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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. VII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1873.

No 6.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The British Court will go into mourning for a short time for the Dowager Empress of Brazil.

Numerous wrecks are reported on the English, Scotch and Irish coasts, but no American vessels are yet mentioned.

The steamer *Woodham*, bound from New castle to New York, went ashore on the Isle of Wight during a heavy gale and is a total wreck. All hands saved.

The *Morning Chronicle* contains an extract from the *Times of India*, received here by mail, giving an account of a terrible earthquake in India, a telegraph report of which was received Jan. 13th from Bombay, and published next day by the press of Europe and Great Britain. Despatches from Bombay and Calcutta of to-day's date make no mention of any new calamity of this kind.

Parliament re assembled to-day. The following sketch of the Queen's speech has been obtained in advance of its delivery: England is at peace with everything.

The great powers have promised to cooperate effectually for the suppression of slavery on the east coast of Africa.

Friendly negotiations are in progress with Russia. Count Schouvaloff has assured Her Majesty's Government of the friendship of the Czar for England.

The new Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France is calculated to promote the friendship of the two countries.

The President of the French Republic has been appointed to arbitrate the differences between Portugal and England, relative to the possessions on the south coast of Africa.

Copies of the *Alabama* and San Juan awards will be presented immediately. It is considered proper to hasten the payment of the *Alabama* award.

The speech expresses regret at the rapid rise in prices, and consequent disputes between workmen and employers, and promises that bills will be introduced improving the system of higher education in Ireland for the reconstruction of the Supreme Appellate Courts, and prevention of corrupt practices at elections.

Sir Alexander Cockburn has refused a Peerage, and has received the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

Lord Assington is seriously ill.

The schooner 'James Bayley' has been wrecked on the Anglesa coast, and eight of her crew perished.

The proprietors of several collieries in the south of Wales, who have announced their intention to import Chinamen from California to take the places of the men now on strike, have received anonymous letters threatening them with assassination should they attempt to carry out their design.

The weather of the past three days has been intensely cold, and 100 persons were frozen to death in England during that time.

Gambetta has recovered from his recent illness.

The proprietor of the *Corsair* newspaper has been fined and sentenced to four months imprisonment for publishing an International circular.

The deputies of the extreme Left held a meeting last night, at which an address was introduced, expressing the sympathy of the Republican members of the Assembly with General Garibaldi, and protesting against the severe comments on his interference in the late war made by members of the Right in the debate on Lyons contracts. An address was immediately signed by seventy of the deputies.

The *Union* says the Carlist lines extend through the Northern Provinces of Spain, from Cape Creux to Coruna. Don Alphonzo commands the insurgents in Catalonia. Valle, one of his generals, has entered Aragon. Ollo commands in Navarre. Redas, at the head of the right wing of the insurgents at Asturias, is marching on Leon and Castile. Lizarraga has command of the forces in Guipuzcoa. The *Union* represents the Carlist cause as flourishing in numbers, arms and resources.

The despatch from Lisbon announcing that the steamship *Murillo* had been sighted off that port was incorrect, and she is yet at Cadiz, where she has remained since her first arrival. The British Consul here has demanded the issue of a writ of attachment

against her. The captain of the *Murillo* and officers who were on watch at the time of the disaster to the *Northfleet* happened, are held as prisoners on a Spanish man of war pending the investigation. The crew are under guard and are not allowed to go ashore. The Spanish authorities who have made an examination of the *Murillo* declare that she shows no signs of having been in collision, and it is their belief that she is guiltless of running down and sinking the *Northfleet*.

The Government has received intelligence of another battle between the Carlists and a force of troops, in which the former were completely defeated, suffering great loss in both men and stores. The engagement took place at a small place called Aya, in the north. It is officially announced from the Ministry of War, that 200 of the insurgents were killed, and that 1,100 rifles, including 800 of the Remington patent, a large quantity of ammunition and stores, and 200 prisoners were captured. Eighty of the captured insurgents begged for amnesty.

At a session of the Congress yesterday, a Republican Deputy proposed an amendment for the Porto Rico abolition Bill, extending its provisions to Cuba, and providing that the slaves themselves, and not their masters, shall receive the indemnity. It is not likely the Congress will consider the amendment.

A band of Carlists burned the Railway Depot in Villa Franca yesterday.

Bismarck has submitted a proposition to the German Federal Council, for an appropriation of 9,000,000 talers each, for the erection and improvement of the fortifications at Cologne, Koenigsburg, Wilhelmshaven, Kiel and Posen.

Bismarck has submitted to the Committee of the Federal Council a bill imposing taxes on transactions in the Stock Exchange.

The Roman Catholic Bishops have addressed a memorial to the Emperor protesting against the passage of the Ecclesiastical Bill now before the Prussian Diet.

NEW DRILL AND TACTICS.

The following memoranda have been issued at Aldershot.

MEMORANDUM ON THE FORMATION OF HALF BATTALION DOUBLE COLUMNS. AT QUARTER DISTANCE.

Battalions will usually be formed first in eight companies, and then again told off into four double companies. They will be told off into double companies as follows:—1 and 2 companies.—1st double company; 3 or 4—2nd double company, and so on. When not otherwise ordered, they will form column of double companies in rear of one of the flank double companies. Thus one half-battalion will always be the front, and the other the rear half of the column. When a brigade in line of battalion of double company columns is ordered to deploy into line of half-battalion double columns, at deploying intervals to the left, the leading half-battalion of the right column will stand fast, the remainder form "fours left," and march off, and each half-battalion will on gaining its proper interval, "front turn," and "halt—dress up" on the alignment. The adjutants of the battalions will, as usual, give the points where the outer flanks of their respective battalions will rest. There will be the usual interval of thirty paces between battalions, but only deploying intervals between half-battalions, unless it is intended that the half-battalions should go on acting independently when deployed, in which case twelve paces interval in addition will be ordered. Officers commanding half-battalions will generally judge their own intervals; but when great accuracy is necessary, then foot points for each half-battalion column will be given by its base markers (in the same way as for a line of battalions column at less than deploying intervals). When half-battalions deploy into line, and no interval between them has been ordered the lieutenant colonel will assume the command, and they will become one battalion. But if twelve paces, in addition to deploying interval, has been ordered, then the majors will still continue in command of their respective half-battalions, and the lieutenant colonels will only exercise a general superintendence. When half-battalions are formed one colour will go with each. When a line of battalion quarter columns is ordered to deploy into line of half-battalion double columns, at deploying intervals, it will be done on exactly the same principle as a deployment from a line of double company columns—each half-battalion forming double companies on the march in the same way as for marching past. Half-battalion double columns deploy into line to a flank, unless otherwise specially ordered. When battalions are so weak that they cannot be formed into eight companies they will be told off into six. In this case they will usually be formed into single, not double, half-battalion columns. When, however, it is considered necessary to form them in double half-battalion columns, the following course will be adopted:—One double company will be in front with the other single company of the same half-battalion in rear of its outer flank (that is, in the right half-battalion the odd company will be in the rear of the right, in the left half-battalion in rear of the left).

MEMORANDUM ON FORMATIONS FOR ATTACK.

1.—*Of a battalion acting alone*—It will be formed either (1) in line of half-battalion single columns at deploying intervals, covered by the first half-battalion skirmishing and the second in support. Or (2) one half-battalion will extend two companies skirmishing and two in support, and be followed by the

other half-battalion in double company column or line, according to circumstances. In either case the supports will be 300 yards in front of the main body, the skirmishers 200 yards in front of the supports. The supports will be with open files, that is, with two paces between each file. The main body will always deploy when under fire.

II.—*Of a Brigade*.—Two half-battalions of the same battalion will cover the front of the brigade, each with two companies skirmishing and two in support. This battalion may be taken either from one of the flanks, or from the centre of the brigade. When the brigade consisted of an odd number of battalions, and the formation for attack is made from line or line of columns at deploying intervals, the latter course will often be found the quickest and best. When circumstances of ground render it advisable, the skirmishers may advance by ranks,—the front rank one hundred yards or so in advance of the rear rank. On any check occurring, the rear rank will at once reinforce the front rank. The supports will be with open files 200 or 300 yards in rear of the skirmishers. The remaining battalions in line of half-battalion double columns, at deploying distance, 300 or 400 yards in rear of the supports. The half-battalions will be commanded by the majors. The lieutenant colonel will take a general charge of the whole. He will not, however repeat the brigadier's words of command.

III.—*Of a brigade of four battalions acting alone*.—The same, except that one battalion will be placed as a reserve, 500 or 600 yards in rear of the centre, if possible under cover and either in battalion or half-battalion double columns.

IV.—*Of a division of three brigades*.—Two brigades in line with one another in the same formation as in No. II. The third in reserve, 500 or 600 yards in rear of the centre, in line of battalion or half-battalion double columns, at thirty paces interval, or more if required.

V.—In advancing, a half-battalion will be named to direct. The support in front of this half-battalion will be the support of direction. The skirmishers in front of it again the skirmishers of direction.

VI.—*Of the cavalry and artillery of a division*.—When a division is formed for attack in an open plain, in the order described in No. IV., there should be a battery of artillery on each flank in line with, or in any favourable position to the rear of, the main line—and such battery should have a regiment of cavalry echelon on its outer flank. If a battery cannot be spared then a half-battery. And so with the cavalry—if a regiment is not disposable then a wing, a squadron, or a troop. The remainder of the cavalry and artillery should be placed in rear of the centre—behind, or on the flanks of the reserve infantry, and whenever possible, covered both from observation and fire. When it is desirable to bring the reserve artillery and cavalry into action, they can either come up a flank, or can pass straight through the intervals between the half-battalion columns of the infantry line. It will be found that artillery can pass through the infantry most readily by moving in half-batteries. There is always room for a half-battery to pass between the half-battalion columns of the weakest line battalion. When artillery have once got into action in a good position they should be moved as seldom as possible. The advance of the infantry should always be preceded by a concentrated fire of artillery on the point selected for attack.

MEMORANDUM ON CHANGES OF FRONT.

1.—*Of a brigade acting alone with a reserve*.—To the right.—The half-battalion or the

right wheels to the right and extends from its left into a line of skirmishers and one of supports. The next half-battalion of the same corps move up on the left of the preceding and extends in the same manner from its right. Those two cover the front of the whole of the brigade. They advance until they gain the required distance from the third half-battalion. This last wheels to the right and forms the base for the formation of the new line. Its left half-battalion comes up on its left. The half-battalions of the next regiments come up by shortest line on its right. The two half-battalions which covered the front of the old line in extended order close on their left or centre (out of fire), reform half-battalions, and take post in the general line on the left. Should there be only three battalions in the brigade, then the fourth half-battalion of the original line will come up on the right of the third—the old extended half-battalions forming the left of the new line.

