

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.

CLUBS! CLUBS! CLUBS!

For the purpose of extending an advantage to the NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of the FORCE, we have decided to send "THE REVIEW" to BATTALION and COMPANY CLUBS of TEN and UPWARDS at the rate of \$1.50 per annum for each copy.

ANY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER or PRIVATE sending us 15 names at the above rate, will receive a copy of "THE REVIEW" for one year, free of charge.

"THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW OFFICE,"
Ottawa, August 1st, 1867.



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1867.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

There is something grand in the unanimity with which the people of Canada are working out the great destiny which is opening before them. A gigantic revolution is being accomplished peacefully by a people in conscious loyalty and rectitude of purpose. Under the fostering care of the Parent State, with the blessings of liberty, and the labor of hand and brain, we are gradually rising to the dignity of an Empire. Calmly, diligently, with the desire and determination to do justice to all classes and sections, we are proceeding with our work. The ends we seek are peace, security and happiness, and while we continue our efforts, unbiassed by prejudice or the infatuation of jealousy, we are determined to defend the work of our hands against all aggression, come from where it may.

The Dominion of to-day is but the opening germ of the magnificent empire, which

is destined to spread from ocean to ocean, and it is no chimera to suppose that many of us will live to see the whole British portion of North America united under one government, inheriting the laws, language and principles which have made the Empire to which we are proud to belong the greatest and freest on earth. Now, while we are still upon the threshold of a new life, and the greatness of our mission is hardly yet to be comprehended, it would be well if we were to consider the best means to employ to secure to those who will come after us the rights which we have inherited. The first thing necessary to be considered is the means we should adopt for the defence of our country, and next the development of our resources.

To secure an efficient and reliable system of defence will demand a large outlay, that is if it is intended to erect fortifications along the most exposed portions of our frontier. Doubtless the erection of forts is a necessity; but it is not necessary to go to work and build, at immense cost, works which may prove in the end useless.

The more exposed and assailable points on our border are already partly protected by defensive works. These should be strengthened and armed with the best attainable guns; they should also be made depots, where, in the event of trouble, the people of the country could rally and be supplied with the means of resistance: for, after all, it is not in stone walls or big guns, that our true means of defence consist, but in the loyalty and determination of the people. To a young country like ours struggling with many difficulties, not the least of which is our inability to bear heavy taxes, the large expense involved in establishing a reliable system of defence, is no light burthen, nor is it one to be undertaken without the most careful consideration. But it is nevertheless a necessity and we must be prepared to cheerfully submit to a little extra pressure at present, that we may hereafter enjoy a greater amount of security.

The next thing in importance to this is the organization of the militia, the fundamental principle of which should be, that every citizen owes military service to his country, if such should be required of him. It would be almost impossible for us to maintain a standing army of such proportions as would be of real service in the hour of danger. Nor could we keep a navy on the lakes without the assistance of the mother country; and it would be sheer absurdity to establish one without the other. Therefore the whole people of the Dominion should be made to take an active share in the defence of the country; and to do so they must be educated to a knowledge of the duties required of them. For these purposes we trust the new Militia Bill will be made to provide.

The development of the resources of the country is a question of time, and rests in the hands of enterprise and depends on the

wisdom of our legislators; but it is so intimately connected with the question of national defence, that the building of canals and railroads must, as auxiliary means for intercommunion, occupy a large share of attention. Our internal resources are immense, and will eventually, by wise management, give employment and wealth to many millions of people. We of the present generation will have to sacrifice much to this end, but it is a sacrifice demanded by our country, and we must be ready to cheerfully make it.

FATHER McMAHON.

Mr. O'Reilly, Q. C., of Kingston, has presented a petition to the authorities at Ottawa praying for the release and pardon of Father McMahon, of Fenian notoriety. We must confess that we can neither see the justice nor expediency of this measure, especially at this time, when it is a well known fact that the ruffians whom he represents are straining every nerve to secure means for making another raid upon Canada. The fact that he is a minister of the Gospel, instead of being in his favor, is altogether against him. He knew well when he came with the raiders, that he did so in opposition to the express command of the Roman Catholic bishops. The excuse that he was there to administer consolation to the dying, will not stand one moment, for the prelates all over the continent have denounced the Fenian conspiracy and have denied the ministrations of the Sacraments to all its members. Therefore when he lent his countenance and the inspiration of his presence to those people, he forfeited all right to be considered other than an outlaw and filibuster, and when captured he should be made to pay the penalty of his crime. We know well that whenever Irishmen are engaged in any enterprise, there also will be found men like Father McMahon, who, from private conviction, are ready to risk life and liberty in a cause which they deem of paramount importance. We know, also, though we do not share in the prejudices of a large class of Canadians. We simply look at the matter from a purely national point, and considering all the bearings of the case, we cannot see why this man, who has set at defiance the orders of his superiors in the church—thereby forfeiting all claim to be considered in connection with his character as a priest—should be pardoned and released. He wilfully committed a breach of the law, was taken in the act, found guilty, and should be made pay the penalty of convicted crime. It has been our conviction from the first that these people have been treated with a degree of leniency which they had no right to expect, and which they did not deserve. In the ranks of our Volunteers are many of the same religious persuasion as McMahon, who regard him in the same light as we do, and who can see in his sacred character no palliation for his guilt.