

## CONTENTS OF No. 21, VOL. VIII.

## EDITORIAL:—

State of the British Navy.....	282
British Columbia Rifle Association.....	283
Vancouver Gun.....	283
The News of the Week.....	277

## CORRESPONDENCE:—

The French Cavalry—1870.....	270
Sabre.....	280

## SELECTIONS:—

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1873.....	278
Pace and Speed in Military Horses as affecting the Rates of March.....	281
Report on the Military Academy at West Point.....	280

## REVIEWS.....

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.....	257, 281
-----------------------------	----------



## The Volunteer Review,

AND

### MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 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.

**LEUT. J. B. VINTER**, of Victoria, is our authorised Agent for Vancouver Island, British Columbia. As is also Captain H. V. EDMONDS for New Westminster and adjacent country.

We again refer to Colonel FLETCHER'S valuable report on the Military Academy at West Point, United States, with the full assurance that, he has rendered the country a great public service, in placing before it in such a concise form the details of the organization of that celebrated military school. As we are about to establish a similar institution the knowledge collected and reviewed in his usual happy manner is most valuable, and very few readers will differ in opinion with him as to the course Canada should pursue under the circumstances, while everything really practical and valuable in the organization, management, course of training and education at West Point should be copied with such modifications as suit our social condition, everything not necessary for a totally different military organization should be left out. Col. FLETCHER has offered a valuable suggestion respecting the training of Canadian cadets,—after their college course

has been completed by service in the Imperial Army,—such a course is not only eminently practical and worthy serious attention, but it must, in the very nature of things, be the proper mode of employing those gentlemen who will devote their talents to the noblest of all professions.

We should then have the advantage of possessing officers who had seen actual service—men trained in the peculiarities of their own country and climate with a practical knowledge of the Art of War acquired under other conditions, but still available under the application of general principles.

In another page will be found an article from the *Toronto Mail* of the 5th June, entitled "Expedition to the North West," which will rather astonish most of our readers. The organization of the *Mounted Police* has been going on for over a year, and the establishment of those 500 outlaws, with their seventeen shooter Spencer carbines and six pieces of artillery, are entirely novel features in the reasons why that force was called into existence. The late Adjutant General, Colonel P. ROBERTSON ROSS, in his report for 1872, after making the overland journey advised the organization of a corps of *mounted riflemen* to prevent the evils arising from the influx of *whiskey traders* and the occasional forays of Indians from the United States' border as well as to afford protection to settlers and gold diggers on the Saskatchewan, but certainly an expedition of the character pointed out by the *Mail* was not then contemplated, and we cannot conceive what reasons could have governed the authorities to keep it a profound secret till now, or by what means they effected that very desirable object as the enterprising and ubiquitous reporter knows at once, not only what has happened, but also that which is never likely to occur. If the case is what has been detailed by the *Mail*, the expedition should be fully as large as that sent out under Sir GARNET WOLSELEY, as the affair is by far more serious; and as that gallant officer won his knightly spurs on that occasion it is to be hoped that a peerage at least will await the success of Lieutenant Colonel French, as he has by far the most difficult and dangerous service to perform with one-fourth of the force required to put down the thirty odd bull hunters that held Fort Garry in 1870.

As to the composition of the force constituting the *Mounted Police* there can be no question but it is probably the very best as respects officers and men ever organized in Canada, or likely in any other country. Our advocacy of the volunteer principle on our military organization was founded in the knowledge that it would bring out the best element in our population, and the *mounted police* shows the truth of the asserted fact. Moreover, the officers of the force are all men of experience, Colonel French is well known as an artillery officer of superior at-

tainments and ability, Col. MACLEOD was Brigade Major to the Red River Expedition, and amongst the Sub Inspectors there are men who have held high commands in that force. We cannot, however, exult with the *Mail* in the policy which called the force into existence. First, because the name or designation is a misnomer; secondly, because the number of officers and men have been fixed by arbitrary rule, or rather law, beyond which it cannot be expanded without setting legislative authority at defiance, and the interests of the country may at any time demand such expansion; thirdly, because the force is not under martial law, and without the control of the military authorities of the Dominion. The name of *mounted police* will convey to the desperadoes about the Belly River the idea of a lot of sixth ward constables led on by a Steve Branch or a Matsell. If they are of the stuff so vividly painted by the irrepressible reporter and under tolerable command, they will be certainly capable of cutting out more work for Col. French's force than it will be capable of managing. If they have been able to surprise a detachment sufficient to man six field pieces, they will likely be able to deal with a detachment of United States' troops equal to the *mounted police*—for it is evident not more than *two hundred* of the latter will be available for active operations. As a mere piece of policy (if anything like what the *Mail* points out is true) a detachment of the Active Militia at least 600 strong should have been sent to the North West, and the force organized for service there should have been known as soldiers, not as constables in scarlet.

As it is presumed that dismissal from the force is the only punishment which can be inflicted, the impolicy of sending men kept together by no other tie than this, on a distant as well as dangerous expedition, is evident. The Irish Constabulary after which they were modelled was a purely local force, better paid than the regular soldier with duties of a strictly civil character to perform and was never sent or meant to be sent on a distant or dangerous expedition. This question of discipline is the weak point of the *Mounted Police* and will go far to neutralize the talent and energy of its officers. Masses of men cannot be held together by a mere moral tie. Power necessary to coercion will produce and enforce discipline without which nothing can be effected in a military point of view. The organization of the *mounted police* was a compromise and concession to the purely mercantile element in the Commons, and as a consequence a blunder.

The following letter on the important subject of "Heavy Guns," is taken from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* of 9th May, its practical value is easily understood and there can be no doubt of its applicability in land batteries.