The Comte de Paris' History.*

To the enterprise of Messrs. Jos. H. Coates and Co., of Philadelphia, we are indebted for the reproduction in an English dress of the History of the Civil War in America by the Comte de Paris, heir to the throne of France in the Orleans line, and aide de camp to General McClellan during the early days of our civil war. A perusal of this history is abundant refutation, so far as its author is concerned, of the assertion that the Bourbons neither learn anything or forget anything. It shows in every page the liberalizing influence of study, travel and contact with free institutions upon the intelligent mind of a member of that royal race which in its other branches has been identified with the principles of absolutism and the mediæval claims of the divine right, and it is no small tribute to the manly spirit of the Comte de Paris that, unlike his kinsman, the Comte de Chambord, he should have refused all claim to distinction, other than that which rests upon what he has himself accomplished which is worthy of men's recognition and respect. Led by an instinctive sympathy with our aspiration for unity and freedom which did equal honor to his head and heart, he sought service under our flag at the outbreak of the rebellion, and in his own person and that of his kinsmen, the Duc de Chartres and the Prince de Joinville, revived those traditions of French friendship toward this country which not even the unfriendly intrigues of a Napoleonic usurper could make us forget. As the author of this history, the Comte de Paris has established a new claim to our respect and esteem. Written throughout in a spirit of earnest, not to say enthusiastic sympathy with the cause for which he contended, it will serve to make better known to France and to Europe the true character, extent and animus of that great contest, which in its successful result has established American unity upon the abiding foundation of liberty.

"Much was said in France about the American civil war," the author tells us in his preface, "so long as it lasted But the data necessary to a full understanding of it in all its phases, and to follow it in details, were then wanting. Since that time public attention has been diverted by the events that have transpired in Europe. Nevertheless, this war of the New World may be useful to study, even after those of which our continent has been the theatre in 1866 and 1870. At a time when work and self possession constitute a duty for all, no page of contemporaneous military history should be neglected, Having been sympathetically received in the armies of the young Republic which remembers the support given by France to the early defenders of its independence, and has not failed to place the name of Bourbon among those who are to perpetuate the memory of it on its soil, it has been the wish of the author to present a token of gratitude to his late companions in arms."

We can assure Captain Louis d'Orleans that this tribute will be received in the spirit in which it is offered, and that his history will find an honored place by the side of cotemporary histories of the war, including the memoirs of our own Sherman. In its French original the four volumes thus far published are already known to a limited number of American officers, and we have heretofore referred to them on several occasions and have translated one chapter for the *Army and Navy Journal*. In the translation of Messrs. Coates and Co, it will secure a much wider circle of readers, who will value it not only because of the intrinsic interest of the narrative, but as a record of the impressions and observations of the working of our institutions under the strain of war by so capable and fair minded a foreign observer. It is philosophical generalization than in military criticism As Professor Coppée says in his preface· "He has produced a book displaying careful research, cool judgment, and a manifest purpose to be just to all. It is vigorous in style, scholarly without a touch of pedantry; his battle pictures are effective from their great simplicity; the battle fights itself under the reader's eye. So varied and skilful is the handling of the narrative that the interest does not flag for a moment, even when he deals with dry statistics. In a large and philosophic view of American institutions he has rivalled De Tocquevillo."

THE AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS.

