

show, first, what special causes exist in the artillery to render it unpopular to men about to enlist; and, secondly, in what manner I conceive the admission and education of your artillery officers can be made more efficient and attractive.—Yours truly,
SWINOLETREE.

Junior United Service Club, London, S. W., Feb. 25, 1876.

Peace and Panic.

The amount of consistency in this world is always a limited quantity, and unfortunately, the wise in their own esteem display less of it than common mortals. We need not stay now to explain this singular fact. Our object is to give an illustration of it. There are in the world, and, alas, in this country more especially, a class of beings who are so benevolent that they can barely conceive how persons can be otherwise. They are so amiable that hating anything is out of the question. If they quake at all it is with the internal gusts of supernatural. They tell us that peace ought to be the normal condition of advanced nations. Sometimes they fancy that some serene pacific State did exist in very remote times. But they have not been studying history when the fancy beguiles them. At other times they picture a family of nations, without the rod, and then they are prophetic. Now what we want them to do is to take a lesson from the past, apply it to the present and leave prophecy alone. There is danger in the attempt to pry too much ahead. It begets world weariness. Men come to the condition described in the lines—

"And my friends surmise
That I dazzled my eyes
With the sight of revelation."

This state of dazzlement is not uncommon. We always get a glimpse or two of it, under patriotic disguises, when the Army Estimates are under consideration. Some irresponsible person tucks his peace theory under his arm, and fights against the number of men fixed for the year, or makes an abstract notion Sir Wilfrid Lawson has recently distinguished himself in this way. We could not wish for a more good-humoured opponent. He jokes his way along any track he selects for perambulation. Observe the tone of his remarks from the first. "There was only one serious proposition in the whole of his speech, namely, that an army must be either for offence or defence; and that as we were not going to make war against anybody, and nobody was going to make war against us, increased expenditure on the "land forces" was unnecessary. The right inference from such a proposition would have been that no Army at all was necessary, but Sir Wilfrid cannot reason steadily when he has so many jokes on hand: he reels under the weight of his own wit. His jokes were not at all bad. Mr. Hardy had forgotten the Navy, and the fleet, "being now free from looking after slaves, could devote itself entirely to the protection of the country." We wanted neither armies nor intervention to increase our power in Europe. On our new system, we had only to buy shares. This viewiness so pleased him that he proceeded to ask why the four millions that had gone to buy the Suez Canal shares had not been "knocked off" the Army Estimates. People talked about the safety of the country. The Militia was to make us safe. We had another alarm, and then Lord Palmerston's fortifications were to make us all right. The Volunteers represented a third alarm, the localization scheme a fourth, and his mobilization scheme a fifth. We pro-

fessed to be a Christian nation, and yet we worshipped Mars, and refused to set other nations a noble example. Disputes, might arise, certainly, but if they were to be settled by force there were only three alternatives. "If they fought with a weaker Power, they were foolish; and if they fought with a Power of equal strength, it was a toss up who would win."

Veiled in jokes of this kind, it was not easy to detect the meaning of the motion, but a majority of 129 was a declaration of common-sense, bringing back the question to less humorous regions. In these regions we desire to fix the question, by a few simple considerations. In the first place, we contend that peace notions are the logical antecedents of all our panics. We forget our position and its duties, suffer ourselves to be drawn into needless reductions, cultivate the good feelings that favour peace, and then a gust of wind comes, and we shake all over. Thus we go down and up the whole gamut, and the result is that we are neither wholly pacific nor wholly prepared for war, neither ready for Christian renunciation nor military self-assertion. An even pace, a solidly-balanced position, is rendered impossible. The moment the atmosphere clears, reductions find favour, and the peace prophets don their singing robes and make us crazy. The moment clouds darken the international sky, Belona thunders, and we are in a panic. The one mood is as bad as the other, and it is quite time we acted like reasonable men, and resisted complacency in order to avoid consternation. There is only one way of doing it, and that is by making careful preparations in the leisure allowed by "cordial relations" and pacific dispositions.

