

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us, confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.

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The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1868.

VARIOUS plans for the defence of the Dominion, have from time to time been submitted to the public, each of them very good in its way, but all involving an outlay of money which we are unable to bear at present. Weak points might be strengthened from year to year, till the whole of our frontier should be prepared for the exigencies of a war; but after all, the real strength of a country lies in its people. If they be a hardy race, attached to the laws and institutions of their country, they will maintain its independence. We do not say that fortifications should be entirely dispensed with, but we maintain that they are only of a secondary importance to the colonization of our wild lands, and the development of our trade and resources. What we want more than fortifications, is an increase of

our population. We have thousands of acres of fertile soil, only waiting for the settler's axe to clear the forest and make it productive. Hundreds of the surplus population of the British Islands arrive every year at Quebec, pass through Canada, and settle south and west of the Great Lakes, but very few ever stop in Canada. Until recently, the Canadian Government offered no inducement to settlers. Many British subjects who would gladly have settled in Canada, so that they might live under the British Government, were unable to purchase our wild lands, and were reluctantly compelled to seek a home in the United States. Several such instances have come under our own personal observation. Emigrants have found their way here with very little money in their pockets, but with strong hands and willing hearts, to make for themselves a home in Canada. They were directed to the surveyed townships north of Ottawa, between the Gatineau and Lievres Rivers. They returned soon afterwards, well pleased with the country, and went to the Crown Lands Agent to secure certain lots which they had chosen, but were unable to pay the first instalment, besides purchasing tools and a year's provisions, so they were compelled to move westward to the prairie lands where they could not only obtain free lands, but also the advantages of having it already cleared, and assistance from the American Government at the commencement. It is scarcely to be wondered at that the Western States should be filled up with an industrious population, in such a short space of time, while the greater part of our country should still be covered with the Virgin forest. Within the last twelve months, it is true, our government has discovered the fact that it had been pursuing a wrong policy, and certain districts were opened to free settlement. Not one of those districts on the borders of the already settled parts of the country, they are situated where they might remain for years without settlement if they were other than free grant lands. Without a little capital to commence with, the emigrant has no chance there, and it can hardly be wondered at, that the settlement of the free grant land progresses slowly. If we wish to see the tide of emigration flow into Canada, we must pursue a most liberal policy. Let us continue the free grant system, but extend it to more accessible districts, and assist the settler in his first year's struggle in the forest. Very few emigrants possess sufficient capital when they arrive here to buy the few implements necessary for clearing the forest and cultivating the soil, and to purchase provisions enough to maintain them till the first crop can be raised. Give every stranger who is willing to settle in Canada, this much assistance, and when he shall have made a home for himself, he will be willing to defend it. Fortifications are very necessary, and a fortified frontier we

ought to have, but we also need men behind them to defend them. On the north shore of the Ottawa River, even within thirty miles of Ottawa city, there are hundreds of square miles covered with the primeval forest yet untrodden by the foot of men save the hunter, the lumberman, or the surveyor. It is a country watered by magnificent streams, studded with innumerable lakes, and between the mountains that are clothed to the summits with forests, lie valleys of most fertile soil, only awaiting the settler's industry to reduce them to cultivation. Yet not an acre of that fertile land can be obtained for less than three shillings per acre, and having paid that, when the settler goes to claim his property, he finds that the lumberman has been ahead of him, and robbed him of what should have paid for the land. We acknowledge the extent and value of the lumber trade; and would be the last to wish that any restrictions should be placed on it, but is it fair that the settler should have to pay for his land when the lumberman has already bought the first and most valuable portion of the property?

The emigrant asks himself whether it would be better to settle on our own forest lands from which all the valuable lumber has been already culled and where he must toil before he will find himself independent, or move farther westward to the fertile prairies of the western states, where he can obtain cleared land free, and where he can in a short time make for himself a comfortable home. A little liberality on our part would cause him to decide in favor of Canada, and another defender would be added to her sons. Let us thus fortify our country, and should occasion require it, it will be a less difficult matter to construct fortifications along the frontier.

THERE have been many articles written on the death of Thaddeus Stevens, but in our opinion the following, which we translate from *Le Courier des Etats Unis*, is the most remarkable we have yet seen.

"We have, to-day, to record the death of two celebrities equally diverse in character, social position, and in the nature of the impressions which they respectively made on their contemporaries. One is Thaddeus Stevens, the most powerful spirit among the Radical-republicans; the other is Adah Isaacs Menken, the strangest specimen of woman that has graced the sporting world, since Lola Montes.

"Thaddeus Stevens was born in 1793; he was therefore seventy-five years old at his death, and if we consider that it was only since the beginning of the war that he took a prominent position in the councils of the country, we must remember that if that great intellect became developed only in the wane of life, it retained its virility, until it could find in the affairs of the nation the proper means through which it attained such an eminent degree of public importance.