

of Virginia and other States which would otherwise not have joined the Confederates if the offensive had been assumed.

**Question 3.**—What reduced Denmark to the defensive in 1864, and France in 1870, after the initiative had been determined upon?

**Answer to Question 3.**—Denmark was reduced to the defence in 1864, because her army was so very inferior in numbers to that of the allied Prussians and Austrians that it could not hope to take a successful offensive. France was reduced to take the defensive because her troop took so long to concentrate that the enemy had time to assemble vastly superior forces and cross the frontier, thus snatching the initiative.

The reasons of the delay in France were her bad recruiting system—men in recruits were posted to corps quite distant from recruiting depots, and soldiers on leave instead of having to go to their line of district to rejoin their regiments, had to travel from one end of the country to the other—bad management of railways and defect in system of control, i.e. centralization of stores—deficiency of unity in the command and the political status of France. Her plan of campaign was the invasion of Southern Germany thus preventing the concentration of the South German contingents. But in fifteen days the Germans had half a million troops on the French frontier, whilst the French had not half that number, consequently had the French taken the initiative they could not have done so except with great odds against them. The Prussian system of military organization was quite different. Each corps was recruited from the same district and stationed in the district it was recruited from, the control intendants (a) was effective, being self-reliant for each corps instead of being centralized as in France, the military training was also more different than in France, consequently much more troops could be brought in the field properly trained. Thus we may say that two reasons would have dictated to France, a defensive war, her inferiority of numbers of trained troops and her tardiness in taking the initiative, also her defect of organization. Apart from that her theatre of war was badly selected, as her army crossing the Rhine would have fallen in an intersected wooded country—the black forest—favorable for an army strong in infantry which was not the case with the French army.

(a) The English are the only people who give so silly a title to the supply department. The General must be the only controller.

(To be continued.)

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

(KINGSTON CORRESPONDENCE.)

It is with feelings of sincere regret for the loss of a kind friend and true hearted gentleman, that I have to inform you of the death of the Militia Storekeeper of this station, in Ottawa on Friday last, the 2nd inst. Colonel CORBETT was so well known here and in this District, that his loss will be missed by many officers of No. 3 Military District, in any future Camp held in the good old limestone city. At one time in Kingston there was no more hospitable man than the

late Colonel CORBETT; and although during the later years of his life he was not so prosperous in circumstances as in his earlier years, yet his heart was over in the right place. There are many yet living in this city who remember him in the heyday of his prosperity, when his house was open to all, who will think of him with kindly feelings when they follow his body to its resting place; and I venture to say there are none who will have other than a kindly remembrance for his memory. He was ever zealous in his country's cause, and to the last served it as faithfully as his health and abilities would allow. *Requiescat in pace.*

The political world in this Dominion is at present in the throes of a contest produced by the dissolution of Parliament; and this place no less disturbed than others. I fear that before the elections are over feelings will run high on either side. But that is not the business of military men, and so I am dumb on the subject. I trust whichever side wins the service may gain by it. K.

## MILITIA STAFF APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR—I would say a word to my brother officers in the service on the above subject which I think will not be in any way subversive of discipline or contrary to the custom of the country at this particular time, when all questions civil, military and political are usually brought prominently before us as citizens. I write under a *nomme de plume*, because I write as a citizen under military authority; and I write to you as it is a military question with a political aspect.

In former appointments to the militia staff, more particularly the upper grades, wise care was taken to place therein officers of Her Majesty's Regular Army, because the Force was then in its infancy. But, Sir, I think the time has now come when those who have spent time and money on the Force, who have benefitted by the instruction received from these officers and who have proved themselves fit to be trusted with official position, should reap the reward of their labors. We have men in the service who, like myself, are old soldiers, and who look forward to the time when such offices as brigade major and D.A.G. shall be the reward of long and faithful service, men, Sir, who have borne the burden of expense and trouble in raising their quota of the Force. Surely our reward should be that we are striving for, and not the disgust of seeing men who have no knowledge of that burden placed in the very position for which we ourselves have been trying to fit ourselves. Let us reap the reward we strive for, and that will be the best encouragement which can be held out to others.

It is but justice to ourselves we ask. There must be, aye, I know there are, men in the service whose aim and object in en-

tering and staying in it is their ambition to fit themselves for such and such like positions as above mentioned. What, Sir, do you suppose must be their feelings after years of trouble, expense and waiting, to see an outsider brought in simply because he happens to have political influence enough (capable and fit as he may be) to place him there.

Our new government is to be congratulated on its first appointment, that of Capt. Matice, at Brookville, as it is a step in the right direction. I trust it will stick to the rule of appointing none but men actually serving in the Force to these and other offices. One never hears of retired officers filling such posts in the regular army. Why should outsiders, or retired officers, expect them in ours?

I must really apologize for the length of this, but it subject matter is, I consider, most important.

Yours truly,

OLD SOLDIER.

We fully endorse the opinion of our esteemed correspondent. We have long been of the opinion that the higher posts in our Army should be filled by our own people, and more especially when they are equally qualified to fill them.—Ed. Vol. Rev.

## THE MILITIA ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR—The publication of the brochures on this subject emanating from the pen of Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher, Scots Fusilier Guards, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor General, and Lieutenant Col. Davis, commanding the 37th Haldimand Rifle, afford a curious insight into the widely different manner in which the same subject may be approached and handled by persons who view the matter under discussion from totally different stand points. The former being a regular officer naturally reviews the subject with a professional bias, stating first the propositions under which it is necessary that a military force of some kind should be established in Canada, with an incomplete sketch of the use and progress of the Militia System up to the present time, exhibiting its shortcomings and deficiencies in a very partial manner, and ending by a proposition for the establishment of a small force, permanent as to its cadre, which is to form the model and nucleus for farther organization. It is a matter of regret that so distinguished an officer, and one so eminently qualified to deal with the matter in discussion; did not, before committing his "memorandum" to print, ascertain definitely what were the requirements of the country in regard to its Militia System. As, beyond the suggestion of the Provincial Schools of Military Instruction, based upon the system now adopted for the artillery, there are no ideas broached for the future