

by no means bases itself on mere passive defence; but aims at the complete disorganization of the attacking enemy. And if it can methodize this flank attack, and reduce it to a scientific certainty in defensive warfare, a British army some fifty thousand men, kept in hand especially to deliver this crucial blow, is not quite so useless as some writers are now inclined to contend.

I now come to the strategic question. The battle I have described was solely intended to illustrate the tactical power of my line in case the enemy attacked it. The enemy, of course, might have avoided it, and it may be thought by some that this is exactly what he would do—that he would avoid all protected railways in point of fact. And if we were fixed to these railways, he would have a decided advantage in being able to roam at will over the rest of the country.

But war is never a question of roaming about at will. "An army," says Napoleon, "moves on its belly." And the vast masses of men that constitute a modern army require the perfection of a most intricate mechanism to allow them to move at all, a mechanism always liable to be disturbed and dislocated. In civilized countries railways are now everywhere; and it is useless to explain to the student of strategy how important in a campaign must be a movable line of fortresses upon which a defending army might pivot, as Faidherbe did on the Belgian fortresses, and to which, in case of a reverse, he might retreat for security, as McClellan did to the gun boats on the James River. Let me take one strategical instance. All theorists dwell on the importance of a base parallel to the enemy's line of operations, but this with the locomotive iron redoubts might almost always be obtained. Supposing an enemy were to land at Eastbourne. If the English general manœuvred the Brighton line with reserve forces and redoubts, he might use that as a base, and strike at the flanks of the enemy's columns of march. Perhaps, if London were in its present undefended state, it would be possible for the enemy to send forward a few divisions, and make a dash at the capital; but I propose to show how London may be made secure without much cost, in a future paper, when I come to consider Fixed Railway Fortresses.

To give another instance of the power of the locomotive iron redoubts, if we concede that one hundred and fifty thousand Militia and Volunteers could hold sixty miles of shelter trenches, assisted by the regular army and the redoubts, a glance at the map will show that it would be impossible for an enemy to land anywhere in England south of Carlisle without our being able to invest him, by manning a convenient line of railway round him before he would have time to commence offensive operations. I have mentioned the exception of the Severn and the Bristol Channel, which give him an opportunity of choosing the side on which he may select to land, but his feints might be baffled by dividing the investing army until his real plans were known. If he landed to the west of Exmouth and Barnstaple, the Exmouth and Barnstaple line might be manned to bar his progress, and an attack from the side of Scotland might be met on the line between Carlisle and South Shields. If London were fortified, of course the English general could adopt something much better than mere passive defence. Most Englishmen still disbelieve in the possibility of invasion, in spite of the Report of the Royal Commissioners. The present aspect of the question, perhaps, is this. In a war with

France, let us say, we can render London secure by keeping a fleet superior to the whole of the French fleet continually in the Channel. But this would be virtually turning our naval force into a military force, defending London passively. In another paper I will show how London can be defended far more cheaply.

VOLUNTEER MEETING.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST COMPANY.

A public meeting, called by Lieut. Col. Houghton, D.A.G., took place in the Hyack Hall, on Friday evening last. There was a large attendance.

By request of the Deputy Adjutant General, Captain Bushby, of the Rifles, occupied the chair.

The Chairman having stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of forming a Volunteer Militia Company, to be part of the Active Militia of the Dominion of Canada.

Lieut. Col. Houghton explained the nature of the organization, the duties, responsibilities and privileges of members. He declared his intention to do everything in his power to meet the wishes of the members of the organization; and, in answer to questions, explained an number of minor points.

A long conversation then ensued, between the Deputy Adjutant General and Captain Scott, of the Seymour Artillery, with regard to the position of that corps, resulting in an agreement that Lieut. Col. Houghton should strongly recommend the formation of an auxiliary company of artillery here, as soon as Captain Scott should furnish him with the names of twenty men, ready to join said company.

The roll for the Rifle Company having been opened, twenty seven names were subscribed.

This closed the business of the public meeting.

Non-Volunteers having retired, a meeting of the new company was held, Mr. Bushby in the chair.

The Chairman said that he was most anxious to see the new company flourishing and efficient in every respect; and he believed that a great deal depended on the selection of officers. He had given a good deal of thought to the matter and he begged to suggest that the officers be

Captain—HENRY V. EDMONDS.
Lieutenant—JOSEPH BURN Sr.
Ensign—A. PIERCE

Mr. J. C. Brown seconded the nomination. He expressed his regret that Mr. Bushby, Captain of the late Rifle Company, could not be prevailed upon to accept a similar position in this one, although he had been urged to do so by many members of the company.

The motion was passed unanimously. (Captain Edmonds was for some years a Lieutenant in the London Irish Rifles, a corps that hold a high position among the volunteers of the old country; and was also Lieutenant and Adjutant of the late rifle corps here.)

Lieut. Col. Houghton expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the choice of officers. He believed the selection was a good one.

Each of the newly elected officers, in a few words returned thanks for the honor done them, and several other members of the company addressed those present briefly, each and all expressing a hope that the new company

would be a credit to New Westminster, and declaring their determination to spare no effort in attaining that end.

The meeting then broke up.

SECOND MEETING.

A meeting of the newly organized company was held in the Hyack Hall on Tuesday evening. Only a few members were absent.

Capt. Edmonds announced that he appointed Mr. McMurphy Color Sergeant, and Mr. Pritchard, bugler, other non-commissioned officers would not be appointed for some time, until experience had shown what men were best qualified for the position.

It was agreed that the members hand over the capitation grant to the funds of the Corps.

Drills will be for the present on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 8 o'clock—the first drill being on Tuesday next 20th inst.

The Captain announced that only one man was wanted to fill the roll and bring the company up to its full strength.

Mr. R. Dickinson was elected Civil Secretary and Treasurer.

Captain Edmonds stated that he had applied, through the Deputy Adjutant General to the Dominion Government, for a grant for repairing the Drill Shed, &c. He hoped also that the Municipal Councils of the District would follow the practice pursued in the East, and assist the company by grants to its funds.

There was some discussion as to fines for non-attendance at drills, &c., and we can hold out no hope of leniency to defaulters.

After some further business, the meeting broke up.—*Dominion Pacific Herald* Jan. 16

MILITARY.—Lieut. Colonel Houghton, D.A.G., goes down by the Enterprise this morning. The formation of a Volunteer Corps at Burrard Inlet has been abandoned for the present, the population of that place being too much scattered.—*Id.*

FORT GARRY FIRE.

We have much pleasure in publishing the following letter from J. H. McAvish, Esq., thanking Colonel Smith and those under his command for their gallant exertions during the late fire. As the Hudson Bay Co. were the parties most deeply interested, it is gratifying to see that they fully appreciated the noble efforts of their military friends, which resulted in saving an immense amount of valuable property from destruction:—

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S OFFICE,
Fort Garry, 15th Jan., 1874.

LIEUT.-COL. OSBORNE SMITH, C.M.G.,
Commanding Dominion Force,
Manitoba.

SIR,—It is with the deepest sense of gratitude that I have this morning to express to you and the force under your command, my thanks for the eminent services rendered in Fort Garry during the past night, when the entire establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company stood in the most imminent peril of destruction by fire.

I estimate to the fullest extent the fact, that owing solely to our own cool judgment and the noble manner in which you were assisted throughout by your officers and men during the several hours conflict between the devouring element and man's in-