





# 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. IX.

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No. 8.

### The Volunteer Review

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TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum, strictly in advance.

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VOL. IX.

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### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

In the House of Commons, on Monday the 15th inst., in reply to Mr. Young, Mr. Blackecchio stated "that within the last few weeks a deputation of the leading Menonites in the Province of Ontario had visited Ottawa, and had made a representation that some nine hundred Menonite families were desirous of coming to Canada. These were not so well off as those which had already arrived, and had solicited aid from the Government to the extent of \$100,000, offering to give their personal security for the payment of that amount. The Government had considered the subject and entertained it favourably, and he would say that it was their intention to ask for a vote of \$100,000 for this purpose. He had no doubt that the investment would be a good one, or that the money would be paid to the Government. By this means they would obtain several thousands of the finest class of immigrants."

Mr. Moss has introduced a Bill into the House of Commons for the suppression of gambling houses and the punishment of keepers thereof. It provides that Police Magistrates and Commissioners of Police in cities or towns shall have power to enter any house with force, if necessary, upon it being duly reported that such house is a gambling house.

Mr. DeCosmos has given notice that on Thursday, the 24th inst., he will move that the practice of granting of Divorces by Act of Parliament is, for many reasons, objectionable, and that relief in all matters matrimonial would be best secured by creating a Court in each of the Provinces, with inclusive jurisdiction in matters matrimonial, and with authority, in certain cases, to decree a dissolution of marriage.

The Minister of Militia on Friday evening announced that it was possible Major General Smyth would recommend that instead of annual drill being performed in camp, in future it would be done at head-quarters as camp drill involved a great deal of unnecessary expense.

Mr. DeCosmos will on Monday the 8th of March, move an address to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, praying that in future the Governor Generals of Canada may be selected from the public men of Canada.

On Friday Parliament voted \$40,000 towards the expenditure that will be incurred in representing Canada at the Philadelphia Exhibition in 1876. The sum of \$100,000 was also voted as a loan to the Menonites to enable them to emigrate to Canada.

Captain Anderson, late Superintendent of Indian Affairs, died at Port Hope on the 16th inst., aged ninety six.

Instructions have been issued by the military authorities that all officers calling at the office of the Major General or Adjutant General of Militia, must appear in the uniform of their rank. The Major General and his staff attend their offices in uniform.

The annual meeting of the Lennox and Addington Rifle Association was held at Odessa on Saturday, the 6th inst., the President, Lt.-Col. Fairfield, in the chair. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Lieut. Col. Fairfield, 48th Batt.; 1st Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Watson; 2nd Vice-President, Capt. Hooper, N. B. G. A.; Treasurer, Capt. J. D. Amey, 48th Batt.; Secretary, George McLeod, Adj. 48th Batt. The names of the "Council" for the ensuing year are—Major Patterson, Capt. Murry, Mr. A. P. Booth, Capt. Joyner, Lieut. Mabee, Lieut. Cox, Capt. Perry, J. G. Ross, Lieut. Abrams, N.B.G.A.; Lieut. Amey, Major Campbell, Mr. Escott Salls and Dr. Ross. The "Range Officers" are Captain Fairfield and Lieut. Abrams, N.B.G.A.

Mr. William Molson, President of Molson's Bank, died at his residence at St. Mary's on the 17th, at the advanced age of eighty one years and three months. The deceased was a financier of great ability and distinguished for his public spirit and liberality, especially to the corporation of the McGill University.

The Montreal Star says:—"A curious case of a cat catching small pox from a woman is at hand. The High Constable, while in St. Anne's, below Quebec, the other day, was informed by Dr. Desjardins, of that place, that recently Mme. Bernier, one of his patients, was attacked with small pox, which in her case, assumed an aggravated and very dangerous form. It appears that this good woman was in the habit of sleeping with her cat, which remaining faithful despite her malady, was seized with the loathsome disease, to which it succumbed, while its mistress recovered."

The Montreal Thistle Club played off two rinks each on the 13th inst., for the Governor General's Medal. The score was: Montreal, 41; Ottawa, 23; the former winning by 18 shots.

The Montreal Star of the 17th inst., says: "There is an immense ice jam in the St. Lawrence, that reaches to the second story of the mill at Cedar Rapids. The water has commenced flowing over the country, and much apprehension is felt as the inundations that will occur in the future when the jam gives way."

Late reports from Prince Edward Island states that the whole Island is an immense snow bank, and all kinds of business is at a stand still. Farmers have to use their fences for firewood.

Mr. Eagleson and Mr. J. Metcalfe of Ottawa, have secured the contract from the Militia Department for the supplying of 9,000 suits of uniform, that is, the serge patrol jackets, not tunics. Their tender was the lowest sent in.

Major Leach, Captain of the Irish Rifle Team, has written to Colonel Wingate, that the match for the "All Ireland Challenge Shield," heretofore open to Irish clubs only, will this year be open to American teams but no other foreign nationality. The ranges are to be 1,000 and 1,100 yards, the shield to remain in the country of the winning team until next match.

The United States War Department has ordered rations to be supplied to the sufferers by the grasshopper plague in the Western States.

Lake Erie, in some places, is frozen to the bottom, and fishermen can do nothing.

Instructions have been sent to the British Minister at Madrid to recognize Alfonso as King of Spain.

Dr. Kenealy has been elected to the British Parliament from Stoke-upon-Trent by 2,000 majority.

General Von Moltke is reported seriously ill.

A fire broke out in Port Au Prince, West Indies, on the 11th inst., and was still raging on the 13th inst. Five hundred houses were burned.

Ex-Marshal Bazaine has been grossly insulted by French residents of the town of Santander in Spain.

The British Government are, it is said, about to construct a large dock at Gibraltar. This has long been needed, there being as many as 3,000 large steamers entering the bay every year.

Early in January the villages near Mount Etna, in Sicily, were disturbed by earthquakes, the sure forerunners of volcanic eruptions. On Jan. 8, in a village near Aci Reale, eighth persons were killed by earthquake.

Two Japanese have been in the oil regions of Pennsylvania for some time past studying the oil business in its various branches with a view of manufacturing oil in Japan. They now return to their native country with boilers, engines, and all necessary equipments for oil wells. They also take out practical workmen to assist them in testing the production of oil by sinking wells in the rock.

A bill is under discussion in the Senate at Washington which declares that no constitutional government exists in Louisiana and provides for an election of governor, lieutenant-governor and all other State officers which are to be elected by a vote of the people.

Three iron clad war vessels and 2,000 troops are to be sent to Cuba at an early day.

## Report of Admiral D. D. Porter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 6, 1874.

Sir: In conformity with the regulations and special instructions, I submit herewith my report in regard to naval matters.

The most interesting event to our Navy during the past year was the assembling of the several squadrons in the West Indies, where fleet evolutions were conducted under the command of Rear-Admiral Case.

Perhaps nothing could have occurred more instructive to the officers and men, or better calculated to improve the discipline and efficiency of the service; and if this assembling of vessels could take place oftener, it would be greatly to the advantage of the Navy.

On such occasions a spirit of emulation is awakened among the crews of the different ships, and strangers who witnessed the late evolutions were much impressed with the rapid manner in which raw crews were disciplined and manoeuvred both on shore and afloat.

This may in a great measure be ascribed to the system taught at the Naval Academy, which, if it does not produce practical seamen with the facility of the old method, certainly gives an education that will in the long run make better officers.

I took great pains to keep fully informed of everything that related to the West India fleet, and while well impressed with its personnel, I regret to say that the fleet showed itself very unsuitable for war purposes, either to contend against the improved class of vessels now being constructed by all foreign powers, or to cut up an enemy's commerce.

In the first place, nearly all our ships were of wood, unprovided with improved ordnance, and only one or two having a speed of ten knots. Now, even the heaviest war vessels built in Europe far surpass this speed when fitted for sea.

I need scarcely say that officers of the Navy, who expect to take part in any conflict that may arise between our country and a foreign power, look with anxiety for an improvement in our ships, more particularly since the West India drill made it apparent to the youngest of them that our combined force of vessels was incapable of a successful encounter with a fleet one fourth as large built on modern principles.

Indeed, one such ship as the British iron clad *Invincible* ought to go through a fleet like ours and put the vessels *hors de combat* in a short time, for she could either run them down or destroy them at long range with her heavy rifled guns.

We have no ordnance that would make any impression on such a ship at a distance of over six hundred yards, and no vessels of equal speed in our Navy would be placed under her fire by a prudent commander.

I state facts that are known not only to our own, but to foreign officers who are visiting among us, and who in the performance of their duties transmit such information to their governments. I do not, therefore, consider that I am betraying our weakness, which is already too well known to every nation but ourselves.

Our people are under the impression that we have formidable ships and are incurring large expenditures to maintain a Navy, while in fact we have none of the former, and our expenditures are small when compared with those of other nations who have less extensive coasts and fewer interests at stake, for we are the second commercial country in the world with principles to defend and rights to maintain which are

certainly of more importance than a few millions of dollars.

The disbursement of money for building and equipping vessels of war, instead of being a tax on the people, is really an encouragement to the working classes, enabling them to live while contributing by their skilled labour towards the defence of their country.

When Captain Ericsson built the first monitor for the days of wooden and semi-armored fighting ships were numbered; the great three deckers of Europe were laid up in ordinary, and if foreign nations have since that time constructed wooden war-vessels, they have been fast cruisers, mounting heavy rifled guns, to police the seas and cut up commerce.

After the battle between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* it was evident to experienced naval officers that the monitor system would supersede all others then existing, and foreign nations as well as ourselves went to work to improve upon Ericsson's ideas. The result has been that European nations have built up large ironclad navies, but we have done nothing of importance since the close of our civil war.

When that struggle terminated we had a respectable force of monitors, some of them capable of contending with any vessels afloat, and for a short time we were really in a condition to defend our coasts against a foreign foe. We had also a system of ordnance superior to any other then existing.

These vessels, however, built in a hurry, of timber not thoroughly seasoned, have become unseaworthy, and their guns, though still formidable at close quarters, cannot compete with the heavy rifled ordnance now used abroad.

I many therefore say that our Navy, as compared with others, is like a foot soldier armed with a pistol encountering a mounted man clad in armor and carrying a breech loading rifle. It would be easy to imagine how little chance the man on foot would have should a conflict occur.

