

## THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS

All Communications regarding the Militia of 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.

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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, APRIL 26, 1860.

Mr. G. B. DOUGLAS of Toronto is appointed General Agent for THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW in the Province of Ontario.

LAST week we alluded to the manful position of Sir G. E. CARTIER in reference to the feeling of the people of Canada in the event of war with the United States. No one who contemplates such a contingency, could regard it in any other light than the most deplorable disaster that could befall the world; but yet by going deeper into the subject we are struck with the conviction that eventually there must be a great trial of strength between the two most progressive nations on earth. There can be no doubt but England has given to America those feelings and aspirations which distinguish the republic; change of climate, transatlantic, the exaggeration of ambitious ignorance, all of which mark the character of the Republican people of this continent, goes to prove one fact only, standing out prominent above the dusty

whirlwind of political mob excitement, and that is inborn hatred of Britain. That hatred does not spring from a sense of wrong or injury, nor from a recollection of former humiliation, but from that same sense of inferiority which impels the low bred rowdy to insult the gentleman, not that the gentleman has done him any wrong, but feeling in his heart that he cannot rise to him, he strives to drag him down to a level with himself. At the present time, and with the present administration in England it is not easy to anticipate what the reply of Great Britain will be to the ultimatum of President Grant as foreshadowed by the United States press,—we should say the Republican press, for the Southerners write and feel differently,—however, the matter resolves itself into one grand question of principle, and that is whether the old bulwark of Liberty and equal rights guaranteed by the British Constitution has to give way to mob violence, or that the spirit of conservative progress be maintained. The American press argues the popularity of a war with England, and count upon the benefits to themselves, exactly in the same strain that a thief and robber would, when counting upon times of public excitement, as offering opportunities for plunder. For instance, take the immorality of the following from the New York Herald:

"Talking of the advantages of a war with England might astonish such timid old fogies as our Secretary of State, Mr. Fish and men of the same narrow minded views; but with all the horrors and cost of such a conflict there can be no doubt the result would be of advantage to the United States. It would put all our shipyards, workshops and manufactories in full operation; vessels of every description would spring into life as if by magic; the ocean would soon be covered with 'Alabamas' of the most formidable character; British ships and commerce would be swept from every sea, and in the end this country would become the first maritime nation in the world. As to war vessels, monitors, and all the other terrible naval engines of modern warfare, we could construct these more rapidly than the 'Monitor' which fought the 'Merrimac' was built, which only took a few weeks to prepare for the greatest naval fight in history. This country is comparatively invulnerable to British armies or fleets, and a war would leave us in the position England was in after she destroyed the Spanish Armada and the fleets of Holland, the first naval and maritime nation on the globe. We say nothing of the British Possessions in America, which would necessarily be lost to England and become a part of this Republic, nor of the thousand millions of American bonds and securities held in that country, which would be rendered useless."

What a dismal hope for regeneration is contained in this, and how fallacious the argument by which it is backed. The first advantage claimed is that it would put all their shipyards, workshops and manufactories in full operation. Well, it is only now four years since the conclusion of that war which brought the United States to the verge of bankruptcy, all that protective tariffs and other imposts for the protection

of home industry could do has been done, and yet that carrying trade which they are so anxious to monopolize is beyond their grasp. And why? simply because they are not an outwardly progressive nation, and occupy upon this continent the same position that China does in Asia. The intense self conceit of the Celestial has its counterpart in Congress, and the extravagant stupidity of the Chinese Emperor is outdone by the mobocratic President. In further illustration of the theory of advantage by war the Herald makes a rather unfortunate choice of terms when it says that "the ocean would soon be covered with 'Alabamas'." Then two miserable tubs, for they were nothing else, utterly destroyed the commerce of the United States within the space of two years, what could the shipyards of Great Britain not do? But really there is no American commerce to destroy; there is nothing sailing upon the seas under the stars and stripes that the smallest gunboat in Her Majesty's navy could not sweep out of existence. As regards the mercantile marine—the glory of "Nantucket Spouters" has departed, coal oil has arrested the process of ocean depopulation, and the spirit of Herman Melville can brood undisturbed among the island of Orin.

With an extraordinary faculty for jumping at conclusions unwarranted by anything but an excited imagination, the Herald writer says that "British ships and commerce would be swept from the sea," by a nation that cannot construct one seaworthy iron clad. Continuing our observations on the above paragraph we come to the most grotesque piece of absurdity ever written by an American editor, wherein he characterizes the engagement between the "Merrimac" and the "Monitor" as "the greatest naval fight in history." This is indeed, according to the elegancies of Republican phraseology, "going the whole hog." Following out the imaginary programme instituted by the Herald we find the United States, after the war with England, "The first naval and maritime nation in the world"—a magnificent result to be obtained by a fleet proved to be incapable of blockading half a dozen of their own ports. But saddest of all is the illustration of intellectual aberration contained in the sentence in which the British possessors on this continent are disposed of as mere side issues. One thing is touchingly apparent throughout the article to which we refer and that is its total innocence of anything approaching reasonable deduction. History and logic are alike ignored and with characteristic dishonesty the Herald anglophobe concludes by chuckling over the idea of cheating English holders of American bonds out of their money. This is the true spirit of piratical roguery, but it is well for mankind and liberty that England stands an immovable bulwark against the despotism of the mob so well represented by the New York Herald. In another article which appeared in a sub-