

that it is known that the most complete accord exists on the general bases agreed to by the Powers, upon which the negotiations at Ems will be pursued, and the bases are the integrity of the Ottomans, and the necessity of ending constant agitation by effective and legitimate concessions. This is the only possible base for negotiations, and it is a very good one. It is now manifest that a conference between the three Imperial Powers will not be enough—the other signers of the Treaty of Paris must cordially agree in what is decided on if there is to be much chance of carrying it out.

If a war should ensue, where the Navies will undoubtedly play a very important part, England would take the lead; and it is idle for the Northern Powers to suppose that they can controul undisputedly the destinies of the continent of Europe, or undertake to settle its affairs to suit themselves without consulting the other Powers. Russia, Austria, and Germany must be taught that they are not all Europe; and that England for her part is determined that the Treaty of Paris shall not be disturbed without the consent first being obtained of all the subscribing parties to it.

THE Montreal Witness of Friday last hits off Uncle Sam in the following capital style:—"An Indian war seems likely to divide with the Centennial Exhibition whatever attention the people of the United States can spare from their presidential contest, in this Centennial year. Perhaps it is well, that when they are doing their utmost to show what advances they have made in the past century, an Indian war should be part of the exposition. It is certainly a natural result of the dishonorable treatment of the aborigines, and therefore quite in place at the present time."

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW. The real name of the writer must invariably accompany each communication to insure insertion, but not necessarily for publication.*

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—I find by the papers that our Battalion is among the unlucky ones who are called out for drill this year. We were in hopes that we would have been ballotted out, but unfortunately we have to turn out. I cannot say as yet what sort of turn out we will make, as there is a vast amount of indignation openly expressed both among officers and men on account of the begrudging pitance doled out by the Government as pay for this year. I wonder what kind of material they think the force is composed of, if they think that it will submit to be treated in such a manner. How are battalions situated like ours, to manage to exist on half a dollar a day and provide their own rations, and with the exception of the 14th, which is

in the City of Kingston, every one of those called out in the 3rd District are just alike. Some companies of ours have to come up wards of twenty miles to Battalion Head Quarters, and will have to pay their own Transport, and maintain themselves while putting in their eight days drill; how they can accomplish that, I would like to be informed. It can never be done, unless the officers do as they have been in the habit of doing for years, that is dip down deep into their own pockets and supplement the sum allowed by the Government, so as to satisfy the men. The men at the head of affairs in our Dominion must count on both officers and men of the Volunteer Force having an immense deal more of patriotism and loyalty than any of themselves have ever displayed, as far as they are concerned, they look out for increased pay, and do very little for it, only bring our country in a disgrace, and now with the expectation of economizing, they vote only one third of the amount voted last year for the volunteer annual drill, when every person who knows anything of the matter must acknowledge that even then the amount was too small, even if the men could be got to give up from one dollar to two dollars per day, and accept at the hands of the Government the magnificent sum of fifty cents—what good will eight days drill be to the force, or rather I should say seven days as there will be one Sabbath in the time; but I must request you to hide the last remark from the men in power, or perhaps they will not allow pay for that day.

Brigade Major Smith, when making his last inspection of Arms &c., took the opinion of the officers of our Battalion on a plan which he was thinking of suggesting for the performance of the Annual Drill this year, under the reduced pay. His plan I think would have been the very best under the circumstances. It was this—To call out the Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and about five men of each company, for a term of from sixteen to twenty days, and pay them the regular pay, and make each Battalion act as a Military School for that time; let both officers and men fall in as a squad, and practice squad, company, manual and Platoon Drills each taking the position of Instructor in turn; and by this means make the staff of each battalion as near perfect as possible, so that if any necessity occurred for calling out the whole force the men could be drilled in a short time, as our Non Commissioned Officers could then perform their duties in drilling as well as the Officers, and the pivot men know how to move, and so in a few days at any time have a better drilled force than we have at present. This, sir, was his plan, and I believe it a good one. But now as another of the beautiful moves of our Government, our Brigade Major is turned out of office although without exception he was one of the very best men in the same position in the Province; I have my doubts that we will see his place filled in a few months, by one far inferior to him.

But as I have now unburthened my mind I must conclude.

I remain yours truly,

PETERBOROUGH.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—I would like to give an explanation of my communication for the benefit of Kanuck and your other readers. In the first place the Printer omitted part of the sentence, "A building could be put up for the men to sleep in on the side the officers' rooms would be on for two thousand dollars." This would have prevented the idea that the drill shed was to make a combined Bivouac Barrack room, and drill ground. Straw, as well as blankets could be allowed, which would make it much more comfortable at night for the men than I have seen it many times at camp in summer. Kanuck thinks the time would be wasted in drill sheds for want of room. Well I can say that I have seen battalion drill taught in a room 40 by 60 more effectually than in camp; because the time was not wasted by marching long distances; consequently more movements were made and learned. I agree that we do not get too much pay, but all men that I have mentioned this to (in both city and country) would rather drill for less in Winter than Summer. As for rifle practice some small moveable buildings could be built, each large enough to hold a company, firing could be done through holes in the sides. Every volunteer knows, who has been to camp several times, that there is much time lost through bad weather, which would not be so in a drill shed—it is a well to economize time as money. My calculations are made from last, not this year's small appropriation.

Yours truly,

BARONET.

The Paris correspondent of the Times telegraphs the following: "There is a rumor circulating here, which comes from a good source, but which must be accepted with reserve, that the eldest son of the late Sultan has committed suicide."—A Berlin despatch says Austria has determined she will not now oppose Russian politics in the East. The Prince of Montenegro has openly assumed command of the insurgents. He has issued written instructions to various rebel chiefs, and is concentrating all his forces in the neighborhood of Podgoritza. A Russian official telegram confirms the report that the insurgents are determined to refuse an armistice. Gen. Tchernysyeff, writing from Belgrade, states that the Serbian army consists of 125,000 men and a force of 100,000 more. Serbians are convinced that war is a moral necessity. Milotic, the leader of the Serbian liberals in Hungary, in an editorial published in the *Zastava*, used these words:—"We are speaking deliberately when we assert that the Serbian war against the Turks is now more absolutely certain than anything else in the world."—The announcement is confirmed that the memorandum of the Turkish Conference will not be presented to the Porte, as satisfaction for the Salonica outrage has been obtained, armistice to the insurgents has been granted, and guarantees for the reforms are expected to be accorded spontaneously.