

Our Rifle Brigade and other regiments are green although I lament to say too dark—almost black. A grass green is the most invisible. Black is almost as conspicuous as scarlet; hence the bull's-eye of a target is generally painted black. I would ask the question, which would be the most visible in a grass field, a crow or a green parrot? Again, if nature changed the coat of the deer to green in place of grey, in the fall of the year, could the hunter as easily discern them? Many of the American riflemen in the last war wore pea-green uniform, and were enabled to mow down our men with impunity. Sir John Johnston in the old American war raised two battalions called from their dress "Royal Greens," that caused no small terror on the frontier of the State of York. It is true some of the volunteers of England, destitute of actual experience, and fond of apeing foreigners, have adopted a grey uniform, but their predecessors during the old French war wore grass green like their forefathers, the national color of the Royal Archers of England, who also carried terror to their enemies. Grey uniform, unless very tastily made, and a great display of black lace, has a convict look, or a runaway from a lunatic asylum. Green looks well though perfectly plain, hence it must be the cheapest. See how well and soldier-like the men of the 60th look in their plain undress green uniform, walking through the streets.

No doubt some of the European Officers will look with sovereign contempt on Militia with only four days in the year of company drill and ball practice; but let me ask them if these flank companies, formed, dressed, and drilled, as above would be inferior to the raw Militia that twice repulsed the regular troops at Bunker's Hill with such fatal effect? or the new levies to whom Gen. Burgoyne surrendered his army with well supplied artillery? or to whom Lord Cornwallis and his army succumbed? or to those who stopped Sir Edward Pakenham at New Orleans, with immense slaughter, with an army flushed with victory and crowned with laurels gained in the Peninsula? "The British General forgot that the American rifle," says Sir Archibald Allison, "though unable to withstand the shock of the English bayonet, in regular combat, is a most formidable weapon when wielded by experienced hands behind trees, or under shelter, which so rapidly, and often fatally, equalizes the veteran and experienced soldier." Or would they be inferior to our Canadian Militia in the last war who distinguished themselves so gallantly at Queenston Heights, Chateaugay, Lundy's Lane, and many other places? Or, are they inferior to the Portuguese peasantry who repulsed Marshal Soult with that same army that followed up Sir John Moore in his celebrated retreat to Corunna? Or, the guerillas in Spain that kept 30,000 of the French army from the field to keep open the communications between the

Divisions? Or, the Vendean peasants, against whom Napoleon, in the midst of his campaign in Flanders, was compelled to send 20,000 of his troops? Who can tell, says the historian, what effect these 20,000 veterans might have had if thrown into the scale when the beam quivered on the field of Waterloo?

And have not the best troops of France been repeatedly beaten by Tyrolean peasants? How did the French army suffer in Algeria? Not from well-drilled European troops—but from the undisciplined children of the forest. We might multiply quotations from European history, but suffice it to remind my readers of the Vendean peasantry in the French Revolution; and the Circassians withstanding for years the armies of Russia, one of the great military powers of Europe. They must blot from the page of history the above truths, written in characters of blood, before they can deny the power of undisciplined men in defensive warfare; and differ in opinion from Napoleon, who, meditating on the battle field of Lutzen, and observing the slender figures and long hair of the peasant youths of Prussia, clothed as they left the plough, with two-thirds more of his own conscripts cold in death, exclaimed,—"The might that slumbers in a peasant's arm!"

The purport of this letter is to *awaken the might that slumbers in the arm of the yeomanry of Canada, and our leaders to a sense of our present weakness and consequent danger.*

But to recapitulate the advantages gained by the system proposed in these pages: 1st. A correct roll of the men liable to serve in the sedentary militia at the least possible expense to be done correctly, without surrendering the power of the military commander to warn out all the men liable by law to serve in the Militia. 2nd. 15,000 more youths liable to serve at an age the most likely to learn with avidity the use of fire-arms and take pride in military exercise, with memories the most susceptible to retain instruction. 3rd. A defensive force resident in the country with arms and accoutrements, instructed in company drill, ball practice, and calls on the bugle, clothed, &c. 4th. The flank companies would be schools from which officers and non-commissioned officers could be promoted not only in the flank companies but into the battalion. 5th. A certain number of men in the battalion companies that have served their time in the flankers, to whom arms might be distributed in case of invasion. 6th. The gift of land, an inducement for young men to settle in Canada, instead of going to the United States, as at present a portion do. 7th. Have a beneficial influence on the tide of emigration when known in Europe. 8th. Create more military knowledge and spirit throughout the Province in the young men, who would be curious to witness the target shooting for the prize medals on the Queen's birth day.