Yet the day will come when the men who must lead the Navy into battle will find themselves placed in a position that will require all their professional resources, for they will not be provided with proper means to meet the iron clad ships of other powers.

We have now but six monitors fit for service out of the forty eight which appear on the Navy Register; twenty were long ago condemned as unfit for service.

The available monitors formed part of our West India fleet which lately assembled; but they would have been of little use in a fleet fight on account of their want of speed.

Their turrets and hulls cannot resist the heavy rifled projectiles now in use, and they cannot raise their turrets from their seats in a sea way, for the water would rush in and deluge their holds.

These monitors were built during the late war for a specific purpose, which they amply fulfilled, viz. to operate in smooth water against fortifications and for the defence of harbors. For such service they proved themselves admirably adapted, and their turrets and hulls, well marked with heavy shot, which did no harm showed them practically invulnerable at that time. Possessing the heaviest ordnance then known, they were a match for any single ships afloat; but since they were built 10 or 11 inch plates have been easily perforated by the 11 inch rifle.

The Whitworth muzzle loading 9 inch gun, with a charge of fifty pounds of pow-

der, has fired a shell weighing upwards of 400 pounds through a shield composed of three 5 inch plates of iron, interlaminated with two 5 inch layers of iron concrete, the whole forming a mass of 25 inches thickness, while the 14 inch iron plate has been bored through and through by the 12 inch Krupp gun, with a steel shell, at a distance of 1,080 yards.

Either of the above mentioned guns could perforate the turrets of any of our monitors, while the vessels from which they were fired could remain at a distance where our smooth bore guns could do them no harm.

If such guns could so easily demolish the turret of our monitors, what chance would the latter have against a ship like the *Inflexible*, now building in England?

She is of 11,000 tons of displacement, 8,000 indicated horse power, is to be driven at a speed of fourteen knots by twin screws, and it is understood she is to mount four 81 ton guns, throwing a shot of 1,600 pounds weight.

It is very evident that such a ship, with her 24 inch plates of iron, would receive no damage from one of our monitors, except at very close quarters, a contingency which, with her speed, the *Inflexible* could always avoid.

I mention this vessel as she is of the latest type, with all the most recent improvements; but to my certain knowledge there are upwards of one hundred other iron clad superior to anything we now possess in speed, guns, and armor.

I draw this comparison to show how ill adapted our monitors are to act in concert with a fleet against any vessels carrying heavy rifled ordnance.

When it was proposed to repair the monitors, I examined them to ascertain if they would bear additional iron on their hulls and turrets, with the following result:

Four inches of additional plating around the turrets of the *Passaic* class would weigh 51 tons, and cost about \$22,000, and would bring the vessel down in the water about 4 inches, making the turret 15 inches thick. Eight inches around the turret would weigh about 210,000 pounds, cost about \$14,000, and bring the vessel down 8 inches, making 19 inches of plating.

The plating on the hull of the monitor of which the armor is 6 feet (*Passaic* class) weighs, for a course of 6 feet deep, and 6 inches plating all around the hull, 360 tons (of 2,000 pounds), which would bring the vessel down about 24 inches more in the water, making, with turrets and side armor, 28 inches. This would bring the monitors' decks pretty close to the water, and render it impossible to send them outside a harbor.

But even this weight could not be placed on the monitors; they were not originally built to bear it. Their hulls are too light, and they could ill carry any extra weight beyond what they have at present, except, perhaps, on their turrets.

To increase the thickness of the turrets it is necessary to put on laminated plates, for we have no machinery in this country capable of rolling heavier than 5 or 6 inch plates, and they would not stand 12 inch rifled shot.

Thus you will see that the monitors, with their present batteries, speed, and armour, are in no respect a match for the new style of iron clads with their powerful rifled guns; and it was apparent to myself and to every officer of the West India fleet who have studied the subject that the monitors would have been of little avail if brought in col-

vision with the foreign vessels in Cuban waters.

These are matters that can be thoroughly appreciated only by professional men; and although there is not an officer in our Navy who would hesitate to command such vessels as we have, in time of war, yet naval men feel that they will be compelled to sacrifice life and reputation if ever they go into action with monitors outside a harbor.

To the younger officers, who have not experienced the inconveniences of war, and look upon it merely as a pleasant episode, it matters little in what sort of vessel they go to sea. They accept any situation, and delude themselves with the hope that, no matter what the odds against them, victory will perch upon the banner of the U.S. Navy. But there will be a rude awakening to the actual condition of affairs if we do not follow the example of foreign nations and place our Navy in a proper state for service.

There is not a navy in the world that is not in advance of us as regards ships and guns, and I, in common with the older officers of the service; feel an anxiety on the subject which can only be appreciated by those who have to command fleets and take them into battle.

If called upon at this time to command the naval forces of the United States, in case of hostilities, a position which it is my ambition and by right to fill, I should be put to my wits' end to succeed with such an incongruous set of vessels as we now possess. Prudence would probably recommend that they be shut up in port and no fleet operations attempted with them—sending the wooden vessels abroad singly to do all the damage possible until captured by the enemy; our 50 gun frigates perhaps succumbing to a 2 gun clipper armed with 10 inch rifles, and our smaller cruisers driven off by merchant vessels carrying rifle guns of lesser calibre.

This is no exaggeration. It is simply what will occur when we go to war, and it would be much better to have no navy at all than one like the present, half armed and with only half speed, unless we inform the world that our establishment is only intended for times of peace, and to protect the mission aries against South Sea savages and eastern fanatics.

So different was the speed of the various vessels in the West Indies, during exercises in fleet formations, that considerable difficulty was encountered in getting them in anything like order; and, as far as gaining experience in fleet sailing was concerned, the object could have been better attained by employing the same number of steam launches.

I do not mean to say that the officers derived no benefit from the fleet exercises, since they soon became aware of the inefficiency of their vessels for war purposes, and the first step toward improvement is for a nation to understand its weakness.

Of all the wooden vessels built during the rebellion, but three available ones are left, constructed of unseasoned timber, the best that could be procured at the time. All the others are decayed and laid up, encumbering our yards, or broken to pieces, or sold out of service.

Of the forty eight so called iron clads now on the Navy Register, thirty one can never be of the least use in peace or war, unless sunk as obstructions to channels.

Out of the ninety nine wooden vessels on the list, only thirty nine come properly under the head of "vessels of war," that is, vessels propelled by steam and sails, and carrying efficient guns; and of all these not

one could contend with a foreign ship of equal size. So, in fact, we have only thirty nine wooden ships of war and six monitors, out one of which, the Dictator, has good speed, and she is sadly out of repair.

There were two classes of vessels commenced between 1862 and 1865, the Connecticut and the Congress class, which, had they been built of seasoned timber would have proved themselves efficient with proper batteries. These ships have been severely criticised, but nevertheless have proved good vessels, and had they a little more beam would be remarkably fine ones. They were constructed at a time when we were threatened with foreign interference in our domestic affairs, and answered the purpose of preventing it. They were afterward improved by adding another deck, which enabled them to berth their crews comfortably.

This type of vessel is now being built by the British, with more beam and greater steam power.

But with three exceptions, all our vessels of this class have passed away, those on the stocks being too much decayed ever to be launched.

It will be readily imagined what a terrible scourge vessels like those just mentioned would be to an enemy's commerce in time of war, and it is likely that similar vessels with improved machinery and additional beam will again be introduced into the Navy, for it is certain they were the only ones in the service that proved themselves fast and good sea boats at the same time.

For all that, such ships are only fit to cruise against an enemy's commerce; as for want of resisting power they could never form a part of a line of battle in a fleet fight.

One or two of these vessels took part in the exercises at Key West, but I do not see that they were better adapted for that kind of business than the rest.

You have no doubt a general knowledge of the condition of all the ships in the Navy, but it is not to be expected, in the multiplicity of your duties, that you could be as familiar with the subject as a professional man; I will therefore recapitulate what appears to me to be the state of the several vessels at the present time. Perhaps a clear statement of their condition may induce Congress to do something towards renovating the naval service.

Our largest vessels, the Colorado, Franklin, Wabash, and Minnesota, each mounting about 40 guns and costing in the aggregate nearly four millions of dollars, were built nineteen years ago. With the exception of the Franklin, they have only auxiliary engines, and their average speed does not exceed seven knots, the Franklin alone making nine knots.

They have been frequently repaired and will not stand much more pulling to pieces. It would be cheaper to take their machinery out and use them for receiving ships, building a smaller class of vessels to supply their place.

It is not necessary for a commander in chief of a squadron to have one of these large vessels for a flag ship. He could perform his duties better in a smaller vessel with much less expense to the Government.

For instance, a ship of the Tennessee class can be maintained at one third less expense than the Franklin, and with the addition of an improved battery, would be a much more formidable vessel.

The Connecticut, Antietam, California, Delaware, Java, New York, Iowa, Niagara,

Pennsylvania, and Susquehanna have all gone to decay, only the Tennessee and Florida being in a condition for service. Of the Lancaster class, the Lancaster, now on the coast of Brazil, is so much out of repair that it would be unsafe to send her home, except in summer. She could hardly weather a winter gale. This ship is a slow sailer, and can only be repaired at great expense. Her last repairs were made with unseasoned timber, which has shrunk away from the live oak.

The Brooklyn, Pensacola, Hartford, and Richmond are slow, old fashioned ships, and should be rebuilt on new models and provided with improved machinery and guns, a portion of the latter rifles.

The Severn is worn out, and the Congress and Worcester after their present cruises is up cannot be repaired to advantage, but must be entirely renewed. The Powhatan is a good side wheel vessel with fair speed, and, though not a perfectly efficient cruiser, is still a useful ship of war. The Saranac is an old side wheel vessel, rather slow, and would stand no chance in battle with a ship of the modern type of half her size.

The Alaska, Benicia, Omaha, and Plymouth are fine vessels of their class and approach perfection nearer than any other of our vessels, yet they cannot work their batteries with effect, either because they have not sufficient beam for the guns, or the guns are too long for the beam.

The Lackawanna, Ticonderoga, Canandaigua, Mononghela and Shenandoah are a handy class of vessel, but are without speed. They have been much improved by alterations during the last four years, but no one would now think of building ships on their models.

The Juniata, Ossipee, Iroquois, Kearsarge, Wachusett, Mohican, Tuscarora, and Wyoming are all fair vessels, but need improved machinery and guns. Of the Nantucket, Narragansett, Ashuelot, and Monocacy, the two former are worn out, and the two latter are only fit for surveying duty in Chinese waters.