II.—*Of a brigade acting alone with a reserve*.—The same as the above, except that the reserve will form the right wing on the right of the half-battalion of formation. The half-battalions next on the left to the half-battalion of formation forming on its left. The old extended half-battalions become the reserve.

III.—*Of a division of three brigades*.—(1) Right brigade.—The right half-battalion of the old line wheels to the right advances, extending from its right skirmishers and furnishing the new right skirmishers and supports of the brigade. The second half-battalion moves up on its left and extends, furnishing the new left skirmishers and supports of the brigade. The third half-battalion wheels to its right and becomes the base for the new formation. The remaining half-battalions of the brigade move up on its left into line by the shortest line. The two old extended half-battalions from the two left half-battalions of the new line. (2) Left brigade: The two extended half-battalions close to their outer flank, reform half-battalion double columns, and join the remainder of the brigade, which proceeds by the shortest way to form the reserve to the new line, at the proper distance in rear of its centre, and in the usual formation. (3) Reserve: The right battalion wheels to its right and sends its two half-battalions to extend in succession to the right of the new line of skirmishers and supports. The remaining battalions if not already in half-battalion double columns, will adopt that formation, and proceed in the most direct way to form on the right of the half-battalion of formation of the new line. Should the change of the front be ordered to the left it will be executed on exactly the same principles.

IV.—*Of a division (or brigade) when in contact with the enemy*.—A change of front such as above, though necessary for purposes of drill, would rarely be required on service, and could only be executed in case of a flank attack when the front was not engaged with the enemy. In war, when there is any expectation of a flank attack, a division will always advance with a brigade or battalion kept back in echelon on its exposed flank, and on such an attack being developed, this brigade or battalion will at once change front to meet it, throwing out skirmishers and supports in the usual way. The old skirmishing battalions will hold the enemy in check on the original front, and the reserve will be at once brought up to extend and strengthen the flank now threatened. Any battalion disposable from the opposite flank of the original line will be immediately

ely got together and brought to the rear of the centre to constitute a new reserve.

V. *Of any body half-right, or at a lesser angle.*—Should the change of front be half right, or any lesser angle, it will be better to execute it by changing front the required angle on the right half battalion of the line, or on a central one, as laid down in Sections 16, and 17, Part IV., of the "Field Exercise."

VI. *Of a single battalion*—When a single battalion in line of half battalion columns changes front, it should always do so as in No. V.

VII. *Of the cavalry and artillery of a division.*—When a complete change of front is made, the artillery and cavalry on the flank towards which it is made will immediately wheel to that flank and advance, taking up the best position they can to cover the formation of the infantry line in their rear. Cavalry and artillery will be despatched from the reserve to cover the inner flank of the new formation. The cavalry and horse artillery on the outer flank of the new formation will cross by the shortest line to the outer flank of the new one. Or cavalry and artillery may be sent from the reserve. Any artillery and cavalry which may have been in front of the old line, will unless otherwise ordered, proceed at once to join the new reserve, taking care that in doing so, they always move so as not to impede the progress of the infantry engaged in taking the new position.

MEMORANDUM ON THE CONDUCT OF THE ATTACK OF A DIVISION IN THE NEW FORMATION.

The attack will usually commence with a general advance. When the skirmishers at any point are unable to continue their advance they will be reinforced by their support. When the configuration of the ground permits, the supports may fire volleys over the heads of the skirmishers. If both the skirmishers and supports together are unable to make any way, they will take up the best position they can from which to keep up a continuous fire on the enemy, and the line—either in whole or in part—will be brought into action. If there appears any likelihood of forcing the enemy by a front attack, then the half-battalion columns will deploy (if possible) as a reserve, either in rear of the centre, or what will usually be better, behind the outer flank of the advancing line. If there appears little chance of the enemy's position being carried by a front attack, then it will be advisable, instead of passing the line over the skirmishers, to try and gain his flank by pushing the half battalion columns in succession round the outer flank of the skirmish line. These half-battalion columns may, if necessary, adopt the formation laid down for a single battalion attacking alone.* If more than two battalions are in this way used to prolong the line and envelop the enemy's flank, one should follow in the second line as a reserve. When a flank attack of this kind which always must weaken the centre of the line—is being attempted, care must be taken to bring up one or more battalions from the reserve to the rear of the weakened part, to meet the contingency of a counter attack there. It will generally be found that a

*Either (1) each half battalion with one company skirmishing, the second in support, the remaining two in line or column, according to circumstances. Or (2) one half battalion with two companies skirmishing; and two in support, followed by the other half-battalion double company column or line according to circumstances. The supports 300 yards in front of the main body, the skirmishers 100 yards in front of the supports. The supports will open fire, that is with two paces between each,

combination of the two preceding forms of attack will be the most effective. In this case it is advisable not to push home the front attack until the flank one is ready to be developed. Guns should be so placed as to be able from a distance to bring a concentrated fire on the point where the attack is being made. They may fire, if necessary, over the heads of the infantry. Considerable use may often be made of a few troops or squadrons of cavalry, if they can be brought forward under cover of woods or irregularities of ground. A sudden rush by a small body of horse on a line of skirmishers will force them at once to run into rallying squares, and when in that formation they present themselves as targets to their opponents. The cavalry must, however, be careful to fall back the moment their charge—by forcing the enemy into square—has produced its intended effect. In conducting an attack much will depend upon the readiness shown by the majors in command of half-battalions to adapt their movements to the exigencies of the moment. They must clearly understand that it is their duty to profit by any opening which may occur, without waiting for orders. Officers commanding divisions and brigades must also clearly understand that the "formations for attack" and "changes of front" laid down are not intended to be adhered to unless the features of the ground and the numbers and dispositions of the enemy suit. In every case they must exercise their own judgment in adopting the formation best suited to the actual circumstances.

(To be continued.)

SOLDIERING IN RUSSIA.

As yet Russia is far behind other nations in general education—that indispensable element in the social development of a people. But all that can be done to supply the want is being done. National schools are being established in every parish and during the next decade we may even see compulsory education in force. At present, though the army is the school of the country, and through its system is excellent its influence is comparatively limited. Dacile and willing to learn as Russian soldiers are, they have little or no opportunity of doing so before enlistment; consequently the long frosts and heavy snows of winter, which prevent any outdoor military exercises besides occasional route marching, have to be turned to advantage in the formation of classes, conducted by the company officers, who pursue their uninviting task for four or five hours every day from November to March, with an intensity of zeal which deserves the success obtained.

But the training of the non-commissioned officers is one of the most remarkable features in the Russian regimental organisation. Every regiment of infantry or cavalry brigade of field artillery, or battery of horse artillery, has a non-commissioned officers' school, divided into classes. Lance-corporals of two years' service and good promise, who can read and write well, are eligible for admission. The course of study last two years. During the first year general subjects are taught, whereas in the second year more attention is paid to military matter. The pupils live apart; and promotion is not a necessary prize even for the first graduate, unless accompanied by skill in arms and tact in command. The standard of excellence is incredible, and is so great that most of the non-commissioned officers thus trained are admirably suited to fulfil the duties of the

natural schoolmaster—the death of whom is at present one of the greatest obstacles to educational progress. A commission is attainable by any non-commissioned officer who passes the necessary examination; many of them do pass, and decline the officers' rank which entitles them to an annuity of about £15 during service and to wear additional lace.

Miserably paid, and almost worse fed on what is not calculated to make man thrive—on black sour bread, and a sprinkling of meat mixed up with rice and herbs with a perfectly non-intoxicating and terrible sour beverage to drink—the Russian soldier so flourishes that he can endure almost any fatigue or hardship. His spirits and good humour never flag. In every company, squadron, or battery a certain number of the men dance, sing, and play on all sorts of wild-sounding instruments. When marching at ease, these men always come out to the front of their comrades and, without delaying the march, performing their curious antics, and enliven the route with their shrill music. If discipline is measured by the amount of crime Russia yields the palm to no country. Drunkenness exists, but to no great extent. The men are honest and submissive as individuals, to a degree. Two or three prisoners in the morning—and there are rarely more—do not form an excessive allowance for three battalions. And if discipline is measured by the respect shown to officers, here again Russia is nothing behind, for saluting and military attitude in address are never disregarded. Now and again, indeed, it is said that the orthodox cry of Russian soldiery when ordered to perform a special duty "We gladly obey you" ("Ridi staratsyah"), comes out sulkily, or is replaced by a low growl. Yet no positive assertion can be made on this score. Russian soldiers received a suit of uniform per annum, the newest suit being reserved for gala occasions. At the end of the fourth year the suit, or rather what is left of it, becomes the property of the soldier. Companies, squadrons, and batteries make up their own clothing during winter, even to the spinning of the braid.

We can here but briefly touch on the more striking characteristics of the various arms; but first it will be well to glance at the four departments common to all branches of the service—the Ecclesiastical, the Transport, the Commissariat and the Medical. To every regiment and battery is attached a clergyman; and, although attendance at divine service is perfectly voluntary, there are few absentees. The Russian soldier shares the religious character of his countrymen. Few fall in barracks, in camp, or on the march, his image is surrounded by devout worshippers, whose prayers are led by a non-commissioned officer. But it is in solving that most difficult problem of Army Transport that General Milutin has excelled. In Russia it is now managed regimentally. Every squadron of cavalry and every company of infantry has one provision wagon with six days rations. Every regiment of cavalry has one ammunition wagon with thirty rounds for each carbine and twenty for each pistol. Every company of infantry has one ammunition wagon containing forty rounds per man. The wagons are hauled by three horses driven abreast—or by two in times of peace, when also but one company of infantry is maintained. Besides these, each regiment has an orderly room wagon, with lithographing press by which the orders are printed daily; four ambulances, one hospital cart, and one medicine cart; and the first regiment of each division

has a hand wagon, horsed only in time of war. None can tell as yet how the Russian commissariat, which broke down so fatally during the Crimea, will now stand the crucial test of war.

