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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. VIII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1874.

No. 15.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Riel case was again before the House on Thursday evening, but nothing of importance was elicited from the witnesses examined, save that the parties intrusted with the warrant for the arrest of Riel, had used every means in their power to capture him but so far he had eluded them. Mr. Bowell, the member for North Hastings, gave notice that he would on Monday (yesterday) move that Louis Riel be expelled from the House.

At the urgent request of his political friends Sir J. A. Macdonald will continue to be the leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

The election in West Durham to fill the place of the Hon. E. B. Wood, appointed Chief Justice of Manitoba, resulted in the choice of Mr. Burk, Ministerial, by a majority of 263.

Mr. Costigan has given notice that he will bring up in the House of Commons the New Brunswick School Question.

The Welland Canal is open.

A telegram from London to the *Globe* announces that the resignation of Mr. Bridges has been accepted by the Grand Trunk Railway Directors.

The revival of the Volunteer movement in the West, is being supplemented by the formation of a Rifle Association at London, with an influential board of Officers.

The Public Accounts Report was laid on the table by the Finance Minister. The funded debt of the Dominion, July 1st, 1873, was \$105,292,556; miscellaneous debts, \$22,519,188; total liabilities, \$130,778,098, show an increase of \$8,378,081 during the year ending 31st June last. Total assets on 1st July last, \$30,929,636; total receipts for year 1872-3, \$33,305,305; total expenditure, \$35,287,250.

George Brown, of Halifax, and Wm. Sharff, of Pittsburg, will row a five mile race for the Championship of America and \$2,000 a side in June next.

A rowing match between George Brown of Halifax and Fulton, of St. John, to come off in Halifax harbour, has been arranged. It is likely Brown will accept Coulter's challenge to row him at Toronto.

A soldier who deserted from the 60th Rifles three months ago in Ireland has given himself up to the authorities in Halifax, N. S. Such a surrender is a very unusual occurrence.

The repairs going on at Creedmore will be completed in a few days, and extensive preparations are being made for the forthcoming International Rifle Match for the championship of the world.

The steamer *Tigress* of the Polaris expedition, while seal fishing, exploded her boiler. Two engineers and twenty of the crew were killed. The ship is under sail for St. John's.

The Railway policy of the Nova Scotia Government, as announced in the Legislature, Tuesday, is to subsidise the companies building western extensions with \$6,000 per mile, and eastern extensions with \$5,000 per mile.

Four Chicago ladies, engaged in the liquor crusade, threaten to make a raid upon the saloons of London, Ont.

The United States House Committee on military affairs reported favourably on the resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to detail an officer to command the second expedition of the Palestine Exploring Society, to explore 15,000 squares lying East of River Jordan.

Nearly \$20,000 have been so far pledged by individuals and Sunday School Societies.

The President of the United States has nominated Commodore Wm. Leroy to be Rear Admiral.

The British Columbia Gold Mines appear to be very productive. Lightning Creek gold returns for one week, were: the Victoria company, 420 oz; Vancouver company, 190 oz; Point company, 90 oz; Spruce company, 50 oz. This amount of gold, 750 ounces, at \$18.50 per ounce, would be worth \$13,875. A year's yield at this rate, would amount to \$721,500 worth of gold, or considerably more than three times the yield of all the Nova Scotia gold mines last year. Our Pacific province will not want for population if it continues to produce gold at this rate.

On Easter Monday there was a general review of the Volunteers at Wimbledon; 10,000 men were under arms.

A three day's armistice, in which Bilbao was not included has been agreed upon for the burial of the dead. Meantime the bombardment of the city continues. Gen. Caballero de Rodas, with five thousand men, is advancing, by forced marches, to the assistance of Marshal Serrano.

On the Carlist war the latest report is that Marshal Serrano with his entire force has advanced to within a few miles of Abran ton and commenced a heavy cannonade upon the town. An attempt will be made by the Republican forces to take the town at the point of the bayonet, and a bombardment has been commenced preparatory to the assault.

The SS. *Europe* of the French Transatlantic line, has been abandoned at sea in a sinking condition. The passengers and

crew were taken off by the National line S.S. *Greece*.

From city of Mexico it is reported that six prisoners charged with murdering the Rev. Mr. Stephens, the American Missionary, have been condemned to death. The case against the Priest, of Ochoa, and his associates implicated in the murder, is still pending.

One hundred and twenty newspapers and periodicals have been suppressed in France since MacMahon became President.

The Royal gold medal of the institute of British Architects has been awarded to Mr. John Ruskin Slade, Professor of Fine Arts at Oxford.

It is reported that Queen Victoria, with the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, will visit Germany, and spend a short time at the ducal court of Coburg.

A thoughtful Parisian vegetarian has applied to the Government to let out to him the most of the fortifications round the capital for the purpose of planting it with fruit and vegetables in case of a second siege.

Six persons have been fined for swearing in the streets of Blackburn, and other towns in England are about to follow the example. If the idea were acted upon here a goodly fund might be raised.

Sir Alexander Cockburn, the Lord Chief Justice of England, has undertaken to find out the author of "Junius." It is said that even during the late great trial of Arthur Orton, he snatched many hours to study the subject at the British Museum. A London paper remarks that the secret of "Junius" has never yet been examined by a first rate judicial intellect, and if that anybody can clear it up it is the Lord Chief Justice.

The Zoological Society of London has just made an important addition to its collection in the shape of a Javan rhinoceros, which is the first animal of the species ever brought alive to Europe. There were already representatives of three species of these huge animals in the society's gardens. This makes a fourth, and renders the series nearly complete, only two other kinds of rhinoceroses being known to exist.

The Indian papers contain accounts of religious riots which have recently taken place in Bombay. It seems that the Mahomedans were greatly excited by the comments of one of their priests upon a translation of Washington Irving's *Life of Mohamet* which had been published by a Parsee. An offer was made to stop the sale of the book, and it was thought that the matter had been pacifically settled. However, serious riots occurred, a good deal of pillage took place, many arrests were made, and several persons were injured.

BRITISH PLUCK.

The speedy success of Sir Garnet Wolseley and his small force, in an unknown and difficult country, and against many times their number of a really brave though barbarous foe, sheds a new lustre on British arms. Continental strategists may affect to laugh and may say that a campaign against African savages is no test at all of what our officers and men could do if opposed to European armies under the direction of such masters of the art of war as Von Moltke. It is an old Continental opinion, which has been current ever since the time of Napoleon the First, that the unquestioned bravery of British soldiers has been but insufficiently directed by thorough military competence on the part of the officers. The bravery of the officers, too, has been conceded; looking at their unhesitating charges against fearful odds, Frenchmen have been known to exclaim, "This is magnificent, but it is not war." There is reason for believing, however, that in technical military training our officers have made astonishing progress of late years, and the Continental opinion referred to may already have ceased to be even possibly true. Certain it is that both the Abyssinian expedition and this later one to Coomassie were both marvels of careful calculation and arrangement, of the adaptation of means to ends, and application of scientific resource to the overcoming of tremendous natural difficulties. It must be remembered that, even in what we are pleased to call civilized warfare, the overcoming of purely natural difficulties is an important part of generalship; the preservation of communication and supplies, moving guns and heavy baggage, crossing rivers, keeping an army in good health and fighting trim, and such like, are all problems of generalship that have to be met and solved alike on the Præ and on the Rhine. The two African expeditions referred to did not test the capacity of our officers as masters of civilized strategy, but the test of their capacity for conquering extraordinary natural difficulties was most conclusive. Our commanders have proved themselves the equals, and probably the superiors, of any in the world, in valuable quality called resource—the ability to make the most of circumstances in the face of sudden danger and surprise. European critics will probably be sparing in their praise on this as on other occasions, but the conviction will remain with them, nevertheless, that the men who pushed their way through the dangerous fastnesses of Abyssinia and Ashantee are not to be trifled with; and all over the Continent the impression will deepen that it will be wise to leave the British hon alone.

There is something more, however, to be said, with reference not merely to the pluck and capacity that Britain would have on her side in such a contest, but with reference also to the national spirit for sustaining it. Britain no longer seeks to conquer and to seize for herself new territory in distant regions, but her commercial ambition is more aggressive than ever, and she seeks commercial conquest of markets for her goods. She does not, like Russia, want more territory, but sooner than see her goods excluded from markets that she desires access to she will fight. There is this great change going on, that whereas the commercial spirit has been too much on the side of peace at any price, it is now strongly interested in training old markets and finding new ones, even should it be necessary to fight for them. No such mis-calculation as that of the Czar Nicholas is

likely soon again to be made, because even the excuse that he had, such as it was, is disappearing. It was the dream of some twenty years ago, that Britain might be commercially prosperous, and still control the trade of the world, even were she almost wholly to disarm, and to abdicate her rank as a military power. That dream has now vanished, and none are more profoundly convinced than are the commercial classes in England to-day, that without strength in arms commercial supremacy would be of uncertain tenure. As a Quaker nation, unprepared to fight, and intent only on making money, England would soon cease to be a nation at all. The commercial classes, we say, have come to understand this, and the change which we indicate as having been in progress there twenty years past, explains in great part the popular discredit into which Mr. Cobden's doctrines have fallen of late, and why Mr. Bright is no longer a tribune of the people. For the tremendous blunder of showing pro-Southern sympathies during the American war, England has had to atone by submission to the Geneva award as the only possible escape from a false position. She has given the first great example of settlement by arbitration, instead of war, and her willingness to substitute the former for the latter, when at all practicable, is not to be doubted. But that, if need be, she will fight to maintain her rights is not to be doubted, and we fancy it is less doubted now than at any time during the present reign. The two important points which we note at present are these—the proof in recent time that British pluck and energy and resource have not deteriorated; and the conversion—perhaps we should say the re-conversion—of the commercial classes to the view that for Britain to maintain her greatness in trade and in arts, the maintenance of her greatness in arms is indispensable. England and America have given the world one noble example recently, but the Continent of Europe, in its present state of armed peace, and divided into armed nations, does not seem anxious to follow it; a special and powerful reason why a Quaker policy of disarmament cannot be adopted.—*Toronto Mail.*

DEATH OF CHEVALIER MURRAY.—The report of the death of this gallant young officer has, we regret to say, been confirmed by telegrams forwarded to his friends and relatives in Canada. We learn that he received a severe wound at the storming of Manresa by the Carlists, from the effects of which he died. It was only in August last that we announced in these columns the departure of the deceased gentleman to join the army of Don Carlos in Spain, and we then wished the gallant young soldier success and a safe return to his home and friends, little dreaming at the time that we would have been so quickly called upon to chronicle his death. Chevalier Murray was a nephew of the Bishop of Kingston, was formerly an officer in the Pontifical Zouaves, and was wounded at the battle of Mentana. He was afterwards decorated for gallantry in action, made Knight of the Order of St. Pius V. by the Pope, and personally otherwise honoured on different occasions by the Holy Father. We deeply sympathize with the relatives and friends of the Chevalier in their bereavement, but they have the consolation to know that he died as he lived, a brave soldier and a Christian gentleman.—*Kingston News.*