The Swatara has proved herself a good vessel, and has considerable speed. When the Quinnebaug, Galena, Vandalia, Marion, and the eight new vessels are finished, it is to be hoped they will do as well.

The Kansas class of vessels—six in number—should be rebuilt on new principles, with improved batteries and machinery.

The Frolic, Gettysburg, Tallapoosa, Wasp, Falos, and Despatch, are nothing but despatch vessels; the last named would, in time of war, be the only efficient one.

The seventeen sailing vessels are, with one exception, laid up in ordinary, where they will probably remain until wanted for store and receiving ships, and the four store ships are mostly worn out.

As you are well aware, of our iron clad monitors, the Ajax, Canonicus, Dictator, Mahopac, Manhattan, and Saugus are in good condition as far as they can be made available, and are laid up temporarily in Pensacola; and the Catskill, Jason, Lehigh, Montauk, Nahont, Nantucket, Passaic, and Wyandotto are undergoing repairs to place them in the same condition, which will occupy about ten months.

These vessels might have been made stronger and more impervious to heavy riddled shot, by putting an additional 5 inches of solid plating on their turrets and hulls, but in that case it would have been impossible to send them outside a harbor, and the expense would have been so great that it would have been better to construct new vessels.

A hull to carry so much iron must be very solidly constructed with double bottom and sides, which would add so much to the weight of the above mentioned vessels that they would be liable to sink in smooth water.

Their construction was originally planned by very clever men, and they were never intended for heavy weight, any more than a sloop of the Congress class would suit to carry 11 inch guns in broadside.

Now they can be moved from one port to another, going long distances, through with some risk to the vessels and their crews; but no vessel of the small monitor class, with nothing to prevent the sea breaking completely over her, can be considered a satisfactory sea going ship. Depending, as the monitors do, upon the junction between the turret and the deck being perfectly water tight, when the turret is raised to permit it to revolve, this water tightness no longer exists. Consequently, in a sea way these vessels cannot revolve their turrets and fight their guns.

Besides this, a small monitor of the Passaic class while being deluged in rough weather would have her ventilation affected so as to destroy the health of her officers and men, a most important matter when the necessity of keeping a ship's company in good health is considered. Hence, I am of opinion that the class of vessels above mentioned should be kept entirely for harbor defence.

Of the double turreted monitors, the *Monadnock*, *Miantonomoh*, *Amphitrite*, *Roanoke*, and *Terror*, (really valuable vessels,) want thorough repair, and entire new hulls of iron and new engines. They could not now go with safety from port to port, although intended for sea going vessels, and capable, when in order, of making long voyages. Some of the vessels are now under repairs, and, as they may be converted into fine iron clads, I would recommend that they be altered as follows:

I propose that their hulls be built on the bracket plate arrangement, like the British armour plated vessels, and like the torpedo boat *Alarm*, the latter the first vessel built on this plan in the United States.

This would give these monitors a double bottom and double frames throughout, and would enable them to carry nearly twice the thickness of iron on hull and turrets, or, at least, enough to make them invulnerable against the nine, twelve, and eighteen ton guns generally in use in foreign navies.

If solid oak backing is used the resisting power would be still greater.

These vessels should have engines of great power and simplicity of design, of the compound type, which would enable them to cross the ocean or cruise on our coast in the heaviest weather.

Both the *Monadnock* and the *Miantonomoh* have given evidence of their ability to make long sea voyages with comfort to officers and men, and this kind of vessels would no doubt live in a gale where an ordinary frigate would founder. In the reconstruction of these vessels I would recommend a change in the manner of revolving the turrets, either having them move on balls or rollers, or have high coamings fitted with India rubber packing to reach to the sill of the gun port, for the present system is liable to the objection of water getting in in a sea way. The turrets have also unreliable machinery to raise them, to say nothing of the danger of being completely disabled, while revolving on their pivot, by heavy shot.

Great diversity of opinion has existed in the minds of experienced men with regard

to the best form of fighting ship, and after examining over a hundred different plans of foreign iron clads, I think I am justified in the conclusion that vessels, like the *Monadnock* and *Miantonomoh* are better adapted for protecting our coasts and harbors, and for fighting, than any others yet built.

I have seen the *Monadnock* in all weathers, and riding out heavy gales at anchor on our coast, yet she rode the sea like a duck.

This class of vessel has a fore and aft as well as a broadside fire, and no ship can be considered an efficient fighter unless so constructed.

To make these monitors more enduring against shot, their plating should be solid on the sides and turrets, or each thickness of plate should be at least  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches, the heaviest we are able to roll in this country. The laminated plates upon our vessels during the rebellion were of 1 inch thickness, and adopted from necessity, we having, in the early period of the war, no rolling machines that could turn out heavy plates.

Besides, at that time, the laminated plates were sufficient to resist the enemy's projectiles; but the solid plate has the advantage, inasmuch as so great a weight of iron is not needed when it is used, since experiments prove that a properly rolled 4 inch plate has greater resisting power than 6 inches of laminated plates.

The double turreted monitors, when reconstructed, could be made to carry 20 inch turrets of 5 inch plates, or thicker if they could be obtained. This would bring them down about 9 inches more in the water, and additional draught would also be caused by the side plating, which could be remedied, however, by raising the sides, giving the vessels more free board, and allowing height for larger boilers.

No ship is a complete fighting vessel unless she is able to ram her antagonist, and it will be found in the event of war between two great powers that the fleet possessing the best rams, other things being equal, will win the battle.

In ramming, the crushing process is superior to the piercing, and I would recommend that the bows of our iron clads be made very strong and especially adapted to this purpose.

The present system of naval tactics will serve very well to keep a fleet in order and to concentrate the vessels previous to an action, but when the battle commences and the ships are enveloped in smoke there is an end to order and sailing by flags, and every captain must act on orders previously given or on his own responsibility. It is evident that rams and torpedo vessels will have matters pretty much their own way then, and the more smoke there is the better it will be for them.

It would be impossible for an enemy to avoid rams and torpedo vessels in a dense smoke, unless continually maneuvering for the purpose, thereby breaking up the order of battle.

The decks of our monitors have hitherto been insufficiently protected. Their deck armor should be increased to 3 inches of steel, covered with wood, for being of rather low free board these vessels are liable to damage from plunging shot.

There are a variety of matters to be taken into consideration in the reconstruction of the monitors, for it would be only a waste of money to rebuild them altogether on the plan, with the prospect of their turning out inferior vessels, when so many new improvements can be introduced from plans perfected by foreign powers.

To be Continued.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

POLICE!! POLICE!!!

DEAR SIR,—The North West Mounted Police having monopolized the most part of the speech from the Throne, as well as the lion's share of the militia estimates of last year—and having also been given the post of honor in the field, while the embodied Militia do the police duties in the towns;—it has not unnaturally come to be thought by many, that the whole of the active militia, might with advantage be wiped out of existence, their place to be taken by a police force.

Now "what's in a name" *Shakespeare* says; Canadian wise acres say everything—had the North West police been called cavalry, they would have performed the very same duties, much more efficiently under military discipline, than they have done, and cost the country one third less—but we don't want things well done—we don't want any one who knows anything—what we do want is votes at elections. How many votes can you influence at the House of Commons? that's the way to win the Canadian Victoria Cross.

I clipp from one of the daily Quebec papers the following pertinent letter signed "Economy" which I hope you will publish with this communication.

K. C. B.

To the Editor of the *Mercury*:

SIR,—I was pleased to hear Hon. Mr. Robertson's admission in his Budget Speech that the present cost of our Provincial Police was enormous, still we cannot afford to have the number of men reduced, though reform is much wanted somewhere as regards the cost to the Province. I find that A and B Batteries of Artillery, with a strength of almost 20 officers and 300 men, cost only eighty thousand dollars last year, this includes the maintenance of two bands of music, and 20 horses; while our Provincial Police force, with but 2 officers and less than 100 men; cost upwards of sixty six thousand dollars. Now I do not wish to find fault with the fine body of men who form our Provincial Police, and considering their extra duty, am quite willing to allow them an increase of pay over that of the regular Artilleryman, but certainly not three times its pay and maintenance. The fact is the cost of our police should just be about one half what it is, man for man.

ECONOMY.

It is stated that offers on the part of Her Majesty to confer the Grand Cross of the Bath upon Mr. Thomas Carlyle, and a Baronetcy upon Mr. Alfred Tennyson, have been in each case gratefully declined.

STATIONS OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

Table with columns: REGIMENTS, Head Quarters, Depot. Lists various regiments and their stations across the British Empire.

Table with columns: REGIMENTS, Head Quarters, Depot. Lists regiments and their stations, including Royal Artillery and Garrison and Field Artillery.

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## The Volunteer Review,

AND

### MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1875.

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

MR. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. ENGLISH, of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

The Report of Admiral D. PORTER, on the state of the United States Navy is taken from the *Army and Navy Journal* of 30th January, and is published to show how accurately we understood the changes which experience would effect in naval construction and equipment. We have always held as an article of faith that a return to the old type of wooden vessels was an absolute necessity, as in accordance with true scientific and mechanical principles, and we have here an old experienced seaman deliberately advising the Government of his country to build those of the class and size we have always advocated.

This Report is also valuable as showing the relative position which defensive shore work hold in the defensive operations necessary for the security of a great maritime country in modern days, and it also indicates the necessity of making the mercantile marine subservient to war purposes in so far as their own protection is concerned—a theory which we have long since advocated.

We have to acknowledge the receipt from GEORGE W. CHILDS, Esq., Publisher of the *Public Ledger*, Philadelphia, United States, a beautifully got up *Almanack* for the current year, embracing an almost complete Encyclopedia of valuable information respecting the Government, general state and municipal, of the United States.—Ecclesiastical, social, commercial and kindred topics, as well as comprehensive tables of all the known foreign Governments in the world.

The Almanac was accompanied by a card, four inches by three, on which was photographed sixteen columns (two whole pages) of the *Public Ledger*, and which could be distinctly read with a good magnifying glass.

The enterprising proprietor will please accept our thanks for the useful and artistic treat his liberality has given us.

