

they saw, and see, that there is no hope of reward or encouragement for long and faithful service, that the few prizes in the force were always given to personal friends or political supporters, and that merit or efficiency had of themselves neither weight nor influence in the Militia Department, and that no difference was made *there* between the man who knew his duty and did it, and the officer who is alike ignorant, indifferent, and incompetent. The one sole hope for the militia of Canada is an Imperial investigation. Let an independent commission of regular officers go a round among the various battalions and visit a few of the isolated companies. Let them inquire into the company and battalion organization and the manner of recruiting and discharging, the amount of yearly drill authorized by law and the average attendance, and the when and how it is done, the amount of musketry instruction and ball practice, how the company and regimental records are kept, or if there are such things. What are the qualifications of the officers of the active Militia. What the formation and organization of the reserve Militia, and how it is officered, and how long it would take to prepare a regiment of the reserve for the field, *supposing there were arms to equip them!* or, let the Commander-in-Chief get a confidential report from the Adjutant-General, Col. Robertson Ross, of what he was told by "the officers of those battalions he inspected last year upon all the points raised in both my letters." Then the Duke can tell from the report, as all could tell from the report of a commission, whether I have been guilty of exaggeration, and if the Militia of Canada is the best or worst in the world.

Yours very truly,

CANADIAN MILITIA OFFICER.

Montreal, May 25, 1870.

It is hardly necessary to answer seriously the assertions of the writer of the above letter. They have falsehood, wilful and deliberate, written in every line. Events subsequent to the date, show that every article which appeared in the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* with respect to the value of the Canadian Militia Law was the record of a mere matter of fact. A short time previously over 6,000 men had been placed on the frontier at a few hours notice, and while this slunderer was actually writing the above 13,000 men were assembling to protect Canada from an invasion of armed American citizens. This genius must be one of the veritable *Tooley street tailors*. Canada has been plagued within the past year with a set of little people great in their own estimation, who have undertaken to represent her political inclinations; and we have "*Canadian Militia Officer*" undertaking to prescribe for her military necessities all on his own hook. Like all great men, however, the country don't believe either in the political or military quacks. The former are principally foreigners, and, like the fox that lost his caudal appendage, wants to persuade us that they are in the prevailing fashion. They have secured one or two organs, and if of little account, make themselves heard occasionally, while "*Canadian Militia Officer*" must take his grievances to England to have a good *blow* out over them. He cannot get a Canadian newspaper to figure in on any account. Might it not be just

possible that he is a stray Yankee, especially as he hails from the headquarters of the political conspirators, with whom basswood hams, wooden nutmegs, and clock peddling, has proved a failure, and so he has turned his hand to the *military business*. We are led to this conclusion on account of the fellows frantic appeals to Imperial interference in the local affairs of the Canadian Militia, and the cool impudence with which he assumes that he alone is the only honest man in the force, and, in fact, in the whole country. No *Canadian Militia Officer* (incompetent and ignorant, as this false witness represents them to be) is so stupid as to adopt such a course. The Canadian Militia Law is that best adapted to the social condition of the people. The proofs are to be found in the alacrity with which the Volunteer force obeyed the call to arms, and the country may well be proud of the facilities and ease with which it can be mobilised.

A position taken by the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* on Gen. Lindsay's mission, was the true one. His speech is sufficient answer to the falsehood of the correspondent of the *Broad Arrow*; and while his great services as General commanding the Canadian Army, which this fellow would try to make the people of England believe to be a myth, will be always gratefully remembered by the Canadian people; they feel proud that a native born Canadian rendered his abilities as an organizer unnecessary. The allegations charged, and whole motive of this letter is a direct falsehood, and *Canadian Militia Officer* knows it to be such. As for his appreciation of the Editor of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*, *noblesse oblige*; we have nothing in common, nor would it be necessary to say one word about the course that journal has pursued, if it had not been that the fellows reckless impertinence led him to connect it with Sir G. E. Cartier, Bart, Minister of Militia and defence. From the first establishment of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*, it always advocated a Militia law similar in character to that which the Minister of Militia carried through the House of Commons, and it could not so far stultify itself to find fault with a measure so much in accordance with the wants of the country; while it is well known that the *REVIEW*, although the organ of the Canadian army, is not the tool of the Militia Department, nor of any clique in the personnel of the force. Its course is as independent now as during any part of its career, and its efforts will be directed to establish the proper *esprit de corps*, without which no organization can exist, in spite of all the *Tooley street* conspirators or stray Yankees sailing under false colors in Canada. The *Broad Arrow* ought to be careful about admitting correspondence of so degrading a character into its columns, for we hold that the first principles of journalism are violated when a fellow without any pretensions to be a gentleman is allowed to libel the institutions of a country and its public men, and utter falsehood against the honor of its army.

Abuse of ourselves, as a matter of course, we laugh at; but understanding the principle on which its correspondent acts, which is to throw enough dirt, and some of it will be sure to stick, we shall answer his falsehoods, lest a wrong impression should be conveyed to the *Broad Arrow*, and thereby to the people of England.

That very efficient officer, Adjutant General Robertson Ross, is completing the organization of the Canadian Militia, left by Col. Macdougall necessarily incomplete. As the commanding officer of the force, he is charged with its discipline precisely as H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge, is charged with that of the Imperial army, neither party may proceed to make organized changes without legislative sanction. The insinuation that he "endeavored to procure some modification of the *Act* this session," is wholly and utterly false, as well as the reported conversation, which alone had existence in the very fertile and not at all scrupulous imagination of the *Broad Arrow's* correspondent. The organization of the Red River expedition proves nothing: it had a political aspect rendering the service distasteful to the French Canadian population, and it is not truth that "more than half the men in it are from Ontario, or are disbanded soldiers of the Royal Canadian Rifles;" and as for the rest of the paragraphs, the men sent were *Volunteers* from the various corps; *were not picked* in any sense of the term, and being entirely under the control of General Lindsay, were subjected to the usual medical examination, and a *very few rejected* on account of the peculiar nature of the expedition, it is false that *nearly one half failed to pass the doctor*; and even with the test to which they were submitted, some ten or twelve have been sent back as unequal to the labor entailed since the expedition started. It is false that the best men have left the service; it is false that the battalions are mere skeletons; and it is equally false that "the prizes of the force are always given to personal friends or political supporters." Of the staff fully three-fourths, if not more, are gentlemen who have seen service in the British army; men without the slightest political influence in Canada, and whose sole claims rested on professional knowledge. So much for the allegations: now for the propositions. A commission of regular officers, as proposed by the *Broad Arrow's* correspondent, would be entirely useless, from the fact that the great problem of arming a whole people with their own assent in a free State, and subjecting that people to strict military discipline at certain periods, making them available as a defensive force, is in process of solution, and up to the present a decided success. The full scope and value of the measures necessary cannot be understood by people of the calibre of the *Broad Arrow's* correspondent, who will, with the shamelessness of all charlatans, urge their own personal views and objects, having their individual interests,