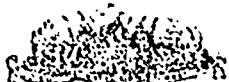


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## The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1875.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp placed thereon will pay the postage.

REUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. ENGLISH, of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

This Report of Admiral D. PORTER, on the state of the United States Navy is taken from the *Army and Navy Journal* of 30th January, and is published to show how accurately we understood the changes which experience would effect in naval construction and equipment. We have always held as an article of faith that a return to the old type of wooden vessels was an absolute necessity, as in accordance with true scientific and mechanical principles, and we have here an old experienced seaman deliberately advising the Government of his country to build those of the class and size we have always advocated.

This Report is also valuable as showing the relative position which defensive shore work hold in the defensive operations necessary for the security of a great maritime country in modern days, and it also indicates the necessity of making the mercantile marine subservient to war purposes in so far as their own protection is concerned—a theory which we have long since advocated.

We have to acknowledge the receipt from GEORGE W. CHILDS, Esq., Publisher of the *Public Ledger*, Philadelphia, United States, a beautifully got up *Almanack* for the current year, embracing an almost complete Encyclopedia of valuable information respecting the Government, general state and municipal, of the United States.—Ecclesiastical, social, commercial and kindred topics, as well as comprehensive tables of all the known foreign Governments in the world.

The *Almanac* was accompanied by a card, four inches by three, on which was photographed sixteen columns (two whole pages) of the *Public Ledger*, and which could be distinctly read with a good magnifying glass.

The enterprising proprietor will please accept our thanks for the useful and artistic treat his liberality has given us.

The following special message of the President of the United States is remarkable at the present time, and foreshadows a dread of complications which may make it necessary for the people of that country to look well to their seaboard defences, because they are wholly without naval protection.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 20.—The President sent the following message to Congress today:—

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

"In my annual Message of December 1st, 1873, while inviting general attention to all recommendations made by the Secretary of War, your special attention was invited to the importance of preparation for war in the armament of our sea coast defence. Proper armament is of vastly more importance than fortifications. The latter can be supplied very speedily for temporary purposes when needed; the former cannot. These views gain increased strength and pertinence as the years roll by. I have now again the honor to call your special attention to the condition of the armament of our fortifications, and the absolute necessity for immediate provision by Congress for the procurement of heavy cannon. The large expenditures required to supply the number of guns for our forts is the strongest argument that can be adduced for a liberal annual appropriation for their gradual accumulation. In time of war such preparation cannot be made. Cannon cannot be purchased in open market, nor manufactured at short notice. They must be the product of years of experienced labour. I herewith enclose copies of a Board of Ordnance Officers on the trial of an eight inch rifle, converted from a ten inch smooth bore, which shows very conclusively an economical means of utilizing these useless smooth bores, making them into eight inch rifles capable of piercing seven inches of iron. The 129 ten inch Rodman guns, should in my opinion, be so utilized, and an appropriation required by the Chief of Ordnance of \$250,000 to commence these conversions is earnestly recommended.

"In his report to his government on the last English Autumn Manœuvres, the German military envoy present, placed the artillery first, the infantry second, and the

cavalry third in respect to efficiency, each to each, in the British army. He placed the artillery second to the German, equal to the Russian, superior to the French, and far before the Austrian. The ground on which he considered they were inferior to the Prussian was that as to *matériel* they had muzzle loading guns and seemed to work too much "on their own hook," without reference to supports, to concentration of fire, and general subservieney to the whole idea of attack or defence."

The above paragraph is in striking contrast to the description of the German artillery given in Captain KNOLLER'S, R.A., article in *Blackwood* on the German Autumn Manœuvres, in which that distinguished officer does not hesitate to use the words "slovenly and miserable" as applied to the equipment; and slow in manœuvring with a nervous fear of being outflanked or attacked by infantry and cavalry. As to the merits of the *matériel* and the vexed question of muzzle loading *versus* breech-loading, we leave it to the scientists on both sides, and shall always be pleased to find our artillery officers in action able to work on their own hook without supports and not afraid of their communications. It is not the first time British artillery men saved their guns by their swords.

The following paragraph has been going the rounds of the Press—we have taken it from a military contemporary—and while it reflects great credit on the generosity of the United States, affords a cheering testimony to the extreme longevity of the soldier's profession. In no other case that we ever heard of could such numbers of parties survive contests in which they were engaged respectively sixty and one hundred years ago.

"In the United States at the end of the last fiscal year, on the 30th of June, 1874, there were 102,457 army invalid pensioners on the pension roll receiving \$10,055,377 a year; 107,516 army widows and dependent relatives, receiving \$13,537,196; 1,551 navy invalid pensioners, and 1,755 widows and relatives; 17,620 pensioners, survivors of the the war of 1812, and 5,312 widows of the soldiers. The total number of pensioners of all classes on the 30th June, 1874, was 236,241, a decrease of 2,170 during the year; the aggregate annual rate of pensions of all classes was \$26,251,071 10s., a decrease from the preceding year of \$5,615. The roll contains the names of 410 widows and 1 soldiers in the Revolutionary War."

A Correspondent ("Old N.C. Officer") having requested that we should publish the "Stations of the British Army," for the information of such of our subscribers as have served therein, we give in this issue the List up to 16th January last, and will in future publish a similar list as often as it is possible for us to do so.

The Germans are determined to have a navy. It is not quite a quarter of a century since they proposed to establish one by