The following special message of the President of the United States is remarkable at the present time, and foreshadows a dread of complications which may make it necessary for the people of that country to look well to their seaboard defences, because they are wholly without naval protection.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 20.—The President sent the following message to Congress today:—

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

"In my annual Message of December 1st, 1873, while inviting general attention to all recommendations made by the Secretary of War, your special attention was invited to the importance of preparation for war in the armament of our sea coast defence. Proper armament is of vastly more importance than fortifications. The latter can be supplied very speedily for temporary purposes when needed; the former cannot. These views gain increased strength and pertinence as the years roll by. I have now again the honor to call your special attention to the condition of the armament of our fortifications, and the absolute necessity for immediate provision by Congress for the procurement of heavy cannon. The large expenditures required to supply the number of guns for our forts is the strongest argument that can be adduced for a liberal annual appropriation for their gradual accumulation. In time of war such preparation cannot be made. Cannon cannot be purchased in open market, nor manufactured at short notice. They must be the product of years of experienced labour. I herewith enclose copies of a Board of Ordnance Officers on the trial of an eight inch rifle, converted from a ten inch smooth bore, which shows very conclusively an economical means of utilizing these useless smooth bores, making them into eight inch rifles capable of piercing seven inches of iron. The 129 ten inch Rodman guns, should in my opinion, be so utilized, and an appropriation required by the Chief of Ordnance of \$250,000 to commence these conversions is earnestly recommended.

"In his report to his government on the last English Autumn Manœuvres, the German military envoy present, placed the artillery first, the infantry second, and the

cavalry third in respect to efficiency, each to each, in the British army. He placed the artillery second to the German, equal to the Russian, superior to the French, and far before the Austrian. The ground on which he considered they were inferior to the Prussian was that as to materiel they had muzzle loading guns and seemed to work too much "on their own hook," without recourse to supports, to concentration of fire, and general subserviency to the whole idea of attack or defence."

This above paragraph is in striking contrast to the description of the German artillery given in Captain KNOLLER'S, R.A., article in *Blackwood* on the German Autumn Manœuvres, in which that distinguished officer does not hesitate to use the words "slovenly and miserable" as applied to the equipment; and slow in manœuvring with a nervous fear of being outflanked or attacked by infantry and cavalry. As to the merits of the materiel and the vexed question of muzzle loading versus breech-loading, we leave it to the scientists on both sides, and shall always be pleased to find our artillery officers in action able to work on their own hook without supports and not afraid of their communications. It is not the first time British artillery men saved their guns by their swords.

The following paragraph has been going the rounds of the Press—we have taken it from a military contemporary—and while it reflects great credit on the generosity of the United States, affords a cheering testimony to the extreme longevity of the soldier's profession. In no other case that we ever heard of could such numbers of parties survive contests in which they were engaged respectively sixty and one hundred years ago.

"In the United States at the end of the last fiscal year, on the 30th of June, 1874, there were 102,457 army invalid pensioners on the pension roll receiving \$10,055,377 a year; 107,516 army widows and dependent relatives, receiving \$13,537,196; 1,551 navy invalid pensioners, and 1,755 widows and relatives; 17,620 pensioners, survivors of the the war of 1812, and 5,312 widows of the soldiers. The total number of pensioners of all classes on the 30th June, 1874, was 236,241, a decrease of 2,170 during the year; the aggregate annual rate of pensions of all classes was \$26,251,071 10s., a decrease from the preceding year of \$5,615. The roll contains the names of 410 widows and 1 soldier in the Revolutionary War."

A Correspondent ("Old N.C. Officer") having requested that we should publish the "Stations of the British Army," for the information of such of our subscribers as have served therein, we give in this issue the List up to 16th January last, and will in future publish a similar list as often as it is possible for us to do so.

The Germans are determined to have a navy. It is not quite a quarter of a century since they proposed to establish one by

subscription; the idea was laughed at, but *Punch* and others who made themselves merry at the efforts of the visionaries have lived to see the realization of their dreams, as the following paragraph from *Broad Arrow* will prove:—

"The German Navy is steadily progressing on its way to gradual completion as a force corresponding to the marine interests of the developed empire. The ironclad corvette *Hansa* is about to be transferred from Stettin to Kiel, where she is to be fully equipped. The corvette was launched in September, 1872, at Dantzie, where the wooden hull was put together since 1868. The machinery since then has been added at Stettin. On her way to the imperial docks at Kiel the *Hansa* will be accompanied by a new torpedo vessel of larger than usual size, the *Rival*, which has likewise received its machinery at Stettin. The *Rival* has, instead of the ordinary steam engine, a turbine engine, which is considered better adapted to the requirements of a torpedo boat. Two more torpedo boats of the same type, christened by the chief of the Admiralty the *Zephyr* and the *Notus* remain at Stettin. The ironclad frigate *Prussen* is likewise still in the Stettin docks, but her completion is expected in the course of next year. At Kiel the smooth deck corvette *Victoria* has undergone a thorough repair, after which she is about to proceed to Wilhelmshaven. The ironclad frigate *Frederick the Great* will shortly receive her armour, the internal equipment being all but complete.

"The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that strict orders have been issued by the Admiralty that the whole of the expenses incurred in connection with the docking and completion of the ironclad ship *Kaiser*, built by Messrs. Samuda Brothers at Poplar for the German Imperial Navy, are to be borne by Messrs. Samuda, and that no portion whatever will be permitted to be borne by the public, the Admiralty merely granting the use of the dock in which the *Kaiser* is to be placed. According to instructions received at Chatham yesterday, the vessel will arrive at the port in the course of the next few days, and will at once be placed in one of the recently constructed large docks at the extension works, which the workmen have been for some time past preparing for her reception. The workmen who are to be employed on the *Kaiser* during the time she is at Chatham will be specially hired for the purpose and arrangements are being made for their entering and leaving the dockyard by a different gate from that used by the dockyard hands. It seems a little strange that any notice of this kind should have been necessary. How could any rational being have supposed that the British public were to bear any part of the expense of constructing a German ironclad? And what is the meaning of the statement that the Admiralty "merely grants the use of the dock in which the *Kaiser* is to be placed"? Will the Admiralty or any other public department "merely grant" the *Broad Arrow* the use of premises in which to print and publish itself?"

The following sensible letter addressed to the Editor of *Broad Arrow*, and which appeared in the issue of that Journal of the 26th December last, is an illustration of what Lord CARDWELL'S Army "Reorganization Bill" has effected for the rank and file

of the British Army, and explains the reason why recruits are hard to get.

Sir—Much has been said on the subject of desertion from the army, and I cannot but beg you will kindly give publicity to a few remarks from one who has studied the subject for years, and believe the main cause (of course there are a certain class of men who are never contented anywhere) arises from the fact that there is not sufficient inducement for men of ordinary talent to pass twenty-one years of the prime of their existence in the army. Many men (I know I often do) ponder seriously upon what is to become of them at the expiration of their twenty-one years' service. They enlist say, at twenty, their time being completed thirty or forty one; probably ten or twelve years of their service is passed in India, where with the greatest care a soldier can bestow upon himself, his constitution is not what it would have been in his native climate. Thousands whom the climate does not agree with are ruined in health. They have then to commence life as a working man, at the age of at the lowest 41, with the miserable pension (for his twenty-one years of faithful services) of, if a private soldier, from 1s. to 1s. 4d. per day. Is that any inducement for a better class of men to join the ranks and defend their country. How many thousands are there who would gladly adopt the military profession, if they had the prospect of being granted, say, a pension on the same daily rate as they had while serving! how men would push forward for promotion, and exert themselves to obtain the most pay, while serving so as to make the more pension! To increase the pay while serving would, I am positive, do not the slightest good, rather harm. What a man who really means to serve his time wants, is a pension for his old age. Without a doubt the army is underpaid, considering the pension, but if every non-commissioned officer and man be allowed to make the pension at the same daily rate as his pay on completing his twenty-one years, it will be infinitely better than raising the pay. I must admit it would be expensive, and no doubt will find out of the Service few favorers, but would it cost more than our present system? I believe not, for nothing can be more costly than clothing men, and then losing their clothing and all, to say nothing of the expense of keeping them in prison. We are getting deeper into the mire every month. The number of deserters is assuming a dreadful aspect; our military prisons are full, besides the number we have in civil goals, and the class of men we are getting now as recruits, are they anything like what British soldiers ought to be? Honestly speaking, the majority of recruits now enlist are objects who have tried every other pursuit in life and failed, and as a last resource enlist, only to remain in most cases long enough to get fully clothed, and off they go clothes and all, and when again hard up enlist in another regiment. Do for us what thousands do for dumb animals, who have served them faithfully—allow us to enjoy our old days in comfort, not turn us adrift after twenty-one years' faithful service, to work hard for our living. If we do not fail in our duty to our country, why should our country fail in its duty to its defenders? When we have been called upon, no matter how few against how many, when did we ever fail? and if only a fraction of those who went and returned, they brought glory with them, and these are the men who now ask their country to do them justice—nay, beg of them for their own sake, as well as theirs,

and it is to be hoped that voices raised in the ranks will be listened to.

Will some member of Parliament take up the subject and carry it through. It would be something for him to be proud of—the fact of his having been the means of assisting the present disgraceful progress, and to have been the means of making the army a profession worth following.

Apologising for the valuable space I am obliged to occupy with my remarks, I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

PENSION AND NO DESERTION.

*Broad Arrow* of 9th January is accountable for the following paragraph. It shows quite clearly the species of reform which those dear friends of the working man, Mr. GLADSTONE'S colleagues introduced into the navy and army.

Vice-Admiral Sir Walter Tarkenton, K.C.B., has hoisted his flag on board the *Penelope*, Admiral Superintendent of Naval Reserve. In 1868 Sir Walter was removed from his office of Controller by Mr. Childers, who was then busily engaged in his policy of reconstruction, and a "chief of the staff" was appointed in charge. It has not been, however, attended with successful results as the *Globe* remarks:—

"This decision will be most heartily welcomed at every one of those Coastguard stations which dot the shores of Great Britain, for the chief of the staff of the *fiasco* and the system of abolition inaugurated under his rule, are bitterly remembered by many a good old servant of the Crown, who was made acquainted with the meaning of "Liberal" measures by finding himself discharged, before his time of service was completed, on a reduced pension. One of the first matters to which Admiral Tarkenton will have to turn his attention will be to issue a set of intelligible instructions, for so many of the rapid changes introduced by the chief of the staff have been necessarily cancelled or remodelled, that the Coastguard regulations are at this moment little short of a hopeless muddle—a circumstance which by no means tends to efficiency."

