aspect of the country, its resources, fertility and climate. These are matters to be dealt with by common sense joined to experience of the requirements of armies. But without going into minute details of topography and statistics, the map of the theatre will suggest military problems of a purely scientific kind.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY G. W.

Mr. Goldwin Smith is a gentleman the savor of whose reputation has been anything but acceptable to the political nostrils of Canadians, tho' it is now generally understood that his residence in the States has wrought a complete change in the spirit of his crude and youthful dream. It is never too late to mend, and doubtless hundreds of cultivated minds who have admired the force and clearness of his historical views, whilst they have deplored the perversion of his talents, have welcomed the return from the fields of his infatuation, of a prodigal so well worth reclaiming.

What has led to the mention of Mr Smith's name here was the perusal of an abstract of the lecture recently delivered by him at Berlin on the Franco-Prussian War.

Whatever may be said of Mr. Smith he cannot be accused of sounding any doubtful note as to the views he holds, and he appears to have been singularly clear in his judgment in the lecture in question.

The deplorable sufferings of unhappy France, have had the effect of judicially blinding very many respectable persons, whose hearts are more attuned to sympathy than are their minds to logical decision. With such, where their sympathies have not, from the first, been with the French nation, a re-action inimical to Prussia in proportion to her success, and to her necessary severities, has characterized the tendency of thought.

How unjust this is Mr. Goldwin Smith appears to have ably and conclusively shown, and the whole matter is simply and easily summed up.

The pretensions of France to regulate the balance of power, in fact to dominate over Europe, tho' time honored, were, rightly

considered, simply the arrogant presumption of the strong hand.

France provoked the war, not only originally, but, as the result has proved, with a rashness and weakness which, in effect, enhanced her wickedness.

How far this action was due to the caesar or two the People matters little. In either case the war was the result of that combination of ferocity, and, infatuated vanity, which it is to be feared is scarcely yet scourged out of her.

Prussia, with that masterly prevision which has characterized her leaders, simply held herself prepared. But her preparation was perfect, and involved, as all preparation should, the power to strike the first blow.

That the French military organization should have so helplessly collapsed in the hour of need, ought scarcely to have taken us by surprise, tho' it in reality did. And it is very remarkable, as indicating the unsound judgment, as well as the inability of English Regular Officers as a body, to interpret the signs of the times, that not only were they generally confident of the early success of the French arms, but their sympathies seemed to be entirely with the aggressive French nation.

If any body of men should, beyond all others, have been aware of the causes which induced laxity of discipline, and sowed the seeds of defeat in the army of France. If any one part of the body politic should have comprehended the significance of the Prussian system, and of Prussian preparations, surely that body should have been the officers of the British Army. Yet we find all their anticipations at the outbreak of the war, antagonistic to the Power which, it might have been known, had ensured success before beginning—and it never seemed to occur to these gentlemen that all the historic successes of France (as mentioned by Mr. Smith), had been against a divided Germany; and that she had never been pitted against a united Germany. Civilians may easily be pardoned for being unposted on these points, but surely it was the business of competent military authorities to see that the affairs of the army were in a position to form a correct estimate of the relative value of two systems so important as those of Prussia and of France.

Little sympathy can be felt with the unscrupulous policy of Prussia generally. Yet it may be remembered that she had before her an aim well calculated to dazzle the most conscientious statesman, if only his patriotism were devoted enough to deem the union of the Fatherland above all other considerations. And can results so grand, and in the long run, so beneficial, be achieved by any but the boldest strokes? There can be no question but that great and lasting good will eventually accrue to Europe from the unions of Italy and of Germany, and the removal, by the suppression of petty principalities in both countries, of many tempta-

tions to stronger power to aggrandize themselves at the expense of weaker.

Much has been charged to Prussian severity, but it may also be remembered that it is not in war that the hand of iron can be concealed by the velvet glove. The war was not of German seeking, and having to undergo its penalties, Germany would have stultified herself, as England is in the habit of doing, had she made mere child's play of it, and declined to indemnify herself, while Prussian forbearance with regard to Paris may well be contrasted, with the woful ruin wrought by the frantic tigers who fought and slaughtered in the detestable name of the Commune. Truly that hateful name may well stand for the "abomination of desolation."

Lastly—in grand contrast to the imbecile yet blood thirsty and destructive madness, which, it would seem is inherent in Frenchmen, and which the most terrible lessons seem inadequate to eradicate or to restrain—stands proudly forth to an admiring world perhaps the finest illustration of the God-like principle of *Discipline*, which that world has ever seen.

Lay it well to heart, O England, before thou suffer the glorious old traditions of honor, of empire, of invincibility, to be smothered by the cankered growth of a sordid apathy to all but sordid gain!

Lay it well to heart, O Canada, now in the day of thy youth! And ye, above all Militia men of Canada, and realize at once that nought of glory can be achieved without that principle which, combined with ceaseless energy, has been the grand secret of German success, and the temporary forgetfulness of which has done too much to tarnish the laurels of a recent service which would otherwise have shone with unsullied brightness.

G. W.

#### RIFLE MATCHES.

AT QUEBEC.

The fourth annual prize meeting of the "Stadacona Rifle Association" was opened on Thursday the 3rd instant, at the range on the Beaufort Flats. The day was beautiful and nearly every battalion in the Seventh Military District was represented, and there were competitors from the 60th Rifles and Royal Artillery. The contest opened with the

#### ASSOCIATION MATCH.

1st Prize—Presented by the Association	\$20
2nd do do do do	15
3rd do do do do	12
4th do do do do	10
5th do do do do	5
And 7 prizes of \$5 each	35
Ranges—200 yards; 7 shots; Government Pattern Rifles; open to members of the Association. Entrance 25 cents.	

The winners scores were as follows:—  
 Major J B Amyot, 9th Batt. . . . . 4 3 4 4 2 4 4 25  
 Capt Harder, G T R. . . . . 4 3 4 3 3 4 3 24  
 Sergt Rouch, R A. . . . . 4 3 4 4 3 3 3 24  
 Sergt Major Trudel, 9th Batt. 3 4 4 3 3 3 3 23  
 Cl Sergt Valley, 1st 60 Rifles. 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 22  
 Private J Fraser, 8th Batt. . . . . 4 2 3 3 4 3 3 22