

Instead of firing out of portholes they will fire from deck; they have no sails at all, draw very little water, and propelled by two engines and two screws entirely independent of each other. Three more of these corvettes remain to be built. Passing on to the seven monitors, we find only two—the *Arminius* and *Prince Adalbert*—in actual service. The five others mentioned in the plan of 1873, as well as the two floating batteries, have been relinquished, and will not be built at all. This is because torpedoes and cuirassed gunboats are better calculated to defend the mouths of rivers and easily accessible portions of the shore than the antiquated monitors. Of the cuirassed gunboats which are to serve instead of the monitors, three will be taken in hand in 1875. They receive an 8-in. cuirass and one 30-centimetre gun, being specially designed for the defence of the shore. They will draw no more than three metres of water.

"We now turn to the non cuirassed vessels. Of the twenty corvettes comprised in the original list, ten are already on duty. Of the other ten, the *Louise* is just ready, and the *Freyja* about to be launched. Two first class covered corvettes, the *Thunseldt* and another as yet only designated A, were begun in the Vulcan Works, Stettin, in December, 1873; four more, of which two are to supersede as many old vessels of the same category, will be commenced in the course of the year. The covered corvettes are constructed on the new English plan of clothing the iron framework of the vessel with wood, and then cooping or zincing the whole. This system unites the solidity required for great rapidity, with the advantages of a coppered or zinced bottom. In peace these corvettes will act as training ships, protect commerce, and represent the German flag in distant seas; in war, they will chase and sink hostile cruisers, and act as convoys to German merchantmen. Besides the above, the plan of 1873 claimed six avisos, eighteen gunboats, two artillery ships, three sailing brigs, and twenty eight torpedo vessels. Of the avisos two—the *Grille* and *Falke*—are in service; two more, which are to be fast vessels, will be begun this year. One of these two is to be employed as His Majesty's yacht, and will be fitted up in a suitable style. The other ships contained in this last item are already at the disposal of the Admiralty, excepting one artillery ship and twenty two torpedo-boats. Two torpedo boats are to be constructed in 1875. Comparing the plan laid down in 1873 with the one adopted in 1867, upon the establishment of the North German Confederacy, we find the former exceeds the latter by seven cuirassed vessels, two avisos, four gunboats, and twenty eight torpedo-boats."

Universal Military Service.

Colonel Sir Henry Havelock, M.P., for Sunderland, has added his warning voice to the exigencies of our military position in a long and pertinent letter to the *Times*. Sir Henry, with most of those who have seriously studied this most important but most ignored question, holds the conviction that some sort of compulsory service is necessary to maintain our military and political position in the face of Europe. Sir Henry's views are well matured, and bear many points of resemblance to those we have from time to time advocated in this journal. He hates the word and the thing called "con-scription," or compulsory service in the regular army, but he would make the

army worth the while of the working man entering it as a career of advancement, rather than by offering him high pecuniary inducements. He would give from four to six years' service with the colours to every enlisted man, and six years' with the reserve, and open-up fields of labour and civil duty while in the reserve and afterwards. He thinks the employers of labour would provide for those carefully trained and, in a sense educated men, and he would also set aside a number of places in public works for them, while railways and public companies should be obliged to keep a certain number of vacancies for reserve men. "Thus," Sir Henry says, "enlisting at 20, the man would return at latest at 26 to his home and friends, improved in education and bodily activity, and trained to regular habits, with a small capital to start him, and certain work to enable him to settle down and marry." At every station the soldiers would be educated and improved in their various trades, and when they had no trade, trades would be given them. He would withdraw the Militia from the recruiting market against the regular, and institute a Militia system by which every young man at the age of 21 would be balloted for to learn his drill for at least six months. From the age of 16 he would institute a system of drill instruction on the Saturday half-holiday, and thus young men, obtaining some proficiency as drilled soldiers, if drawn for the Militia, they might only require to give six weeks' instead of six months' Militia training. This training should be carried on by Government, who would provide instructors, arms, and a simple uniform, while the Volunteer drill halls would be utilized for the purpose, and Militia service liability should extend over four years. Sir Henry thinks that his system would ultimately extinguish the Volunteers, because the same results would be obtained by the voluntary drill prior to the age of ballot, 21 years. The object contemplated in this scheme evidently is not so much to provide a superior organization of the auxiliary force as to train the whole nation to some knowledge of drill and the use of arms.