The following notice of an incident connected with the 9th Regiment in the British service is taken from *Broad Arrow* of 9th January, and illustrates habits as well as manners in the beginning of this century.

At the period of its occurrence Britain was literally fighting for existence, and we have a couple of talented officers of both services forgetful of the duty they owed their country deliberately shoot each other for a couple of dogs.

"9th (EAST NORFOLK).—The following extract from *Walker's Hibernian Magazine*, April, 1803, may perhaps interest the "East Norfolk" of 1874:—"A duel of a distressing nature has lately occurred; the parties were Lieut. Col. Montgomery, of the 9th Foot, and Capt. Macnamara, late of the *Cerberus* frigate. Col. Montgomery frequently rode a beautiful white Arabian, followed by a favorite Newfoundland dog. Captain Macnamara was also on horseback, followed by a dog. The two dogs quarrelled near the Serpentine, on the grass between the ride and the water. Colonel Montgomery got off his horse to separate them, and, Captain Macnamara's being uppermost, having had the best of the

battle, Colonel Montgomery went up, saying: 'Come off, or I'll knock your brains out.' By this time Captain Macnamara had alighted, and coming up, said, 'If you do, I'll knock your brains out.' Very high and warm words arose, and the parties exchanged addresses. Colonel Montgomery rode away surrounded by about twenty gentlemen, his friends. Captain Macnamara rode after, accompanied by Captain Berry, of the navy, and went into his lodgings, at Blake's Hotel, begging he would appoint time and place. He appointed seven o'clock, on Primrosehill, near Hampstead. They were each remarkably good shots, and it was agreed they should fire at once, by signal. They fired one round. Captain Macnamara's ball entered the right side of Colonel Montgomery's chest and taking a direction towards the left, most probably went immediately through the heart. He instantly fell, but rolled over two or three times, as if in great agony, and groaned. Colonel Montgomery's ball went through Captain Macnamara, entering on the right side. Colonel Montgomery was carried into Chalk Farm, and in about five minutes expired with a gentle sigh. Colonel Montgomery was lieutenant colonel of the 9th Regiment of Foot, son of Sir Robert Montgomery, of Ireland. He was a very handsome, genteel man, about thirty eight, and had fought bravely in the service of his country. In the Dutch expedition, the Russians being put to flight, his regiment was thrown into confusion in retreating in consequence of the Russians falling back on them. At this time a drummer was killed, and Colonel Montgomery took up the drum and beat it himself to rally his men; he himself, standing alone, did rally them, and at their head rendered essential service. On several occasions in Egypt and Malta he distinguished himself by his courage and spirit. He was very inoffensive, extremely good natured, and an agreeable companion. He was honoured by the society of the Prince of Wales, with whom he lived much last summer at Brighton. The Prince of Wales was extremely affected, and shed tears when he heard of his death. Captain Macnamara was indicted for manslaughter. In addressing the jury Mr. Justice Heath said, 'As to all the evidence as to character, however high that may stand, it ought not to influence your verdict; the only province you had is to say whether the deceased did or did not fall from the hand and act of the prisoners own admission before you.' The jury withdrew, and in about twenty minutes returned a verdict of not guilty. Lords Hood, Hotham, Minto, and Nelson gave weight character to Captain Macnamara, the latter saying he knew Captain Macnamara for about nine years, adding, 'As I stand here before God and my country, I never knew or heard that he even gave offence to man, woman or child.'—Correspondent.

"Another addition has been made to the new Mexican Navy by the launch of the sloop *Democrata* from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. J. and G. Rennie, at Greenwich. This ship is the sister vessel to the *Mexico*, built by the same firm, and launched a short time since. Both vessels are of similar dimensions, their length being 140 feet; breadth of beam 26 feet; and depth 15 feet 6 inches, with a mean draft of 11 feet 3 inches, and their tonnage 450 tons B.M. They are constructed on the longitudinal plan of shipbuilding, which gives increased lateral strength. The engines are horizontal, on the compound principle, and of 60-horse

power indicated. The vessels are propelled by a single three-blade screw of 10 feet 6 inches diameter and 12 feet 6 inches pitch. Their armament consists of two 6½-ton Vauvassour muzzle loading guns (firing 100 lb projectiles), placed amidships, and two 20 pounder Vauvassour breech loading guns placed fore and aft. They are schooner rigged, and are equipped in every way equal to the ships of the British Navy. The *Democrata*, as in the case of the *Mexico*, was launched with her machinery fixed on board."

The above paragraph from the *Broad Arrow* of 16th Dec., describes a class of vessel which will bear an important part in any future naval operations—her size draught, and armament, all that can be desired has been attained, and it appears to us that this little *Hornet* is really a more dangerous antagonist than the *Decastation*.

The special correspondent of the *Times of India*, writing from Baroda on the 15th ult., says:—

"Mr. Suter returned to Baroda yesterday to pursue his inquiries into the famous poisoning case. As yet there is nothing discovered beyond what was previously known. The depositions which were taken down by Colonel Phayre are, of course, available, but it is understood that they cannot go for much as evidence. Three persons are in custody—a chowhdar, who has been twenty years in the Residency, and two hamals. This chowhdar, it seems, has his home in the city, and often went there for the night. When he did so he generally did not return to the Residency until nine or ten o'clock, in time for breakfast. On the morning on which the poison was discovered in the glass this man was seen in the dining room at about half-past six. He was also observed to be in conversation with a sowar, who constantly goes backwards and forwards between the city and the Residency, generally as an outrider preceding the Gaekwar's carriage. Almost immediately after the discovery the sowar died suddenly after having gone to dine with one of the Gaekwar's coachmen. This is as far as the evidence goes at present, and it is doubtful whether it would be possible to establish such a *prima facie* case as would justify a trial. The commissioner is assisted by an experienced officer, a Brahmin chief inspector of Ahmedabad, but the fact that the city is not in British territory causes a difficulty in the pursuit of the inquiry. Besides, Mr. Suter's task is rendered more difficult by his not having been called upon till so long after the event. It was unfortunate that Colonel Phayre, the complainant, should have conducted the inquiry in his own case."

A telegram from Calcutta, dated January 11, says:—

"The commissioner of police of Bombay, who investigated the circumstances connected with the attempted poisoning of Col. Phayre, has been summoned by the Viceroy, and is expected to night. He brings the papers and depositions respecting the inquiry. Troops in Bombay have been warned to hold themselves ready to move on Baroda in case of necessity. The Gaekwar's guilt is not yet proved but precautionary measures are deemed advisable."

Any later information on this important matter will be found among our "Occasional Notes."

The second edition of yesterday's *Times*

contained an important telegram from Calcutta. A proclamation issued yesterday stated that evidence had been obtained implicating the Gaekwar of Baroda in the attempt to poison Colonel Phayre. It was, therefore, necessary to suspend him from his government for the purpose of a full inquiry, and for affording him the opportunity to exculpate himself. The viceroy temporarily assumes the administration of the State of Baroda, and delegates the necessary powers to a special commissioner. The government will be conducted as far as possible in accordance with the usages of the country, and the inhabitants are called upon to render obedience to the special commissioner. The native administration will be re-established in such a manner as may be determined upon after the conclusion of the inquiry. The Gaekwar had arrived in the capital and was detained in the residency surgeon's house. A public inquiry will be held before a commission, under the presidency of the Chief Justice of Bengal. The native town of Baroda is occupied by sepoys. The troops of the Gaekwar are quiet. Their general will be held responsible for any disturbance. Everything is quiet at Baroda. A telegram on Tuesday states that the troops in Bombay have been warned to hold themselves ready to move on Baroda in case of necessity.

The above paragraphs give the outlines of a very mysterious piece of business and show by what a tenure we hold our Indian possessions; at any moment war may again put British supremacy in India to the test of the sword.

We publish below a letter addressed to the editor of *Broad Arrow* in which paper it appeared on 16th January.

It is a short history of the way in which the British Army has been dealt with by political economists whose system appears to have been embodied in fleecing the poor for the benefit of the rich; an operation in which they do not seem to have been eminently successful.

Sir.—Recruiting for the army has for some time been a vexed question, and lately a source of uneasiness to the Government. Many and various schemes have been ventilated through military and other papers, but treat the matter in any way, my firm belief is, that the "long" (not unlimited) service system must be fallen back upon.

The unpopularity of the army may be said to have commenced in 1847, when what is termed "Golden's Act," was introduced, i. e., the Short Service Act, although it did not manifest itself for some time afterwards.

The Secretary of State for War, flushed with the press of young men to join the army (which was unquestionably caused by the Irish famine), devised the short service scheme, as a means of abolishing pensions, thus obtaining twelve years' service out of the best of a man's lifetime, and then throwing him adrift on the world to shift for himself, and commence life again.

The intelligence of the class of man from whom our recruits are obtained was not then what it is now; consequently, men joined the army as before, without giving a thought to the trap laid for them by acute financial heads.

The short service scheme was a deeper laid one than was at first apparent; it gave commanding officers the power of dismissing

at pleasure any soldier who did not please him (take the occurrences of the early part of 1857 to wit) the consequence was that the "Service" was rendered execrable, and so far from the men feeling it a punishment to be thus "cast adrift," they were rejoined to get away.

It is very questionable even in a financial point of view, as to whether the State gained one single shilling by this Short Service Act (which, by the way, was unquestionably against the interests of the soldiers), as may be judged by the immense sums paid afterwards to the men to retain their services on the breaking out of the 1857 war in China, and subsequently the Indian Mutiny. It was a penny-wise and pound foolish piece of business all through the piece.

It may be remembered that similar sacrifices had to be made to obtain men during the Crimean war.

Under the "old Act," men who had served and become entitled to pensions, returned to their homes contented, and on pension days "shouldered their crutches," and described to the lads how "battles were won." The idea that only one in twenty lives to enjoy a hard earned pittance never seem to enter the heads of the youths; it was sufficient for them to know that one existed amongst their number.

Now it is quite the reverse; the discharge of short service soldiers sends them to their villages with anything but happy prospects before them in many cases.

Can it therefore be wondered at that young men with martial spirit (and I hope that our young Britons have quite enough of this material in them, to give them a relish under suitable circumstances for the "ups and downs" of a soldier's life), fight shy of the recruiting sergeant.