Good sense justifies this duty. Armies are not evoked from the earth or the air by magic hands. They cannot be manufactured in an emergency by an effort of the will. If Sir Wilfrid Lawson requires a regular supply of his grapes for his dinner table, he keeps a gardener, and sees that his viney is properly looked after. Were he to try his military method upon his vines he would soon discover that reductions would end in a famine when he wanted to give some prodigal display of his hospitality and his garden power. Mr. Hardy put the whole matter in a less figurative manner. Were European complications to arise "he should be driven, under circumstances of great haste and confusion, probably, to bring up at once 20,000 recruits, as had been done before, and with consequences that affected the Army to this day. That step had, he believed, brought discredit upon the army from which it had hardly yet recovered."

It is only in time of peace that we can prevent the repetition of such discredit. Forethought is characteristic of wise men, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson has to show why it should not characterize our military arrangements as much as any other business proceedings in which private individuals or nations may be engaged. Until he can do so, we must regard his privans as a sort of sugar covered medicine for making panics.

Our position requires provisional arrangements. Great Britain is not the mere island it appears to be in such peace-and-panic discussion. We have Colonies, we have an Indian Empire, and we are getting to have a wholesale horror of panics. Mr. Hardy understands the whole situation. He is in favour of peace; he has no intention of disturbing it by his arrangements or his expenditure, but he frankly avows that he wishes "to be in such a position that if an emergency should arise, he should not be driven to excessive haste, or

to do anything in a panic." This touch of simple seriousness rendered all the witty baronet's shafts quite harmless. He made fun of panics. Mr. Hardy answered, I want to prevent them. He ridiculed the notion of our having any occasion to defend ourselves. Mr. Hardy hopes the occasion may never arise, but, as a responsible Minister, he must contemplate such a possibility and prepare for it. It will be too late to make preparation when the thing is threatened, just as it would be too late to force his vines when Sir Wilfrid Lawson's guests were beginning to accept his large invitations. In all these matters the utmost that we can desire is, the same shrewdness that would govern other business proceedings. Raillery will not induce other nations to disarm, peace-notions will not make them leave off paying court to Mars, and if we were in a position to set them the noble example the member for Carlisle desires us to give, the plea in reply would be—Your position is wholly different to ours—and no result would follow. The little brush upon the subject would not be worth attention, except as enabling us to insist upon the great truth behind it all—that panic is born of hasty reductions, and unwise concession to exigent amiability. The Permissive principle Sir Wilfrid Lawson loves, is always available in such matters. When the majority of a nation declare against military expenditure, it will cease, or be so reduced as to give him no anxiety. But he can hardly claim for his "wretched minority" or "Radical residuum" (we use his own words) of sixty-three, that it is a "two thirds vote" of a House of over six hundred members. In short he is beaten by his own principle.—*Broad Arrow.*

REVIEWS.

We have received from Messrs. Battle Bros., Rideau street, the prospectus of a new monthly publication, entitled the "Ottawa Monthly Journal of Music and General Miscellany," the first number of which is to make its appearance about the 1st June next. It is to consist of sixteen pages; the three first will be made up of brief Witticisms, Poetry, and an Original Story. In addition to this will be found one page devoted wholly to Fashions for each month, which will, no doubt, be acceptable to the Ladies of Ottawa. A neat monthly calendar will be inserted in each number, and eight pages of handsomely printed, well arranged Original Music. The price of the magazine for the year is only 50 cts. We wish the Publishers every success in their new undertaking.

The Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41 Barclay Street, New York, have lately published the *British Quarterly Review* for April. The following are the contents:—A review of Forster's Life of Swift; Ignatius—Primitive Conceptions of the Christian Religion; The Progress of Reform in Russia; The Bible Educator, Disestablishment in New England; Poor-Law Relief in and out of the Workhouse; The Atonement; The Present Aspects of the Church Question; Contemporary Literature,—History, Biography, and Travels; Politics, Science, and Art; Poetry, Fiction, and Belles Letters; Theology, Philosophy, and Philology.

The periodicals reprinted by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company (41 Barclay Street, N. Y.) are as follows: *The London Quarterly, Edinburgh, Westminster, and British Quarterly Reviews, and Blackwood's Magazine.* Price, \$4 a year for any one, or only \$15 for all, and the Postage is prepaid by the Publishers.