THE TACTICS AT OMOAFAU.—An intelligent study of Sir Garnet Wolseley's report of the battle of Omoafau will lead to understanding how completely unlike ordinary modern tactics he employed against the Ashantees. In fact, as the *Pall Mall Gazette* observes, they were thrown back many centuries by the peculiar circumstances under which Sir Garnet Wolseley's force was engaged. The nature of the ground, especially the very limited range of fire it allowed, and the overwhelming numerical superiority of the enemy, compelled the soldiers to act in a general way very much as the Grecian phalanx or Roman legion did ages ago when overthrowing their swarms of savage foes. The extension of the fighting front which has become the universal model in European infantry tactics was exactly reversed, and in its place we find a quadrangular formation carefully arranged, with almost as much fighting power for either flank as for direct advance, and with the expectation of being attacked on both sides and resisting the attack, without allowing them to interfere seriously with the general advance. Against a superior and outflanking enemy shooting at long range such a procedure would be suicidal. For the special case to be dealt with it was exactly suitable. And just as no number of Orientals in Xenophon's days could resist the slow thrusting forward of the phalanx, invincible by its weight at the point of contact; nor any mob of Gauls, however brave, could bear the terrible though gradual pressure of the advancing front of the legion, so it was—allowing only for the difference of the power of firearms in a bush and of pikes and javelins in the open—with the 42nd Highlanders and the defenders of Omoafau. The problem is such a case has always been to defend the flank effectively without pausing in general movement; and no Grecian or Roman commander appears ever to have solved this prime difficulty of the breaking through a crowd of enemies with a living military wedge more successfully than did the English general on the 31st January.

An article in the *Cologne Gazette*, on "The new iron fortifications of Germany," says that the drilled cast iron gun stands and iron clad revolving turrets which have, since 1869, been completely tested in a series of experiments on the great artillery shooting ground at Tegel, will now be used for the new works to be begun in the German fortresses. Two of these turrets will maintain a secure communication between the forts of St. Quentin and St. Privat at Metz, and two of the flank works which will be attached to these forts, so as to command the valley of the Moselle and the Sille, will probably be made in the form of the gun stands referred to. All the iron for these fortifications can be cast on the spot, of any required thickness, in foundries especially erected for the purpose. Each of the works will be constructed with a few huge plates, which will fit into one another by means of joints made in the casting. The gun stands are made to hold only one gun each, but a number of these may, if necessary, be placed side by side, and they may be connected so as to form single work. The embrasures are made so small as to prevent the entrance of any projectile fired at them, and the whole is protected by an earth work with apertures to carry away the gas and diminish concussion. During the trials of 1869 seven shots from a 200 pounder (the 24 centimeter gun) hit the plate of a gun stand of this kind without disabling it for further use. The writer

adds that there is good reason to believe that these iron fortifications would make the land and sea fortifications of Germany far superior to those of any other State.

A series of experiments, says the London *Army and Navy Gazette*, is being now held in the Carriage Department of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, with a view of ascertaining how far mechanical means can be employed for the spunging and ramming of heavy guns in lieu of a large number of experienced gunners. With the great advance that has taken place in the science of artillery, in the introduction of guns of enormous length and calibre both for land and Naval services, the question of ramming and spunging has assumed considerable importance, the amount of labour involved being no longer a trifling matter. With the 38 ton gun, for instance, the rammer is to be some 18 feet in length, and of proportionate thickness, whilst the projectile will weigh one-third of a ton. Consequently an idea has been suggested by Colonel Field, R.A., Superintendent of the Royal Carriage Department, for the utilisation of the winding gear in rear of the platform beneath gun-carriages for the purpose of experimenting upon the same. The crude notion is to suspend the projectile from a tacking fixed to the roof of the casemate in forts or to the deck above the ships batteries, and from a second tacking just in front of it to suspend the rammer. To the other end of the rammer stave two ropes are secured by metal eyes, and these ropes being attached to the drum of the winding apparatus, the winch at the side is turned and the rammer drawn backwards into the gun. Thus the process of ramming is effectual without any of the gunners having to expose their bodies before the port of the gun, and at the same time a great reduction can be made in the number of hands required to be employed. Indeed, in point of circumstances after a considerable number of rounds has been fired, the work of ramming down a 700 lb. shot into a 38 ton gun could be compassed by manual labor at all. With the necessary fouling of the grooves, it being impossible to clear them entirely by spunging, the difficulty of running back the projectile would increase with each round.

S. Foselli, an Italian, has invented a new method for exploding any mine or torpedo without electricity, the use of which agent he considers expensive, uncertain, and often dangerous. He states that a torpedo, at any distance whatever, can be placed in immediate communication with a hydraulic pump by means of a small hollow metallic tube 0.8 in. in diameter; the tube being bare or coated according to the locality in which it is laid. The apparatus is simple. In an hermetically sealed case attached to the top of the torpedo a hammer, with spring action similar to that of an ordinary musketlock, is placed and maintained in the position of "full-cock" by a catch; against this catch rests a small hydraulic ram which communicates through the side of the case with the hollow tube. When the case is filled with water, one or two strokes of the pump are sufficient to free the catch and effect the explosion. Air can be used in the tube instead of water.

During the past quarter eight vessels have been added to the English navy, and at the present time there are twenty-seven others in course of construction at the various Government yards or by private firms.

An official despatch states that 41 officers and men have deserted from General Saules command.

C U B A.

HAVANA, March 28, 1874.—If we grant the truth of what the Spaniards say, that the patriots can never gain their end by force of arms, we are sure that their end will be gained by the force of circumstances.

One great point on which the Cubans have founded their strongest hopes has always been the financial ruin of Cuba under the Spaniards, and that financial ruin is coming, not slowly, but steadily and swiftly, on this unfortunate island. The promises of Spain to recognize as national the Cuban debt have proved worthless, and the people can no longer be deceived. In less than a month gold has increased in value by fifty per cent., and the prospect is that before another month passes the seventy odd millions of currency in circulation will be regarded as having a merely nominal value. The consequences can be imagined by any one who knows the island of Cuba, but not by any one else.

It is important that those who take an interest in the welfare of this country, which is undoubtedly destined at some future time to form part of the United States, should understand fully what relation the financial question bears to the ultimate fate of Cuba. Financial ruin means the loss of the island to Spain—the certain and speedy triumph of the patriot arms. In the same day that the Spanish bank notes are declared worthless the struggle between oppressors will be over and the flag of liberty will be hoisted over the isle which now groans under the fetters of despotism and slavery. The Spanish soldier is paid, when by some miracle he happens to receive any pay, in these notes; all officials are paid in them, and the farmer, who is fighting in the insurgent districts where nothing but gold is acknowledged as a circulating medium, cannot get more than a fourth part of the value of his money when he applies at the shop of even Spaniards either for change or food. Even now the Government cannot meet its engagements with the army, and much less will it be able to meet them when there is no accommodating paper money to discharge them. Is it likely that the troops will fight without pay? Experience says no. Witness the peninsular troops who have passed over to the ranks of the patriots and the numbers who are passing over daily.

A DEMORALIZED BATTALION.

In Manzanillo the battalion of Antequera is stationed to defend the town. It is one of the oldest battalions in the island, and for more than five months has not received a single cent. Its commander sacrificed all he had, some \$5,000 or \$6,000, and divided the amount among his men, immediately afterward forwarding a request to headquarters to be relieved, as he did not wish to belong longer to the Spanish army, out of whose endurance so many were making themselves rich. Disaffection in this battalion grew at one time so strong that the entire body would have joined the insurgents had it not been for the Manzanillo storekeepers, who fearful that their only protection was about to be lost to them, united and agreed to supply the men with all the provisions they required. The very wounded in the hospital have not got decent food to eat, much less the means of procuring the

indispensable necessaries for the stomach of a sick man. The Governor of the town has issued a proclamation to the inhabitants calling upon them in the name of the public safety to assist him by contributing towards the funds of the military administration. He has no money, and all his applications to Havana for arrears have failed to produce an effect. And this being the situation of the army throughout the island, and at a time when more resources than ever are required to carry on the war, what will be the situation then when even the existing means of payment are entirely withdrawn? A Government bankrupt is without an army; men who have been forced out to the inhospitable shores of Cuba will not fight if they are not paid, and see no prospect of payment; in a word, the war will be at an end.

Another side of the question is its effect on the civilian population. When at last the Spanish Bank notes are declared valueless that institution is of course bankrupt, and will bring down with it every other bank in Havana, misery will be stalking its gait form through the streets, and the people who have been traded upon by the wealthy speculators—who will be able to hold them back? It will be a day never to be forgotten in the annals of the island of Cuba, annals which already contain so many black records; but this one will be the blackest of them all. Already the poor of Havana are plunged into penury and misery and not much longer can it be borne. The seeds of Communism have already been sown in its midst, and extortion will speedily bring about their development.

THE WAR

It looks suspicious that no news has been received respecting the result of the action which must have been fought between the insurgents and the combined Spanish forces under Arminio and Bascones. In Cuba the saying that no news is good news is never true in speaking of public affairs among the Spaniards, but the reverse is the case; for whereas good news is immediately published, bad news is never allowed to escape from the four walls of the place.

An insurgent band has made its appearance close to Trinidad, but so strongly posted is it in the hills near the town that it is impossible to attack it. It is proposed to organize a mounted guerilla company at the expense of the planters in that district, as they and their estates are completely at the mercy of the insurgents, who are daily increasing in numbers. In Trinidad many political arrests have been made and of innocent persons. It would seem as though all the governors of the towns in the island were overcome with a desire to imitate Gen. Fortillo in this respect, as there is scarcely a town in which arrests are not being constantly made.

In the Remedios District the insurgents are giving plenty of work to the troops, and care fields are burning everywhere. There are few troops to be had, and the small force of volunteers is insufficient to protect the plantation. Col. Fortun is at the head of the Spanish forces operating there, but has not succeeded in dispersing the insurgents.

There is no doubt that the insurgents are making efforts to rise in the Cinco Villas, which, if they succeed, will greatly assist the plans of Maximo Gomez and Santa Lucia. As yet the risings have been insignificant in the number of men engaged in them, but even a few may do heavy damage in this the richest department of the island.—*N. Y. Sun.*

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

THE TREATY—INCIDENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

A supplement to the *London Gazette*, of Tuesday, March 17th, contains the text of the treaty proposed by Sir Garnet Wolseley to the King of Ashantees. The draft had not been returned when Sir Garnet wrote, but he expected to receive it with the King's signature within about fourteen days from the 13th of February. The following is a copy:—

Treaty of Peace between Major-General Sir Garnet Joseph Wolseley, K.C.M.G., C.B., acting on behalf of her Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Siihoë Enquie, acting on behalf of his Majesty, Koffee Kalkali, King of Ashantee.