Then by way of finishing up what "Cobden's Act" had begun, the late Secretary of State's attempt to "Prussianise" this country has pretty nearly brought matters to a crisis.

The proposal to get men to serve for a short period, such as for six years, and at a time when a man has to "cut out" his career, is simply folly, and the consequence is that good men will not enlist, and bad ones desert from one corps in one part of the country, to enlist in another in some other part.

Conscription has some show of fairness about it, as it affects everyone; the recent Enlistment Act has none. The recruiter, be he ever such a genius, cannot at the present day change the minds of young men ("charm he never so wisely"), as of old.

Lord Cardwell has done more to render the army unpopular, I believe, than any of his predecessors; in fact, at this moment it can hardly be said that the army is a profession, but a tax on a certain class.

He has deprived the deserving non commissioned officers of many privileges which they enjoyed before, such as adjutancies of Militia and Volunteer corps (which, by the way, were about the only commissions worth accepting).

A promise was made that a certain number of commissions would fall to their share, on the abolition of the purchase system; but the absurdity of this concession is apparent, unless his lordship can show how an officer married or single can subsist, and keep his position creditably on 5s. 3d. per diem, the salary of a dock labourer, and not nearly as remunerative as that of a staff clerk.

I have served nearly thirty years in the army, and passed through all the grades up

to my present rank, that of a full blown lieutenant, but I would advise any young man to make the army his last resource, if he wishes to make a position, under present conditions.

This advice is the result of thirty years' experience, gained in nearly every part of the world.

If better pay and pension, and also better prospects were held out, a better class of men would be obtained, and the cost to the country would be the same in the end. A certificate, "as of days of yore," of character should be required from the aspirant for military glory, and every man should be made to feel that he was serving in an honourable position, to be dismissed from which would be a *bona fide* loss and disgrace. We would then be able to refuse those waifs of society which the recruiting sergeant is glad to get in any way he can.

Mr. Hardy has it in his power to establish a proper force for the service of the country; and if he would improve the position of the soldiers hundreds would flock to the standard.

A clear comprehensive scheme might be drawn up, and published in the different local papers, that all might be made known and not retort to the miserable circulars at present in use, which the "recruiter" feels ashamed to read to young men, as it only produces mirth at his expense.

RECRUITER.

Dreadful Picture of the Persian Famine.

Statistics will show far more forcibly than could any exercise of the imagination how bitter were the sufferings of the Persians, while the lord of all that fair land of Ivan was spending untold gold in his visit to Europe. Hardly had Dr. Bellew and his English fellow travellers who have told the story left Afghanistan than the signs of the long three years of famine were seen on every hand. Everywhere was deserted houses upon which the curse had laid its malignant hand. The green and beautifully foliated trees, the vineyards and orchards, stood in stark contrast to the misery that reigned around. The highroads were insecure, for the Turcomans had everywhere resumed their old habits of plundering, robbing and murdering. Mes child, out of a population of 45,000, had lost 20,000 inhabitants, who, without offering the slightest resistance, had been marched off to slavery to Khiva and Bokhara, or had perished of hunger. In such numbers did the starving wretches allow themselves to be led to chains for the sake of food, that the gates of the city had to be locked to keep any inhabitants in the city. We give a few of the most fearful examples of misery. Only families remain in Mahabad. Out of 400 in Ghibk, only 250 inhabitants are left. In Kum numbers of families strayed away to look for food where indeed none was to be had. The survivors were too feeble to bury the dead, who exposed, added pestilence to the famine. In Damghan, a telegraphic station east of Teheran, only 200 families remains out of 1,000, and in Teheran itself 200 persons perished weekly of starvation and typhus. The District of Turbert Hardari lost 20,000; the District of Selzwar, 24,000; of Nischapur, at least 20,000; Hamadan lost between 25,000 and 50,000; and in Kermanscha alone 15,000 perished of hunger. On the whole journey from the frontiers of Afghanistan to the Persian capital, Dr. Bellew saw not one child; all were dead. Nowhere was there music, singing, or joy. All was sorrow, death, and misery.

A London correspondent of one of the Provincial papers says:—The *Times* is quietly and silently working out another great newspaper reform. Composing machines are taking the place of compositors, and each daily issue is being printed from new type. Instead of distributing the types used, say, to-day, so that the composing machines may set them up for to-morrow's paper, they are thrown into the melting pot and recast, and transferred to the composing machine. Thus there is no loss of time compared with the old method of hand distribution. Another news office has also a machine for writing manifolds, and it can accomplish this at the rate of eighty words per minute. So far as the *Times* is concerned, this is not strictly correct. The true state of things is, that the Patent Type Founding Company have furnished the proprietors of the *Times* with their Patent Type Casting Machine, which we hear gives them the greatest satisfaction. But rapid as these machines are, every practical man will at once understand that it would require a considerable number of them to supply a "new dress" for the paper every morning. We will neither assert or deny that this is the ultimate object which the managers have in view; but our readers will not fail to recollect that as far back as July last we gave them to understand that a new era in printing was drawing. It was our intention to have given full details of the proposed scheme in our August number, and in fact we had an article in type for that purpose, but owing to a strong desire expressed by the parties interested, it was omitted.

St. Louis, Mo., 5th.—Late advices from Fort Sil, Indian Territory, are that a band of Cheyenne Indians recently attacked a Mexican supply train on the border of New Mexico, and killed all the train men, numbering fifteen or sixteen; and got away with the train, from which it is supposed they obtained arms, ammunition and supplies for a protracted raid. Other bands have been stealing horses from Texas; and it is believed that they have succeeded in recrossing Red River with three or four hundred animals. Still other bands under "Howling Wolf" and "Yellow Horse" are raiding round, and at last accounts were moving toward Red River. General Miles has left Cheyenne Agency in pursuit of them.

The Chicago *Tribune* says, that in that city the severe cold of the present winter has frozen the ground to the depth of nearly seven feet. In many places the water-mains are completely frozen up, necessitating the inauguration of the old system of water-waggons for supplying the citizens. The water-waggons are very largely patronized in some portions of the South and West Divisions, and will probably be continued until March, as it will take to that time for the water-mains to thaw out.

The British steamer *George Batters*, for Gibraltar, is supposed to have been lost with twenty one persons on board.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscriptions to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 20th inst. :—

Belleville, O—Major P. H. Hamby to Jan. '75	\$1.00
Colborne, Ont—Lt. A. Campbell, to Jan. '75	2.00
Cobourg, O—Lt. Col. D'A. E. Boulton, to Jan. '75	6.00
—Major Chas. Gifford, to April '75	4.00
Griersville, —Capt. John Perrett, to Jan. '75	0.50
Port Towan, O—Lt. Col. S. P. Mabee, to Jan. '75	4.00
Port Hope, O— " R. W. Smart, to 1875	5.00

## TAKING THE VAIL.

(From *Tinsley's Magazine*.)

The vail was taken. And her calm pale face,  
Smiled sadly on me as she said good by;  
No quiver on the lip my gaze could trace,  
No tear drop glistened in her young bright  
eye.

'Twas the black vail. And yet I could not see  
Upon that radiant face one sign of sorrow.  
She parted; just as oft she'd said to me,  
"I'll meet you at the same place, dear, to-mor-  
row."

But now the vail was taken. And she said  
With just a thrill of girlish laughter,  
"I can't come out to-morrow; but instead  
"I'll meet you here, dear Charles, the day  
after."

And so the vail was taken. All in vain  
I'd tried upon her bonnet-top to cock it;  
So drew it off, to kiss; ran for the train,  
And took the vail—Jane's vail—home in my  
pocket.

Two hair pins to her chignon fastened it,  
Which very quickly I had disconnected;  
On these incontinent I chanced to sit—  
Then how I took the vail I recollected!

## Our Indian Army.

The correspondent of the *Times*, whose letter on the subject of the Native Army of India has excited so much interest in England, has sent the following additional observations:

"I propose to complete in this letter the remarks I have been making on the state of the Native Army. I have pointed out the vices inherent in the constitution of the Staff Corps, which, in my judgment, renders its abolition an immediate necessity. I pass on now to the not less important question how the native commissioned ranks of the army ought to be filled up. I said in my last letter that, rightly managed, we might obtain in this way a wonderful increase of stability to our rule. This opinion I wish to justify and explain.

"Hitherto, in accordance with the stern democracy of our rule, all promotion in the Native Army has been from the ranks. Every one has been compelled to enlist as a private soldier, has had to work his way painfully through the non-commissioned grades, till, if sufficiently tenacious of existence, he became a native officer when he had one foot in the grave, and every spark of military ardour had been long since quenched. The new army, created in 1857, gave us a far different and better order of native officers. Men of birth and position responded through the Punjab and along the north west frontier to the summons of the British Government. Each man would bring with him twenty or thirty retainers, and engage to enlist the whole provided he was nominated the native officer over them. Such gentlemen thronged in particular to the cavalry regiments. But as soon as the mutiny was quelled we hastened to put ourselves back into the old rut. Promotion is once more from the ranks, and from the ranks only, throughout the whole Native Army. The proper function of the native officer is to be the connecting link between the English officers and the men; standing by virtue of his education, rank, and general intelligence on the same level, or nearly so, as the first, and by virtue of his nationality acting as the medium of interpretation between the English officer and the native private. But how can an illiterate man who enters the service on seven rupees a month, who never from that day receives any edu-

cation, who cannot speak English, discharge, such a part? He cannot; but there is no reason to suppose that a better and higher class of native officers could not do all that is needed. To render the service more attractive to the upper classes the pay of the native officers ought to be increased. This might easily be done by diminishing the number in each regiment, and adding the money thus obtained to the pay of the officers retained. The Lieutenant-Governors and Chief Commissioners of the various Provinces might be empowered to send to the Commander-in-Chief the names of such of the gentry as desired to enter the Service. These, as vacancies occurred, might be taken on probation for a year, and if at the close of that period they were reported on favourably by their commanding officers, they should be enrolled as commissioned officers. The sole preliminary test exacted ought to be a thorough knowledge of English. Without this knowledge there is no hope of any genuine comradeship existing between the Englishmen and the native officers. They pass their lives in different worlds, and are destitute of the means of inter-communication. It is true that the English officer can to a certain extent pass the boundary which divides his world from that of the native; he knows something of Hindostanee, though in general he speaks it villainously; but to make the intercourse either useful or pleasant reciprocity is indispensable. Besides without knowledge of English it is impossible for the native officer to acquire any knowledge of his profession. The details, however, of such a reform may be safely left for consideration until the principle is accepted. It is this that I am anxious to insist upon here. Hitherto, we have allowed the upper classes to languish in obscurity, to ruin their estates, and kill themselves with extravagant living, under the impression that it was dangerous to employ them. This policy, I am convinced, proceeds upon a false view of human nature. Men do not conspire against a Government which gives them a career in life, which treats them with honour, which makes them participators in its own greatness; but they do hate and will conspire against one which excludes them from all these benefits. There is a passage in Count Segur's 'History of the French Invasion of Russia,' which may be very appositely quoted here. Prussia, as it is well known, was compelled to aid this invasion by a contingent of her troops, and this is what Segur tells us of the behaviour of these soldiers:—

"They fought like lions upon all occasions. . . . They expressed themselves anxious to wash out, in the eyes of the French, the shame of their defeat in 1806 to reconquer our esteem, to vanquish in the presence of their conquerors, to prove that their defeat was only attributable to their Government, and that they were worthy of a better fate. . . . In fact, as they were united with the conquerors, and shared the rights of conquest with them, they allowed themselves to be seduced by the all-powerful attraction of being on the side of the victor."

