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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, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1876.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

We have for the past nine years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but, we regret to say, have not met with that tangible encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their chivalry and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money will be entitled to receive one copy for the year free. A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Force—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

The notice subjoined will tell its own story—and we can only regret that none of our Canadian officers are likely to be competitors—we are quite certain that there are men amongst them fully capable by education and ability to produce a creditable essay on the proposed subject:

LOYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.

Memorandum for 1876.

The Council having decided that a Gold Medal be granted annually for the best Essay on a Naval or a Military subject, to be de-

termined on, each year, by the Council, make known the conditions of competition:—

(1) The Candidates must be Members of the Institution.

(2) The subject for this year shall be of a Military character.

(3) The Essays must not exceed 48 pages of the size and style of the "Journal."

(4) The Essays must be forwarded to the Secretary, on or before the 1st November next.

(5) The Essays must be strictly anonymous, but each to have a Motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope with the Motto written on the outside, and the name of the Candidate inside.

(6) The Essays will be submitted for decision to three Referees chosen by the Council; but no award will be made by them in favour of any Essay which does not, in their opinion, attain a sufficient standard of excellence.

(7) The successful Candidate will be presented with the Medal at the Anniversary Meeting, and his Essay will be printed in the "Journal."

The following is the subject for the Essay for the present year: "On the Causes which have led to the Pre-eminence of Nations in War."

By Order.

B. BURGESS, Capt.,  
Secretary.

Whitehall Yard, London,  
4th January, 1876.

The lectures for the current season are the following highly interesting subjects:—

"Another Warning Voice from 1805," by Major General COLLINSON, R.E.; "Circular Ironclads," by E. J. REED, Esq., C.B., M.P.; "How best to keep up and improve the Seamen of the Country," by T. BRASSEY M.P.; "On Cavalry Tactics," by Major FRANK S. RUSSELL, 14th Hussars; "The Roman Military Occupation of Britain," by Major General J. L. VAUGHAN, C.B.; "The comparative cost of Armies of different Nations including the loss to a country by Conscription," by Captain J. C. ARDAGH, R.E.; "Ancient Naval Tactics," by Rev. EDMOND WANE, M.A.

Those will be followed by a series of able papers on practical subjects by distinguished experts in both services. Altogether the lectures before Easter are of the most interesting description. The last subject has been dealt with by a distinguished Naval Officer in the United States service.

"THERE is no confirmation, and, what is equally important, there is no contradiction of the report that the British Government has acquired the harbor of Mohamerah, the port at the head of the Persian Gulf, at the junction of the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates. If the acquisition has been made, our Eastern policy is coming clearly out of the fog which has enveloped it. We shall be in firm position to do several things. We can promote the Euphrates Valley Railway, and so obtain an alternative route to that of the Suez Canal. It will be possible to make Mohamerah a strong position in the event of Russia ever pushing forward to Constantinople, and the Turks being driven into Asia Minor, a not improbable, if a somewhat remote, event. Our power to protect Persia will have been increased, and, with Persia

as our ally, we shall be in a position to neutralize some of the advantages Russia has acquired by her predominance in the Caspian Sea, and to prevent any westward movement into Afghanistan. There will be no chance of the Persian Gulf ever passing into the hands of Russia. As the *Pester Lloyd* says, we shall have 'one foot in the stirrup at Suez and the other at Mohamerah,' and Russia will have received a decided check. For those reasons, we sincerely hope the news is true, although we shall probably have to wait until Parliament meets before we obtain decided information."—*Naval and Military Gazette*.

The above paragraph shows what a vigorous Eastern policy the D'ISRAELI Government have inaugurated—a policy we venture to say distinguished alike by its wisdom and philanthropy. If the Turks must be driven out of Europe there is no reason why they should not constitute a strong state between the Caucasus and the Valley of the Euphrates; but the British occupations of Palestine, Cyprus and Crete must be the necessary corollary of the purchase of the KNEBIVE's share in the Suez Canal.

English humanitarians and philanthropists have now a fine opportunity of displaying their love for all mankind by taking up the cause of oppressed people and making their peculiar ideas square (for the first time in history) with their patriotism, and urging on the British people in the career of civilization by advocating the rescuing of the cradle of religion, science, and art from the mis-government and superstition that now covers it, rendering the most fruitful regions of the old world barren wastes, and paralysing the energies of noble races of men.

Palestine alone needs only a strong government to make it one of the most fruitful and productive regions on earth, while the researches of RAWLINSON and others gives us a faint glimpse of what the Valley of the Euphrates once was and what it may yet become. If those good people want wars to cease they cannot do better than strengthen D'ISRAELI's hands.

THOSE English and Canadian philosophers who labour under the idea of the vast expansion in territory, wealth, and population which our neighbours are to make within or before the close of the present century, will be considerably taken aback by the following synopsis of a report made by a gallant general officer of the United States army—embracing the whole tract of country within the States, west of the Red River, and south of the boundary line of the Dominion of Canada:

"General W. H. HAZEN, who has been entrusted with the duty of enquiring into the character of the western portion of the United States sends an important report to the New York *Tribune* from Fort Burford, Dakota territory. He quotes the testimony of persons who have examined the country as 'confirming my repeated statements that the country lying between 100° west longitude and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, all the way from Mexico to the British Posses-