Although the deficiency of medical officers is still very serious, the regulations which govern that department are wise and provident. To provide a due number of surgeons, the Government gives a free education at the Medical University, in return for three years' service in the army when required. In the field, regimental and divisional hospitals are organised; but this is not all. In addition, each squadron, company, or subdivision of two guns, is attended by a trained apothecary, provided with proper medicaments and surgical appliances. Besides this, the officers' servants and unarmed men are taught the leading principles of military surgery, and drilled periodically in the most approved methods of removing the wounded from the field of battle and affording them temporary relief. Moreover, in some regiments the senior surgeon gives occasional lectures to the officers and men on the first steps to be taken when wounded, if skilled assistance is not at hand. It is also in contemplation to provide each man with a roll of lint. The present sanitary condition of the Russian Army is considered to be in all respects satisfactory; but rheumatism and consumption are undoubtedly on the increase, mainly through the poor lodging of the troops. The Guards have barracks, but the troops of the Line are billeted in the peasants' huts, and if there is not sufficient room in one district, in contiguous villages—every regiment being brought together under canvas from May to October. Barracks are about to be erected, it is said, but it must be long ere they exist.

The infantry of the Russian service is undoubtedly the most important arm, not only from its numerical strength, but also from its high state of efficiency. It consists of 188 regiments—of which ten belong to the Guard—with 580 infantry and thirty two rifle battalions. Most regiments consist of three battalions of four companies, and one rifle company. The three rifle companies of a regiment are formed into a battalion in the field. There are four establishments which regulate the strength of a battalion—the war establishment, with 900 rank and file; the augmented peace establishment; and the *cadre* establishment, with 320 rank-and-file. It may also be said that each regiment has a fourth, or reserve battalion—for there is one which bears its number but not its name, and which trains the recruits during the first six months; but it is in every detail quite independent. Although most regiments bear the names of a locality or an illustrious personage, they are quartered quite irrespectively. A company of infantry on the war footing has four officers and 211 non-commissioned officers and men.

The Russian Infantry is at present armed with the Krinck converted rifle, but the Berdan breechloader will shortly be issued to the whole army. The weapons of all, except those of the rifle companies, and eight picked shots per company, whose sights are adjusted to 1200 yards, are only sighted up to 600 yards. The men carry ninety rounds of ammunition, besides which forty rounds are conveyed in the company transport, and sixty more with the artillery reserve. Bayonets always fixed. In spite of the 68lbs, (including three days' provisions) which the Russian foot-soldier has to carry, it is questionable if he has any rival on the march. With their trousers tucked into long boots, the Russian infantry step out

so fast that, once a hundred yards ahead, no walking effort will diminish the distance; and thus they go on, day after day, existing on food upon which English troops would starve. Great attention is paid to gymnastic exercises. Not a barrackroom or a camping ground but is provided with apparatus on which the men practise daily. The bayonet exercise is also much cultivated; and by means of matches and other encouragements, reaches a high point of perfection. When contending parties meet in sham fights, they charge through each other, holding the rifles perpendicularly aloft, to prevent the men falling into a habit of halting before a real charge.

The movements of the Russian infantry are loose, but very rapid. On the march they generally move in column of sections, though fours are also employed. But to make the infantry wholly independent of the other arms, ten men per regiment are annually attached to the artillery, so that there are always eighty men (with eight years' service) available to help that arm in case of need; while eight men per company carry entrenching tools, and have been instructed in throwing up temporary works. Besides, most men can use the hatchet—all wooden buildings in Russia are built with the hatchet alone—and can cook and sew. Therefore, together with the company transport system and bearers of the wounded, a Russian infantry regiment is completely independent of extraneous aid: a state of matters which adds greatly to its efficiency.—*Military Correspondence of the Telegraph.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

TACTICS.

(For the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.)

Should these comments upon the present aspect of military affairs prove—as they must—provokingly inconclusive, the too evident uncertainty and transiency of the tactics of the day, may be referred to in extenuation.

Is it not too generally admitted that the conditions of war have radically changed, at least, to the extent some alarmed Tacticians would insist. No doubt the deadlier effect and far searching range of modern missiles, will imperiously dictate a more distant combat and looser formations for the attack and defence. These conditions naturally demand a discipline that shall develop in the soldier a ready preception of, and prompt seizure of cover. The tenacity and courage with which this advantage is clung to will, I presume, be held to constitute the highest merit in troops. But in this assimilation to the red Indian's mode of warfare, we must be prepared to accept a degree of demoralization in the combatants. Yet so little had the more destructive effect of firearms been able to control the fierce exigencies of actual combat, that the Franco-Prussian war teems with instances suggestive of the *elan* of old times, and with like results. Tactics may lecture upon, and even cite

authentic examples of almost utter annihilation to close formations under fire: but does it make it less inevitable that the *dernier resort*—the charge—must call upon a denser formation than the open file line, and, however short the space traversed in such order, at whatever sacrifice, it must push home to win a stubbornly contested action. This, if it approximate the truth, sounds very ancient, nor is the tone suggestive of a requiem to the manes of exploded systems, that instinctively rest upon principles of "War's last Art," that are immutable. Pardon this discursiveness and *en avant*. There is no reason to dread the present system of drill in the British and Canadian forces does not develop a flexibility competent to most, or conformable to every tactical evolution which theorists dream of, or Feutonic abstraction deems practical. Thus has been touched as briefly, as imperfectly, the salients which constitute, or is likely to become the difference between existing and future tactics. The moral to be deduced from this I fear, heterodoxy, is, that the forces can afford to wait and watch the logic of events with greater equanimity than those that have graduated through the school which produced the practical mobility and stern simplicity of the thin red line.

SABREUR.

New Hamburg, 29th January, 1873.

MONTREAL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

His Excellency the Governor General is spending no idle time here. He is constantly visiting some public institution or another and is making himself deservedly popular.

His Excellency the Governor-General attended by his Secretary, and accompanied by Lieut. Col. Bond and Capt. Barnjum, visited the Sergeants' Mess Room of the 1st or Prince of Wales Rifles, where they were received by Sergt. Major Johnson, who most cordially welcomed His Excellency to their reading room (the only volunteer one it is believed in Canada). His Excellency leisurely inspected the room, looking at the various newspapers and took special notice of the *Belfast Weekly Times*, admired the numerous photographs and engravings with which he expressed himself much pleased, and complimented the non-commissioned officers on their enterprize in getting up such a comfortable and convenient room. The following members were then introduced:—Sergts. Quinn, Porteous, Bruce, Donnelly, Q. M. Sergt. Harman, Sergt. Mallin, Corp'l. Trainer, W. Wilson and others, and after a few minutes' conversation on rifle shooting, His Excellency withdrew.

On Friday His Excellency accompanied by Mr. Hamilton, A. D. C., paid a visit to La Salle d'Asile Nazareth, St. Catherine street. He was received by the Lady Superiors

Sister Robin, Father Rousseau and others. The usual address was presented and read to by His Excellency, who afterwards minutely inspected the building and expressed himself gratified with what he had seen. On Wednesday last the Countess of Dufferin, accompanied by her two children, Viscount Clarendon and Lady Ellen Blackwood, visited the Home and Dumb Institution, where an address of welcome was read by one of the pupils. Her Excellency afterwards passed through the Institution, the internal arrangements of which she appeared to take much interest in.

Col. Martin commanding 6th Battalion gave a sumptuous spread to his officers on Thursday evening, at his residence. The general affairs of the regiment were discussed, and various schemes were ventilated to increase its numbers and promote the interests of the corps.

Amongst other matters discussed, was a proposition to change the regiment, which is infantry, into one of Guards. It was the general opinion that such a course could not but have a beneficial effect, not only in increasing the numbers, but also in being the means of attracting men of the first class in to its ranks.

Perfect harmony prevailed in this respect, but as such a course involved considerable expense and responsibility, the decision was postponed for still further consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Before separating the health of the gallant Colonel, who is on the eve of departing for Europe on business, was then drunk with all honor, together with that of his amiable lady.

The business minutes showed that the affairs of the regiment were in a flourishing condition, and its state and efficiency were causes for congratulation.

In connection with the Montreal High School, there are two companies of cadet volunteers, regularly drilled, properly uniformed and equipped.

One day last week, No. 2 Company paraded on St. James Street, presenting, not the physique of Grenadiers, but of hopeful youths in their early teens. Their uniform is a light grey with dark facings, and Scotch cap. This corps is drilled with the short Enfield rifle. At noon the officers of No. 1, and the men of No. 2 Company were entertained to lunch at the Ottawa Hotel, by their Captain, Master George Cusling. The juvenile commanders clanked their swords with all the airs and pomposity of old troopers.

Thawing.

B.

A Berlin despatch says the new bill for the reorganization of the German army provides for a service of twelve years to be divided into three classes, viz., three years-service with the color regiments, four years in the reserve force and nine years in the Landwehr. By the provisions of the bill the army on a peace footing will number 401,686.

THE DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL-SHIP.

It is believed that the Government will ere long appoint a successor to Lt. Colonel Smith, the Deputy Adjutant general for the Military Division, who is now in command of the troops at Manitoba, and who is not expected to resume his official duties here. No doubt there will be many aspirants for the post; but there is one gentleman whose claims are so pre-eminently ahead of all others, that we do not see how the Ministry—often hedged in as they are by party combinations—can possibly pass him over. We refer, it is almost needless to say, to Lt. Col. Fletcher. For upwards of eleven years past Col. Fletcher has discharged most zealously and successfully—to the satisfaction alike of the Government, the volunteers and the public at large—the duties of Brigade Major of this district. He was appointed at a time when the volunteer movement was in its infancy—when present efficient soldiers and marksmen were unacquainted with the simplest rudiments of military knowledge; and his has been the care and responsibility of enlisting men, organizing corps, reconciling conflicting interests, and encouraging men and officers in the drill room, in the camp, and even on the battle field. For distinguished services rendered during the last Fenian raid, he was personally thanked by Commander of the Forces and by Prince Arthur; and by her Majesty created a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. As a citizen by his courteous demeanor and gentlemanly bearing he has won for himself unexceptional popularity and respect.

None who know Col. Fletcher will deny that there is any exaggeration in the foregoing; yet much as we have said already there are other considerations why he should be selected to succeed Col. Osborne Smith. If seniority counts for anything the place is certainly his due as he has served for a longer period than any other officer on constant duty, in this division. Then he is master of the dates pertaining to the post; he has proved his trustworthiness; and his intimate acquaintance with the whole staff of officers in the division would render his promotion highly acceptable to those with whom he would have most to do.

Much as we should regret to see Col. Fletcher moved from St. Johns, we feel that he has fairly earned the Deputy Adjutant Generalship and sincerely hope he may receive the appointment. —*St. Johns News*.