Art. 1. There shall be hereafter perpetual peace between the Queen of England and her allies on the coast on the one part, and the King of Ashantee and all his people on the other part.

Art. 2. The King of Ashantee promises to pay the sum of 50,000 ounces of approved gold as indemnity for the expenses he has occasioned to her Majesty the Queen of England by the late war; and undertakes to pay 1,000 ounces of gold forthwith, and the remainder by such instalments as her Majesty's Government may from time to time demand.

Art. 3. The King of Ashantee, on the part of himself and his successor, renounces all right or title to any tribute or homage from the Kings of Denkerá, Assin, Akim, Adansi, and the other allies of her Majesty formerly subjects to the Kingdom of Ashantee.

Art. 4. The King, on the part of himself and of his heirs and successors, does hereby further renounce for ever all pretensions of supremacy over Elmina, or over any of the tribes formerly connected with the Dutch Government, and to any tribute or homage from such tribes, as well as to any payment or acknowledgment of any kind by the British Government in respect to Elmina or any other of the British forts and possessions on the coast.

Art. 5. The King will at once withdraw all his troops from Appolonia and its vicinity, and from the neighbourhood of Dixcove, Secondee, and the adjoining coast line.

Art. 6. There shall be freedom of trade between Ashantee and her Majesty's forts on the coast, all persons being at liberty to carry their merchandise from the coast to Coomassie, or from that place to any of her Majesty's possessions on the coast.

Art. 7. The King of Ashantee guarantees that the road from Coomassie to the river Prah shall always be kept open and free from bush to a width fifteen feet.

Art. 8. As her Majesty's subjects and the people of Ashantee are henceforth to be friends for ever, the King, in order to prove the sincerity of his friendship for Queen Victoria, promises to use his best endeavours to check the practice of human sacrifice, with a view to hereafter putting an end to it altogether, as the practice is repugnant to the feelings of all Christian nations.

Art. 9. One copy of this treaty shall be signed by the King of Ashantee and sent to the Administrator of her Majesty's Government at Cape Coast Castle within fourteen days from this date.

Art. 10. This treaty shall be known as the Treaty of Fomanah.

Dated at Fomanah this 13th day of February, 1874.

Writing to the War Office on the 13th

ult., from Fomanah, Sir Garnet Wolseley says:—"Our success does not lie merely in our having defeated the enemy's army, and occupied and destroyed his capital, but in having thoroughly established in this kingdom a wholesome fear of the British power and a knowledge of the advantages of an alliance with her Majesty. Three days after we had destroyed his capital and his palace, and commenced our homeward march, the King sends to make peace, and gives a substantial guarantee of his good faith. Five days after the same event an English officer, accompanied by only twenty men, is able to ride unmolested fifty five miles through the heart of the invading kingdom, while one of the principal tributary chiefs beseeches permission to disaveer himself from Ashantee, and cast in his lot with the tribes allied to the British Crown. I venture, therefore, to hope that the object for which her Majesty's Government intrusted to me a force of British soldiers has been attained, and that the exertions of the officers and men under my command have not been made in vain."

A proclamation issued by Sir Garnet Wolseley declares the state of martial law in Elmina and surrounding districts to be at an end.

The *Times* correspondent, writing from Cape Coast Castle of February 13, says: "Coomassie was founded about 1720, and destroyed on the 6th of February, 1874. Like Carthage, it burnt for six days, and was famous for its human sacrifices, but there the resemblance ends. Coomassie had no manufactures, and very little commerce. Its chief exports were armies, and its imports prisoners of war. The slave was an article of foreign trade, but the home consumption was considerable, every occasion of interest being celebrated by decapitation. Within the town was a garden Golgotha—a sepulchral grove—a carrion bower—where the bodies of victims were deposited. It gave the whole city an odour of death. The sight of an executioner in a shaggy cap and vest of black monkey skin—such as are used for ladies' muffs—chopping off the head of a slave is to the Ashantees what the sports of the amphitheatre were to the Romans, and what bull-fights are to the Spaniards of the present day. Nor is this unnatural. Public executions in all countries draw large crowds of admiring spectators; and in Ashantee this penchant of the multitude has been cultivated and developed into an artistic feeling. Decapitation has become with them an art as serious as music—that is to say, their music. There are two movements in vogue—the *allegro*, in which a head is twirled away by a sharp knife with a dexterous turn of the wrist; and the *adagio*, in which the head is sawn off in slow time. According to Bowditch, only persons of rank are allowed to have verandahs; and the first thing I noticed in Coomassie was the number of houses so built. This town was the residence of the nobles, each of whom had a vast crowd of clients and slaves. The people of the provinces belong to an inferior class, and are not always pure Ashantees. "You talk of Ashantees," said an interpreter at an early period of the campaign, "but you have not seen any yet. The Ashantees are all noble men and gentlemen like the English, these people you have been fighting are like the Irish and the Scotch." When, in December, 1872, Amanquatia marched forth with an army of 40,000 men to win back Assin, Akim, Denkerá and Wassaw, to make Elmina an Ashantee port, and to bring the King, who wanted a new house, the stones of the Castle at Cape Coast, no one could

have foreseen the disasters which have since occurred. The auguries were favourable; two men were tied up in trees, and from the time which they took to die of starvation the priests deduced a happy issue to the undertaking. But afterwards ancient prophecies were remembered and other omens appeared. Before we had crossed the Prah certain omens had alarmed the people of Coomassie; stones fell from heaven; a child was born that spoke from its birth, but of a sudden it disappeared, and the room was instantly filled with bush. One evil omen did actually occur. Mr. Kuhno relates that just before he left Coomassie the old Fetish tree from which the town takes its name, fell down, and was shattered into splinters. No one dared to touch them; they were left lying in the street.

This raid into the African forest was an experiment; the Ashantees, in their style of fighting, differ entirely from those nations whom our armies have conquered in the jungles of Asia; they chose their positions shrewdly, defended them with courage, and at the same time besieged posts and attacked convoys along the whole line of march. It is no small thing to be able to say that not a single error of consequence was any time committed, that the ammunition arrangements were perfect, and that never were our troops forced to retire. The dash upon Coomassie was executed with vigour and judgment.

I reached Cape Coast Castle before day-break on the 12th, having made the journey from Coomassie in less than six days. I was only the second to arrive, the first being the General's aide-de-camp, Lieutenant the Hon. H. Wood, who travelled day and night, and was provided with relays of bearers at every station. A special steamer conveyed him to St. Vincent's with the General's despatches, a mail bag, and certain packages of plunder for Buckingham Palace. I have already described the road from Cape Coast Castle to the Prah; and from the Prah to Coomassie, it is always the same monotonous forest. The Adansi hills, it is true, present a beautiful prospect. One looks down on a sea of foliage with mist clouds rising from its surface, and sees an horizon far away, but always trees, trees, trees—never a barren rocky mountain or a green meadow plain.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 11th Inst.

(Per Capt L. J. Bland.)

<i>Hatifax, N.S.</i> —Lt. Col. Bromner, to Aug. 1871	\$2.00
Lt. Col. Pallister, to Feb. "	2.00
Lieut. J. Herbin, to Sept. "	2.00
Major Ivoeves, to April "	2.00
Lieut. Humphries, to Sept. "	2.00
Capt. G. A. Black, to Oct. "	2.00
Lt. Col. Anderson, to Feb. "	2.00
Major Barron,	2.00
Major J. N. Ritchie, to Feb. "	2.00
Capt. McKerron, to March "	2.00
Lieut. T. J. Walsh, to Oct. "	2.00
Lieut. Mumford, to June "	2.00
Lieut. Ashmore, to Feb. "	2.00
Lt. Col. Mitchell, to May, "	2.00
Major J. E. Albro, to July "	2.00
Capt. A. G. Hesslin, to "	2.00
Lieut. Wilcox, to March "	2.00
Capt. J. Dence, to Sept. "	2.00
Major Macdonald, to Sept. "	2.00
Major Murray, to Aug. "	2.00
Capt. R. Hamilton, to Oct. "	2.00
Lieut. J. W. Goreham, " "	2.00
Major Coleman, to March "	2.00
Lt. Col. C. Sawyer, to July "	2.00
Ens. W. F. Rogers, " "	1.00
Capt. H. Henry, to Sept. 1873	2.00
<i>Amherst, N.S.</i> —Lt. Col. Stewart, to April 1874	2.00
(Per Lt. Col. Lovelace.)	
<i>Cayuga, Ont.</i> —Lt. Col. Farrell, to March 1874	2.00
<i>Montreal, Que.</i> —Prof. S. Hunt, to June 1871	4.00
Capt. Cinqman,	2.00
<i>Victoria, B.C.</i> —Lieut. J. R. Holt, to Jan. 1875	2.00

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 10th April, 1874.

GENERAL ORDERS (8).

No. 1.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

MILITIA STAFF.

Adverting to General Order (27) 31st October, 1873, Lieutenant Colonel Casimir Stanislas Gzowski, appointed Staff Officer of the Militia of Canada, is hereby specially attached as Staff Officer to the Engineer Force of the Dominion.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Sarnia Battery of Garrison Artillery.

To be Captain:

1st Lieutenant Joshua Fourth Adams, G. S., vice James Hewitt Wood whose resignation is hereby accepted.

10th Battalion or "Royal Regiment," Toronto.

To be Captains:

Lieutenant John T. Thompson, M. S., vice A. Coleman promoted.

Lieutenant William Birch Canavan, M. S., vice G. A. Shaw appointed Adjutant.

To be Lieutenants:

Ensign Arthur Chapman, M. S., vice E. A. Millard, deceased.

Ensign Henry J. Hill, M. S., vice T. T. Rolph, promoted.

Ensign Alfred E. Hirschfelder, M. S., vice R. G. Hirschfelder, promoted.

Ensign Frederick W. Unitt, M. S., vice J. T. Thompson, promoted.

To be Ensigns:

Frederick A. Caston, Gentleman, M. S., vice Albert Bradley, left limits.

Samuel Platt, Gentleman, M. S., vice James Ramsay, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

Edwin D. A. Dela Hooke, Gentleman, M. S., vice J. T. Jones, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

Allan Stuart Scott, Gentleman, (Provisionally), vice William Henry Cooper, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

To be Adjutant:

Captain and Brevet Major George Alexander Shaw, M. S., vice P. Martin.

