

## THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

Is published EVERY MONDAY MORNING, at OTTAWA, Dominion of Canada, by GEORGE MOSS, Proprietor.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum, strictly in advance.

### 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 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 receive a copy of "THE REVIEW" for one year, free of charge.

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

### OTTAWA SUBSCRIBERS TO

### "THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW"

Are respectfully informed that arrangements have been made with Mr. DAVID FULTON, News Agent, 37 Rideau Street—who is our sole Agent for the city—for the delivery hereafter of their copies of the REVIEW, at their residences or offices, instead of through the Post-office, as formerly. It is hoped this arrangement will insure the regular delivery of the paper, and consequently do away with all complaints in that respect.

GEO. MOSS.

Ottawa, Nov. 18, 1867.

### "DOMINION" NEWS DEPOT!

MILES' OLD STAND, 57 RIDEAU STREET.  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

THE undersigned, seeing the need for a News Depot in Lower Town, for the better convenience of a part of the reading people of our city during the stormy winter season—have this day, MONDAY, 18th Nov., opened the "DOMINION" NEWS DEPOT, in Miles' old stand, opposite Workman & Co., Rideau street, where they will, in co-operation with their Depot in Centre Town, keep on hand all the general publications of the day, and endeavor to satisfy the reading public. They will furnish the following periodicals at the earliest convenience:

#### AMERICAN:

N. Y. Daily Herald, N. Y. Weekly Herald,  
Boston Pilot, Irish American,  
Irish Citizen now, Irish People,  
Scottish American Journal, Musical Review, new,  
Harper's Bazar, new, Harper's Weekly,  
Culinary Corner, Literary Album,  
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, N. Y. Ledger,  
N. Y. Weekly, Fireside Companion, new,  
Ponard and Ponell, now, Police Gazette, Police News,  
N. Y. Clipper, Sporting Times,  
Waverley Magazine, Harper's Monthly,  
Godey's Lady's Book, Frank Leslie's Lady's Mag.,  
Madame Demorest's Monthly Magazine,  
Budget of Fun, and other Comical Papers.

#### ENGLISH:

London Journal, Family Herald,  
How Bells, now, Englishwoman's Magazine,  
London Illustrated News, and other Periodicals,  
London Punch, and other Comical Papers.

#### CANADIAN:

Toronto Globe, Toronto Leader,  
Montreal Gazette, And our City Papers.

### STATIONERY ALWAYS ON HAND.

HOUSER & FULTON.

Ottawa, Nov. 18, 1867.



## The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1867.

### THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

In the 12th number of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and date of 25th March last, will be found the first of a series of articles entitled "Notes on the Defence of Canada," in which that subject is dealt with in minute detail. It is neither desirable nor reasonable to expect that a repetition of the various items so thoroughly considered at that time should be necessary under existing circumstances; but a definition of the general principles on which the system of defence best adapted to the geographical configuration, physical condition and social policy of British North America is founded, may be requisite.

Much has been written on this subject and many theories propounded, each of course having its own peculiar features of advantage or assumed recommendations; but if there is safety in the multitude of counsellors, the difficulty is to select the advice least dangerous. Military science, like all other forms of exact knowledge, is unerring in the principles laid down for our guidance; it is the application of those principles to impossibilities of detail that produces failure.

The most difficult problem of Military Science is "defensive warfare," and the greater the area embraced—the greater the difficulties become. Modern History furnishes very few instances of strictly defensive warfare. The first in order of time is the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland, in which forces many times numerically superior to the invaders were shut up within the walls of fortresses, to be butchered in detail like sheep, the operations being simply "attack," "assault" and "massacre." This was due to want of combination in the leaders—want of knowledge and military science and that trust in stone walls which is the combined effort of ignorance and distrust.

A century later, in 1756, Frederick the Great of Prussia, began what is termed a defensive war in Silesia, but it was rather a "waiting" game he was playing with a full knowledge of his antagonists, against whom he suddenly assumed the offensive to their cost. At the same period a defensive warfare cost the French monarchy the loss of Canada, because the command of the sea had been lost.

In 1812-15 the same country was defended by the French Canadians and British Colonists against the whole force of the United States, an event furnishing one of the most

brilliant pages in the military annals of Great Britain. The cause of failure in the first and success in the second instance is to be found in the fact that ready access to the seaboard furnished an auxiliary line of attack and defence to a frontier then promising us no interior line of support or supply.

The geographical position of British North America renders it capable of being defended at a comparatively trifling cost. Open on the eastward to the seaboard—its frontier covered, in a great measure, by navigable rivers and lakes—in close proximity on its southern and western borders to the only power in the world capable of waging war with its people, while the western prolongation of its coast line affords opportunities and vantage ground to its defenders, which, taken into account with naval demonstrations and superiority on the seaboard, would paralyze aggression—it would be difficult to find a country more favorably circumstanced or less easily assailed.

The physical configuration of the country is singularly adapted to render its defence an easily accomplished matter; wherever its frontier is not covered by the large lakes or rivers it is generally inadmissible to the movements of troops en masse, and its large rivers in the interior run parallel with its coast line, so as to form a second line of defence or line of supply.

With the command of the seaboard the whole coast frontier line continuous with the United States, affords but three points on which an invading force could by any possibility be thrown. First, by the valley of Lake Champlain, which has been appropriately called the Gate of Canada. Secondly, across the Niagara frontier between the falls and the mouth of that river. Thirdly, by way of Lake Huron at or about Penetanguishine.

The success of an invasion by the whole or any of these lines presupposes the loss of naval supremacy, in which case the first and second lines of attack would have the best chance of succeeding and be the most difficult to meet.

The social condition of these Provinces demand attention; owing to the high price of human labor the maintenance of a standing army is altogether impossible, therefore the system of defence must be upheld by the Militia. A levy en masse would give between five and six hundred thousand men capable of bearing arms, and it would not be impossible to maintain at least 200,000 in the field for the summer months, the only period in which the weather will permit operations to be carried on.

As the defence of the Maritime Provinces must be wholly by sea, being in a great measure inaccessible by land, it will hardly be necessary to take them into account; but Canada from its more exposed frontier will require closer attention.

The system then which the physical and artificial advantages of the country point out and its defence should consist of a series of parallel lines commencing on the Niagara