The *Official Gazette* of St. Petersburg in an article on the movements of Russia in Central Asia contrasts the indifference with which Great Britain views the growth of the United States of North America with the jealousy with which she watches the growth of Russia. The *Gazette* says British journalists are simply besides themselves with anger, and concludes its article by advising the British Government to take no more notice of the progress of Russia, than she does of that of the United States.

The Russian fleet now in the Baltic will soon sail for the Mediterranean.

The cholera has again broken out in a virulent manner at several places in Russia and Hungary.

A valued correspondent in Trenton, sends us the following relative to the funeral of James Cumming:—

The funeral of the late James Cumming took place in Trenton, on Tuesday afternoon. Being a Major in the 49th Battalion, he was buried with military honors. The funeral cortege proceeded from his late residence about half past two, in the following order:—

Firing party, composed of Trenton Battery, Sidney, Stirling, and Belleville Companies of 49th., about 150 men.

Band of 49th Battalion

Detachment of Trenton Battery, as Carriers. Hearse with Coffin covered by Epaigon, cap and sword laid on.

Bearers: Brigade Major Philip, Major Bell, Col. Campbell, Capt. Gordon, Col. Brow. Horse, with boots and spurs reversed led by two Sergeants of Trenton Battery.

Chief mourners.

Members of St. Andrew's Society.

Men in employ of Gilmour & Co.

Citizens.

As the funeral passed through the town the scene was very impressive; the strains of the band playing the "Dead March," the bell tolling, and firing of minute guns brought tears to many. Business was entirely suspended during the time of the funeral—Stores all closed. As the procession reached St. George's Church, it was witnessed by some four or five thousand people. The Church was draped in black. The impressive service of the Church of England was read by the Rev. W. Bleasdel.

After the coffin was lowered into the grave, the Volunteers fired three volleys in the air, the concourse of people was the largest ever seen here.—*Brighton Esq.*, Feb. 7.

The cabinet of the new King of Hawaii is composed, for the most part, of Yankees. Upon taking the oath of office, King Lunalilo made an address, eulogizing the life of the late king, saying that it would be his earnest endeavor to sustain the character of the government in its good reputation with other nations. He said the islands are capable of more improvement than they have ever received. They have capacity enough to make a kingdom which shall command the respect of other nations, as well as to give greater comfort and happiness to a far larger number of people.

Public opinion is in an excited state over the accounts of the atrocious cruelties perpetrated by Khivans, on Russians who have fallen into their hands. The people heartily favor the expedition against Khiva, and demand exemplary punishment.

The Khivan military preparations for campaign are on a grand scale, and are being pushed forward with vigour. The total force will probably number 50,000 men, Princes and others of high rank are volunteering,

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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbranded, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1873.

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 in 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.

The Accounts for Subscriptions to the "Volunteer Review" are now being made out, and will be forwarded by post to each subscriber, and after allowing a reasonable time for settlement, if not paid, the paper will be discontinued and the Accounts placed in Court for collection.

The threatened complications in the East, caused by the advance of Russia towards the frontiers of Afghanistan and the Indian Empire of Great Britain, appears to be the sequence of Whig-Radical pusillanimity and

imbecility in 1870; and if England has yet to fight Russia and Germany and our neighbors over the line, it will be owing to the cowardice and mismanagement of the GLADSTONE-BRIGHT Administration.

Experience has long since shewn that forbearance is the surest way to provoke aggression; and if Lord GRANVILLE had been a man with the heart of PALMERSTON, GORTS CHAKOFF'S insolent message respecting the treaty of Paris would be met by the despatch of an English fleet to the Baltic, in which event we should have heard nothing of aggression in the Valley of the Oxus.

It would appear, however, that the Washington Treaty had exhausted the faith of the GLADSTONE Ministry in arbitration; and if we are to credit their organs, they are far readier to fight than those former Tory administrations whose great crime in the eyes of the Whig Radicals has always been that they watched the interests of Great Britain too closely to take care of their own, and whose ideas of national safety and honour were not measured by cotton bales.

There can be no doubt but the plutocracy of trade will have to look the consequences of a fierce contest for the Empire of India in the face, and that contest brought on at a time when the country is wholly unprepared for it, and practically disarmed, to please the fancies of the commercial class.

India, however, is a prize which they will fight hard to retain, their idea rightly or wrongly being to attribute the advance in material wealth and prosperity, which Great Britain has made within the last century, to her traffic with that dependency; and while the Manchester philosophers could look with complacency on the proposition to cut Canada and the other national colonies adrift, the proposition to hand over India to Russia would elicit universal reprobation from the peace at any-price party.

Yet there are the same reasons as cogent in one case as the other for this line of policy, the difference being on the side of the Colonies that they are peopled by Englishmen and their descendants, while India is peopled by a wholly different race—kept in subjection by the sword, a constant source of anxiety in the event of war, an element to make the issue always doubtful, and enormously expensive. On the other hand, the colonies cost Great Britain nothing. Their trade is open to her people; their resources are at her disposal; in the event of a contest, there can be no doubt as to the side they will take, and they are well able to defend themselves; but Manchester says the profits come from India, and the consequences that follow must be borne.

English Ministerial journals are jubilant over the fact that Mr. GLADSTONE has at last been goaded into energetic action; that our English envoy has held high language to the minister of the Czar (we believe, the same ODO RUSSELL, whose sybil-like utterances

at Berlin were so coolly disavowed by Lord GRENVILLE), and that he announced the intention of the British Government to defend the independence of Afghanistan, whatever that might mean; that Turkey, Italy, France, and Austria, support and approve the action of England, and, in fact, that the Whigs are re-appearing on the stage of European politics in an entirely new character.

It would be some reparation for previous malfeasance if all this could be accepted as an honest, straightforward, manly action; but it is only a preparation for a backdown of the usual character. The Envoy's action will be explained away or disavowed; unmeaning expressions of mutual respect bandied about; and Russia will go on her way rejoicing till she knocks at the gates of Herat. GLADSTONE and his colleagues are preparing the foundation of a very respectable Eastern contest, which they will leave their successors to find their way out of as best they may, and a European complication as well.

While the Whig Radicals are preparing disgrace and disaster, the KAISER sits quietly looking on, ready to let the principals fight it out, and equally ready to take up the conqueror, taking care to make the contest pay for itself. The other parties—the United States—are also quietly watching results, their little game is to realize, and in that they will be successful if they get the chance. It is, however, our business to watch this part of the little game, and checkmate it.

Political affairs just now are in an unsettled and transitory state, and it is not likely they will be improved in any material degree.

The problem of transport has always been one of the most difficult to solve, in connection with the operations of war. In the British service it has become so complicated and split up into so many divisions, each under the care of a separate department, that anything like efficiency is out of the question. It is only necessary to point to the experience afforded by the late autumn manœuvres to show the difficulty of moving some 30,000 troops in the richest country in the world, to prove how impossible it would be to work the same system on the theatre of actual warfare.

We have always contended that the true system would be to make Transport and Commissariat a matter for commanders of battalions to deal with, and to simplify the whole Army Administration by dispensing with the service of civilians altogether. All officers except surgeons and chaplains should hold *combatant* rank, and be in effect qualified to serve in their several capacities of command; all under the rank of commissioned officers to be simply soldiers armed with rifle and bayonet.

It would appear from an article on "Soldiering in Russia," by the military correspondent of the (London) *Telegraph*, that General MILITIN, the Russian Minister of War,

has solved the problem of Transport on the very same conditions which we had pointed out some time ago, and it is decidedly the most simple as well as efficient which could be adopted. Each company of infantry and squadron of cavalry has its own ammunition and provision wagons, and are always fully equipped. If managed by the men of the corps, there will be little chance of any privations being endured; but a good deal will depend on the organization that concentrates the supplies.

In a friendly country, no difficulty will be found in keeping the supply wagons full; but on distant expeditions, a well organized Quarter Master General's Department will always have the centres of supply sufficiently near to the front to prevent any difficulty in feeding the troops.

The whole subject is one of great interest to us, because we have yet to learn the art of feeding large masses of men in the field; and while we should be able to draw largely from the country about where the force was operating, still it should be recalled that the chapter of accidents might place our troops under the necessity of seeking supplies from the depots. General MURKIN'S reform deserves careful studying.

Our neighbors across the lines have been lately much exercised on the question of canal navigation, and have advertised, offering a liberal premium to the fortunate inventor of any form of vessel, with motive power, that would maintain a fair average speed without causing damage to the banks of their long reaches of artificial navigation.

We have seen many ingenious attempts at solving this difficult problem in inland navigation; but for real ingenuity and inventive talent, we are inclined to award the praise to the following expedient, which has been copied from an exchange:—

"Certain parties interested in canal navigation have offered a reward for some kind of motive power which can be applied to canal boats, so that the tow paths and towing can be done away with. We do not profess to have much inventive talent, but it seems to us that the object could be accomplished by placing a mule down in the hold of the boat, and then boring holes for the mule's legs, so that he could walk along the bottom of the canal, and push the boat while his body is inside. Or the mule might be clad in a diver's suit, and be submerged in the canal, towing the boat from beneath with a string nailed to the keel. Or, the canal could be made like an inclined plane, so that the water would run down hill and carry the boat with it. Or the boat might be made like an inclined plane, so that the boat would slide down the canal by itself. Or the mule might be suspended to a balloon, and set up just in advance of the boat, so that he could tow it in the air; and he might hold an open umbrella in his teeth, so that it would act as a sail, and pull the mule while the mule pulled the boat. We charge nothing for these suggestions. They are offered freely in the interest of science."

And we might add one about as valuable as nine tenths of the scientific and mechanical suggestions offered for the same purpose.

The value of the new agent of offensive warfare, the torpedo, may be gathered from the performance of Mr. LAY'S boat as detailed by the United States Army and Navy Journal of the 13th January.

Our contemporary seems to think that such a weapon is more efficacious *offensively* than an iron clad, as it would blow the bottom out of the latter if it only could get alongside. How much rests on that in *ignifera* tantum par ticle!

"The Lay torpedo boat was tried at Newport, R.I., on January 14, to test its ability to run two statute miles. In the run, all trace of it was lost owing to the marine glass used to follow it not being powerful enough. After running 5/8 of a mile, the copper wire which directs the rudder parted, the sulphur used in insulating destroyed its flexibility it is supposed, and its strength having been impaired by use. The breaking of this caused the boat to describe a series of large circles, which motion was maintained until its motive power was shut off from the shore. The total distance run, although not over the prescribed course, was about two miles, which the boat, as we learn, accomplished in twenty minutes and thirty seconds, though it has heretofore run a half mile in three minutes. It uses 130 pounds of gas to the mile, running at the rate of 6 miles an hour and has storage for 640 pounds of gas. After its return on the last trial, the tanks were found to contain one half of the gas placed on board. Mr. Lay, we understand, is about to build a new boat which will, he expects, accomplish better results than the present one, and at the suggestion of Professor Farmer a steel cable will be used on both boats."