*19th "Lincoln" Battalion of Infantry.**No. 4 Company, Beamsville.*

To be Lieutenant, provisionally:

Sergeant Major William A. Vosburgh, vice

Michael Kow, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

To be Ensign, provisionally:

Sergeant Joel Tufford, vice Thomas B. Henry, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

*35th Battalion of Infantry or "The Simcoe Foresters."**No. 4 Company, Vespra.*

The resignation of Lieutenant W. Alfred Sneath, is hereby accepted.

*45th "West Durham" Battalion of Infantry.**No. 4 Company, Newcastle.*

No. 4 Company, (Newcastle) 45th Battalion having become non-effective is hereby removed from the list of corps of the Active Militia, and the Officers thereof, are also hereby removed from the list of officers of the Active Militia: Captain John J. Robson, Lieutenant Asa Burnham Wilnot and Ensign John Taylor.

*49th "Hastings" Battalion of Rifles.**No. 4 Company, Madoc.*

The resignation of Ensign William Arthur Hungerford is hereby accepted.

BREVET.

To be Majors:

Captain John Hogg, G. S., Collingwood Battery of G. A., from 20th December, 1872.

Captain George Alexander Shaw, M. S., 10th Battalion, from 27th February, 1874.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Quebec Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

The Grosbo Isle Detachment of Garrison Artillery heretofore forming a portion of this Brigade is hereby detached therefrom and will form an independent Detachment of Garrison Artillery.

The Quebec Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery, comprising four Batteries, having become non-effective, is hereby removed from the list of corps of the Active Militia.

On account of length of service and the previous efficient state of the Brigade the following officers being qualified are placed on the retired list retaining their respective ranks: Major Denis Murray, Brevet Major Adjutant Charles E. Montizambert, Captain George Holt White, No. 1 Battery, Brevet Major John Fraser, Captain of No. 2 Battery, also Honorary Captain Quarter-Master C. E. Holliwell. The remaining officers are removed from the list of officers of the Active Militia: 1st Lieutenant Pay Master William Wild Welch, 1st Lieutenant William Poston

and 2nd Lieutenant Henry Collings Sheppard, No. 1 Battery; 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Robertson, No. 2 Battery; 1st Lieutenant Joseph George Vallent, No. 3 Battery; 1st Lieutenant Edward Montizambert and 2nd Lieutenant John B. Lindsay, No. 4 Battery.

*Charlevoix Provisional Battalion of Infantry.**No. 1 Company, St. Urbain.*

No. 1 Company, (St. Urbain) having become non effective is hereby removed from the list of Corps of the Active Militia; and the officers thereof are also removed from the list of officers of the Active Militia: Captain Onesimo Gauthier, Lieutenant Francis X. Gerard and Ensign Alfred Thibault.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

Ensign Louis Arthur Prud'homme, M. S., No. 4 Company, 64th Battalion, from 20th February, 1874.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

*75th "Lunenburg" Battalion of Infantry.**No. 1 Company, Lunenburg.*

To be Ensign, provisionally:

Sergeant William Romkey, vice Joseph H. Selig, left limits.

No. 2 Company, Lunenburg.

To be Lieutenant, provisionally.

Sergeant Albert Smith, vice George Dares, left limits.

To be Ensign, provisionally:

Sergeant Charles Dauphincé, vice B. McLaughlin, deceased.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 2 Company of Rifles, Victoria.

The formation, to date from 13th February 1874, of a Company of Rifles at Victoria, B. C. is hereby authorized. To be No. 2 Company of Rifles, Victoria.

Officers provisional, and appointments to date, from 13th February, 1874:

To be Captain:

Charles Edward Pooley, Esquire.

To be Lieutenant:

John Roland Hett, Gentleman.

To be Ensign:

William Blair McKenzie, Gentleman.

By Command of his Excellency the Governor General.

WALKER POWELL, Lieut. Col.

Acting Adjt. General of Militia
Canada.

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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, APRIL 14, 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

MILITARY re-organization—like religious and political reform—presents all the phenomena attendant on those great movements of thought which agitate peoples and nations—it partakes more largely than either of the latter in merely speculative ideas, for the very obvious reasons that more material personal interests are involved or supposed to be in its various phases, and it admits of any amount or variety of theoretical display—there can be very little wonder then at the number of schemes which have been propounded, the only similarity amongst them consisting of the unanimity with which the modesty of the inventor clothes his ideas of the "advantages to be derived from his own peculiar variety."

We have had to chronicle a variety of nostrums for the ostensible advantage of the Canadian army, all and every one tend

ing to the total overthrow of a system which has not only been tried but found to answer tolerably well all the demands made on its resources, and are not only the best ever adapted to the social position of the people of Canada, but also the only one that costs the minimum of time and expense, both considerations of great value in a new country possessed of very limited resources, and a sparse population. It has been alleged against the present Militia System that it fails to keep full musters in the ranks, that there is not sufficient drill to make thorough soldiers of the men, that it bears exclusively on a certain class, and that no value has been received for the outlay.

As the case really stands, apart from all exaggeration, we find that of the whole force enrolled up to and ending in the year 1872, five sixths could be mustered to put in the annual drill in camp, while as far as returns go for 1873, a year distinguished by what well may be termed injudicious and parsimonious neglect, fully three fourths of the force were under arms.

About the question of sufficient drill there is, doubtless, a good deal of both professional feeling and impracticable aspirations, the main requisite for a soldier in Canada, as far as minor tactics are concerned, is to acquire a thorough knowledge of his weapon and its efficient use, judged by that standard and the average ability of what (those great examples and patterns appealed to by all army reformers) the Prussians call shootists, the Canadian soldier need not fear to be put in the field against the best drilled troops in the world. We are quite well aware that parade movements are an absolute necessity, not only to mobility and facility for handling troops in the field, but also to discipline, without which the best appointed troops are nought, but all this could be acquired by the average Canadian soldier in three months; and we can see no reason why the resources of the country should be wasted in attempting to establish in peace time a perfection in minor tactics only attainable during active hostilities in the field. We are opposed to the idea of a standing army—it fulfills none of the condition necessary for the service of the State, and the example of England is quite enough to shew that apart from its expense its existence is insufficient to extinguish the military spirit of the people; for a proof of this we have only to look to the period before the era of standing armies to see what a superior class of recruits the rural districts of Old England supplied to the forces of her Sovereigns, and compare them with the results of the experiment of the re-organization to-day in which the *reserve* for the recruits is to be found in the refuse of the population of London and the proverbial White Chapel gutter snipe the types of her manhood and the defenders of her wealth—and upholders of her honor. Those are the direct results, of the system of standing armies, and of the growing tendencies of the

times to introduce democratic ideas and institutes into what is strictly a close aristocratic organization, in which every man should follow his *natural* chief to the field.

That it bears exclusively on a class is beyond doubt, it could not be otherwise, because as Sir GARNET WOLSELEY truly says: "It takes a man to make a soldier," and not more than 5 per cent. of the population could in any case be detached for active service in the field. And one of the best features in the militia law, is that one which makes it imperative on the *natural* chief to provide his contingents in order to secure his rank, thus placing the organization on its true and natural basis, and it reflects no honor on the country that the class to whom the duty of protection is confided have received no compensation at all commensurate with the services it has rendered, and that neglect is the sole evil attending the Canadian militia. As to the value received, Canada has an army of 43,000 men; we have no hesitation in saying that 25,000 of those could be placed in the field in ten days, if occasion required, and the balance within a fortnight; it is quite safe to challenge either England or the United States to do as much with all their resources in the same time; the cost is, say on the average, \$1,250,000 per annum and is a shade over £29 per head per arm. The charge of men on the muster roll during the last five years has at least trained double that number to the use of the rifle, so that they would not be like the poor lad at the battle of Inkerman who is described as marching to the rear badly wound with his musket at the shoulder not knowing how to use it—and this man was a British regular soldier. It is hard to imagine what those people mean by proposing to withdraw a large contingent (compared with the resources of the country) from its population, for the purpose of establishing skeleton battalions who are to be trained to an ideal degree of excellence in parade movements. The alleged propose of leaving the mass is wholly insufficient to account for it, as two or three thousand drilled soldiers would take a long time indeed to leaven a force of two or three hundred thousand who had obtained no previous training. If we are to read the present and probable future by any means, it must be by the light of the past, and the nearest incident in point of comparison is the United States. In the first years of the late civil war, they had a regular army over of 16,000 men, they had also the advantage of well trained officers, probably in that respect the best in the world, yet all this did not leaven the mass of men she was obliged to put in the field, and it was not until the whole force was thoroughly and carefully trained *de novo* that the advantages obtained from a class of highly trained officers began to tell; it is evident, then, that this example teaches us that Canada has received full value for the outlay on

military preparations in having a nominal force of 43,000 men under training and fully twice that number practically trained, and that a regular army would be only a bill of expense without any corresponding benefit. Every battalion in the British army costs the country £30,000 sterling per annum, or say \$400,000. This battalion will number, all told, 350 officers and men. Owing to a variety of considerations, the same force would cost in Canada at least \$500,000, the country would have for its present outlay, say 1,100 officers and men scattered over some 3,600,000 square miles of territory. A cry has been raised against the staff which is alleged to be out of all proportion to the service, against the number of officers on the Reserve and retired lists, and this cry has for its advocates the theorists who propose establishing a standing army of *skeleton battalions*. Moreover, a demand has been made to replace the present staff with officers from the Regular British Army as a cure for the alleged evils attending the organization.

The staff is barely sufficient for the duties it has to discharge. It is itself the mere *cadre* of an organization whose development was intended to be gradual, but the design has never been carried out. Those who raise a cry about the number of unemployed officers, seem to forget that while you can improvise a soldier it is a much more difficult matter to train an officer, and most of those on the retired list are thoroughly competent men able and willing to serve the country, again, if necessary, and certainly in any case, have earned the right to wear the liver, of their Sovereign and retain their proper titles. The officers of the Reserve Forces are selected not with a view to service in the field, but as recruiting officers, and therefore personal influence, and standing in society are more requisite than military training for that class. Instead of being over officered, the real fact is that there is not enough even with the military school cadets to supply a case of need, and a well devised *unattached* list is one of the desiderata of the service which the militia department has yet to supply.

In dealing with the very difficult question of the employment of officers of the Regular British Army on the Staff of the Canadian Militia, we are not in the slightest degree actuated by selfish or envious feelings; but we feel it necessary for the service of the country to speak out, and in asserting the incontrovertible axiom that officers trained in the country with a force raised by their own influence are more likely to be able to handle that force in the hour of danger than mere strangers whose only claim can be professional training under totally different conditions of climate and topography.

If the Canadian army is incorporated into the regular forces of the British Empire and commissions in the general service as well as staff training thrown open to our officers

and military cadets, an interchange for the purpose of professional training would be highly desirable; but appointments on the Canadian's staff ought to be the prizes to which our cadets should be taught to aspire.