The four volumes already published in France bring the history down to the battle of Fredericksburg in military operation, to the foundering of the original Monitor en route to Charleston in the naval, and to the Emancipation Proclamation in the political history of the war; that is to say, to the end of 1862. They include 12 books and 33 chapters. Of these the first five books and twenty one chapters are included in the volume thus far published in Philadelphia, the remainder being reserved for the second volume, which is shortly to appear. Book I. of the American translation covers the history of the American Army previous to the rebellion, including a sketch of the American volunteers of the last century, the rise of the Regular Army and the influence of the Military Academy, the war with Mexico and the experience of our Army among the Indians. The second chapter of his book, that upon the Regular Army, was translated for the *Journal* and published in our issue of March 21st 1874, a synopsis of the fifth chapter, upon the American Army among the Indians, appearing the week following. In the chapter on the volunteers of the eighteenth century the fact is noted that it was against the soldiers of France "in the Seven Years' War that the American volunteers, then composing the militia of an English colony, made their debut in arms." This fact, it is added, "may be recalled to mind not only without bitterness, since, Heaven be praised! the flag of the United States, since it has been afloat, has never been found opposed to that of France on the field of battle, but also as a remembrance constituting an additional tie between them and us. For, during the unequal struggle which decided the ownership of the new continent, these contending with the handful of heroic men who defended our empire beyond the seas in spite of a forgetful country. The soldiers of the war of independence were formed in that school· Montcalm, even more than Wolfe, was the instructor of those adversaries who very soon undertook to avenge him. It was while endeavoring to supplant the French on the borders of the Ohio, by long and frequently disastrous expeditions, that the founders of the American nation gave the first indications of that indefatigable energy which in the end triumped over every obstacle. It was the example of the defenders of Fort Carillon, in holding an English army in check from behind a miserable brestwork, which inspired at a later period the combatants of Bunker Hill. It was the surrender of Washington at Fort Necessity, and the disaster of Braddock at Fort Duquesne, which taught the future conquerors of Saratoga how, in those wild countries, to embarrass the march of a enemy, to cut off his supplies, to neutralize his advantages, until, at last, he was either captured or annihilated.

"The Federal volunteer, with his peculiarities and his defects, is the direct heir of those *Continentals*. they, who, difficult to manage, badly organized, and almost always beaten notwithstanding their personal courage, ended, nevertheless, by defeating the English legions These volunteers were indefatigable workers; with pick and axe in hand, at the sieges of Boston and Yorktown, like those volunteers who, in the course of four years, covered America with fortifications and trenches, but, at the same time, easily disconcerted when they felt or fancied themselves surprised by a flank movement, as at Brandywine and Germantown; difficult to lead to the attack of a strong position, and forgetful of the principle, that there is less danger in rushing upon an enemy than in receiving his fire without stirring. They would then quickly become disorganized, and, more wonderful still, would recover their organization with equal promptness. From their first engagements with the English down to the war which arrayed them against each other, the American volunteers finding a valuable auxiliary in their country, covered with forests and interspersed with swamps, seldom allowed a panic to degenerate into a route, and had the great merit of scarcely ever believing themselves vanquished after a defeat."

RISE OF THE REGULAR ARMY.

The growth of the Regular Army is traced through its various vicissitudes from the time when in 1798. Washington found himself invested with the new title of President, and the sounding designation of commander of all the military forces of the republic, which amounted in all to just 600 men. In 1799, this number had been increased to 1216 men, one regiment of infantry and one battalion of artillery, the number being increased the following year by the addition of a second regiment to 21 8. "In 1793, it was suddenly raised to 6000 men, to be again reduced in 1796 to 2800 men. The thought of war with France, in 1788, prompted a levy of 13,000 regular troops. Two years after, it was found that, while the corps of officers was complete, only 3,400 men had been enlisted: and in 1802 this ephemeral army was reduced to the total of 3,000."

It will be seen that it scarcely deserved the name of a regular army. Consequently, the more America relied upon her volunteers for defence, the more she needed a permanent school to form a corps of educated officers, possessing traditions and a military spirit, and capable of supplying the wants of an improvised and inexperienced army. Washington had felt this need, and desired to found a Federal school, upon a sufficiently comprehensive basis, in order that it might render this important service to the nation. But his project, destined to be adopted at a later period, was twice rejected, in 1793 and in 1796. It was deemed sufficient to establish a species of disguised school at West Point (*une espece d ecole deguise*) altogether inadequate to the wants of the country, comprising a depot of artillery and engineers, with two professors and about forty cadets. It was only in 1812 that the project of Washington was taken up again; and that the West Point Academy, of which he was the posthumous founder, because, in reality, the nursery of the Regular Army. At that period America learned at last, to

* History of the Civil War in America. By the Comte de Paris; translated, with the approval of the author, by Louis F. Tasistro. Edited by Henry Coppee, LL.D. Volume I. Philadelphia; Jos. H. Coates and Co., 1875.