The scheme, so far as it relates to the provision of higher education and instruction for the young regular soldier in the arts of industry and in preparing for him after employment of a higher class, is excellent. We do not believe that any probable increase of the soldiers' pay will meet the recruiting difficulty, but we believe that pensions for long service, or provision for comfortable and honourable employment after the term of service, will tend to meet the difficulty, and make the profession of a soldier honourable and desirable by a respectable class of working men. Our own views are well known—we would make the auxiliary service, the initiatory steps to the regular army, with its favourable advantages; and we would place no man in the regular ranks who had not obtained the rudiments, at least, of drill Universal service such as that aimed at by Sir Henry Havelock would be as light and easy under the one system as the other. The Volunteer service would be maintained as it now is, perhaps on a much better organization for men who could not possibly leave their occupations long enough for six months continuously, manning garrisons and doing one year's preliminary service in the Militia, and who were rich enough to serve without pay, even although they should provide their uniform. We would make the first year's continuous service of the young Militiaman a year of

educational training under qualified teachers, so that the recruit would be restored to his friends at the close of the first year's term a much better man than when he left; and if he should find his way by voluntary choice into the foreign service ranks, the regular army would receive such a one as would raise it to the highest position in discipline and intelligence of any in the world. It is perfectly clear that the Militia ballot, at least, is before us. Even with very little change on matters as they stand at present this would give us a large body for home service, and leave room for our small army doing its foreign duties with efficiency. Should war arise, we think the country will be safe enough, and that Volunteers will not be wanting for our regular army. Whatever changes are made, or whatever military obligation is put upon us, we are all agreed that no compulsion to enter the regular army will be submitted to, or is wanted, in this country. The Militia obligations for home defence, will, we are persuaded, with concomitant arrangements meet all the difficulties of the case.

REVIEWS.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the *Illustrated Household Magazine* from the Household Publishing Company, 41 Park Row New York. It is a neat, monthly publication of 44 pages, published at the extremely low price of one dollar a year. Contents of present number "The Pilgrims or the Adventures of the God Club; Souls, not stations; Which was the Gentleman? Saved by an Indian Girl; On the Hill; the Man of '95; Content and Discontent; Fixing things up; the Signal; Jack Purcell's Crow; the Editors' study &c.

We have received from the Dominion Type Foundry Company of Montreal, the "Dominion Printer" for January, containing a large display of the Type, Presses, &c, they have on hand, which they profess to sell below New York prices.

JAPANESE PEAS, 200 BUSHEL PER ACRE.

SOMETHING NEW.

FARMERS AND GARDENERS READ THIS Agents Wanted.

These Peas have been recently brought to this country from Japan and prove to be the finest known for table use or for stock. They grow in the form of a bush from 3 to 5 feet high and do not require staking. They yield from 1 quart to a gallon of Peas per bush. A package that will produce from 5 to 10 bushels of Peas with circulars giving terms to Agents and full directions as to time and manner of planting, will be sent post-paid, to any one desiring to act as Agent, on receipt of 50 cents. This seed is offered as PURE and GENUINE this year's production. Now is the time to order, as you may be prepared for early shipments. Address, L. L. OSMUNT, Cleveland, Tenn.

TESTIMONIALS.

We have cultivated the JAPANESE PEA the past season on a small scale, and we are convinced they are a perfect success. Their yield was enormous. For the table and for stock, they are unsurpassed by any other pea. They grow well on thin land and are found to be No. 1 fertilizer.

A. J. WHITE, Trustee, Bradley County, Tenn.
I have cultivated the JAPANESE PEA, the past year and raised them at the rate of 50 bushels to the acre. The bloom excels buckwheat for bees. F. E. HARDWICK, J. P. Bradley County, Miss.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscriptions to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday 13th inst.:-

Dorckville, O.—Lt.-Col. W. H. Jackson, D. A. G. to Jan. 1875, \$2.00
—Major Alfred Landon " " 3.00
Montreal, Q.—Capt. John Tees, to Jan. '75, 2.00
New Hamburg, O.—Major Robert Campbell paid to Jan. 1875, 7.00
Ottawa, O.—Capt. John Stewart, to July '75, 2.00
Toronto, O.—Lt. Col. Durie, D.A.G., to Jan. 76, 2.00