It has always been our practice to meddle as little as possible with the prerogatives of the Executive Government, but on this occasion it appears to us that a Commander-in-Chief with the rank of a General officer should be appointed, and that officer ought to be from the Regular British Army. Common sense would prescribe that every officer under that rank should be men who had served with the Canadian Militia and thoroughly understood its organization and social aspects.

It holds within its ranks many talented and energetic officers, men whose knowledge of the art of war is inferior to that of no professional soldier, and whose administrative abilities are beyond question; it would surely be a piece of folly to supersede those men for the sake of change alone. In our present Acting Adjutant-General the militia of Canada can boast of an officer distinguished above most other men by rare administrative ability, quick perception and a thorough knowledge of his countrymen. The officers of the district staff are men of high professional standing, and of the scientific corps the commandants of the Schools of Gunnery are men that any service may well be proud of; the fact is, our organization only wants development and does not need re-organization, with all its new fangled ideas of cadres rotative and short service: all admirably calculated to make the soldier or officer a "Jack of all trades" but a proficient in none, and only a clumsy run after all. In a country whose people will not endure compulsory service, but will fight when there is a necessity, we have the best system possible, and time will only develop its value. Constant change and the desire for it is the curse of the age—in military organization it is imbecile folly of the worst description.

It has been rumoured that there will be "a School of Engineering" organized in connection with the Canadian militia; and it certainly has been a great oversight, in the fact, that every military district has not long since had its staff corps; ample material in the Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors in the country is at the disposal of the authorities; and it does not reflect much credit on our appreciation of the advantages to be derived from such an arm of the service that its organization has been so long deferred.

The following article from the *Pall Mall Gazette* shews conclusively the dangers into which a special corps may be trained and the necessity for making both the knowledge and Experts diffusive throughout the organization. The example afforded by

the late civil contest amongst our neighbors is of far more practical value to us than all the precedents drawn from the fields of France or the strongholds of Asia Minor, and we should not neglect the lesson taught at our own doors. If the Engineering School was in operation to-morrow it would be seven years before it could supply an export to the ranks of our army, while they are to be had in hundreds for the cost of organization.

"Lord Derby was right in saying that the task we had drifted into in Africa was, apart from sanitary considerations, in the main an engineer's war. It was known from the first that we might have 150 miles in advance before bringing our adversary to bay; that the movement would be made in great part through forest, traversed only by foot paths so rude as to be unfit for even the lightest column of infantry; that there would be at least one large river and many streams to be bridged; and that depots of stores and stations to shelter the troops would be absolutely necessary parts of any scheme that took us beyond our forts. So much was ascertained, and was even matter of familiar conversation long before Sir Garnet Wolseley started; and a very little reflection was needed to see that, whether for a temporary defensive or for securing a line of advance by posts, rough fortifications would also form a most important element in the operations. If there were doubts as to whether white infantry were needed, there should have been none as to the necessity of white artificers. The most sanguine hopes of getting the fancies to light never extended to the possibility of creating skilled pioneers out of a slothful and savage race. And yet, with the certainty of all this before it, the head-quarter staff of the expedition was allowed to sail with no more efficient aid for the mechanical difficulties of the enterprise than was comprised in the presence of three officers and half-a-dozen corporals of engineers. It was very handsome, no doubt, to allow the individuals selected such a special opportunity of distinguishing themselves in their profession; but it would have shown more intelligence had this most necessary branch been even over represented, than so reduced as to leave it open to chance whether a single officer would be left at the end of a few weeks to superintend the necessary labour. As it was, the work had hardly been fairly begun when it became needful to draw assistant engineers from untaught officers of the Line; and this although at home there were a hundred subalterns of the corps at the least, each of whom has a long training for that work in the field which he may never have the opportunity of sharing.

"To understand fully not merely the importance of this arm of the Service, but the difficulties it had to contend with, we must look at a parallel case. General Grant, in the famous operation against Vicksburg, which turned the tide in the American war, was opposed by nearly the same physical obstacles which lay between Cape Coast and Coomasie. He too, had tracks for roads, unbridged rivers to cross, swamps to pass through, forests to clear. But it was his especial boast that in every battalion under his orders, so large was the contingent of Western pioneers and backwoodsmen that he never failed to find ready at his call the practical skill necessary for the rough engineering work of the war. Just the opposite was the case in our African campaign. A modest supply of tools, a few able heads to

direct; for the rest, a skulking crowd of savages, who neither knew nor wished to learn how to get through their allotted work. All honor to those who did so much with such poor means. Surely no officer, for example, ever in the same space of time deserve more credit than the lamented Captain Buokle, whose skilful preparation of the Abakrampa post gave the means of victory over an enemy more than tenfold the defenders in number, so routing the Ashantee offensive, and who died in the act of personally clearing the way at the head of his column in our chief action; thus illustrating afresh the honourable boast of his corps that to pilot a forlorn hope into the enemy's works is but one of the regular duties on the engineer roster. But, despite the great exertions from the first made by the few officers sent with Major Homo, bridging, butting, fortifying, and road-making, carried out on a large scale with the raw labours of African negroes, must consume time; and if the force of General Wolseley was unduly hurried at the last, and turned back from its object when just attained in bare time to escape being cut off by the 1. ins, the delay which went near to change a brilliant achievement into disaster was due mainly to the fact that the skilled labour which should have preceded the expedition in the form of a moderate force of engineers, was sent out as it were in its tail. The real work, indeed, seems to have been done before the single company finally despatched had got to the front, for it is not mentioned anywhere in the despatches, public or private, until it appears in the form of detachments pioneering the various columns in the battle of Amosful.

"Possibly our Engineers have themselves somewhat to answer, for if their arm has been hitherto almost ignored in our field operations, the traditions of the body, when not derived from the Peninsula, are essentially Crimean. The long attack of Sebastopol brought the corps into unexampled prominence, and it is not so surprising, therefore, that it still believes that war will be a succession of sieges. But the facts of more modern history point to a very different conclusion. The Germans have certainly proved that the engineering work of the field is one that cannot be left to any chance collection of artisans, nor even to a corps reserve of sappers; and one of the main changes in organization carried out since the war of 1870-71 has been to rearrange the engineer elements in their army so as to make each division carry within itself a sufficiently effective proportion of what they have come to speak of as 'the fourth arm' of the Service. It is hardly necessary to add that they would not be content, in collecting a field force, however small, to send a body of engineers in it of which the officers and men should be thrown together suddenly and almost by chance as they were going on active service. For we ourselves would not allow that this was right with any other arm. In the infantry, cavalry, and artillery the various units that we send to the field are each made up of officers and men already known to each other and trained together beforehand. With the engineers only their useful functions in peace have been allowed to override their real purpose of war, and it has been hitherto taken for granted that any officers will do for any service company at a moment's notice—a mistake which it will be well if we are not one day compelled to rectify after some costly miscarriage has forced it into notice. That so much was done in spite of all drawbacks in our late adventure is real matter

for congratulation; but we doubt whether these drawbacks were fully known, or the pregnant force of Lord Derby's saying would appear justified more by the individual energy of the officers employed than by the forethought of those who despatched them over-weighted for their task. And in thus dwelling on the material difficulties faced and overcome, we may point out that engineering successes can never detract from the honour due to the chief and the purely combatant troops for whom they prepare the road to success. The architect requires not only well drawn plans, but constructive power and sound material, wherewith to execute his design. And the general must have, not only able engineers to pioneer his way, but brave hearts and enduring frames to carry out his strategy, or he could never accomplish such a military feat as the capture of Coomassie. Yet the development of military engineering seems to us of special national importance. For, as we in England are as much in advance of our great neighbors in mechanical powers as behind them in numbers of our army, so it should be our business to study the application to war of that special science in which we boast our pre-eminence. And doubtless Sir Garnet Wolseley would be the last to ignore this side of his profession, since it was in long and arduous service as an assistant engineer in the trenches before Sebastopol that the first laurels of that distinguished officer were won."

"The first number of *The Nation*, an independent weekly journal, published in Toronto, has been received. It is remarkably well got up in thorough English style, contains 16 pages of varied and interesting information. As its prospectus defines its position with respect to existing parties, it does not confine its energies in the direction of endeavouring to form a thoroughly new party to supersede both. There can be no doubt of the fact that such a journal, apart from the position it now holds, if its exertions are wisely directed is not only capable of doing the country great services, but is an absolute necessity of the period.

The idea of a *New Nationality* which it proposes to develop, if properly advocated, will have the effect of diverting the public mind from the fierce partizan contentions which have occupied it, to the more healthy considerations of the duty owed their country, its interests, and institutions. We hail our contemporary's advent with pleasure, and hope its efforts will be crowned with the success merited by enlightened enterprises. The tone of its articles can be judged by its leader, entitled "The Outlook at Ottawa," which is as follows:—

If a large numerical majority be a blessing to a Minister, Mr. Mackenzie is blessed beyond the common-run of men in his position. His majority is not less, and is probably more, than one fourth of the whole House. At the outset, it may be expected to be compact. It has had the advantage of several years of opposition in which to consolidate, though from the varying nature of the materials which compose it, a certain incoherence must be expected to prevent its unity assuming a very absolute type. There is a certain incongruity of material in the varying character of the population,

presenting the fragments of a number of nationalities, which we hope to see on day welded into the compact mass of a distinct Canadian nationality. The lines of national separation have long since ceased to be coincident with those which divide political parties; but there remain many points of difference, some of which will probably outlive this generation. The more difference of race should not bar the way to a common Canadian nationality. Men who are of French origin, or Irish origin, or Scottish origin, may yet acknowledge the paramount claims of a Canadian nationality. There are still lingering differences which affect political opinion and political alliances. Occasionally a case arises in which political sympathy runs in the groove of segregating nationalities. One of the latest and the strongest is found in the amnesty question. This is the one question on which probably no possible Government could agree, if its settlement had to be made without reference to any antecedent promise, such as is now alleged, and which must be made matter of proof. It is only when some question of this kind arises, in which the susceptibilities of subordinate nationalities are aroused, that any want of compactness need be expected to reveal itself in Mr. Mackenzie's following, for some time. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, party ties are stronger than the ties which bind the several nationalities in which the various sections of our population had their origin. We hope to see the time when a common Canadian sentiment shall be too strong alike for old world nationalities and faction-cemented political combinations. That time, if not yet, is, we trust, not far distant.

