

## CONTENTS OF No. 7, VOL. VIII.

POETRY.—	
Self-Reliance.	22
EDITORIAL:—	
Marshal Bazaine.	18
Unlimited Armistice.	19
Volunteer Artillery for Home Defence.	20
The News of the Week.	13
CALL SPONDENCE:—	
K.	23
Old Soldier.	23
Centurion.	23
Brome Volunteer Cavalry, P.Q.	24
RELATIONS:—	
Memorandum of the Militia System of Canada.	11
A Canadian on Rifle-Shooting.	17
Why English Workmen don't like the United States.	21
The Ruling Passion.	21
Officers' Long Course—Gunnery School, Quebec.	22
REVIEWS.	21
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.	21
REMITTANCES.	21



## The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JAN. 20, 1874.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

The following article from the United States Army and Navy Journal merits the serious attention of all men desirous of securing the perfect military organization of an armed nation, as distinguished from the exploded system of a National Army. In order to accomplish this great work, the individual citizens of a State must be compelled for the common good to surrender their individual volition and the outward appreciation of the thoughts and senses, so far as they are necessarily concerned, to one direction; in other words, they must come under the yoke of discipline—that is to submit without hesitation or question to the control of one will—and it is absurd to suppose that as soldiers they cannot have any rights or privileges apart from the rest of the community whom it is their duty to defend. As the whole fighting force of a State is usually only one-sixth of its population, it

follows, that in no case while acting as soldiers should they be allowed to claim any privilege endangering the liberties or properties of the other five-sixths, and this they will always do where the soldier dictates to his superior.

Our military organization is not free from the faults of the laxity of discipline; the militia law is hardly stringent enough in enforcing attendance at drill and in awarding punishment; but still it is far superior to that under which the militia of the various States of the neighbouring Union is organized. Their great mistake in a social, political, and military point of view is, that the test of ability is based on that most fallacious of all standards—popular election. We thought the experience of the last war was quite sufficient to drive it out of military organization at least, but to our surprise we find it as a recognized institution in the officering of the National Guard, and when it is possible for the lance corporal of to-day to be first lieutenant to-morrow by the popular vote of his fellows, we can hardly perceive how the "hail fellow" style could be well dispensed with, or how *Mose* the drummer should not challenge *Sydney* the Captain, to a game of euchre or seven up after parade was dismissed. If our contemporary wishes to enforce discipline he must advocate the destruction of democracy—both cannot possibly exist in contact—and the mischievous as well as false doctrines of personal equality must be eradicated if a military organization is to be maintained.

Our Canadian Army is democratic enough but we have all the machinery for enforcing discipline in its strictest sense and we permit no election of officers; in times of war our troops would be at once brought under the stringent provision of military law, and our neighbour's must inaugurate a similar system if they mean to have an efficient militia.

**DISCIPLINE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.**—In treating this question we are met at the very start by a point blank question, the answer to which involves a very grave further inquiry as regards the interests of American militia in our own and other States. That question is—What is discipline? The answers are numerous from all military writers and officers of eminence—all agreeing as to the essential qualities of this thing.

"Discipline is the life of an army." "The difference between a mob and an army is discipline." "The difference between a good army and a poor one is good discipline." "The emerging of many wills in one." "The habit of implicit obedience to order under any and all circumstances." "Discipline turned a blunder into an act of heroism at Balaklava." "Without discipline there can be no army," etc. These answers suggest the further inquiry—Have we any such thing as discipline in our militia? The answer, we fear, is inevitable to a military observer looking at the question from a "regular" standpoint—none at all. An ex volunteer, recognizing that there may be real discipline without the slavish manners of English,

Prussian, and American Regular service, would qualify the answer by saying—a little. That there is a very little is proven by the fact that within a year past there have been three serious disturbances in militia regiments, in all of which a perfect contempt of authority has been shown, either by enlisted men or by company officers, and that in no case have the offenders been punished, while practically they have in all cases secured a victory over their superiors. We refer, first, to the late Third Infantry; next, to the Eleventh Infantry; next, to Company G, of the Thirteenth. In the first case the company officers, or a few of them, secured the disbandment of their regiment and its reconstruction, as the Twenty-seventh throwing a slur by implication on their colonel, whom they had disobeyed wantonly, without a word of official censure from the Commander-in-Chief, or other powers. In the second, a whole regiment engaged in repeated acts of mutiny, and the consequent court-martials have ended in smoke, thus again casting the blame on their colonel by implication. In the third, a company has deliberately defied restraint, and mutinied because the authorities neglected to transfer it to another regiment. The result has been simply disbandment, without further punishment. That these are only straws, indicating the course of the wind, will appear to any practical observer who goes through our militia armories at any time when the men are not actually on drill. He will see in all, or nearly all, the same "hail fellow" style among men and officers; the same reluctance to bend to the will of others, if the act involves any sacrifice of personal comfort. That the best of our organizations are not free from this defect is evinced by the experience of the Seventh Infantry at the Saratoga encampment, where a few riotous spirits, intent on what they called "fun," disregarded the A B C of Regulations, and raised disturbances almost every night after taps.

"It has become time for the gentlemen of the National Guard to answer one last question seriously—Are you soldiers, or only playing at soldiers?"

"If the first, you are, you must be, all wrong, for you cannot get on without discipline. If the last, is it not time, in view of possible warlike contingencies, to turn over a new leaf and be either soldiers or civilians? Play soldiers, kidglove warriors, are objects of deserved satire all over the civilized world. Are you content to become objects of contempt to real soldiers, spite of any amount of fuss and feathers? If not, it is time to do something towards raising the standard of discipline in the National Guard. What they may be, we may speak about in the future. Meantime we invite discussion of the undoubted evil in its possible remedies."

In another column will be found an article on the "National Defence" of France, from the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, which strikes any one who may have studied the condition of the fortresses of that country before the late war, as being exactly what is wanted to meet the altered conditions of warfare. The girdle of impregnable fortresses on the best development of the systems of Vauban and Cormontaigne which covered the Franco-German frontier, were burst through like a paper screen by the German invaders; with the exception of