

## 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 forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it 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, JULY 13, 1868.

The calling out of the various Battalions of Volunteers and Militia for the purpose of going through the annual course of Drill and instruction during the last two weeks, has given another proof, if such were wanted, of the spirit and patriotism of the people of these Provinces. The large muster exhibited by each Battalion and the efficiency and soldier-like qualities displayed by all ranks are highly significant and suggestive, showing that the same spirit which animated our fathers in the trying days of our national history still exists undiminished in the breasts of their sons, and that, despite all that has been said and written concerning us as "mere provincials," needs no further contradiction than the display of strength and willingness to defend our cherished institutions by those men who have, at great personal sacrifice, given this indisputable evidence of their patriotism.

The people of Canada have ever been remarkable for their war-like qualities, and the unflinching determination with which they have adhered to the British connection, even under circumstances sufficiently exasperating to a proud and sensitive race. But,

as these circumstances and their origin, to a great extent, among ourselves, we ourselves dealt with them, in the same uncompromising spirit as that with which we are prepared to deal with the circumstances and exigencies of to-day. From all parts of the country the same gratifying reports concerning the mustering of the Volunteers reach us, and, although, in some instances, the inexperience of officers and men has led to some slight embarrassment there is on the whole great cause for congratulation, and the arrangements made by the officers of most Battalions were nearly all that could be desired under the circumstances. It is unfortunate that in some cases the command of corps has been entrusted to gentlemen who, however otherwise estimable are completely ignorant of that knowledge of military routine and usage so essential in a commander upon whose promptness and efficiency the comfort and very often the lives of many depend. But this is an evil which it will take some time and careful management on the part of the militia authorities to obviate.

As a means of obtaining that practical knowledge of military discipline so essential in the formation of the character of the soldier, the calling together of the various Battalions in camps and otherwise is doubtless excellent, as it gives both officers and men an opportunity of acquiring an insight into the practical working of a military force in the field, and though the restraint natural in such cases may, at first appear a little burdensome, yet the lessons so taught in habits of order and discipline must have a beneficial effect upon all ranks of the militia. The Adjutant General who has of late been visiting the Force extensively, and who is well fitted to judge correctly of its capabilities, has on every occasion expressed himself highly pleased and gratified not only at the numbers which have appeared in the ranks but at the knowledge of their duties which they have displayed, giving as they do a most convincing proof that the slanders against the Volunteers which have occasionally appeared are altogether unfounded and unworthy of attention.

While upon this subject, we would refer to a matter which, as it has received considerable comment from the Public Press, we would like to make a few passing remarks upon. We allude to the dispute between the Adjutant General and the Editor of the *Belleville Intelligencer*. To some remarks which the former thought fit to make in a speech which he delivered at Toronto, the latter gives a flat denial; but, as the charges made by the Adjutant General can easily be affirmed or confuted by the speeches of Mr. Bowell in the House of Commons we leave our readers to draw their own conclusions, merely observing that the Adjutant General was perfectly correct in at least one or two of his assertions, to our own personal knowledge. In the *Intelligencer* of the 4th inst., we find an article from the *Montreal Gazette*,

in reference to this matter, quoted and commented upon, in which we find the question "What personal pique could Mr. B. have to gratify in a matter of this kind?" In answer to which we have been informed by a gentleman whose word we cannot doubt, that, on the occasion of a dispute between the Mr. B. above referred to and a member of the Militia Staff, the former declared that he would remember him when an opportunity offered. Now, this opportunity was obtained at the passage of the Militia Bill, when the House of Commons was in the full glow of retrenchment, and Mr. B., true to his promise, moved the resolution curtailing the salaries of the Militia Staff. The comments of the *Intelligencer* on the article above referred to conclude with a covert threat, which is, to say the least, rather unbecoming, and, if we are to judge by it that it is the intention of Mr. Bowell to bring the affair before the House at the next session, it is more than probable that a paltry personal grievance will be magnified by Mr. Bowell, who no doubt smarts under the deserved censure of the Adjutant General and the *Montreal Gazette*.

The Staff Officers of the militia are, we are well convinced, as useful and as able a body of gentlemen as can be found on the continent, and it is only the captious and fault-finding who could seek to find in them a cause for caviling.

This tendency of the present age is obviously manifested in the desire evinced by nations to assert their homogeneity and the will of the people is now the power which governs Kings. Once on a time the absolute ruler of a nation would not think of concerning himself about the desires or feelings of his people when, under the promptings of his eager ambition, he rushed into war with his neighbors. Now, thanks to the spread of education and the more liberal diffusion of knowledge among the masses, no despot is foolhardy enough to plunge into war without carefully ascertaining how far his people are willing to support him, and closely measuring the relative strength which he will have to cope as compared to his own. A striking illustration of this is given by the present position and aspect of the two leading military powers on the continent of Europe. Both burthened with huge debts, the legacies of former wars, on which they pay the interest in gold for blood shed in useless and unproductive contests, stand like two hungry and ferocious mastiffs, eying each other with naked fangs, and only kept from tearing each other by the strong chain of popular will and circumstance which keeps them close fastened to the kennel from which they dare not depart, for there are many hungry, unsatisfied curs prowling around who would come snarling and snapping at their heels should they venture on the contest. France and Prussia both maintain immense armies, the