"For all purposes except that of pronouncing on the question of amnesty, on its merits, the ministerial party will be found compact enough, in spite of its great majority. Tendencies to disunion will not show themselves at first; but they may expect to make their appearance about the third session. There are none, if not sectional, questions to divide them; and here an excellent opportunity for log-rolling will be afforded. Manitoba makes a demand for "better terms," so extensive that it is evidently put forward on the principle of asking a great deal in order to get something. British Columbia may be expected to present a demand for damages which cannot accrue, if at all, for eight years; and these two Provinces will not be likely to have much difficulty in getting some of the Maritime members of the union to join them. When is the union to find sure anchorage if these demands are to be granted—if the very basis of Confederation is to continue to be treated as unsettled? The best use to which and minister could put a large majority would be firmly to resist these demands. If there is anything on which the new Government is pledged, it is to resist these encroachments of individual Provinces, and to treat the union as a solemn compact, not liable to alteration every year, by a party vote, at the instance of some Province that asks to be allotted a larger share of the common fund. It is only fair to assume that pledges deliberately made, and repeated year after year, will be scrupulously fulfilled. The whole country is rapidly falling into the condition in which Lord Durham found it, when every member of local and general Legislature thinks it his duty to get, out of the common stock, the most he can for his constituents. In the Local Legislatures, members seek advantages for their municipalities and for railroads by which their constituents hope to benefit; in the general Legislature, the representatives of Provin-

tes make it a primary object to get all they can for their Provinces. The corruption of public sentiment is such that few appear to be conscious of the wrong; and the members concerned make its perpetration a ground for demanding the renewed confidence of their constituencies. That is the reverse of a healthy public sentiment which makes the daily occurrence of such things possible.


"There probably never was a Minister less trammelled by pledges than Mr. Mackenzie. How far this may prove to be an advantage, we shall not undertake to predict. If he has few promises to fulfil, he will find wanting among his followers the enthusiasm which the long advocacy of great measures evokes. A demand for action is sure to come, and there will be a strong temptation to satisfy it by sensational legislation, with all the attendant evils of immaturity and haste. We cannot but think that the neglect to frame a definite policy in opposition was the loss of a great opportunity, and that the obligation of having some pledges to redeem, by taking a forward movement, would have been better for the Ministry than the necessity of resorting to a pick up policy which is imposed upon it in the actual circumstances. But the truth is, the Reform party is nearly or quite as Conservative as that which has followed the lead of Sir John Macdonald. If this has been the case while it was in opposition, we have no right to expect that it will be different in office. Any difference there may be is sure to be on the side of timidity and inaction.

"It lies in the power of a small as well as of a large minority to pursue a course of faction; but such a policy would be the greatest mistake the Opposition could commit. It is only fair, and in accordance with the desire of the country, that the new Ministry should have every opportunity of doing the work before it. Most of its members are new to administrative duties, and must be expected to show some of the imperfections of inexperience. Above all things, the country expects the avoidance of even the semblance of wrong doing from an Administration which owes its existence to the protest of the country against the Pacific Railway scandal; and it must expect to be tested by the application of rules of more than ordinary strictness."

OUR gallant correspondent whose letter in reference to the Ordnance and Imperial Lands in Canada, and the action of the municipalities of Quebec and Montreal in relation thereto, appears in another column, has put a series of questions which we are unable to answer; for the simple reason, that we are not in the secrets of Government and cannot tell what action they mean to take in the premises.

It is perfectly well understood that the Ordnance Lands were handed over to the Canadian authorities under the conditions that their proceeds were to be devoted to the support of the Canadian Militia, and we do not know of any instance in which the proceeds of those lands have been directed from the original intention; nor are we in a position to state whether the revenue derived from the rents and sales of lands would cover the outlay on the Active Force. We are inclined to believe that it would cover even a moiety of the annual expenditure and have no reason to think they have been in any way mismanaged. Our correspondent will find all necessary information on this point in the Public Accounts, the investigation does not strictly appertain to our province.

CAVALRY PRESENTATION.—On the 31st ultimo, the Non commissioned Officers and men of the 1st Troop Montreal Provisional Cavalry made a presentation of a handsome Silver-mounted Meerschaum Pipe to their officer Instructor, Lieut.-Colonel Lovelace, (late of H.M. Regular Army) in recognition of services rendered by him to the Troop in question.—*Com.*

——
LIEUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, is our authorised Agent for Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR—On a recent occasion having seen a volunteer staff officer of some distinction in full uniform wearing shooting honours, viz., *Medals and Badges*. Will you kindly inform me if the rank and file having similar honors are allowed to do likewise?

Yours, &c.

A VOLUNTEER.

Yes. The badges are to be worn on the right breast of the tunic.—*ED. VOL. REV.*

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR—Would you explain the question of the "Ordnance Lands" opened by a correspondent, 23rd February last?

Also the question of the old Imperial property in Montreal and Quebec, which those corporations are trying to get possession of?

If the Imperial Government has given the Canadian Government property to help to support an efficient Militia, how much does the present force cost Canada?

Information in reference to these matters would oblige several of your regular

READERS.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

A MAN OF WONDERFUL PUNCTUALITY—AN INTERESTING SKETCH OF HIS FAMILY.

The Emperor has the reputation of being the hardest worked man in Russia. Every morning, with the regularity of clockwork, he takes a walk in the gardens of the Winter Palace for 20 minutes, accompanied by his dogs, and on his return to the palace he works until luncheon, which is served at twelve o'clock. Immediately afterward his Majesty resumes work, receiving his ministers, or giving audiences. With the exception of half an hour's rest, the Czar is occupied in this manner until two o'clock. He then goes out for a couple of hours' walking or driving. As a rule, the imperial family are very particular in regard to their daily exercise. Dinner is served at six p.m., after which the Emperor sets to work again, and if necessary, does not cease the occupation upon which he may be engaged until after midnight, sometimes not until one or two o'clock in the morning. Usually his Majesty goes out shooting once a week, and occasionally he visits the theatre, where, however, he seldom remains

more than half an hour. The Czar is a man of wonderful punctuality in his habits, while his pleasant manner endears him to all. The Empress is as amiable as the Czar, but does not enjoy good health, and is thus unable to appear in public as often as she would under other circumstances.

The Grand Duke Vladimir has great artistic tastes. He is Vice-President of the Academy of Arts, and regularly attends the meeting of the Senate, of which he is a member. Like his father, the Grand Duke is a keen sportsman; whenever a bear is seen in the neighborhood of Gatchina the Emperor is informed of it, and preparations are at once made for a battle. There are generally eight or ten gentlemen with the Emperor and the Grand Duke; the beaters drive the bear as much toward the Czar, as possible, and the Black game usually falls to the gun of the Emperor or the Grand Duke, both of whom are first-rate shots.

The Grand Duke Alexis is, like the Duke of Edinburgh, a sailor, having been destined for the navy from his infancy. His studies were directed by Admiral Possiot, a man distinguished for his great scientific attainments. The Grand Duke began at the lowest rung of the naval ladder, and has gone conscientiously through all the grades from a cadet upward. He started in August, 1871, on his longest tour, with the rank of lieutenant, and was promoted on the voyage to the rank of first lieutenant; he was subsequently made a captain, which rank he held upon the arrival of the frigate *Svetlana*, so called after the heroine of a poem by the great Russian poet Pouchkin.

The Grand Duke has encountered many vicissitudes during his adventurous career. In the month of September, 1868, while coasting in the *Alexander Nevski*, off the coast of Jutland, he was shipwrecked, and it was on that occasion that the Grand Duke exhibited extraordinary pluck, and, what is more, singular abnegation of self and solicitor for others in a position of the gravest peril. Since then the Grand Duke has visited all parts of the world, with the exception of Australia, India, New Guinea, and the islands thereabouts, which he intends seeing either next year or the year after. He will start on another long cruise of adventure in 1875. The Grand Duke his never happier than when on a voyage. The Grand Duke has been accompanied on all his travels by his English preceptor, Mr. Machin, who is still attached to the suite.

It is Russian etiquette for the Grand Duke Heritier to lead a comparatively retired life, and to appear chiefly in connection with works of philanthropy. The Czarevitch does not, accordingly, take a prominent part in public matters, although it is understood that he is being gradually made thoroughly conversant with the affairs of the great empire.

The Grand Duke Serge, who is in his 16th year, is a young man of very great promise. As yet his studies are not completed.

The Grand Duke Paul is 13 years of age. Both he and his brother, the Grand Duke Serge, are earnest students, and everywhere in St. Petersburg nothing, but that which redounds to their credit is heard of them.

The Grand Duchess Marie, the only daughter of the Emperor, is a universal favorite. She has been the direct means of doing an immense amount of good. The Grand Duchess has taken much interest in some of the charitable institutions of St. Petersburg. She is an accomplished musician and a great reader, and she has endeared herself to all who have been so fortunate as to be brought in contact with her.

SHUT THE DOOR SOFTLY.

Shut the door softly, mother's asleep,
Her fever is broken, her slumber is deep;
Look in her pale face, and see there no pain—
Darling, be thankful, we've mother again.

Shut the door softly, and come to her side;
What should we do if our mother had died?
She who has loved us our weary lives through;
Shut the door softly, and do as I do.
Shut the door softly, and kneel with me here,
To Him who has spared us our own mother dear;
Who has given her back to our arms once again,
Borne her through danger, and softened her pain.

Shut the door softly, and look in her face,
And see how it gathers in health and in grace.
Is she not handsome, this mother of ours?
Waking to life like the budding of flowers;
Let us lose all in this fast flying life—
Sister and brother, and husband and wife;
Mother's love only, all times has defied;
Shut the door softly, and come to her side.

Back from the shores of the fathomless lake;
Weary with travel, but laden with charms,
Longing to clasp us within her fond arms.
Mother, dear mother, we loved you before,
Now we shall love you a thousand times more,
Welcome, dear heart, from the shadowy land,
Shut the door softly, and kiss her dear hand.

ENGLAND.

"The Queen of England rules over 234,762,593 souls; her people dwell in 44,142,651 houses; the area of the lands they inhabit is 7,768,449 square miles." These are the stupendous figures disclosed by the "imperial census" of the British dominions taken in 1871 but only now fully tabulated. How insignificant appear the extent and the population of our republic compared with the territory and the people over whom Queen Victoria, or the clique of gentlemen who rule in her name, reigns supreme! We have an area of 3,034,459 square miles, she has more than twice as much; we have a population of 40,000,000, she is the ruler over six times as many. Her dominions are in Europe, in North America, in Central America and the West Indies, in Africa, and the Indian seas, in Australia, and in Asia. Less than 40,000,000 of the Queen's subjects are Christians; there are 30,000,000 Mahometans, 98,000,000 Hindoos, more than 2,000,000 of Buddhists, and 58,000,000 of "others—heathen" of this kind or the other kind, for the sects of heathendom are as numerous as the divisions of Christianity. Imperial Rome at the summit of its glory exercised dominion over 1,600,000 square miles of territory, and 120,000,000 of people yielded obedience to her sway. But Victoria rules nearly twice as many people, and is the sovereign of a territory more than six times as large. To count the people in England and Wales alone on the third day of April, 1871, required 32,513 census takers, who were supervised by 2,195 registrars and 626 superintendents. They did their work in a single night, and it was so well done that not a man, woman, or child escaped them. They counted a population of 22,856,164, and they found to the indelible disgrace of the Englishmen that while 39 out of every 100 men between the ages of twenty five and thirty were unmarried there were 1,246,000 women between the ages of fifteen and twenty one who were unmarried. The 'professional class' in England comprised 680,000 persons; the 'domestic class,' wives, mothers, hotel and lodging house keepers, and servants, more than 5,000,000; the 'agricultural class,' 1,600,000; the 'industrial class,' 5,137,000; the class of 'rank and property,' 168,000; and there were 7,500 children.