ENGLISH theoretical speculators of the JOHN S. MILL, and GOLDWIN SMITH political schools are fond of describing the United States as affording the only existing example of Republican institutions in perfection on a large scale, dashed sometimes, it is true by the qualification that it requires a large amount of *virtue*—whatever that means—in the masses to make the system work harmoniously as a whole.

The same school of philosophers are to a man in favor of the annexation of the Dominion of Canada and the whole of the British possessions in North America to the Model Republic. Indeed their organ, the *Times*, is occasionally so forcibly agitated at the obtuseness of the Canadian mind to take in the blessings so freely offered, and so easily attained, as to be more than impertinent, which in such a well ordered journal is a breach of good manners at the least.

As it happens, however, the Canadians live too near this model of the Manchester school to be in any way blinded by the Brummagem metal of which it is really composed; and chase to work out their own destiny, without in the slightest degree obstructing

their path with the rubbish of an effete and worthless Republicanism.

In order to show our English friends some of the reasons why Canadians decline the alliance, we have only to point out what is now going on in the State of Louisiana to show how little vitality is left in Republicanism, and how constitutional law works in the model institution.

In that State there has been two sets of State legislatures and two Governors, for the last three years; one set and one Governor elected by and for the people, the other maintained by the United States troops, and the *niggers*. Last year the legislature by and for the people was presided over by one Warmouth as Governor; that in the interests of the United States, supported by their troops, under General EMERY, by one Pinchback. This year Warmouth is succeeded by McEnery, and Pinchback by one Kellogg; the inauguration of the rivals taking place on the 13th January. Both legislatures are now engaged in electing senators to the National Congress. Kellogg was inaugurated under the protection of United States troops; McENERY in the presence of the people and with Episcopal benediction. A new question this of constitutional law. The States should send for JOHN BRIGHT and J. S. MILL to settle it. It is what we call here a piece of lawless rascality.

In the next place, as one of the *institutions* of the model, we have the *credit mobilier* swindle, with nothing in common with the celebrated French organization but the name. This Yankee institution was got up by AMES, COOK and the ring engaged in floating off the stock of the Pacific Railways, and a very large proportion of that stock was assigned to members of Congress, the pure and immaculate representatives of the *virtuous* people, for the purpose of securing their votes with the express intention of swindling the aforesaid *virtuous* at the sweet will and pleasure of the ring aforesaid. The extent to which this bribery has been carried is something appalling, the evidence already taken before Congress having barely uncovered the outskirts of the villanous scheme.

And lastly there is the SENATOR-CALDWELL case now before a Congressional Committee—a case unexampled in the annals of wholesale bribery and corruption, fertile as the model always has been in those expedients. Mr. CALDWELL is a recently elected Senator from Kansas, an honor for which he is reported to have paid between sixty and seventy thousand dollars. Being a real smart member, he expected to reimburse himself by selling his sweet voice and support to the *credit mobilier*. The organization of the system under which the model is worked provides for the election of United States Senators by the Legislative Assembly of each State. Well, one of those worthies who represented the *virtuous* in the Kansas Legislature received

\$2,000 because he was poor, changing his vote in favor of CALDWELL, another was released from the obligation of paying his promissory note for \$850 for the same purpose, another got \$1,000, another demanded \$5,000 but the Managing Agent declared he would only give him \$2,500, another got \$1,000, the treasurer of Nemaha County received \$2,000 for the votes of the members of that county, which appears to have been bought *en masse*, a very convenient method indeed. Another fellow had \$7,000 to control the votes of Doniphan County, another was employed to buy votes at \$1,700 a piece, and was to make as much as he could out of the transaction; CARNEY, the original opponent of CALDWELL, retired on consideration of being paid \$15,000 and \$7,000 for helping the latter. Judge SPRUCE "said that the majority of members of whom he heard the prices ranged at \$1,000 *a-head*; he ought to know as he was one of CALDWELL'S agents. Another witness had proposed to sell Judge CROZIER, a friend of CALDWELL'S, *thirteen* votes, and asked the Judge if when he bought a member "he could take a receipt in order to hold him to his bargain." All this was developed in *one day's* evidence, and we commend its study to such of our English friends as may be astonished at the contempt the Canadians feel for Republican institutions, and as a practical reason why they never will adopt them nor suffer their country to be annexed to a nation developing a social system such as that shewn by their own records.

Our worthy neighbors across the lines having beaten their swords and spears into pruning hooks and sickles, and finding the *Kriegs piel* too costly as well as dangerous appear to be settling down to their natural vocation of peddling even in the acquisition of *real estate* to the territories of the Model Republic.

New York famous or infamous, for its *rings* has witnessed the formation of a company of merchant *adventurers* with a *nominal* capital of \$20,000,000 whose professed objects are to acquire territory in the island of Hayti or San Domingo for the purpose of trade, and as we suppose to civilize the *niggers*.

It seems they have succeeded in purchasing from the President of the San Domingo Republic, save the mark the "*bay of Samana* and a cape or peninsula adjoining which a little trouble would make into an island, and thus President Grant's aspirations after the first stepping stone in the annexation of Cuba have been gratified. There can be but little doubt that after the fashion of *rings* in general, the individual members of this company will make a snug little profit out of it and show their patriotism in the meanwhile, but it is a new move (and probably a profitable one or it would not be adopted in the United States) for a nation to farm out its acquisitions by contract and acquire

territory under cover of a mercantile venture.

It is true England set the example of mercantile adventures in the East Indies, but she had not acquired or attempted to acquire any of its territory beforehand, and the policy of acquisition was forced on her by her traders; with the States the latter are very properly made the cat's paw to pluck the chestnuts out of the fire.

If, however, this company succeeds in civilizing the savages of Hayti the gain will be on the side of humanity, although it is quite possible there will be a struggle before they will be allowed to take possession. If we recollect aright a large majority of the people of San Domingo repudiated the action of President BAEZ, when he proposed to cede this very same territory to the President of the United States, and there was an attempted revolution on the occasion.

It has always been a most difficult matter to make foreigners understand the philosophy and workings of the British constitutional system, and it is no libel on European statesmen, or journalists to accuse them of knowing less of the motive power of English diplomacy, than they do of that of the Government of the *Mikado* of Japan; because a people sprung from the same nationality, speaking the same language, and governed by laws founded on the same basis, are precisely in the same condition; with this difference, that with the European it is blindness without the capacity to see; with the Yankee it is blindness because he wont see, or see only through the medium of his own fancies.

The following article from the *Journal de Rome* of the 15th October last, may be almost reckoned a piece of political inspiration, if it were not marred by allusions to our Sovereign of the most unfounded and unwarrantable character, and is singularly like a late article in the *New York Tribune* on Russian complications, and the Eastern question generally. With the difference, the *Journal de Rome* charges the Queen with being the main cause of the policy which has disarmed England, and transformed Prussia into the paramount power in Europe in six months. The *Tribune* lays the blame entirely on the aristocracy as being the great obstacles to England's peaceful progress, and that while they had power, it was employed in meddling unnecessarily with their neighbors progress. While now the power having passed into the hands of the democracy, the people will fight or meddle only when it suits their interests.

In this case both parties are entirely wide of the truth. It is the traders of Great Britain that have, since Lord PALMERSTON'S death, swayed her destinies. *Civis Romanus sum* is of no value to those gentry, because it does not pay, nor would they lift one finger to fight for India, except that they fear

the loss of the markets afforded by a population of 200,000,000 for their wares and the accruing profits; and Her Majesty's family arrangements, or the English aristocracy had as little to do with the imbecile course of English diplomacy in 1860, as Tenterden Steeple had to do with the Goodwin Sands. The whole rests on the shoulders of BRIGHT and the Manchester School, GLADSTONE & Co. being merely their puppets, and their first *faux pas*, the non-interference in the Schleswig Holsten affair; their last, the cowardly surrender to Russia by the very valiant Lord GRENVILLE of the Treaty of Paris.

The following is translated from the *Journal de Rome*, of the 27th Oct. :—

"The situation in which England finds herself placed by her system of foreign policy inspires the *Memorial Diplomatique* with the following observations :

"The foreign cabinets expect, in a future, more or less near, an entire change of front in the foreign policy of England. Such a change of political system, it is generally believed, will be for her but a question of time and events.

"One remembers that under the government of Palmerston and Russell the Foreign Office occupied itself with everything that took place abroad. The British diplomacy was then as arrogant as it was violent. *Civis Romanus sum*, was the motto which it had chosen for its subjects residing abroad, and the diplomatic despatches bore generally the air of a lawyer's letter. Even in England this diplomacy was pronounced 'a meddling and muddling policy.'

"Since that time the reverse has taken place. The *Civis Romanus* has disappeared, and our neighbors have become more modest and less quarrelsome.

"Towards the close of the Palmerston Ministry, England, more than ever, under the influence of the pitiful Manchester School (a school purely materialist), had withdrawn herself from continental affairs. She occupied herself no more with Europe than with the moon.

"Thanks to the egotistical maxims and the narrow-minded proceedings of the statesmen who have succeeded Lord Palmerston, Queen Victoria has been able to practise freely her petty family policy—that policy which has stripped Denmark, deserted the French alliance, abandoned France after Sedan, and changed to the profit only of Prussia, swollen out of all proportion, the system of general balance of power.

"Mr. Disraeli always the courtier to his own sovereign, and but little versed in matters of foreign policy, easily consoled himself and his Tory friends in saying that England was not a European, but rather an Asiatic power. False and puerile distinction, at an epoch when the position of Europe is become eccentric with respect to that of other continents; when everything influences it, even in the most distant part of the world.

"What! because by reason of her geographical position she finds herself placed between Europe and the rest of the world, she wishes no longer to share with us our sentiments and our interests? And Russia? She is equally an eccentric power, and, so to speak, amphibious between two continents. She has not, however, on that account renounced a territorial and political position in the centre of Europe.

