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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, TUESDAY, DEC. 22, 1874.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

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THE Franco-Prussian War of 1870 may justly be styled the culmination of military science with regard to its practical application—where success invariably attended systematic training, organisation and educated intelligence. As a system—theory and practice—it was invented over a hundred years ago by a German Prince, Count William of Lippe, whose first military training was acquired in the English service, and it was adopted by Prussia after her humiliating defeat at Jena in 1806; at the instance and by the advice and under the management of Major General SCHARNHORST, the most distinguished and best known pupil of that great

master in the art of war—the Count of Lippe.

The *Edinburgh Review* for October contains an article *Das Leben des Generals Von Scharnhorst* from the pen of G. H. KLIPPEL of Leipzig, which puts this matter beyond any doubt; and as our readers may be desirous to know what the origin of the so-called Prussian theory really was, we shall republish so much of the article as relates to the history of the system devised by a greater man than either MOLTKE or BISMARCK, not deeming it at all necessary to follow the course of historical events which forced Prussia to adopt it as a last desperate resource to preserve a national life placed in extremes by the system of FREDERICK the Great and clung to with a tenacity characteristic of the Teutonic race; and although we do not agree with the *Review* in its estimate of SCHARNHORST's abilities, yet for the lesson inculcated we shall publish the opening paragraphs of its article.

"Prussia, as all the world admits, exhibits the strongest types of statesmanship and strategy our age has produced; and statesman and strategist have combined their powers to raise her from a second class kingdom to be the foremost military power in Europe.

"But BISMARCK's sagacity and VON MOLTKE's science might have been in vain had they not possessed in the national organisation for war the mightiest engine the world has ever seen framed; and Prussia does not forget the obligation she owes to the great man—a Prussian only by adoption, a German above all—who founded her military system, and who in doing so prepared those victories of the War of Independence in 1813-14 which he was not spared to share, yet which but for him would hardly have been won.

"HERR KLIPPEL's great work has not the less been read because it appeared at a new crisis of the world's history when his hero's country was seen to rise again as one man under arms against the hereditary foe for whose first overthrow the weapon was forged by SCHARNHORST sixty years before. Yet SCHARNHORST himself who came from Hanover to be the tutor of the Prussian nation was but a pupil of an earlier teacher in a principality yet smaller than the Electorate which gave him birth. No fact is brought out more clearly than this in HERR KLIPPEL's volumes; and before passing to his own career it is but just to dwell on the memory of the instructor to whom the regenerator of the Prussian service owed so much. Those too who imagine that the military science is but the fancy of a day and owes its study rather to men's immediate needs than to one of the deeper instincts of the race, may study profitably the history of Count WILLIAM of Lippe and the school which he founded. For them SCHARNHORST, in a time of settled peace imbibed the knowledge which was long after

to fructify in the days when Prussia under his sage teaching drew strength out of disaster and honour out of humiliation."

Count WILLIAM of Lippe was the second son of the Sovereign Count of SCHAUMBURG Lippe, a small principality lying south of and adjoining Hanover. The young Count's father was a friend of GEORGE II. of England and found no difficulty in procuring an ensign's commission in the Guards, he had been educated in England. The sudden death of his brother recalled him to the principality, and as his father commanded a Dutch contingent, the young strategist saw service for the first time at the opening of the *seven years' war* (1755-63) under the Sovereign whose uniform he had put off. He was present at the battle of Dettingen, the last action in which a British King commanded in person, for GEORGE II. enjoyed the title of *Le Petit Caporal* long before NAPOLEON LE GRAND was born. This battle which was won more by the steadiness and discipline of the British soldiers than by the strategy and tactics of their leaders taught the young soldier a lesson which he never forgot, he afterwards served under Count SCHOMBERG in Italy, and was finally sent by the King of Great Britain to Lisbon to organize the Portuguese forces, a work similar to that performed by Marshal Lord BERSFORD two generations later. At the close of the war the King of Portugal wished to retain him as Commander-in-Chief, but he had now succeeded to his father's sovereignty and returned to Germany to devote himself to its duties with as much energy as though his few thousands of subjects had been as many millions. Although he saw war no more he counted among the chief duties of a ruler the keeping his people thoroughly prepared for its events. The maxim he himself was never weary of teaching was that since man has a natural inclination for war, this should be taken as the basis of national education and properly directed. The study of military science, so ran his favorite canon, is not the melancholy trade of discovering more skillful means of murder, but is the rendering a true service to humanity. For the more perfectly military science is studied the more dangerous will it be found to commence a war, and the more rare consequently war will be, and when it does occur the more removed from useless murder. The misuse of this higher art would carry us down to the level from whence it had raised us. No war but a defensive one is profitable, as the wantonly offensive is utterly beneath the dignity of the just man. The preparations of means of defence will tend to limit war inasmuch as they will constantly increase the obstacles that are put in the way of the invader."

In an era of standing armies and military pedantry with more than ordinary ignorance of theory or principle this great soldier found the means with a battalion of foot, a single squadron of cavalry, and a battery of