Crossing the channel to Europe, the Queen's subjects are found in Heligoland, in Gibraltar, and in Malta; but all of these, numbering only 77,000 souls, do not amount to as many as are counted in an English town of the second class. In Canada and

the Bermudas there are 3,789,690 British subjects, with plenty of elbow room, since they inhabit an area of 3,376,025 square miles. In the British West India Islands there are about 1,000,000. On the continent there are British Honduras and British Guiana, with a population of 218,000 souls. Coming to Africa and the adjacent islands, Queen Victoria finds herself the ruler of 236,860 square miles and of 1,813,450 persons. These dwell in Ascension Island, St. Helena, Sierra Leone, the Gambia settlements, the Gold Coast, the Cape Griqualand and Natal. In the Indian seas she has the Mauritius, with 330,469 people West Australia, with 978,000 square miles of territory, has only 24,785 inhabitants; South Australia with 760,000 square miles has 189,000 people; Victoria with only 88,000 square miles has 731,528 inhabitants; New South Wales, on its 323,437 square miles has 502,981 residents; Queensland has 120,104; Tasmania, 99,328, and New Zealand has 293,893.

Finally comes India, the greatest and most splendid division of the British Empire. There are twelve Provinces in British India over which the Queen Viceroy rules supreme. These Provinces number 191,307,070 souls; they occupy an area of 938,356 square miles and they live in 787,061 towns or villages. The Provinces of Bengal and Behar have a population of 56,000,000 and it is here that the famine is raging; the northwest Provinces have 30,669,000 people; Oude has 11,220,000; the Punjab, 17,596,000; the central Provinces, 9,066,083; British Burmah, 2,562,823; the Madras Presidency, 31,000,000; Bombay and Sindh 14,000,000. And the islands of Ceylon and Hong Kong, the peninsula of Kowloon, Singapore, Wellesley, Penang, and Malacca, have together a population of 2,837,278.

Nominally it is Victoria who is the reigning Queen of all these people. Practically, they are governed by the working king who happens to be the most in favour with 350 or 360 of the elected and representative gentlemen who form the Lower House of the British Parliament. His name to day is Disraeli. The 31,000,000 of people who live in Great Britain and Ireland, rule the destinies of the 203,000,000 of British subjects who dwell in the rest of the world. There are those who believe that this rule would be much better exercised if those 203,000,000 were permitted to send men of their own choice to represent them in Parliament. The politicians, if not the people of Canada, are anxious for this reform—and the appointment of Mr. Edward Jenkins as the political agent of the Canada Government at London is said to have been made with a view towards the accomplishment of this desire.—*N. Y. World.*

At the San Francisco of Science, February 16, Prof. Davidson reported upon the result of the soundings made by Commander George E. Belknap, of the U. S. S. *Tuskarora*, during the year 1873, having especial reference to the project of laying a telegraphic cable from the California coast to Japan. This examination determined the fact that the sudden descent of the bottom of the Pacific is continuous down the entire coast, at a distance from shore varying from twenty to seventy miles. On the latitude of San Francisco Bay the great beach is reached a short distance off the Farallones, where the bottom suddenly descends to a depth of two miles. Off Cape Fujiweather the bottom descends precipitously from 400 fathoms to a depth of 1,500 fathoms, and then the plateau

continues westward for hundreds of miles, and comparatively as level as a billiard table. Prof. Davidson, in discussing some of the questions connected with the temperature observations obtained by this expedition, remarked that the passage of Behring Straits permitted no large underflow of the Arctic waters, but a branch of the great Japanese current set northward and eastward. The effect of the small Arctic current from the coast of Kamtschatka was in the scanty and boreal character of the fauna of the region in striking contrast with the influence of the warm Japanese current along the coast of Alaska in the same latitude.

The effective of the French army which is this year set down at 419,978 men, arranged next year, says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, to reach 442,000. The Infantry this year number 272,000 men, the Cavalry 53,444, the Artillery 50,520, Engineers 9,000, Military Train 5,000, Gendarmerie and Municipal Guard 27,014. The latter denominations of armed men can hardly be called soldiers, being rather police. Out of these 419,978 men there are so many on furlough that the War Minister is in a position to save 80,000,000 francs out of his estimates, and to devote that amount to other purposes than paying men. General de Wimpffen who succeeded to the command of the Army at Sedan after MacMahon had been wounded, has written to the papers making suggestions how things should be managed at the War Office. The General evidently objects to fortifications on a large scale and states that a country is best defended by the number and quality of its soldiers. He therefore hopes that, instead of laying out the 80,000,000 fr. in earth and stone works General du Barrail will see to arming and equipment of the active Army and the Reserve, and will form camps of instruction, where soldiers will learn to manoeuvre and generals how to handle their troops. Looking at the French Budget for 1875, one finds that the Navy will be composed of 92 vessels, 7 of which are plated, 78 are in reserve or on trial, of these 31 are plated. The total effective of the marine is set down at 29,477 men. There are two Admirals, 15 Vice-Admirals, 30 Rear Admirals, 100 First Captains, 201 Captains, 640 Lieutenants, 500 Second Lieutenants, and 210 Midshipmen. In addition to these are 16,000 Marines and 4,500 Marine Artillery.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London *Morning Post* gives some interesting particulars as to the numerical strength of the Russian military forces. He says:—The Russian Army is, next to that of Germany, numerically the strongest in the world. In time of peace the Czar has 765,879 men under arms; in war time he can put 1,213,176 fighting men in the field. During the great war of 1870-71 the Emperor of Germany had at his disposal 1,350,787 men and 263,735 horses; the largest Army ever got together, even in Deutschland, where every man, gentle or simple, is a soldier. In Russia the Army is divided into regular and irregular troops divided into (1) the Army of Russia in Europe, (2) the Army of the Caucasus, (3) the Turkestan Army, (4) the Army of Siberia, and (5) what is called the 'Administration,' the last comprehending what is known in England as the 'establishment.' The war strength of the Russian Army in Europe is 879,755, of the Caucasian Army 163,757, of the Turkestan Army 22,294, and of the Siberian Army 11,041.

British Consul Medhurst, in his last annual report from Shanghai, gives an account of the Chinese arsenal at Kao Chang Miao, about six miles from Shanghai, higher up the river. It is an important establishment, employing a number of foreign artificers and some 1,300 natives; and, considering that it has been in working order for only about five years, remarkable efficiency has been attained. The consul had visited the arsenal recently with Admiral Shadwell, and found it turning out "Remington" rifles complete, both the long armed for foot and the carbine for cavalry, at the rate of 20 per day. Shot and shell, rifled and spherical, iron gun carriages, Downton's pumps, and a vast variety of other articles of a complex character were everywhere in the hands of the workmen. In front of the arsenal was anchored a steam frigate pierced for 26 guns, measuring between 2,000 and 3,000 tons, and of 400 horse power, which had just been turned out of dock; and the superintendent assured the consul that every part of this vessel, with the sole exception of the screw shaft and cranks, had been manufactured on the spot. Admiral Shadwell detected several technical defects in her rigging and elsewhere, but pronounced her, on the whole, a most creditable specimen of naval architecture. She was the last of five steam vessels which had been turned out of this arsenal, the other four having all been running for some time on the coast and the Yangtse river employed in transporting high officials, troops, and government stores, and in other such public service. A sister ship was still on the stocks. This vessel has since Mr. Medhurst's report been successfully launched.

The *Moniteur Universel* says:—"We learn that the request made by the ex Marshal's (Bazine) wife to be allowed to share her husband's captivity has been favourably received by the Government. The buildings contained within the enclosure of the fort which commands the Ile Sainte Marguerite are arranged in such a manner that it is possible, at little cost, to adapt them for the accommodation of the Marshal's family without any infringement of the rules for the internal discipline of State prisons. A special wing of the building will be devoted to the use of the Marshal and his family. A good sized garden, which extends down to the glacis, will be surrounded by a wall, so as to satisfy the exigencies of prison rules and the laws of humanity. The Marshal's wife, children, and servants will be able at all times to pass freely in any part of the house or the garden, but all will be required to pledge themselves to observe strictly the regulations laid down. The prisoner himself will also be required to pledge his honor not to abuse in any way the facilities granted for allowing his family to modify the severity of his imprisonment. Colonel Villette has returned to Paris to make the arrangements for the transfer of the family to Sainte Marguerite, and has, on behalf of Mme. Bazine, expressed to M. Baragnon her gratitude for the concession granted her, and has, on behalf of the Marshal and of all his family, given the required pledge to observe all the regulations laid down for their governance."

According to the *Figaro*, M. Luchaud, the counsel for Marshal Bazine, has declined to receive any fees for his services, and the Empress Eugenie has sent him a *souvenir* in token of her appreciation of his disinterested exertions. Ex Queen Isabella of Spain has offered to provide for the education of Marshal Bazine's children.

SANTAGO DE CUBA, March 22.—Yesterday the steamer from Guantanamo brought the not very agreeable news to the Spaniards and plantation owners that a force of insurgents had passed near Tiguabos. There were some 300 to 400 of them under the command of Maceo. Some of the Guantanamo mobilized volunteers had a brush with them, killing three and capturing one. This prisoner gave the information that the band in question was bound to the Monte Toro, there to form a junction with Silverio Prado who was expected there with 500 men. With what object the insurgents were massing themselves there the prisoner could not, or would not, and certainly did not say.

The Saratoga which arrived on Friday from Gibaro brought news of the attack by the insurgents of Maniabon resulting in the destruction of that village. Particulars as to the losses on either side I have been unable to learn.

Finally it is reported that a severe action took place at the Saiba, near the Mogote, where troops, 400 strong, attacked the insurgents, numerically superior, but without success, having been forced to retreat with considerable loss. If this is true it would indicate that the foraging parties reported in my last as having carried off some oxen were rather more than isolated or straggling bands and were probably the advance guard of the forces which have moved this way.—N. Y. Sun.

