

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

And Military and Naval Gazette.

VOLUME V.
1871.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW enters on the fifth year of its existence. When it was first projected fears were entertained for its ultimate success, as two efforts of a similar kind had been made and failed for want of support; but we are happy to say those fears were groundless, and that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW may now be said to be firmly established, thanks to the support it has met with from the hands of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion. It now circulates largely through Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and even the new Province of Manitoba, has extended its generous support. Nor is it confined to these Provinces only; but in the Mother Country, and even the United States it has subscribers and supporters. No other journal in the Dominion has so wide and extended a circulation as the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and therefore it offers unparalleled facilities to general advertisers. Our terms for advertising will be found liberal on application, either personally, or by letter post paid.

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AGENTS.

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

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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, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1871.

It has become fashionable in England for members of the House of Commons to give an account of their stewardship to their constituents at stated intervals, and the Whig-Radicals have so far improved on the practice as to send members of the cabinet popularity hunting in a similar manner. The right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, in accordance with this practice, has been holding forth to his constituents at Greenwich on the 28th October, in a speech remarkable for nothing so much as its rhetorical flourishes and the facility with which he accommodated his own political views to those of his hearers. The subjects discussed were the legislation of the late session; a very feeble attempt to cover the blundering of the administration and to persuade the people that all its projects are perfection but had somehow unaccountably failed to secure either the confidence or sympathy of the House of Commons. The economy practiced under his administration which consisted in, first disbanding 20,000 efficient soldiers, whereby £2,000,000 ster., were alleged to be saved, and within three months replacing them with about 10,000 boys at a cost of £4,000,000; the closing of Deptford Dockyard, and the dismissal of some 10,000 skilled mechanics to be replaced

ed some four months later with 9,500 partially trained—the cost of this very sensible manoeuvre is not given. This branch of the subject was further illustrated by the abolition of two sinecures aggregate value £2,400 sterling per annum. Two persons of the privileged class of ministerial hangers-on and poor relations have lost a chance of snug berths while 30,000 soldiers and mechanics have been turned adrift to starve or beg; it is not much wonder that a good deal of irreverent slang was let loose on the English Premier or that cheers and laughter pleasantly diversified the exhibition. The great stroke of policy by which the whole military and naval force of Great Britain has been concentrated in England was spoken of in becoming terms and with great modesty, which was a piece of wisdom because it costs the taxpayer rather more to maintain them where they are of no positive use, than it did to keep them in the outlying portions of the Empire, where their presence notified the world that old England was prepared to defend her own. If it is the purpose of the Whig-Radicals to invite aggression they could not take a more effectual way than to concentrate the whole of their forces within the bounds of Great Britain. Their army, too small to make any effective resistance, would perish in one victory, while their navy would be no match for a coalition of the naval powers of Europe and the United States.

Since the time of William III. the policy of England has been to fight her battles not on her own soil, but on that of her enemies, the Whig-Radicals and Manchester philosophers have reversed all that and invited a contest on English soil as a true strategical move on the part of her antagonists, and Mr. Gladstone's hearers appears to have been persuaded that such is the case; his allusions to the abolition of purchase and the ballot were feeble and badly received, but the actual feeling of his listeners was unmistakably displayed when he ventured as a wind up to speak of the constitution of the House of Lords, he was gruffly and peremptorily told to "leave the constitution of the House of Lords alone," and mind his own business, a hint he at once complied with by flattering his hearers on the reverence of Englishmen for hereditary distinctions, and although he asked the people of Greenwich to re-enact the farce of the Tooty street Tailors by representing the people of England on that question, and to consider that "if the hereditary principle was expelled from the House of Lords what should be substituted for the hereditary principle;" he was answered "that was a difficulty with which he would not be permitted to deal at any rate." The Radical press are trying to make capital out of this meeting but it is very evident that the English Premier has not the confidence of his own constituents, that he has advanced ideas of liberalism which shocks their innate sense of right, and the greatest mis-