This passage exactly describes the feelings with which the soldiers of the Punjab hastened to take part in the siege of Delhi. The recollection of former defeats had not embittered them against the English; they respected them, and rejoined under such leaders to prove their prowess in the battle-field. When the mutiny was quelled these soldiers were enthusiastically loyal, proud of their own achievements, and proud of

the officers who had led them to victory; a very little warmth and generosity on our part would have bound the Punjab to us for ever. But from England no sign came. There were no special thanks from the Queen to the brave Punjab soldiers who had helped to storm the breaches of Delhi and poured out their blood like water in our cause; no special honours or rewards for the native officers who had led them. To this day not a single Punjabee who fought in the mutiny bears Her Majesty's commission.

"Such, however, as the feeling of the Punjab was, such I am convinced is the feeling (though latent) amid the aristocracy of India. They dislike us because we will not allow them to do anything except dislike us; but they would infinitely rather be permitted to work with us as our friends and associates and recognized servants of the Queen. It is we and not they who have been arrogant and exclusive. At present there are only eight English officers to each regiment; a single severe engagement would be sufficient to sweep away the whole, and it is admitted on all hands that the present native officers are quite incompetent to act independently. The only alternative that remains is either to increase the number of English officers or greatly to improve the quality of the native. The former would involve a great increase in the Army Budget, and may, therefore, be dismissed as impracticable, the latter would be a great political reform, and would cost nothing. No one acquainted with the history of India will deny that there is abundance of military capacity among the people; but at present, in recruiting for the army, we look for it in the wrong places. By compelling every one to commence military life as a private we have limited our choice to a single class, with much the same results as if in Europe, during the Middle Ages, the leaders of the Crusades and the members of the various orders of chivalry had been rigidly debarred from military service, and an army recruited exclusively from the serfs and villains."

Resuming this subject, the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* says:—

"If I recur again to the condition of the Native Army I am aware that I run the risk of wearying your readers. I must ask them to bear with me in consideration of the extraordinary importance of the subject and the not less extraordinary difficulty of attracting attention to it. The last is mainly due to the confusion into which things have fallen since the mutiny. There have been so many changes and counter changes, such repeated partial reconstructions, that independent external criticism has been forced into silence in sheer bewilderment, and criticism from the army itself is not to be had. It is not too much to say that the peace and progressiveness of our Indian empire are inseparably linked to the loyalty of the Native Army. It exists in our midst, either as the strongest guarantee we can have for the stability of our rule, or as a mine charged with explosive materials that at any moment may shatter all our plans to pieces. It certainly is not the first at the present moment, but it might easily be made so. I have in my former letters treated of the officers—English and native; I come now to consider the rank-and-file. The soldiers that compose the present army are, I believe, finer and more effective than any we have ever had. They have been instructed with far greater care; arms of precision are about to be served out to them, and they are diligently drilled in the knowledge and use of them. Men from

the Punjab and the North West frontier are the preponderating element in the Native Army, and these territories form, without doubt, the finest recruiting ground in India. A finer soldier than a Sikh, better behaved in time of peace, braver, more faithful, and more enduring in time of war, there is not in any country in the world. But the better the materials of which the Native Army is composed the more need is there to keep a strict watch over its discipline and loyalty. A brave, well instructed soldier makes, of course, the most formidable mutineer. Now I do not mean to say that there is at this moment any active spirit of disaffection working in the army. I know nothing about that. The danger is that, should such a spirit spring up anywhere, the army is so constituted that we could not hinder its spread through its whole extent. There are two ways in which we can construct the army. We can make each regiment a miniature representation of the different races that people the empire—one company Punjabees, another Afghans, a third Hindostanees, and so on. This, or rather something similar to this, was the constitution of the old Sepoy Army, and the consequence was that by constant association all the national and religious angularities of the different races were rubbed away. The Mahomedan adopted Hindo habits; the Hindoo worshipped at Mahomedan shrines; and both flung themselves as one man into the conflict against the British Government. The difference in religion had ceased to act as a non conductor from one to the other. The other method is to divide the army into divisions, recruited from particular nationalities. The experience of the mutiny shows that our safety lies in this. The Punjab regiments, constituting as they did a distinct force, having traditions and interests of its own, held true to us when the Sepoy regiments were breaking up in every direction; and similar lines of division enabled us to check the spread of mutiny to Madras and Bombay. Since that time every officer of experience has counselled that this principle be made the basis on which to construct the Native Army. I give the names of a few—Sir Neville Chamberlain, Sir Herbert Edwards, Lord Sandhurst, General Thesiger (late adjutant general of the army), Brigadier-General Wright (late deputy adjutant general), and Colonel Chesney, the author of "Indian Polity," in which work, I ought to say, the advantages of this principle are drawn out and commented on at length. Yet in the face of this wonderful consensus of opinion—I can remember no single problem in Indian politics where a like unanimity is to be found—the army is recruited on the principle that prevailed in the old Sepoy Army, and which broke down with such disastrous results in 1857. The endeavour is to make each regiment in the Bengal Army a microcosm of the whole Presidency, and the consequence is that we can never even guess how far disaffection spreads. This was the case when the Kooka Insurrection broke out some years ago. As it turned out, this was only an isolated outbreak, attended with no ulterior consequences. But there was at that time a very uneasy spirit prevalent in the Punjab. The people, it was known, were dissatisfied at the neglect with which their services in the mutiny had been treated, and for a time the Government of India was seriously alarmed. Perhaps, for all they knew, the army might be tainted with a similar fanaticism; and, as in almost every regiment on the Bengal side there were some Sikhs, they could not judge when the next explosion would occur, or to what extent other creeds and castes

might have made common cause with them. The advantages of the other methods of organization are thus set forth by Lord Sandhurst. He writes,—

"As the Supreme Government found it necessary to divide the immensely swollen Presidency of Bengal into three governments to insure the reality and limitation of local authority, so I believe it to be necessary to divide the Bengal Army into three *corps d'armee* for the maintenance of discipline and of personal command. Had the army of Bengal been so divided before 1857, it admits of a doubt whether the mutiny of one portion of it would have entailed the spread of disorder throughout other corps. Our experience of the manner in which it was possible to hold the Madras and Bombay Armies together in spite of the example and propaganda to which they were exposed seems to show that safety would have been found in that division of commands and *corps d'armee* which has now been recommended.

"The fact is that the motive to loyalty and good faith arises as a national consequence from the constitution of a provincial *corps d'armee*. Such a force officered and composed of men whose families are engaged in the production of wealth, either as agriculturists or traders in the towns and country around them, and who must be the first and heaviest sufferers in case the army declared war against Government, has the strongest of all inducements to remain at peace, because it is virtually their own interest and fortunes that are placed in jeopardy by the anarchy of a mutiny. Moreover every provincial army would act as a counterpoise to every other. Say the Punjab force mutinied; it would not plunder its own towns and villages. It would attempt that work in some neighbouring province. But there the troops, however little they cared for Government, would not allow their own relatives and friends to be killed while they stood passively by, or made common cause with the killers.

"Let me now sum up what I have been saying in this and my three preceding letters. The present Native Army in Bengal is composed of admirable materials, but from lack of proper organization it is sinking into a state of inefficiency. There is absolutely no doubt about this. I have talked with officers of every degree of age and experience; the remedies they proposed to apply of course differed, but I never met one who was not completely convinced that the army as it exists at present stands in need of thorough reconstruction. And it must be remembered that on such a question as this special weight attaches to the convictions of men in personal contact with native troops as regimental officers. The decay of efficiency in an army is like the progress of some insidious disease in the human frame. The sufferer can trace its growth by indications by which he alone is capable to see and feel. Happily, in the present instance the remedies are all at hand and easily applicable. It is necessary to restore to the English officers the confidence of security and the encouragement of hope, without which it is idle to suppose you will get zealous and efficient servants of the State. It is necessary to improve the quality of the native officers, and the only conceivable method of accomplishing this is to attract into the army the gentry of India. There is no class that possesses both the military spirit and the means of educating itself, but so long as we insist that all promotion must originate from the ranks we do by our own act exclude it from the army. Lastly, we

must give up the system of recruiting which broke down in 1857, and adopt the principle of provincial armies, which has been repeatedly urged upon the Government by so many eminent authorities.

