

ENGLAND.

Where is the slave, who of England despairing,
Aids not her cause, when she calls on her sons?
Where is the knave, who when foemen are dar-
ing,

Farleys for safety, or crouches and runs?
England ne'er knew them,
The soil never grew them,
Wholesome's the land in our Isle of the Sea.
Our maidens would flout them,
Our children would scout them,
We'd hoot them with scorn from the land of the free.

England, dear England, our fathers before us
Bled for thy freedom and left us thy fame.
England, our darling, the mother who bore us
Gave us her blessing, entwined with thy name.

Ours be the glory
To better thy story,
Lofty and pure, be thy banners unfurled,
If great we receive thee,
Still greater we'll leave thee,
England, dear England, the gem of the world!
R.L.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

VOLUNTEER vs. MILITIA.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—In the outcry that has been raised against the introduction of the ballot into the organization of "our Canadian army," constant reference has been made to the "Prussian system," alleging that such an innovation would inaugurate military despotism unsuited to the free institutions of this country and dangerous to the liberties of its people. That such an infringement upon the rights of the subject would precipitate us into all the horrors of conscription, enforced servitude, and military tyranny; and in fact would be incompatible with a free and independent state. Now I am prepared to prove that such statements are groundless, devoid of fact. The military system of Prussia as observed in the Empire of Germany, is as follows:—

At the age of twenty, conscripts at the rate of one to every 300 of the population are drawn for the regular army. No exemptions are made except in case of physical disability. Young men of family are, however, allowed to enrol themselves in special corps. The period of service for the ordinary conscript is 12 years, three of which are spent with the colours of the Regiment; four years in the service, remaining at home but ready to join the ranks in time of war, and five years in the Landwehr or Militia. The system of localization is strictly carried out, each district furnishes its regiment, and from each company division the fresh supplies are obtained. A soldier rejoining his regiment after serving his first period, will therefore go, not only to his old regiment, but to the very company in which he was first enlisted.

The Militia system is as follows:—

The Landwehr of the first call are liable for home or foreign service although only called out for necessary drill in time of

peace. It consists of all young men between 20 and 26 years of age, not actually serving in the regular army; of the volunteers, or cadets of family; and of all men under 32 years of age who have not fulfilled their period of twelve years service.

The Landwehr of the second call are liable for garrison duty, or in special need, for corps of occupation, or reinforcements to the regular army. It drills for one day in the year, and consists of all who have left the army, and the first call, and of all other men who are under 40 years of age.

The Landstrum is not to be called out except in case of invasion, and for home duties only; and consists of all men under 50 who are not to be allotted to the army or Landwehr,—of all who have completed their Landwehr service; and of all youths over 17 years of age capable of carrying arms.

This system is oppressive;—first, the conscription, which enforces three years continuous service on a certain number drawn at hazard from the population, willing or unwilling:—next, owing to its adverse effect upon the industry of the nation from the indiscriminating drain upon its population in time of peace—and lastly owing to the long period of military service required. That such a system, in its entirety, would be unsuited to the constitution of this country is undoubted; but why the Ballot should be avoided as tending towards "Prussianization" I fail to see. We may fairly raise a militia by ballot in time of peace, and for home service during a war; because it is just and right that every able bodied man should be liable to service for the defence of his country when needed; but to go farther, and force a citizen to adopt a profession unsuited to, and distasteful to him, for a continuous service, is a decided violation of the right of the subject under our laws. Should we require a "Regular Army," therefore, the proper principle for its construction would be the voluntary basis; but where the principle sought to be observed is that of "equal rights to all, exclusive privileges to none," the burden of military service must be equalized to all classes of the community, and the "Ballot" is an adjunct to voluntary enlistment and in preference to "conscription" or "selection," is the fairest way to distribute that burden.

The short period of service contemplated for the "Balloted" man (3 years) would prove a very slight drawback in the pursuit of his ordinary avocations, while the advantages gained would be very great. The three years period of service would familiarize him with drill, and enable him to receive the elements of discipline; during that time his attendance at drill could be counted upon (or his absence punished) his course of rifle practice prescribed, and regulations for the care of his clothing and arms observed. With the volunteers these conditions are impossible. Any regulations or orders must be in-operative in a Force, the members of which if punished for an infraction

of orders, or breach of discipline, can resign in resentment to-morrow, and no officer however zealous can obtain efficiency in a corps, the members of which are constantly shifting and changing. The greatest drawback of the present system, is, however, that it provides for no organized Reserve. The individual volunteer, retiring from the Force even if he completes his term of service is lost to the military organization of the country; whereas, were 40,000 men to retire triennially into the Reserve, complete in organization and interior economy—they would, even after their legal period of service was past, be easily reassembled should necessity call for their services. *Espirit de corps* would also assist to keep them together, and a veteran Reserve of hundreds of thousands would in a few years exist, without expense to the government, and needing only that arms should be put into their hands to render them available for the defence of the country.

That these matters have long secured the attention of the officers of the volunteer Force of Canada, is proved by the following extract from a memorial presented to the Minister of Militia in June 1869, and which was signed by fifty-nine Field officers belonging to the Force in Ontario.

That the efficiency of the Force, taking into consideration the elements given by the present volunteer organization, would be but promoted by constituting the volunteers, the "Regular Militia," retaining all effective Corps as representing the militia of their respective counties, and applying to them the provisions of the existing Militia Law, respecting the contemplated regular and reserve militia subject to such modifications, as the circumstances of each case, local or otherwise, might require.

Your memorialists respectfully submit, that by these means would be gained:

First.—The element of stability contemplated by the organization of the regular militia.

Second.—That of simplicity, in having only one organization to deal with; and which would be capable of being extended so as to embrace the whole military resources of the country.

Third.—That with the existence of the power of drafting (or balloting) in case of necessity; there would not be much difficulty in maintaining the Force on almost a purely voluntary basis.

The latter clause though somewhat obscurely worded, implies that once the duty of bearing arms is recognised by the community as one in which there can be no avoidance; there would be no lack of volunteers. The objections of employers of labor could no longer impose a check on the military ardor of our young men; and the knowledge of impending ballot would lead those reluctant to serve, to act as recruiting sergeants to keep companies and regiments full, in order that they themselves might avoid compulsory service.