

When at Windsor, the disagreeable order came that the Naval Brigade were to give the *Rescue* over to the crew sent from the *Aurora*, under command of Lieut. Fairlie, R. N. This appeared very hard after the labor they had expended in cleaning and fitting her up. The Brigade was then ordered to go to Toronto and take charge of the steamer *Magnet*, which they did, arriving in Toronto on Friday, and went aboard the *Magnet* at 3 p. m., the same day, thoroughly tired out; none of the men having had any sleep since they left Toronto, on Monday morning. The same evening they were supplied with mattresses—what a luxury? Men whose most comfortable place of rest was the wet side of a deck, to be supplied with mattresses! Was the Government not afraid that this great kindness, coming so unexpectedly, would injure the happy recipients? But it didn't. They were now really comfortable, but alas how short lived was their comfort. On the following day they were told that their services were no longer required afloat, and sent home like a bundle of cast off clothing.

This ended their career as a Naval corps. They had been put afloat without the first thing requisite to comfort, except that which was supplied by their worthy Captain, out of his own private purse, and for which he never received the slightest remuneration from the Government. The loss to him must have been very great. While on the *Rescue* there was no protection from the weather whatever, and during the five days that the men were aboard her they were constantly exposed to the wind and weather without the barest necessities of life.

After the excitement had subsided, seeing there was no chance of getting their rights as sailors, they forwarded their resignations to the Governor General, which were received, and thus became extinct, thereby ending the career of one of the finest corps in the Province, a corps of which every citizen of Toronto felt justly proud. Since then all the Naval Corps of the Province have resigned; even the gallant Dunville Brigade, which did such excellent service in company with the Welland Battery at Fort Erie.

It is really a pity that our Government do not encourage such institutions. With the vast frontier which we have, most of which admits of naval defence, it is necessary that a portion of our Volunteer force should be trained to work guns afloat, and also make themselves qualified to handle gunboats in such a manner as to make them effective in checking the landing of any enemy on our shores. I hope our new Militia Bill provides for this branch of our service, and that ere long we shall have a Canadian Navy of which we can be justly proud.

Your humble servant,  
A SAILOR.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—For the succinct, yet not the less intelligible synopsis of the strength, resources &c., of the British Navy with which a correspondent favors the readers of the REVIEW, I, as one of them, hold myself much indebted. But however valuable the information afforded, or indisputable the statistics elaborated, yet your correspondent has further claims upon our regard, through the unmistakable tone of true British sentiment which pervades all he says.

It has occurred to me that a writer of such ability and general knowledge of nautical

matters might be induced to perform a very necessary, and to him, I presume, not ungenial task of dissipating much of the halo of glory which America claims to have crowned her frigate actions in 1812-13. All I can glean from English accounts and what I have heard from naval officers engaged in these actions, so decidedly conflicts with American Naval history, that there cannot be a doubt that a fair statement of the relative power of the ships engaged, in men, guns and scantling, would pale our neighbor's laurels, and give your readers a proper estimate of Yankee invincibility. The spread eagles which permeates more or less everything American, has of course taken its wildest and most lofty flight on the wings of a mendacious literature, and that literature has for years overshadowed and inundated this country. The natural result has been to disseminate a vast amount of false impressions, but all favorable to American prestige. Under these circumstances I could almost venture to get afloat, and try my hand at what I have presumed to suggest. Yet again there would be something so absurdly ridiculous in an old soldier blundering among scantling, sheathing, bulkheads, &c., and should his ambition screw him up to an essay afloat, it could only be achieved through the "lubber's hole," and in all probability either breaking his neck or dislocating it, by involuntary suicide, amid the mysterious intricacy of the running rigging, "and be hanged to him." Trusting that these suggestions and remarks will be received in the same spirit which prompts them, I remain

SABREUR.

Hamburg, March 28, 1868.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE MILITIA BILL.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER said that he was now prepared to make good his promise of the introduction of his Militia Bill. Perhaps the hon. member for Ottawa would meet him on the occasion, with a reiteration of the charge of audacity (laughter), and apply to him the Latin Adage, *semper aulax*, but that adage had a supplementary one *audaces fortuna juvat*, and he did not fear that either he or his colleagues would be shipwrecked on his present measure (renewed and continued cheering). His was, however, a subject to be treated in no jocular spirit, and they must recognize that the efforts of European nations were directed to the combination of the three great elements of power—the personal, the territorial, and the maritime elements. But, behind all, the military element still remained necessary for the completion of national greatness. With regard to the territorial element, he was as desirous as any one could be to extend theirs to the Pacific by the incorporation of the great North-west Territory, and the addition of British Columbia to the Provinces of the Federation. He had considered it necessary before bringing his measure before the House, to make himself acquainted with the Militia system of the Maritime Provinces, which, although inferior in population, contained in themselves an element of defence perhaps greater and more important than the number of troops which might be

sent from the west—he meant the seafaring and maritime population. (Hear, hear, from Mr. FORTIN.) They had a seafaring population of 60,000 or 70,000, with which no other country but Great Britain could compare. He made these observations to convince his friends from the Maritime Provinces that the Administration were fully sensible of the advantages to be derived from their alliance. (Hear, hear.) The mere number of representatives from the Lower Provinces could not be considered as the measure of the value of their constituencies. He had not approached the subject of his bill without proper consideration, and had made himself familiar with the Militia laws not only of the Provinces of the Federation but of Prince Edward Island also. He had also the benefit of the views and recommendations of Col. Macdougall, whom every one would recognize as a soldier of distinguished eminence in his profession, and as an authority on military matters of indisputable weight. His Bill divided the Militia force into Active and Reserve Militia, the Active composed of Volunteers, and the Marine forces, to be chosen from the population of the country from those between the ages of 18 to 60—the first to be called upon being those between the ages of 18 and 30, unmarried and widowers without children. The second class to be composed of those unmarried between the ages of 30 and 45, or widowers of the same class with child (Uproarious cheers and laughter) The Hon member for South Wentworth (Mr. J. RYAN) called on him for an explanation which might be difficult, but to him nothing seemed to be impossible. (Renewed and continued laughter.) He had used the unfortunate conjunction in the wrong way, (much laughter,) but it was his grammar only that was in fault. (No, no.) The third class would comprise married men and widowers between 18 and 45, and the next would be composed of all between the ages of 45 and 60. He expected under the provisions of his Bill to provide that the number of trained men within the Dominion should not be less than 40,000. The Dominion was to be divided into nine districts, viz.: Nova Scotia one, New Brunswick two, Quebec three, and Ontario four, with a staff commander at the head of each to see that the Militia regulations were efficiently carried out. There was to be a further division into regimental divisions according to population, and also to geographical divisions, the population embraced within which would furnish the whole available Militia force of the country, it being imperative that 40,000 should be supplied each year for training. The present Volunteer force of Canada did not exceed 20,000, having diminished from the number of 31,000 enrolled during the Fenian invasion. In New Brunswick there were 2,000, but he was not able to ascertain the exact number in Nova Scotia. Their existing number would require to be swelled by drafts from the 200 regimental divisions of which he had spoken, to make up the number of 40,000. Upper Canada would have to furnish a quota of 17,600; Lower Canada of over 13,000; New Brunswick 4,000; and Nova Scotia 5,000. If a sufficient number of Volunteers should not come forward to complete the required number there would be a ballot for the selection of the quota necessary. If the population between the ages of 30 and 45 were not sufficient, they would have to fall back upon the respectable (laughter) portion of the community, between 45 and 60. There was power granted for enquiry into every household as to those eligible for duty. The enrollment was to be made by