

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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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 feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.

OUR AGENT.

We beg to notify our numerous friends and subscribers that Mr. J. J. BELL is authorised to act as General Travelling Agent for THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW; to receive subscriptions and transact any other business connected with the paper.



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, MAY 4, 1868.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

Mr. Kerr begs to notify the public generally, and subscribers to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW particularly, that Mr. IRA CORNWALL, JR., is no longer Agent for this journal, his connection having ceased some time ago. The proprietor considers this notice necessary, in order to counteract a false impression sent abroad by interested parties. As to the position of this paper, THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW has met, and still continues to meet, with the most gratifying success: and its extensive circulation throughout the whole of the Dominion, has made it what its projectors intended it should be—the faithful exponent and recognized organ of the whole forces, Volunteer and Regular, in Canada.

MANUSCRIPT FOR THE PRESS.—Under the new postal regulations which came into force on the 1st instant, the postage on printer's manuscript will only cost ONE CENT per ounce. Our friends who from time to time favor us with reports of Rifle Matches, &c., will bear this in mind and govern themselves accordingly. The manuscript should be marked on the envelope "Printer's Copy," and left open at one or both ends.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAMPAIGN.

The history of modern warfare presents many extraordinary phases, and the campaigns of the last twenty years are replete with instruction, as showing the genius of the age in which we live. But while we are gratified by the evident, social and scientific advancement of civilized communities, we are the more humiliated by discovering that morally we are but little, if at all, improved. The springs of action, stripped of those euphemistic coverings in which modern language loves to clothe, although it cannot conceal their workings, are plainly and evidently the same. To day, as a thousand years ago, the impulses of ambitious greed, and love of power, urge men and nations to the perpetration of deeds which entail the same inevitable consequences, produce the same results, and repeat with undiminished force those lessons which only experience can teach. England, France, Russia, Germany, Italy, and the United States, have all participated in the sin, and shared in its punishment. Every wrong done, either by an individual or a nation, is a violation of a natural law, which must, and will eventually, obtain retribution.

The Russian war, which terminated in the Crimea, astonished everyone by the magnificence of the blunders committed in its prosecution, and was the means of introducing the greater number of those reforms in military art and science which have swept away as obsolete what in the time of our grandfathers were considered the landmarks of military faith. The fact was when the Eastern war broke out the nations were unprepared by their long repose after the great convulsion which culminated at Waterloo to enter upon such a contest; peacefully had the greater number of their soldiers gained a knowledge of the art of war at school or on the Barrack Square. And the commanders selected on both sides were men who had yet to make their reputations. The natural consequences followed: blunder after blunder, disaster after disaster, and were it not for the stubborn hereditary valor of the rank and file, the national prestige of the allied armies would have suffered a serious blow.

Scarcely had the thunder of the cannon ceased to echo from the steppes of the Crimea, and the people of England were beginning to calm down to their usual tone of phlegmatic feeling when the lurid blaze of rebellion in the far East awakened them to a sense of one of the most horrible and gigantic insurrections of which we have any record. As usual, it found the people and Government but ill prepared, but in this instance there were at least good officers on the spot, with troops at their command which no enemy has yet successfully resisted. The history of this rebellion is remarkable for demonstrating beyond a doubt, the superiority of that army which, combining three distinctive races, which precludes by certain victory the ongoing wave of the great Anglo-

Saxon family, and as showing the certainty of barbaric overthrow when brought into contact with civilization, even in that form in which its power is most opposed to its own principle.

The wars which shortly after followed in Europe were the natural effects of those efforts which nations must make from time to time, as if in obedience to a natural law, which compels everything to seek its equilibrium. There have been many wars singular enough in their cause and conduct, but the Abyssinian expedition which has lately been so triumphantly concluded, is, we may venture to assert, without a parallel, and illustrates what was written by Shakespeare,

"Rightly to be great
"Is not to stir without great argument,
"But greatly to find quarrel in a straw
"When honor's at the stake."

The moral effects of the overthrow of the barbarian Theodorus are not to be measured by that individual's greatness or power. It is the vindication of the principle that the flag of Great Britain can cast the protecting shadow of its folds upon all who owe to it allegiance, whether in the halls of Europe or in the heart of the pathless wilderness. The story of this extraordinary campaign has yet to be told, for the manner in which it was undertaken, conducted and brought to a conclusion, shows either consummate tact and ability on the part of General Napier, or great good fortune. In expeditions of this kind, it is not so much the armies of the enemy with whom you are going to contend, as the peculiarities of country and climate which have to be taken into consideration, and we believe if Great Britain entered upon all her wars with the same circumspection as she did upon this, there would be many fewer painful stories told of the misery and sufferings of her heroic sons.

SPEEDY JUSTICE.

We cannot but admire the promptness with which the would-be assassin of Prince Alfred was brought to trial and condemnation in Australia. Swift, sharp and certain, should be the means employed to crush an organization which makes assassination its avowed object. There is something quixotically heroic in the attempts of the ragamuffins who follow General O'Neill to overthrow the British Empire that claims consideration, but we have quite a different thing to deal with when we are brought to mete out justice to an organized band of assassins.

In the case of Whelan and his accomplices, we are of opinion that there should be as little delay as possible in bringing them to justice. The crime of which he stands accused, and which there can be no doubt he perpetrated, is so singularly atrocious, that no time should be lost in bringing all implicated to justice. The public mind has been so painfully excited by recent events, and the exasperation felt against the cow-