

CORRESPONDENCE.

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MIRAILLE.

(LETTER NO. 7.)

It appears by the Army List that the British Military authorities have in all corps abolished the now unmeaning old titles of coronet and ensign, and substituted the more common one of sub-lieutenant. What hinders a similar measure with us? How slow we are!

I am inclined to think that your correspondent "K" cannot know much of Lieut. Colonel Geo. Denison, or he would scarcely speak of him in a depreciatory manner.

Those who are acquainted with the circumstances of that officer's resignation, and who are also familiar with his powers of mind and his physical energy and activity, will certainly not share in the surprise expressed by "K" at his re-instatement, but have, on the contrary, naturally anticipated his restoration whenever the advent to power of a new set of men should enable him to receive at their hands what he did not consider it due to himself to accept from those recently in office.

But if, having the privilege of addressing your readers, I cannot on the one hand, acquiesce silently in the dispraise of one whose worth I happen to know, I cannot, on the other refrain from the expression of a most cordial concurrence with "K's" opinion of Colonel Jarvis' labors and aspirations "for the practical good and benefit of the service," and of that sincere interest in it which has not always met with the loyal support it has merited.

In rendering this just tribute to Colonel Jarvis, "K" appeals very directly to both the judgment and feelings of those who know that officer well enough to be really capable of appreciating the clear head and administrative ability, the manly mind and the kind heart, which render duty always pleasant to those fortunate enough to find themselves under his command.

The name of Colonel Jarvis completes the trio to which I alluded in a communication which appeared in the VOLUNTEER REVIEW of February 17th, as fitted for the post of Adjutant General, should an alternation in the Act take place.

The *Globe*, in a recent leading article on Medical Legislation, justly expresses itself unable to conceive the idea of any Canadian Legislature imposing "upon a population of sixty thousand persons" (Homoeopaths) "who have certainly as good a right as the rest of the people to choose their own doctors, any desirability in the matter."

Now an allopathic body of practitioners, if it possess the might, has quite as much

right to interdict resort to Homoeopathic skill, or, to put it the reverse, and perhaps the more forcible way, a body of Homoeopaths if they were the majority and possessed of the power of the majority, would have quite as good a right to put a stop to Allopathic practice on the ground of its being poisonous and vicious, as the rapid enthusiasts, not of temperance, but of total abstinence would have, if they were a majority to debar every reasonable man from the glass of wine, or spirit, which, in that free exercise of the judgment with which God has endowed him, and the responsibility which God has imposed upon him, he may choose to take.

Yet the increasing determination of the Liquor Prohibition Propagandist aims at the arbitrary control of free-will, and if it remain long unchecked by counter action on the part of the reasonable portion of the community, is likely to result in a legislative tyranny quite as detestable as would be that of compelling Homoeopaths to act upon Allopathic advice.

The perceptions of the tea-total zealots are too much dulled and dimmed by their disease of water on the brain to discern that they are driving at that interference with private action by which the sour fanaticism of puritanic tendencies, has, from Calvin to Cotton Mather, rendered itself intolerable.

Men of one idea are always in extremes, and always blind to broad general principles. Thus those to whom the sole outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, as well as the emblem of all earthly good, is a tea-pot—are incapable of realizing the shallowness or the odiousness of enforced restrictions on individual liberty, and see no objection to a tyranny which is on the side of their own crochets.

This thing strikes deeper at the root of constitutional liberty—the freedom of action of the individual as long as he does not render himself obnoxious to the law—than people in general seem to realize.

Drunkenness is doubtless all but the greatest social evils; but sobriety must, in the long run be propagated and maintained by the powers of religion and reason, not by arbitrary Legislative enactments. The idea of making people virtuous by Act of Parliament, is an absurdity so utterly exploded and scoffed at by thinkers, that it can only be dreamed of where the mass of the people is so tame and facile, or so ignorant as to surrender their rights and their consciences into the hands of a blatant faction of shallow enthusiasts.

Neither this faction nor its dupes seem to be capable of remembering that no abstract constitutional principle can be long violated on the ground of expediency. However apparently successful such tinkering may be for a time, the broader truth will ere long be borne in on men's minds, and they

will infallibly realize that no protective enactments can supersede—if for a season they succeed in emascuating—the robust principle of personal responsibility, which is at the bottom of all religion, and of all citizenship.

The tameness of spirit which will consent to give itself over to the false moral guidance of the milk-and-water saints of these latter days, seems, however, to be spreading over all the East.

That "westward the course of empire holds its way" is a terribly hackneyed quotation, but it is probable that individual independence of thought and action may find a refuge in the Far West, where they certainly exist as yet, when the sour-visaged fanaticism of the East shall have succeeded in rendering it intolerable to dwell there.

It is probably the highest worldly duty of man unshrinkingly to maintain his right to perfect freedom from interference in his private affairs.

The Senate of the State of Missouri, if the following paragraph be correct, has made a noble stand against the insolent vagaries now in course of perpetration in the States by the legal spirit of the great modern craze. The calmly legal spirit of the action indicated is worthy of deep consideration by all whose rights may be menaced by Canadian fanaticism:—

"A Bill has been introduced in the Missouri Senate to protect citizens from imposition by religious or temperance fanatics. It makes praying, singing, preaching, or swearing on or contiguous to any premises, without the consent of the owner, a misdemeanor and punishment by fine."

FRANCO-TIREUR.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR—As it seems probable that some attempt will be made during the coming session to improve the condition of our Volunteer Force, I purpose, with your leave, to make a few suggestions which have occurred to me as the result of some twelve years experience of volunteer service, especially in that sore part of it the recruiting of a company.

I have carefully read the valuable paper of "Centurion" and your remarks on it, and while fully admitting the axiom, "that military service is due from every man in the State," it seems to me that it is one which in this country should only be enforced in time of war, and that while depending upon our volunteer service, we should regard it in two ways:—

First. As a Force which should of itself be quite sufficient to protect us from all marauding incursions such as of the Fenians along the Frontier, or of Indians in the North West; and as an aid to the civil power in time of need. Secondly—We should regard it as a means of leavening the whole country with a knowledge of drill and discipline and a warlike spirit, so that in the event of a national war, which every true statesman