

proved. The 'News' says it "could not conceive a more puerile argument carried to a more impotent conclusion," and continues thus: "We say it is a slur upon the rank and file of the Volunteer organization to say that they cannot be kept together except through such adventitious aids, and we maintain that officers who accept their commissions, knowing beforehand that such expenses are to be entailed upon them, have no right afterwards to parade their grievances with a view to exciting public sympathy and procuring Government assistance. We are sufficiently realistic to disbelieve in the patriotism which would hang on to a uniform to the prejudice of credit and character, and we have the hardihood to say that if such instances are general, the sooner such patriots are replaced, the better for the cause they pretend to espouse." The line of argument here adopted is that because officers have, from patriotic motives, accepted positions which involve unfair sacrifices, they should go on quietly submitting to such sacrifices until they become unable, however willing, to do so longer; and then give way to fresh victims of the same injustice. Now, it is not in the interest of the officers, but for the welfare of our infant military organization that we demand justice from the wealth of the country; for in order to be successful any policy must be based upon strict impartiality, which can never be the case so long as any number of persons are permitted to escape their fair share of the expense attending defensive organization. It is undoubtedly true, that in the face of imminent danger, both the officers and men of the force would throw themselves into the breach without a thought of "adventitious aids," or of the consequences to themselves individually; but it is quite another thing to attend punctually to the drudgery of drill, marching and counter-marching, burnishing, pipeclaying and brushing; to work for nothing and pay your own expenses, in order to be prepared for effective defence, and only receive in return the self-satisfied smile of the unpatriotic and the sneer of thrifty prudence for your pains. The 'News' makes us say that the expenditure of money to conceal individual unfitness is simply nonsense, "unless it is spent in bribing inspecting officers." We said that the charges made against officers in that connection by the 'News' was nonsense, unless it meant to convey the idea that inspecting officers were bribed. However, stripped of its verbiage the position of the 'News' is that the force ought to be almost, if not entirely, self-sustaining; our position is that it ought to be supported by every man in the country in proportion to his means, and no one will have the hardihood to say that we have not justice on our side, except those who hold the contemptible and dangerous doctrine that "the best defence is no defence at all."

### ARMS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS

It is said that delays are dangerous, but there are instances where they are not only unavoidable, but do good service, by allowing time for laying down bases of systems as nearly perfect as possible consistent with the overhanging current of events. We noticed last week the unnecessary expense and trouble which would probably be the result of any new system of military organization which being adopted by Canada alone, in the face of the fact that the rapidly approaching Confederation would probably overturn or modify it; and the same reason applies to any very extended arming of our Volunteers with new breech-loaders. In England it is made a point with the authorities of the War Office, that the rifles in the service shall all be of one calibre, in order to avoid confusion and blunders in the distribution of cartridges, and the same reason will have force in the new Confederacy in selection of arms for the British American forces. Another reason why activity in our military affairs must await the completion of Union, is that contemporaneously with the passing of the act through the Imperial Parliament, a definite settlement of the proportion of military service to be borne by the mother country on the one hand, and by the colonies on the other, is pretty certain to be arrived at; and we will then know how far we are to be guided by the mother country in the equipment of our military establishment, and how far we will be left to follow the dictates of our own judgment. When, therefore, we find journals which were foremost in urging that every other consideration should, for the time, be made subservient to the great one of Union, cavilling at delays, which the prosecution of that project rendered inevitable, we cannot but conclude that they have some concealed motive for forgetting their own teaching. Fortunately, we have no cause to apprehend immediate danger, and as we shall know the result of the Confederation negotiations in a few weeks at most, we can afford to wait a little longer, especially as there are already in the country several thousands of Spencer and Wesley Richards repeating rifles; although it is not probable that they will be ultimately used in arming the Volunteers. After the result of the present negotiations becomes known, whatever it may be, we have a right to expect energetic action on the part of our military authorities, and our readers may depend upon getting the earliest possible information in *THE REVIEW*; but we could effect no good purpose, by attempting to foreshadow possible contingencies in a military point of view, which are, as yet, scarcely known in England, and the public may be sure that when political journalists find fault, they do so upon a subject which involves features of which they know nothing, but which, when the proper time comes, are susceptible of a satisfactory explanation.

### THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The Queen opened the Imperial Parliament in person, on the 5th inst. After the assurance that the relations of the empire with foreign powers are on a friendly footing, the speech contains allusions of special interest to this country. Her Majesty says:

"I have suggested to the Government of the United States a mode by which the question pending between the two countries, arising out of the civil war, may receive an amicable solution, which I trust it will be, in a corresponding spirit, will remove all grounds of possible misunderstanding and promote relations of cordial friendship."

Friendly overtures on the part of Great Britain towards the United States have heretofore only increased the insolence of the republican demagogues; but it is possible that the present President, who has received a very fair taste of the quality of congressional "statesmen," may be inclined and able to assume a civil tone in his relations with England. We can only hope so. The reference in the speech to British American union is as follows:

"Resolutions in favor of a more intimate union of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, have been passed by their several legislatures, and delegates duly authorized are representing all classes of colonial parties, and opinions have concurred on the conditions upon which such a union may be best effected. In accordance with their wishes, a bill will be submitted to you, which, by the consolidation of colonial interest and resources, will give strength to the Provinces as members of the same empire, and animated by the same feeling of loyalty to the same sovereign."

This cannot but be gratifying to the people of these Provinces, especially the tone of the last paragraph, which speaks of our future strength, and recognizes our right to the same protection and consideration as our fellow subjects at home "as members of the same empire, and animated by the same feeling of loyalty to the same sovereign." There is little consolation here for the disciples of GOLDWIN SMITH. Two other paragraphs will be of interest to our military and naval readers, showing as they do the determination of the party at present in office there to maintain the power and prestige of England by a careful consideration of the interests of her soldiers and sailors. The army is thus referred to.

"I have directed the estimates of the ensuing year to be laid before you; they have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service. You will, I am sure, give your ready assent to a moderate expenditure, calculated to improve the state of my soldiers, and to lay the foundation of an efficient army of reserve."

The source from which the navy is supplied with seamen elicits the following:

"The condition of the mercantile marine has attracted my serious attention. Complaints are made that the supply of seamen is deficient, and the provisions for their health and discipline are imperfect. Measures will be submitted to you with a view to