"England a *puissance Asiatique*! That power she runs the risk of seeing slip

through her fingers on the first occasion. Almost invariably the maritime nations have succumbed by land. Witness the Republic of Venice. Will she wait indifferently from delay to delay until the catastrophe happens, until the intermeddling countries one after the other, from the Caucasian mountains to the chain of the Himalayas, fall into the hands of the adversary, who without intermission advances towards her most precious possessions? Is that a matter of course? And what a prospect! What would England be after the loss of her magnificent Indian Empire? Scarcely another Holland. Certainly the English policy of the present day, by turns directed by a Princess entirely devoted to family interests, that is to say, Prussia, and by partisans of worn out theories, is neither able to foresee nor to prevent such a catastrophe.

"Completely bewildered after Sedan, England hastened to the Prussian quarters at Versailles, not for the purpose of aiding France, but to provide against new Russian encroachments. But, alas! these dear Prussian relations show always their old Cossack horse, and Lord Odo Russo did not succeed in inducing Bismark to lean very favourably towards the Oriental policy of his (Odo Russell's) country. And even had Prussia the best will in the world, she could not in the East compensate for the loss of so important an alliance as that which England formerly found in the France of Louis Philippe and Napoleon the Third.

"After that failure, but above all since the Berlin interview, in Downing Street, and even at Windsor, the faults of the past are deplored as well as the miscalculations which were discovered at the camp and reviews of Prussia.

"In retaliation for having turned her back on France, the English Government has had the good fortune to make of Prussia a great and glorious nation, and with regard to Russia, to have lost the last chance of arresting her victorious course in Asia.

"In a short space of time England has done the work of ages. Everything has been imprudently, indecently precipitated. Happily for France after all her misfortunes she finds herself on a good side. She is disengaged from the English alliance, and it is England that has abandoned her. Henceforth, in case of need, she will seek on the continent those alliances which she considers the most desirable for her interests."

One of the greatest evils the British Army was afflicted with was the eternal meddling of military tinkers and tailors, a volume a great deal larger than that containing the statutes at large of the Empire could be filled with the ridiculous, and in nine cases out of ten, injurious changes proposed and carried out in the equipment of the British soldier by the military tinker, and in his clothing by the tailor, while volume on volume could be filled with the proposals for change in both by men who never considered the adaptability of the means to the end, and whose knowledge of consequences were generally of the small st.

Our correspondent, "Royal Dragoon," in last week's issue, ably dealt with the efforts of some military tinker and tailor, with respect to cavalry clothing and equipment as detailed by the *Unit & Service Magazine*, and it really requires a practical soldier to

answer those mere theorists who would reduce the uniform of the British Army to the colour and fitness of a school carrier's costume under pretence of utility. We gladly copy the answer of a real soldier to the latest of these innovations

"A Red Soldier" replies to Col. Lutrel for having written to the *Times* suggesting that all troops should be clothed in grey. He says—It must not be forgotten that scarlet is by no means a very visible colour, as a point to shoot at. It is, a prismatic colour, and at a little distance blends into atmosphere directly, and is far less distinct, particularly on a sky line, or at a certain distance, than the dark green coats of the Rifles. Any person of observation who has watched masses of British troops in motion must have remarked this, and still more in the case of skirmishers. I admit grey is still less visible, but we must not forget the experiences of actual war on the matter. We are all familiar with the French regiment of scarlet hussars in the Peninsular War, which got among our people by having been mistaken for a regiment of English cavalry; and those who were at the siege of Sebastopol in 1853 must remember how we were wont to go on trench duty with our grey greatcoats, which ended in the Russians byoneting a trench guard of a certain regiment in their blankets, they having been mistaken for some of our own sentries coming in, and how often men ran the risk of being shot by their own men from the same mistake; and truly in the grey of the morning it was very nearly impossible to detect friend from foe. The result was that all trench guards were ordered to mount duty in scarlet, so that there would be no more fatal mistakes. In the Austro-Prussian war again, General Benedek and his headquarters staff had to fight for their own lives during the retreat on Presburg from Olmutz in consequence of a regiment of Prussian cavalry dressed in white having shown themselves on the line of the Austrian retreat and been taken for Austrian Cuirassiers, which fatal error was only discovered when the Prussian horsemen charged the Austrian batteries, and for the moment captured them. When the Austrian uniform was changed from white after the disasters of 1866, the strong argument used against such a change was the danger likely to accrue from men being dressed in the same colours as most of the other armies in Europe. It is of the utmost importance that the nationality of troops should be easily discerned in action. I therefore beg to express the very strongest objection of changing the scarlet uniform of the British army, or for the introduction of grey in its place. On the contrary, I strongly urge that our cavalry should be clothed in scarlet. We know how difficult it was during the late manoeuvres to detect the difference between the blue cavalry of the opposing armies or to which force they belonged"

THE ALDINE FOR FEBRUARY is in every respect equal to the sanguine expectations excited by the January number of this remarkable periodical, of which each issue appears to be the climax until its successor appears. The opening illustration is a magnificent full page by J. D. Woodward, of Punccheon Run Falls, which is certainly one of the most delightful pictures which it is possible to conceive. Further on, we have three smaller illustrations by the same artist,

the whole being illustrative of an article on Virginia scenery, with especial reference to the Beauties of the Blue Ridge. "Mr. Woodward, as a draughtsman, certainly will rank with Thos Moran, and we shall always regard the specimens of his exquisite taste in landscapes among the foremost attractions which the shrewdness and tact of the publishers offer the patrons of *The Aldine*. "An Attack in the Rear," by J. G. Brown, a snow-balling sketch, is worthy of that eminent artist's reputation, and it is in the exhibition of work from the pencils of the first painters in the country that *The Aldine* is justifying the highest expectations of its friends. "Bust," by Wm. M. Cuy, is a powerful delineation of a catastrophe on the plains, and the correct detail shows that this artist is no novice in the experiences of Western frontier life. The other cuts are all good and of interest scarcely inferior to those we have specially noticed. The literature of the present number leaves nothing to be desired in the way of excellence and variety. It opens with "Ebonez & Elliott," a gossip paper about that manly old poet, by January Searle; a second paper of the same sort is "Delfino Gay Girardin," a translation from the Spanish of Emil Castelar, by Helen S. Conant. The stories are "Over a Cabin Table," by Hiram Rich, and "The Garden of God," by Charlotta Peters. Besides, there are several miscellaneous papers, as "The Old Dominion," apropos to Mr. Woodward's illustrations; "Lingering Superstitions," by Charles Dawson Shunly; "Mosses and Lichens," by W. W. Bailey; "A Castle in the Rhine;" "Snow" and "Poetic Children." Music, Art and Literature receive due attention, this department of *The Aldine* being very ably filled. The Poems are "Peradventure," by Julia C. R. Dorr; "A Tartar Song," by Henry Richards; "Up in the Trees," by John Sydney, and "Bust," by the editor, who evidently believes that some things can be done as well as others. It is written in a dialect which he handles with great skill and power, and will cause a sensation. \$5.00 per year with premium Oil Chromos "Village Bello" and "Crossing the Moor," 15 x 20 inches. James Sutton & Co., Publishers, 58 Maiden Lane, New York.

The schooner *Newtonbroth* arrived at San-diego yesterday, with the rifled cannon and other articles from the wreck of the steamer *Sacramento*, which had already broken up and drifted away when the schooner left.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday, the 8th inst.—

BROCKVILLE, O.—Lt. and Adj. R. T. Steele.	\$6.00
KINGSTON, Ont.—Sergt. Major P. Ryan.	2.00
NEW MARKET, O.—Capt. T. Lloyd.	2.00
OTTAWA, Ont.—Ens. S.P. Shaver.	2.00
PETERBOROUGH, O.—Lt. John Burnham.	4.00
ST. ANNE'S, Ont.—Cornet F. D. Burch.	2.00
WATERDOWN, O.—Paymaster John Glasgow.	2.00
QUEBEC, —Lieut. F. C. Wurtele.	2.00
ST. JOHN'S, Que.—Lt.-Col. John Fletcher.	6.00

Punch indulges in a little good-natured humor in the following lines entitled "The Knight of Belgravia," and which depict the perils of citizen soldiery.

THE KNIGHT OF BELGRAVIE.

"Say Maiden, wilt thou wed with me?
Wilt be a soldier's bride?
And bind thy husband's full-dress sash
Upon his manly side."
"Alas! art thou a soldier too?"
"The Maiden soft," sighed.

"And art thou found in battles front—
O horrid sight! to see!
Waving a broken sword about,
And shouting 'Victory'?"
"Well not exactly that," replied
The Knight of Belgravia.

"Then dost thou teach the poor to know
His left foot from his right;
To march with footstep in-erme?
Ah me! a gruesome sight."
"Well no; not quite so bad as that,"
Exclaimed the gallant Knight.

"Come tell me thou, Sir Knight; if thou
Art neither of these two,
What sort of men dost thou command,
And what is it they do?"
"In truth," the Knight replied, "they are
A somewhat motley crew."

"Some are hard-handed sons of toll;
Some are ineipient fops;
Some walk about in broadcloth coats,
And some in canvas slops,
Some come from factories, and some
From linendrapers' shops,

"But in a natty dress of grey
We meet upon parade;
Mine to denote superior rank,
Bound round with silver braid."
"O, what a lovely uniform!"
Exclaimed th' enraptured Maid.

"Platoon and manual I rehearse,
As oft before I've done,
Out of a little red bound book;
They seem to think it fun;
Some recollect a slight amount,
But most remember none.

"Anon I march them out of town,
To sound of fife and drum,
They bravely march and only halt
When to a 'pub,' they come;
And then they hint they'd like some beer,
And I provide them some.

"That's all sweet Maiden; for my life
Thou'lt ne'er have cause to fear—
The danger's small or none at all;
The duties not severe.
Indeed I seldom go to drill
A dozen times a year.

"My love, if this indeed be true,
That thou has told to me,
I will consent to be thy bride."
So spake the fair Ladye.
'Thou showest comm in sense' remarked
The Knight of Belgravia.

THE BRITISH LINE IN ATTACK, PAST AND FUTURE.

The following is the text of a pamphlet on this interesting subject, by Colonel Gawler, late 52nd Light Infantry, just published by Messrs. Mitchell:—

FUNCTIONS OF INFANTRY.—Infantry possesses two descriptions of force which it may exert against any enemy—viz. *fire force*, and what may be called its *charging force*.

Fire.—The ready development and effective exercise of the former should be the main object of all battle formations. It opens the way to a resort to the latter should the enemy live and wait for it.

