

TO THE RIDEAU FALLS.

BY WILLIAM PITTMAN LITT.

I saw thee ere the hand of man
Contracted thy majestic spout,
Or dim'd the iris bow of sight,
Which arch'd thy current's headlong flight.
I know thee when the pristine trees,
Waved round thee in the morning breeze,
And threw their evening shadows o'er
Thy surging breast from shore to shore,
When thy primeval vapour curl'd
Upward as from some nother world,
Like incense from a mighty shrine,
Ascending to some tower divine,
Ere stern Improvement's iron power,
Had curbed thine everlasting shower,
And circumscrib'd thy pathless way,
Hidden beneath thy clouds of gray,
With childhood's awe I gazed on thee,
Grand and vast type of Liberty!
Rushing, resistless, wild and strong,
While o'er thee rose the ceaseless song,
The free, resounding, gushing roar
That echoed from the rock bound shore.
A place where Indian warriors came
In the unknown mysterious name
Of the Great Spirit power, and threw
Their offerings to the Manitou,
With the strong artless faith profound
Which sees the happy hunting ground.
There oft with rod and line in hand,
In life's fair morn I took my stand
Upon thy unpolluted strand—
And there beneath thy thundering roar,
On Ottawa's wild and rocky shore,
From out the eddy's whirling tide,
The golden pickerel in his pride,
Black bass and maskinonge too,
With youthful pride to shore I drew.
Friend of my youth! the hand of change
Is on thee—! hath made thee strange,
The ancient cedartrees which stood
As sentries by thy flashing flood,
Planted by nature's hand sublime,
Back in the early dawn of time,
Like the fond hopes which round them grew,
Have disappeared from mortal view—
The rocks whereon they stood are bare,
Without a trace to tell that there
The grand old monarchs in their pride
Waved their proud crowns above thy tide.
The gloomy solitude which gave
Such grandeur to thy sounding wave,
Hath given place to whirl and clang
Of grim machinery, which rang
Years, years ago, the funeral knell
Of thy past glories loved so well.

Ottawa, February 4th, 1871.

A FEW WORDS ON CANADA.

BY A CANADIAN.

[CONTINUED.]

The foundation of the territorial organization of the military forces of Prussia, which is one of the main causes of her success; was laid by the father of Frederick the Great. In 1733 he decreed the division of the territories into cantons, to each of which was allotted a regiment, to be maintained at its effective strength from the cantonal population; on all of whom, with the exception of the nobles, military service was made compulsory. Frederick the Great extended and improved this system, by allotting to each district the supply of arms and stores necessary to enable its brigade or division to take the field fully equipped and ready to march on the mere order to mobilize.

In 1815 the Landwehr, was organized territorially in brigades, each Landwehr brigade being joined to a brigade of the line, and together forming one division of the army for service in the field.

For the Landwehr, or reserve forces, a body of instructed officers has been provided by regulations so pregnant with wisdom affording such an excellent example for our imitation that they merit some detail. Conscription is universal, but all young men of the educated classes, who are able to provide the means of their own equipment and maintenance and to produce certificates of conduct and attainments from school or college, are allowed to serve for one year in the different light infantry or rifle corps. When the young cadet or *einjahriger*, as he is called joins the corps to which he has cho-

sen to be attached, he is posted to a company after which his attendance is rigidly exacted at drills and parades, but except when on military duty, his time is at his own disposal. The military enthusiasm of 1813 has so far survived that it has long been regarded as part of the education of the son of every manufacturer, proprietor professional man, even of every prosperous shop-keeper, to spend one of the years between his seventeenth and twentieth birthdays in passing through this volunteer course. Such of these cadets as do not aspire above the average level return to their homes with the prospect of taking their places in the ranks of the conscription in their turn; but any cadet who desires it may, by special aptitude obtain a certificate of qualification, entitling him to the first vacancy as sergeant, and in due course to a commission in the Landwehr battalion of his particular district.