WASHINGTON, April 5.—An important letter has been received here from the present headquarters of the Cuban patriot forces. It is dated just prior to the recent battle of Guasimutche, but clearly foreshadows it. The patriot leaders are confident that they will be able ere long to reduce Puerto Principe, and the concentration of their forces under Cisneros and Gomez, the proof of which is seen in the recent fight, is intended to effect that end. The conscripted volunteers, the letter says, are deserting in large numbers, and many are coming into the Cuban camps with their arms and equipments. The patriot lines have been widely extended, and according to the information embodied in the letter referred to, there are now partisan bands operating within forty miles of Havana.

Operations were in progress near Santiago de Cuba, Manzanillo, and Guantanamo, which then promised a great success. One of the most successful of Cuban leaders is charged with the work of not only worrying the troops there, but of holding the Cinco Villas district, the most important portion of the letter cannot be disclosed, because in connection with others previously received, it closes an extensive plan now in process of execution, whereby the slave population is being organized for service in the Cuban cause. The increase of plantation fires in the Eastern Department is one of the evidences of this. The patriot leaders are greatly encouraged.—*Id.*

An exploring party despatched by the Queensland Government to examine the north coast north of that part of Australia, has returned with news of a satisfactory character. Thousands of acres of the richest sugar growing land were found, two new species of banana discovered, and numerous additions made to the list of the flora of tropical Australia. This new country will be speedily taken up in consequence of the early establishment of the Torres Straits mail service giving intending planters speedy conveyance to and from the capital.

THE WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA—YOBIMITE TREES ECLIPSED.—The Brisbane (Australia) *Courier* of Dec. 30, 1873 publishes the following official telegram from Mr. Walter Hill, the Government botanist, dated from Cardwell on the 27th and received by the Queensland Secretary for Lands: "Since the 20th of November we have examined the banks of the Mulgrave, Russell, Mossman, Daintree, and Hull rivers, and have been more or less successful in finding suitable land for sugar and other tropical and semi-tropical productions. The ascent of the summit of Belleuden Kerr was successfully made by Johnstone, Hill, and eight troopers. At 2,500 feet in height we observed an undescribed tree with crimson flowers, which excels the *Poinciana regia*, *Colvillia racemosa*, *Lagerstromia regia*, and the *Jacaranda mimosifolia*. At 4,400 feet a tree fern, which will excel in grandeur all others of the *Alboreos* class. A palm tree at the same height which will rival any of the British-India species in gracefulness. On the banks of the Daintree we saw a palm tree cocoa, which far exceeds the unique specimen in the garden of the same genus from Brazil in grandeur and gracefulness. While cutting a given line on the banks of the river Johnstone, for the purpose of examining the land, an enormous fig tree stood in the way, far exceeding in stoutness and grandeur the renowned forest giants of California and Victoria. Three feet from the ground it measured 150 feet in circumference; at fifty five feet, where it sent forth giant branches, the stem was nearly eighty feet in circumference. The river Johnstone, within a limited distance of the coast, offers the first and best inducements to sugar cultivation."

WAR HORSES.—These interesting animals when hit in battle, tremble in every muscle, and groan deeply, while their eyes show deep astonishment. During the battle of Waterloo, some of the horses as they lay upon the ground having recovered from the first agony of their wounds, fell to eating the grass about them, thus surrounding themselves with a circle of bare ground, the limited extent of which showed their weakness. Others were observed quietly grazing on the field between the two hostile lines, their riders having been shot off their backs while the balls flying over their heads, and the tumult behind, before, and around them, caused no interruption to the usual instinct of their nature. It was also observed that when a charge of cavalry went past near to any of the stray horses already mentioned, they would set off, form themselves in the rear of their mounted companions and though without riders, gallop strenuously along with the rest, not stopping or flinching when the fatal shock with the enemy took place. At the battle of Kirk, in 1713, Major McDonald having unhorsed an English officer took possession of his horse which was very beautiful, and immediately mounted it. When the English cavalry fled the horse ran away with its captor, notwithstanding all his efforts to restrain him; nor did he stop until it was at the head of the regiment of which, apparently, its master was the commander. The melancholy and at the same time injudicious figure which McDonald presented when he thus saw himself the victim of his ambition to possess a fine horse which ultimately cost him his life upon the scaffold may be easily conceived.

ERRORS OF THE COMPASS.

Capt. Henry O. Cook, formerly of the British navy, addressed the Polytechnic Branch of the American Institute, last evening, on deviations of the compass. The audience included many navigators and scientific men. The Captain said that it might be supposed as a matter of course that seamen generally would interest themselves in the compass, but no body of men, as a rule, were more ignorant of its workings. They had ignored the science of the compass as a subject too deep for contemplation. They put their faith in the compass in fine weather, and were helpless in bad weather. A few navigators who had watched and noted the variations of the magnetic needle, had learned to extract from its capricious movements information which was veiled and distorted by a host of disturbing influences. The seamen who failed to ask such information were excusable, for, though very able and scientific men had made thorough investigation, they had failed to discover the laws which govern the action of the magnetic needle. The British Admiralty manual contained facts and figures of more use to the mathematician than to the practical navigators of our merchant marine.

Only five or six centuries ago had western nations learned to use the needle, whereas it had guided the Chinese mariner for thousands of years. Nothing had been done, however, in the way of attempting to correct the errors of the compass by experiments until the close of the last century. Capt. Flinders was the first in the field, and was followed by others. Experiments only served to shake confidence in the needle, and to cause mariners to place their reliance on the heavenly bodies. Captain Flinders proposed to correct the deviations of the needle by compensation.

Capt. Scoresby, afterward the Rev. Dr. Scoresby, had done more than any other man to bring to public attention the deviations of the needle, and through the investigations of Capt. Scoresby and others a method of compensation was generally adopted, but it was imperfect. These investigations were on wooden vessels, and when iron came into use in shipbuilding other experiments had to be made, and the previous deductions were found to be of no value. Subsequent experience had proved that Capt. Scoresby was correct in saying that "iron vessels while building became charged with magnetism, a portion of the magnetism permanent in the vessel under all circumstances, and another portion which might be called sub-permanent, which could be taken from the vessel by violent straining and knocking about." Twenty or thirty years ago rules for the compensation of compasses were compiled by Mr. Airy, and the following of those rules had undoubtedly caused some of the most terrible shipwrecks. In the ship *Tayleur* of 2,000 tons, which sailed from Liverpool with a load of emigrants, the steering compass deviated 60°, or five and a half points. The result was a wreck on the Irish coast attended with fearful loss of life. The Court of Inquiry unanimously attributed the disaster to the deviation of the *Tayleur's* compasses. Several of the vessels had been lost late, and hundreds of lives cut off. The true cause of nearly all such wrecks was in the compass, though some courts of inquiry ignored this fact.

The *Tayleur* wreck and the investigations of Dr. Scoresby caused alarm among those who believed in the rules of Mr. Airy and the compensation magnet.

Changes in the magnetism of iron vessels added greatly to the complexity of compass correction, and experience had proved that it was not safe to rely on Airy's compensation magnets. A series of careful observations were made on different ships, and tables of deviations framed therefrom. These could not, however, be depended upon. They were liable to change with a change of latitude to an extent which could not be understood before the voyage. One vessel was no guide for another. The deviations obtained with a vessel in an upright position would be altogether false when a vessel was heeling over either to starboard or port, and the magnetic influences which surround a vessel could not be obviated, however carefully her tables of deviation might be made out. The fluctuations in the magnetism of vessels could not be guarded against without repeated observations to correct the very tables of deviations on which the navigator was to rely. Thus there was the directive force of the needle which becomes actually sluggish in its workings. Commodore Jenkins, of the United States Navy, had said that "neither compensation nor a table of deviations could be relied upon, except in about the same magnetic latitude as that in which the vessel was swung."

The Captain showed that sea men could not place implicit confidence in their compasses when corrected by compensation, and that the compass, when compensated, would not act the same in fine as in rough weather, when far from as when near land. He added that on Thursday evening next he would deliver another address on the method of correcting deviations of the compass.

Dr. J. V. C. Smith said that he had heard Captain and Rev. Dr. Scoresby say that there was no reliance to be placed on the magnetic needle in storms. Mr. Dudley Blanchard remarked that it was well known to surveyors that the needle deviated on land, especially in the neighborhood of iron mines.

Capt. McDougall described an interesting storm which he had encountered forty-five miles from Sandy Hook, when electric fire streamed from every mast and spar, and his compass was in utter disorder.—N. Y. Sun.

Observing men in Paris contend that the commune is not yet dead in that city, but that on the contrary it is more dangerous now than under the empire, when it had less to hunger for and to be envious of, when its members were better fed and paid. Napoleon, whether he was a great statesman or not, knew better how to deal with *caillille* than his successors. He gave them plenty of work and amusement, and although there were higher moral and social agencies that might have been employed, these were sufficient for his purposes. Paris had no street beggars during the empire.

A massive granite cross has been erected on the spot where the late Bishop Wilberforce met his death. The locality is known as Evershed's Rough, near Dorking. The work was entrusted by the family to Mr. Gilliam, sculptor, of Dorking. The monolith is of one solid block of granite, thirteen feet in length and of corresponding dimensions. The memorial bears the simple inscription, "S. W., July 19, 1873." The characters are chiselled out of the granite, and a carved pastoral staff passes diagonally through the two initial letters. The design was supplied by the late bishop's family.

D. BATTERSBY
Accountant Arent &c
171, St. James' Street,
MONTREAL
P.O. ADDRESS, Box 1814.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

Monday, 30th March, 1874.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

ON the recommendation of the Honorable the Minister of Customs and under the provisions of the 4th Section of the Act passed in the 31st year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intitled: "An Act respecting the Customs." His Excellency, by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada has been pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that the article known as Gypsum when imported into Canada in its raw or natural state, may be so imported free from the payment of Customs duty, but that ground or calcined Gypsum be, and the same is hereby declared to be chargeable with a duty of fifteen cents *ad valorem* whatever the uses may be for which it is so imported.

15-3

W. A. HIMSWORTH,
Clerk, Privy Council.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

Thursday, 2nd April, 1874.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

ON the recommendation of the Honorable the Minister of Customs, and under and in pursuance of the provisions of "the Merchant Shipping Act, 1851," and the Acts amending the same, and of the Act passed in the 36th year of Her Majesty's Reign, intitled, "An Act relating to Shipping, and for the Registration, Inspection and Classification thereof."

His Excellency by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has been pleased to appoint the Port of Cobourg, in the Province of Ontario, a port for the registration of shipping, and such port is hereby constituted and appointed accordingly.

His Excellency, under the authority aforesaid, has further been pleased to constitute and appoint the Collector of Customs at the said Port of Cobourg to be Registrar of Shipping, and the Landing Waler at the said port to superintend the survey and measurement of ships thereat, under the provisions of the said Act.

15-3

W. A. HIMSWORTH,
Clerk, Privy Council.