The Charge.—The employment, by infantry, of the charge, which is intended to bring its muscular force and weight in contact with an enemy, will now probably be seldom required. It would be absurd, however, to assert that circumstances could never occur to call for its employment. Bodies of determined troops might find themselves within a short distance of each other; failing am-

munition on both sides, surprise, accident, or neglect might bring it about. Firing alone can never settle a battle, and though as a means to an end it should be used to the utmost, the temptation is now so much greater than formerly to spend precious time at long distances, and to blow away ammunition whilst objects are still very indistinct, that it must be impressed upon the soldiers as strongly as ever, that, whenever battle is offered and accepted, close quarters with the enemy is the great desideratum, whether the enemy elects to come to him or he has to go to the enemy. It would manifestly be absurd to sanction the doctrine that if the defender won't quit his position the assailant must not go on, or that if the assailant persists in coming on the defender is bound to leave.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ASSAULT.

Direct Attack—The Important Problem.—The simultaneous turning of both flanks of a position, is "compared to the action of a pair of tongs," or, indeed the turning of one flank, should be as hazardous as ever, unless consummate strategy or good fortune has provided the assailant with enormous odds. The flanks, moreover, might be inaccessible; so that, in considering the offensive, the direct attack is still the important problem in tactics.

What the Assailant may have to encounter.—To discuss fairly and practically the probabilities of success of a proposed formation for the attack upon an enemy in position, the defenders should be accorded credit for the best of everything. What falls short of this will be a gain to the assailant. There will be, therefore, only under consideration the attack upon a formidable enemy, whose position with a clear open front would allow him freely to assume the offensive—an important condition for the complete success of a defensive fight.

"Good troops are not to be driven from their ground by appearances. Superiority of fire, pliability of movement, undisturbed steadiness, and persevering courage are the great grounds for probability of success," whether for attack or defence.

Business of the Assailant.—The business of the assailant may be divided into two parts. The serious part of the attack, or "attack proper," which should extend across a space of, say, 300 or 400 yards in front of the enemy's position, but which must be measured from the time the assailant first comes under fire at any distance under 400 yards; and the "advance to the attack," over ground which the assailant must cross, more or less exposed to fire, before reaching the borders of the space above named.

OLD AND NEW FORMATIONS DISCUSSED.

Heavy Column.—Albuera, Waterloo, and the Alma furnish instances of the fate of heavy columns, whether on the offensive or defensive, when opposed to the fire and charge, or fire only, of steady troops in line, before the days of breech-loaders; the bill of Solferino indeed was carried by deep French columns, but at immense loss. Their fire, not their weight and repeated reinforcements of course prevailed over limited numbers, for the post was advanced and difficult to support, and was moreover turned before it was taken. (See Hamly, 1st Ed., pp. 343.)

Jomini's proposal adopted by the French.—Since the introduction of arms of precision, Jomini, recognizing the importance of a good front of fire, and to diminish to what he considered the utmost the losses which would be inflicted by the enemy's artillery recommended, and the French adopted in

the Italian Campaign of 1859, battalion columns of three divisions each (i.e., a depth of six ranks) at deploying interval, the advance to be covered by skirmishers Hamley, 392.

Von Moltke's Views.—So late as 1865 (i.e., since the adoption of breech loaders by the Prussians) Von Moltke, having described with much force the marked success which attended the employment of the Line by the English at the Alma against the Russian columns, concludes that "the column formation affords the best means of handling troops both in an attack and in an actual fight!" *Arms of Precision* pp. 13 15.

Had the Russians received the English in line well supported, the relative losses, as mentioned by Von Moltke much to our advantage, would not have been so disproportioned. And in that case also we should scarcely have improved our chances by attacking in column.

In the account quoted, Von Moltke certainly describes the superior advantages of the line, but by the inference which he draws he would seem to doubt its practicability with German troops.

German Experiences.—The introduction of breech-loaders since the Crimea (but not since Von Moltke wrote in 1865), is nothing of the mitrailleuse, has still further added to the importance of fire. Breech-loaders being in use on both sides; for the assault of St. Privat, "across open and gently ascending ground," the Prussians formed two lines of columns, covered by skirmishers. "The front of the attack included little more than 2,000 paces, so that there were about ten men to the pace" (i.e., 20,000 men eight ranks deep), deeper therefore than the columns recommended by Jomini before the introduction of breech-loaders.

Having lost nearly 6,000 men in ten minutes, when about 1,500 paces from the enemy, the advance had to be discontinued. This was a sufficient lesson: "the attack in line of columns over open ground was, in spite of the final success (?) of this one marked out as an impossibility, and a useless loss of men and definitely rejected."—*System of Attack* P. I., pp. 17 18.

Recent English Views.—Hamley, though with a seeming affection for the British line, hesitated to oppose the opinions of the French and Jomini as to its impracticability, and finally backed the column with this assertion—"Wellington's battles throw no light upon the question, for his method was to await the attack, and then in turn to attack the repulsed enemy so that his line advanced over a narrow space against a broken enemy," which is tantamount to saying that the Duke of Wellington never fought an offensive battle.

MORAL EFFECT OF REALITY.—The construction of the column, being a head diminished in width in order to lengthen its tail, is a vast reduction of the fire power of a given number of men, which has its fullest development in line.

Physical Power.—Apart from its fire power, the line has a physical superiority over the pent-up forces, even of superior numbers, of the more imposing looking column.

The momentum of a battering ram (the velocity being the same in each case) would be the same, whether used 'broadside on' or endways, only in the one case the blow would be distributed over a large surface, and in the other it would be concentrated on one point. Front for front therefore, in a mere pushing match, the long tail would have the best of it, but though the narrowed space admits of increased weights being directed towards a particular point, the reduction of front renders particularly vulner-

able the tail which supplies the momentum.

But this is only measuring the physical force of troops by pound weight: the fact being that each atom of which a body of men is composed, possesses within itself a force which inanimate matter does not. The line allows the exercise of this force to the full, and is therefore the formation in which both the forces which infantry possesses—viz., fire power and physical force—have their largest development.

Mere weight is dissipated by fire; appearances go for nothing against good troops; and bad troops will certainly yield to realities as readily as the best.

The saying that the greatest numbers at the decisive point win was always only half true. Their formations and management must be such as to admit of the greater numbers using their powers.

OBJECTIONS TO THE LINE.—Continental authorities, followed by some of our own, while acknowledging the power of the line for the defence, and admitting that an advance in that formation would insure the least loss, excused themselves from recognizing it as suitable to the attack, alleging the impracticability of moving a large body of troops in line for any distance in anything like order and urged the mobility of small columns and the superior order in which they could be brought into contact with an enemy. Such writers overlooked the use and mechanism of the line. If their proposed columns were intended to deploy before entering upon the attack proper, well and good. But if that were to be delayed until the stubbornness of the defenders became manifest, the attempt would probably prove abortive, for they being already deployed are in a position to prevent such movements being executed so immediately in their presence. The adoption, under any circumstances of column as a formation of attack against line may be compared to the assailant's presenting himself at the critical point with the bulk of his force tied up in travelling bags,

The object of treating at such length much that is now undisputed, is to show how unsafe it is to pin our faith on the opinion of foreigners. It must be recollected that they followed by some of our own writers, maintained their views with regard to columns (and heavy columns too) up to a very recent date, long after the introduction of arms of precision; indeed, until they were washed away at St. Privat in the blood of 6,000 men. Even then the conviction was not complete until time had allowed reflection. "When at length the news arrived of the brilliant storming of St. Privat by the Prussian Guards—bloody though it was beyond precedent—there seemed to be no longer a doubt that even when opposed to the breech-loaders, the old charging tactics formed the only method of attack calculated to insure victory

The general voice of our own, as well as of the Russian army, rejoiced that the old cherished system of charging in masses, which had been displaced by the breech loader had returned triumphant, and had been reinstated in its proper position" 111—*S. of A. P. I.* pp. 56.

Objectors seem to imagine that it was necessary for the success of the attack in line that, say, twenty battalions, forming a line of nearly four miles, should march up "like a wall," and charge simultaneously. But these are not at all the principles laid down in the "Field Exercises," p. 244, par. 10. The functions for which the line was primarily esteemed according to a Peninsula officer, were its "superiority of fire and pliability of movement; and as to the fact of its em-

ployment in the attack, the following is the testimony of the same authority: "Foreign military writers generally appear to consider it impossible to advance for long distance in line to an attack. With British soldiers and British discipline, the possibility of it was proved over and over again in the *Peninsular War.*" (*Practical Lessons from Crisis of Waterloo*, p. 40.)

METHOD OF USING THE LINE.—In the Duke of Wellington's battles, corps, brigades, or divisions, sufficient for the front to be attacked, marched independently (through keeping up a connexion) by the most suitable routes, well-timed, and in the formation best adapted to the ground they had to traverse always deploying, generally covered by skirmishers, before attacking. Although precision is always the aim, a little waviness in this line, overlapping the error of a few paces, or a few seconds' difference between battalions does not impair the fire, nor diminish the effect of the shock, so long as each unit keeps in good order and engages the enemy in time to maintain the vibration. Although precision must still be strenuously inculcated, the extended range and rapid fire of modern arms render errors of distance, &c. of still less importance.

Abuse of the line.—In practice, the use of the line has also been mistaken whenever it has been marched, unprotected, under fire against an enemy, from beyond charging distance. Unassuming in appearance, it never was a machine to be so flouted before an enemy. It should be jealously protected until the last moment, and produced only when it can be felt. We have instances in India of regiments suffering severely in such parades, and one famous instance of a regiment which was marched in line against a battery; whereas, in the Peninsula a section extended was considered equal to that duty.

SKIRMISHERS AND OPEN ORDER.—The other extreme now to be avoided is the wide spread theory that skirmishers and their supports are sufficient to carry a position against good troops.

Line possesses the greatest "power," as well as the fullest development of physical force, and if it be held that extended formations (both sides being equally armed and courageous) can penetrate it, it would have to be explained what the extension should be—in fact, what inferiority of force and fire must be employed to insure the success of this anomaly. If it be urged that the "skirmisher swarm" would be numerically equal, or even superior (as seems really to be the theory) to the line, then it may be asked, within the same space, what subtle advantage has disorder and diminished control over order, that such happy results should be anticipated?

German Experiences with Open Order.—Field Marshal the Duke of Wurttemberg, under the problem, "it would be impossible however, to entirely avoid attacking on open ground, and to gain the object by turning the flanks alone, particularly in the case of great battles; it was therefore necessary to discover another form of attack," records as a practical solution the method adopted at the taking of Le Burget, 30th October, 1870, and states, "the attack in open order joined to the attack of skirmishers, was from that time adopted as the only efficacious one, and it was strictly forbidden to lead bodies of troops in close order, within a nearer distance of the enemy's fire than 2,000 paces."

