

THE  
VOLUNTEER REVIEW  
And Military and Naval Gazette.  
VOLUME V.  
1871.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW enters on the fifth year of its existence. When it was first projected fears were entertained for its ultimate success, as two efforts of a similar kind had been made and failed for want of support; but we are happy to say these fears were groundless, and that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW may now be said to be firmly established, thanks to the support it has met with from the hands of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion. It now circulates largely through Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and even the new Province of Manitoba has extended its generous support. Nor is it confined to these Provinces only, but in the Mother Country, and even the United States it has subscribers and supporters. No other journal in the Dominion has so wide and extended a circulation as the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and therefore it offers unparalleled facilities to general advertisers. Our terms for advertising will be found liberal on application, either personally, or by letter *post paid*.

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No Volunteer officer can be well posted concerning the condition, movements, and prospects of the Force unless he receives the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

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#### THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

is published EVERY MONDAY MORNING, at OTTAWA Dominion of Canada, by DAWSON KERR Proprietor, to whom all Business Correspondence should be addressed.

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 be 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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Are our only Advertising Agents in that city.



## The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1871.

THE first chapter of the fifth part of Colonel Hamley's admirable work on "the Operations of War," appears in this issue, for the double purpose of directing the attention of those amongst the officers of our Canadian Army desirous of studying war as a science, to one of the best and ablest of modern writers on that subject, as well as to show the necessity for the organization of a corps of Military Engineers; a necessity by the way which all the would-be Army reorganizers except *Centurion* have forgotten. Its importance is, however, of such a character as to render action imperative, inasmuch as there does not exist at present sufficient topographical information to make it either an easy, safe, or certain operation to plan a defensive campaign for Canada, and utterly impossible to lay down except in vague terms a general plan of defence. There are, no doubt, a series of plans showing straight lines defining townships and farm boundaries, but no information of the slightest value respecting the topographical features of the country, and useful only in a general way to those planning a campaign against the country, for they furnish precisely the information Colonel

Hamley describes as being requisite for that operation.

On none of the existing plans are the correct courses of available or even travelled roads accurately laid down—the invariable representation of the mathematical straight line supplying their places—the direction of rivers, streams, hill ranges, and the disposition of swamps, woodlands, and rocky ground, are wholly wanting. Under those circumstances combined operations are impossible; not even those practical manœuvres which have done so much to elevate the character of the Prussian soldier and officer in tactics and strategy can be undertaken because no officer would know where to direct his corps, what obstacles he might encounter, or what material he would be able to transport. This state of affairs is amply illustrated in Lieut. Colonel Dennison's narrative of the Fenian raid of 1866, in which will be found details of the uncertainty which prevailed in the minds of the commanding officers of the regular troops, as well as in that of the officer commanding the Volunteers relative to the movements of the Fenians on ground which had been fought over repeatedly fifty years before, and every inch of which should have been as well known as the streets of any of our cities. A most ludicrous picture is drawn by the able author of the perplexity which prevailed on this subject, and the fact that the Fenians had been enabled to advance along a deserted road whose existence was unknown to the authorities, is proof enough if one were wanted of the necessity for having correct maps of every locality in Canada, so that our military authorities would be at no loss to direct the operations of a defensive campaign.

It is not necessary to point to the stern lesson taught by the late Franco-Prussian contest, during which it is asserted as a fact that Prussian staff officers knew the localities better than the French, and had better maps thereof. It is notorious that this very knowledge enabled them to defeat all the French combinations, especially for the defence of Paris, and no better argument could be adduced to show the necessity for providing against such a contingency by organizing an Engineer corps. We commend the consideration of this to our Military Reformers.

THE Canadian Volunteers at Wimbledon have earned fame for themselves and admiration for their country. Nor is it too much to claim for them that as samples of the Canadian army they have most favourably impressed every military man capable of judging the material from which soldiers are made. Throughout the whole of this year the careful elaboration of the plan on which the Canadian Army has been organized, is demonstrating to the world the marked success consequent on its inception, while its members have been earning