The organization of the Prussian or North German army, as it now exists, is generally as follows:—The population numbers about thirty millions. The number of recruits annually raised by conscription is 100,000; or one to every 300 of the population. The age of conscription is 20. The period of military service is twelve years, divided into three portions of three four and five years respectively; three years being passed by the recruit with the colors of a regular regiment; the next four years in the regimental reserve; and the final period of five years in the Landwehr or militia of his district, after which he is enrolled in the Landstrum, or service for home defence in case of invasion. All men who attain the age of conscription in any one year, and are not drawn for the army, are exempt from military service except in case of war. The regiments of the regular army during peace, are, on the breaking out of war, raised to double their number by recalling an equal number of men from the reserve; and each reserve man so recalled returns not merely to the same battalion, but even to the very same company in which he had passed the first three years of his military life.

All officers of the Prussian line have to pass six months in the ranks. For two-thirds of them this is a probation, at the end of which they had to satisfy a standing committee of the corps to which they seek admission, not only as to professional attainments, but also to *parentage and means*. The remaining third have received their appointments direct from the different cadet schools and may be considered, therefore, to be nominated by the King.

The North German armies are in the highest state of efficiency that can be reached, by scientific preparation for war, by concentration, by compact discipline and by forethought.

The instruction of officers and men is carried out in camps formed in the different districts, where the troops assembled learn as much of the business of war as it is possible to learn in peace. Major Goodenough, R.A., who witnessed the manœuvres of the Rhine camp in 1868, writes:—"The great peculiarity which gives such a superiority to their system of field manœuvres lies in the character of reality which is given to the whole of the operations: in my opinion, our manœuvres are too much in the line of a gigantic field day, and those of the French fail in interest from the laborious detail of their plan. The Prussians, on the other hand, place two opposing forces in the field give them a strategical plan of operations, and then leave the two commanders to plan their own tactical movements, the troops work every day over *fresh unknown ground*, and so the interest never flags."

To sum up, the *Review* says, the Prussian army, by means of its organization, and of the perfection of its departments of supply, was always ready for war; and the officers and soldiers by the intelligent instruction imparted by the yearly field manœuvres, learnt as much of the business of war as it is possible to learn in peace.

Turning now to the organization of the army of France, the *Review* says:

The organization which had been given to the French army by Louvois lasted with no material changes until 1793. Previous to that date enlistment was voluntary, commissions were objects of sale and purchase, and the army was officered exclusively by nobles. The revolution republicanized both the nation and the army, merit was recognized as the sole qualification for an officer's commission, and every conscript carried a marshal's baton in his knapsack. The enthusiasm thus created in the rank and file, when directed by the genius of Napoleon, carried the French eagles into nearly every capital in Europe. But victory is the indispensable condition of the success of such a constitution. Under reverses which try the confidence of the soldier in his superiors, discipline under such a system must surely break down. Since the restoration of Louis XVIII. the French army has been officered on a mixed system of promotion from the ranks and of direct appointments from the military school, the former class constituting one-third of the whole. Promotion is determined by selection or nominally by merit—a practice obviously open to dangerous abuses. Whether it be a result of this system or not, the fact remains, on the testimony of General Trochu, that whereas English soldiers, when allied with the French, showed all the military marks of respect to French officers, the latter found it extremely difficult to obtain any such marks from the soldiers of their own army.

The conscription was not established in France by law until 1793; and the statute, which placed the whole population at the disposal of the state, as each generation completes its twentieth year, preceded the supremacy of the man who was to make so tremendous a use of it. The proceeds of the annual conscription, fixed at 40,000 men in 1818, was raised to 80,000 men under Louis Phillip. Under the second Empire it has never been less than 100,000 men, and during the Italian and Crimean wars it was 140,000. The efficacy of the conscription was, however, materially lessened by the system of "exonerations" which permitted drafted men to commute their personal service for a money payment; so that in times of danger the men who were urgently needed were represented by the unsatisfactory substitute of a bank note in the Treasury.

The result was that in the Crimean and Italian wars, France could only place and maintain in the field one army, not much exceeding one-fourth of her effective strength on paper. The system of "exoneration" was accordingly abandoned in 1863, since which date drafted men must give either personal service or provide an efficient substitute.

The reorganization of the French army, effected under Marshal Niel's administration in 1863, is as follows:

The number of recruits raised annually by conscription is 100,000, giving a proportion of about one in 370 of population. The period of military service is fixed at nine years, of which five years are passed with the regimental colors, and the remaining four years in a general reserve, called the *second reserve*. There is no territorial con-