But this taking of Le Bourget though exhibiting a very good method (not novel to us) of getting over the ground under a

hot fire as it professes to be, an instance of the success of the loose and open order in a direct attack against good troops in position. It was the attack on an outpost. The object of attack was a village, with garden walls six feet high, loop-holed and prepared for defence, and the entrance barricaded. Very different, therefore, from a position whence an enemy could use his utmost fire power, and then freely resort to the offensive. Moreover so far from its being a direct attack the flanks were (very properly) turned, and it was broken into from the rear.

Causes of Success.—The success of the loose and very extended formations, adopted by the Germans in their attacks on positions at the end of 1870, and beginning of 1871, (*S. of A. P. I.* pp. 37, 38) was certainly owing to the demoralization of the French, and the raw levies which had filled up the gaps in their ill-provided army. Circumstances fully justified the system then adopted by the Germans, but they would scarcely have ventured to adhere to it if they had been called upon to fight the tough warriors of Gravelotte over again.

The success of the loose, though less extended attacks by the Germans on some occasions in the early part of the war was due greatly to their numerical superiority, enabling them frequently to turn one or both flanks, and much to the application by the French of the opposite extreme in endeavouring to repel them. "With daring courage, great activity, and unparalleled élan densely massed groups, starting from behind their cover, threw themselves upon the enemy, interfering by their forward rush with their own riflemen." (*S. of A. P. I.* p. 10.)

Reason of adopting the "Swarm."—As has been already observed, foreign writers, copied by some of our own, advocated deep columns to a very recent date. Jomini tried to make a compromise between the column and the line. Von Molke apparently admired the line, but hesitated to adopt it. The war caught the Germans in their columns, and they got some startling lessons. It was too late to practise the line, or to get their skirmishers better in hand; so, with admirable good sense, they adopted the "skirmisher swarm." Their national enthusiasm being at the highest, and having good discipline, admirable arrangements, first rate strategists, and superior forces, they succeeded. But had they been able to adopt the line, they might have achieved the same with half the numbers, and at considerably less cost of life.

Duties of Skirmishers.—Extended formations (not "swarms") are indispensable to open the attack, cover the approach of the real attack, and to sting the enemy into active resistance. Inferior troops indeed might decamp under the skirmishers' attack, but a well posted line of steady troops lying down (perhaps behind shelter trenches) until the right moment, properly supported, only a due proportion firing, or having perhaps a separate covering of skirmishers, would not be dislodged by loose formations or "swarms," even if backed in addition by the desultory attack of small closed bodies. Against such there must be at hand to back the skirmishers, and to reach the critical point, a body possessing that highest combination of fire power, physical and moral force, and pliability of movement, which the line alone affords.

THE SWARM SYSTEM.—The question at issue now between the "swarm" and any other formation seems to be—

I. The relative ability to maintain, from moral or physical causes, an advance which

shall bring them to the critical point.

2. The relative ability, from the condition in which they reach that point, to corps with an enemy whose order is little, if at all, disturbed, and who has been comparatively little injured by fire.

Dealing first with the last proposition, one is bound to believe that there can be no choice as to which body (allowing that it had once reached the critical point) would have the best chance of success; a line with its highest fire power, its moral and physical force as a closed body, and its pouches full, or the "swarm," whose fire power could not be greater, with its acknowledged inferiority of moral and physical force, and its ammunition more or less expended.

Under the first proposition there can also be no doubt that (the protection from the enemy's fire being supposed equally good in both cases) the superior moral force and controllability of a closed body would enable it to maintain its forward movement and would exercise a moral influence over the skirmishers that covered its advance to do the same, with infinitely more certainty than what must necessarily be the spasmodic and disjointed efforts of "the swarm," whose flagging zeal it is proposed to stimulate by repeated reinforcements, which will add to the numbers exposed, and get more men "but which (the same material and numbers being used) can never make the moral or physical force of a "swarm" equal to that of a closed and well organized body.

It follows then that the "swarm" requires considerably superior numbers to bring its moral and physical force on a level with the line.

Required, therefore, a certain amount of moral and physical force during an advance and at the critical point: no one, it is believed, will be bold enough to contend that superior numbers advancing as a swarm will be exposed to less risk than a smaller number progressing systematically.

(To be Continued)

PRESENTATION TO CAPTAIN PARKS.

(From St. John Telegraph 18th January.)

Last evening the Company of N. B. Engineers under the command of Captain Parks met at the Drill room in the Custom House building, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of drill and inspection, and also to present to their captain a token of their esteem and regard for him. There was a pretty full muster of this company, which numbers some 60 men, and their appearance in their handsome uniforms and busbys was admirable. They were put through various company manoeuvres, which they performed in excellent style, and inspected by the Brigade Major, Lt. Col. Otty who is to send in requisitions for certain additional equipments which they require. Then they were ranged two deep in line, and John Boyd Esq., who had been requested by the company to make the presentation and read the address which accompanied it, came forward. He expressed the great pleasure he felt in such a noble and spontaneous act on the part of the Engineers who showed by it the regard in which they held their commanding officer. By it they did themselves honour as well as Captain Parks, and illustrated the mutual confidence and esteem in which commander and commanded felt for each other. He had great pleasure in complying with the wishes of the Engineers, and handing to Captain Parks, in their name, the very beautiful meerschaum pipe, tobacco pouch, fusee holder and cleaner

which accompanied the address, which he read, as follows:—

SAINT JOHN, Jan. 17, 1873.

To Capt. J. H. Parks New Brunswick Engineers.

We, the members of your company, feeling desirous of making known to you, the high esteem in which you are held by the members of said company, have the pleasure of presenting to you this pipe, not for its intrinsic value alone, but as a token of our esteem for you, as a gentleman, and also as a pledge of our respect for you as our Captain.

May you have the satisfaction, when looking at this pipe, of knowing that our intentions are as pure as the material of which it is composed, and as it deepens in color, so our attachment to you may equally grow deep and lasting: and may we, like this broom, help to clear away any obstacle that may tend to obstruct the friendly feeling which has, hitherto prevailed in the company.

At the end of three years' service we thought that the re-enrollment would fall to the ground, but when we saw the deep interest you took in keeping the company together, nearly every old member re-enrolled, and it had the effect of inducing many new ones to join.

We therefore feel assured that while you receive the aid able and assistances of our respected Lieutenant Perley, there shall be no such word known in our vocabulary as fail.

In the interest you take, and inducements you hold out to your men in target practice, we consider you have no equal.

Our sincere wish and desire is that you may long be spared to enjoy any pleasure this pipe may be the means of affording you.

The pipe is a very beautiful and costly meerschaum mounted with an 18-carat gold ferrule, on which is engraved "Capt. J. H. Parks, N. B. Engineers, from his company."

Capt. Parks, in a brief and appropriate speech thanked the Engineers for their handsome present. It quite took him by surprise, but he said in selecting the gift they had thought of his fondness for the weed. He hoped and believed the harmonious relations which had always existed between the officers and men of his company would continue always.

Three cheers was then given for Capt. Parks and three more for Mr. Boyd, who in returning his thanks for the compliment, stated that he would present a prize to be competed for by the Engineers, for the best rifle target shooting in the company.

This announcement elicited applause after which three cheers were given for Col. Otty, who in responding said that he hoped to see them all at the Brigade camp, performing duty as engineers and as far as lay in his power, he would see that they were provided with tools and the proper equipment necessary for them as engineers.

There was then an adjournment to the Armory, where were displayed the various cups and trophies won by the members of the Company, and what was as much to the purpose, something to put in them, wines and liquors for non-abstainers, and pure water for those who were. The health of the Queen was drunk with all honors, then the health of Capt. Parks, who responded in a very appropriate manner. Then Mr. Boyd's health was given and drunk, that gentleman, replying in his usual genial and witty manner, not omitting a joke at the expense of Col. Otty, whose health he proposed,

for being a bachelor, and whom he accused of 'going a courting,' though the Col. and he had been boys together, which by the way was the theme of a very pretty song which was sung by Mr. Hall.

Col. Otty in responding to the toast in his honor made some practical remarks on the duties of citizen soldiers, and the necessity for obedience and discipline which was the golden link which bound all ranks of the service together as one.

The health of the 62nd Battalion coupled with the name of Capt. Hazen, was then drunk and responded to by that officer in some pleasing remarks in which he expressed his gratification as a volunteer, at seeing so many of the Engineers present, and observing the spirit which animated them on the present occasion.

The prosperity of the press, coupled with the name of the representative of the *Telegraph and Journal* present, was then drunk and duly responded to, after which God save the Queen was sung, and the company separated after a most enjoyable evening. In addition to the speeches made several very fine songs were sung by members of the company. We are pleased to see such evidences of the prosperity and *esprit du corps* of the Engineers as last evening's presentation affords.

The *Invalide Russe* gives an account of the festival of the Knights of St. George, which was celebrated on the 8th instant in the Winter Palace, St. Petersburg, in the presence of the Emperor of Russia, Grand Master of the Order. All the knights who were in the capital, officers of the Guard and of the army and navy, attended, as well as Prince Charles of Prussia, Knight of the 3rd Class. The Emperor left his private apartments at half past one, and, accompanied by the knights, who had assembled in the saloons, proceeded to the Hall of St. George. During the progress of the procession the knights were saluted by the military who were drawn up in the different saloons through which they passed. In the Hall of St. George prayers were said by Monsignor. Isidore, Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Novgorod, beneath the standard of St. George, which were afterwards defiled before the Emperor; after which the ceremonial dinner was served in the galleries to 562 soldiers decorated with the military order. The Emperor gave the toast in their honour, after which the Grand Duke Constantine proposed "The Emperor," a toast which the old soldiers drank with enthusiasm. At six p.m. the Emperor presided at a dinner to the knights, to those who had received golden swords or sabres of honour, and to all the officers decorated with the military order. The number of guests was 350. The Emperor proposed "The Emperor of Germany, the oldest of the Knights of St. George, and all the other Knights." Prince Charles of Prussia then proposed "The Emperor of Russia." After dinner the guests adjourned to the saloon, where the Emperor conversed for some time with several of the Knights of the Order.

The Duc d'Audiffret-Pasquier, President of the Committee of Inquiry into the conditions of the arsenals of France during the late War, had just addressed to the Minister of War a letter informing him that the investigation has been completed, and acknowledging the valuable aid afforded by the 600 military committees whose labors had supplied the materials for such investigation. This letter will be published in the *Journal Officiel* and in the order of the day to the Army.