

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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in advance.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Communications regarding the Militia or
Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Depart-
ment, 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 com-
munications. 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 in-
formation of this kind as early as possible, so that
it may reach us in time for publication.

CLUBS! CLUBS! CLUBS!

For the purpose of extending an advantage to
the NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of
the Force, we have decided to send "THE
REVIEW" to BATTALION and COMPANY
CLUBS of TEN and UPWARDS at the rate of
\$1.50 per annum for each copy.

Any NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER or PRIVATE
sending us 15 names at the above rate, will re-
ceive a copy of "THE REVIEW" for one year,
free of charge.

"THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW OFFICE,"
Ottawa, August 1st, 1867.



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1867.

BRIGADE OFFICE,

BROCKVILLE, 23rd Sept. 1867.

To the Editor of the Volunteer Review.

SIR,—Permit me through the columns of
your paper, to inform the officers command-
ing corps of Volunteers in the First Division
of Ontario, that the semi-annual inspections
will commence about the middle of October,
proximo.

In order to take advantage of the good
roads previous to their breaking up, these
companies off the lines of Railway will be
inspected first, the commanders of which
will, I trust, make preparations accordingly.

Your obedt. servant,

W. H. JACKSON,

LIEUT.-COLONEL,

B. M., M.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

Alliances seem to be the order of the
day at present in Europe. The Emperor
Napoleon and Francis Joseph are "con-
doling" with each other in one place, and,
while the men who make it their business
to note the signs of the times are anxiously
watching for the upshot or speculating on
the probable consequence of this imperial
fraternization, a rumor comes from the
north, of a supposed alliance between the
King of Prussia and the Autocrat of all the
Russias. At the same time the American
naval officers who are on a visit to St. Pe-
tersburg, are being feted in right royal
style. Meanwhile the preparations for pos-
sible contingencies are proceeding with un-
abated vigor. From France we hear of the
arming of troops with the Chassepot rifle,
and of experiments with small cannon,
which, if all we hear of them be true, will
have the effect of making future battle
grounds in Europe like the harvest fields
of a farmer, for it is utterly impossible to
suppose that any army however well equip-
ped, organized and disciplined, could stand
for any time before such engines as are be-
ing experimented with at Meudon, and
which are thus described: "Cannon, car-
riages and ammunition are brought in lea-
ther valises, and the trials take place be-
hind a screen of planks. All that can be
known is, that at 2,500 metres these arms
send a perfect hail of balls against a target
two metres high and one broad. At that
distance the balls pierce an iron plate two
centimetres thick. Each cannon can fire
twenty shots in a minute, and two men suf-
fice for the transport of the arm, carriage,
ammunition, etc. Lately these guns were
tried against a clump of trees, 1500 metres
(nearly an English mile). The trees were
mowed down in a few minutes, like a corn-
field by a steam mowing machine. It is
frightful. Five or six men armed with such
an engine could destroy a whole regiment
in a few minutes!"

Napoleon does well to keep the secret of
this terrific cannon, the possession of which
would give him an advantage in the field
against any opposing force, no matter how
powerful, that would quickly decide the
contest. In connection with this we hear of
a new system of nocturnal tactics, which
is being studied at the various military aca-
demies of France. Indeed, the whole sys-
tem of modern warfare seems to be under-
going a complete revolution, and should
the apprehended disturbance take place, it
is utterly impossible to calculate with any
degree of probability what may be the re-
sult. Short, terrible and decisive it must
necessarily be, and another campaign of a
week or even a day, may alter the destinies
of European millions. But let us hope that
those Royal alliances may lead to peace in-
stead of war, and that the wisdom and
wealth of the great nations they represent
may be turned to nobler purposes than the

mere gratification of kingly ambition, and
that liberty and security may bless the
efforts of the people who seek for glory not
on the "red field of battle," but in the quiet
pursuits of industry. There is nothing,
however, which induces more to the preser-
vation of peace than preparation for war,
and when we of the New Dominion regard
the threatening signs of the political world
abroad, it becomes of a necessity our first
duty to place our defenses in a reliable con-
dition, that we may be able to meet any
danger that may arise.

OUR DEFENCES.

In noticing the result of the Elections in
Canada, the New York *Tribune* says:—"It is
expected that the Government will pass the
Ottawa Ship Canal and the Militia Bills, both
of which are meant as measures of defence:
the second to form a species of army for the
Dominion, and the first to create a back
communication and transport for defence,
which the Canadas do not now possess, the
only direct means of communication (the
Grand Trunk Railroad) lying on the fron-
tier." This again brings to our notice a
question of the utmost importance to the
well-being and permanency of the Domin-
ion; for, if we wish to maintain intact the
rights and privileges we have inherited, it is
incumbent upon us to provide such a system
of defence, that, should the occasion unfor-
tunately arise, we have such means at our
disposal and such communications open to
our use as will place us in a position to suc-
cessfully resist any hostile power that may
attempt to establish itself upon our shores.
Next to the importance of establishing an
efficient militia to share with the Volunteers
in the arduous duties of defending the coun-
try, is the creation of such lines of defence
and communication as will readily give ac-
cess to all parts of the country, while the
principal routes will be protected by such
works as the improved system of modern
warfare demand. Now it is a notorious fact
that with two or three exceptions the mate-
rial defences of Canada are in anything but
a satisfactory condition, and it should be the
first duty of the new Parliament to devise
a complete and thorough system of defence.
The great natural route of intercommun-
ion is by the St. Lawrence and the great lakes,
but this being so obviously exposed it is ne-
cessary that there should be an internal line
of communication that would not be liable
to the chance of interruption. The Grand
Trunk also, as the *Tribune* shrewdly remarks,
has the great disadvantage of being for
nearly its whole extent upon the border;
this objection will also apply to the Inter-
colonial Railway, although, perhaps, it would
be impossible for an invading army to hold
either of these lines for even the shortest
period in which their possession could be
made available. It must naturally occur to
every person who has at all considered this