"I cannot refrain from fortifying all that I have said by extracts from the letters written by Sir Henry Lawrence. Sir Henry was one of the few eminent Indian officials—at least in modern days—who have had sufficient breadth of view and imaginative sympathy to be able to look at our rule as it strikes a native. This was the cause of his quarrels with Lord Dalhousie. Lord Dalhousie was an imperious, hard headed man, with enormous powers of work, but utterly incapable of understanding the sensitive mental organization of the Oriental, or the important part which the imagination plays in his scheme of life. Sir Henry Lawrence understood this as hardly any Indian statesman has done except Sir James Outram, Elphinstone, Munroe, and Malcolm, and his official life may be said to have been one passionate endeavor to get some scope and breathing space for Indian ability and Indian ambition to exert and develop itself. The following are the extracts I have referred to—the italics are my own. In 1853 Sir Henry writes to Lord Hardinge as follows:—

"The native army wants reform even more than the native civil branch. *It is not too much to expect from human nature that men should, under all circumstances, be faithful in an army.* . . . *wherein the highest attainable rank is that of a subahdar major or resaldar?* No doubt the service is an excellent one for ninety nine men out of every hundred, but we sadly want an outlet for the one bolder and more ambitious spirit which *must* exist in every hundred; and for want of this legitimate outlet we may some day meet with a great catastrophe, or be content to go on with a system that *does not* get out of a native army half what might be got. *I cannot perceive the danger of making subrdars and jamadars of irregular corps captains and lieutenants. They virtually are such but without the pay. Let the army be officered (regimentally) by three or by one European officer, so as to give openings for adjutant or second in command; or even of commander occasionally to natives.* Such a scheme may appear over liberal, because we have hitherto gone on a different system; but how we have gone on, and how nearly we have more than once been extinguished your lordship knows.

"Again he writes to Lord Canning in 1857:—

"We measure too much by English rules, and expect, contrary to experience, that the energetic and aspiring among immense military masses should like our dead level and our arrogation to ourselves, *even when we are notorious imbeciles* of all authority and all emolument. . . . Unless we treat natives, and especially *native soldiers*, as *having much the same feelings, the same ambition, the same perception of ability and imbecility as ourselves, we shall never be safe.*

"These wise and weighty words were written about twenty years ago. The truth of them is obvious, but they have borne no fruit. We are joggling along contentedly in the ancient ruts, and not even the warnings of 1857, delivered one would think with sufficient emphasis, have availed to startle us out of our optimism, which is not more unjust to the people we rule than detrimental to ourselves."

Our Indian Tribes.

It is a subject for sincere congratulation to the people of this country that the Indian tribes of the Dominion are so well contented with their lot, and that their affection for the reigning Sovereign and thorough loyalty to the British rule are so unmistakably manifest. This happy condition of things presents a marked contrast to the existing state of Indian affairs across the border, where it has now become impossible for the Pale face and Redskin to live amicably together, where extermination by an organized system of cruelty and slaughter, is the acknowledged policy of the nation, and which is in turn met by hatred, and, when he has the opportunity of showing it, revenge on the part of the Red Man. We have not far to look for the causes which have produced such vastly different results; they are to be found in the policies pursued by the respective Governments. Britain has proclaimed the equality of all her subjects and the right of every one of them to receive justice and fair play. The United States, in theory, has acknowledged the same, but in its dealings with the Indian has entirely ignored it. Instead of good faith there has on its part been deceit and treachery; in place of kindness to the weaker there has been cruelty and meanness; where pity might have been expected nothing but inhumanity and oppression have been practiced. Britain, on the other hand, has been generous and kind, faithful in the carrying out of treaties, and has in all respects treated the Indian as a man.

We have been led to the consideration of this question by the statements of a gentleman intimately acquainted with the character and peculiarities of almost every tribe in the Dominion—we refer to the Rev. G. O. McDougall. It is a fact worthy of particular note that since the British flag was planted on the heights of Quebec not a single conflict has occurred between the Indians and the inhabitants of Canada.

As an illustration of the esteem in which our flag is held by the Indians of the plains, and with what immunity from danger those known to be British subjects may pass from "Ocean to Ocean," Mr. Macdougall states that in proceeding from Montana to his home on the Canadian side of the line he and his party reached a point near to where a band of warlike Indians was encamped; an American frontiersman, whom they met warned them of their danger, and advised them to seek protection with the party to which he belonged. On consideration Mr. Macdougall decided to proceed and boldly enter the Indian encampment, being convinced that were he to accept the offer of protection he would thereby identify himself with the party in question, who were known to the Indians as their enemies. On reaching the near vicinity of the camp Mr. Macdougall and his companions were received by movements unmistakably hostile. Several warriors, fully armed, and evidently bent on mischief, swept down upon them. Mr. Macdougall having a small Union Jack in his possession, immediately unfurled it and held it aloft; it being small, however, the warriors did not observe its nationality, which, Mr. Macdougall perceiving, shouted, "there are no stars upon it." This fact was noted, and no sooner was it observed than their demeanor changed, and at once friendly greetings, and the offer of hospitality were extended.

We trust that nothing will occur to change the current of the Red Man's love and regard for Britain and Canada. Nothing

will occur if the same upright and truthful course be pursued in the future that in the past has worked so well and borne such valuable fruit.—Belleville Intelligencer.

American Rifles at Wimbledon.

(From Forest and Stream)

The impression created on the Irish riflemen during their visit here may be readily inferred from the interest they have taken in the Amateur Club. They have already made preparations to receive their American rivals and friends at Wimbledon during the great shooting festival, but more than that knowing that under the Wimbledon rules our riflemen would not be allowed to compete, as they use a rifle of 44 calibre instead of 45, as the former demand, they opened a correspondence with Capt. Mildmay, Secretary of the Wimbledon Association, and explained the fact to him, and he was kind enough to have the rule rescinded, so that our "team" can now show their power with the American breech loader. An important fact for our men to consider, were it not already understood, is the breech loaders will not be allowed to be loaded from the muzzle, it being considered a violation of the principles on which they are made. This, however, is a matter of small moment, as it was only done in an exceptional case here. The action of the Irish team in preparing the way for their American rivals and friends may be deduced from the letter of Mr. Rigby, which we append, as well as the response of Capt. Mildmay to his note of inquiry. Our riflemen are certainly under a marked obligation to Mr. Rigby for the personal interest and effort he has taken in the matter:—

DUNELM, Dec. 30, 1874

Editor Forest and Stream:

During my stay in New York I became aware that almost all the American rifles used at Creedmoor were of a calibre smaller than the limit prescribed by the rules of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain, and that consequently American riflemen visiting England would be unable to use their own rifles in the competition at Wimbledon. Immediately on my return, I wrote to the Council at London, representing this fact, and suggesting that the rule limiting the calibre might be altered. I took occasion at the same time to put another question, viz: whether in a competition open only to any breech loading rifle, it would be permitted to a competitor to load through the muzzle. This was the subject of an undecided protest under consideration of your National Rifle Association at the time. I received the following reply to those questions:—

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION,  
No. 12 Pall Mall, East,  
December 9th 1874.

MY DEAR SIR.—In reply to your letter of the 18th ult., which I submitted to the Council of the 4th inst., I am directed to state—1st. That it would not be permitted to a competitor to load his rifle in the manner described by you, viz., "inserting an empty cartridge case, closing the breech, and then loading through the muzzle." 2nd. The limitation of the minimum calibre .450 in "any rifles" will no longer be enforced.

Believe me, yours truly,  
E. ST. JOHN MILDWAY,  
Secretary N. R. A.

I think the Council of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain have shown good judgment in their decisions on both points, and am Sir, yours faithfully,  
JOHN RIGBY.

Shocking Accident.

GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION IN THE BAY—FOUR MEN INSTANTLY KILLED.  
[From the New York Herald.]

A shocking accident occurred yesterday afternoon, about one o'clock, on a small island in the bay, adjoining the Jersey shore, known as "Black Tom." This island was constructed about seven years ago by driving piles and filling in with stone. The street rubbish and garbage of New York were dumped thereon. Two years after its construction a nitro glycerine factory was built on it, and shortly afterwards a powder factory was erected. In the latter a large quantity of powder has been recently stored. About one o'clock yesterday afternoon a dense volume of smoke was seen issuing from the powder factory, accompanied by a half stifled explosion. No attention was paid to it at the time, but half an hour afterward some of the men employed in the nitro glycerine factory went over to ascertain whether anything was wrong. Not one of the four men who had been employed therein could be seen. Search was made, and the bodies of three of the men were found horribly burned. The names of the men were James Laverly, of Lafayette; Alfred Hopkins, of Hoboken; George Brown, No. 339 Sixth street, Jersey City, and William Lowe, of Brooklyn. One of the men was missing. It was observed that after the accident took place a man was seen rowing off from the island, and before he had proceeded far the boat capsized and the man was drowned. It is supposed that one of the men was smoking, when a spark fell on some powder which was lying on the floor, and the men were burned to death. The bodies were blackened and fearfully scorched. Sergeant Smith, of the Fourth precinct station, went out to the place about six o'clock in the evening, no intimation having been previously given of the occurrence. When he returned he despatched officers Ray, Lumberger and Blanchard to the island to bring the bodies ashore, but up to a late hour they had not returned. The powder factory belonged to Mr. G. Warren, who resides at the Kaiser Hotel, Lafayette. The building was not damaged.

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We have cultivated the JAPANESE PEA the past season on a small scale, and we are convinced they are a perfect success. Their yield was enormous. For the table and for stock they are unsurpassed by any other pea. They grow well on thin land and are found to be No. 1 fertilizer.  
A. J. WHITE, Truce, Bradley County.  
A. E. BLUNT, Truce, Bradley County.  
I have cultivated the JAPANESE PEA, the past year and raised them at the rate of 20 bushels to the acre. The bloom excels buckwheat for bees. F. E. HARDWICK, J. P. Bradley County

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

Friday, 15th day of January, 1875.

PRESENT:

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.**

WHEREAS it has been represented that large importations of Coal Oils are continually taking place at various ports in the Dominion samples of many of which will not stand the fire test required by the Inland Revenue Act, 1868, and amendments thereto; also that large importations of certain products of Petroleum, such as Gasoline, Benzine and Benzole are being made, such articles being very explosive and dangerous at a very low temperature.

His Excellency, on the recommendation of the Honorable the Minister of Customs, and under the provisions of the 17th section of the Act passed in the session of the Parliament of Canada, held in the 31st year of Her Majesty's Reign, chaptered 53 and intituled: "An Act to increase the Excise duty on spirits, to impose an excise duty on refined Petroleum, and to provide for the inspection thereof," has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that with a view to the better regulation of the foreign Petroleum trade, and the security of the lives and property of Her Majesty's subjects, the following regulations be and they are hereby adopted and established, that is to say:—

1. From and after the date hereof, the officers appointed to gauge and test spirituous liquors, wines, &c., at the respective ports of Toronto and Hamilton in Ontario; the Port of Quebec, in Quebec; the Port of St. John, in New Brunswick; and the Port of Halifax, in Nova Scotia, shall be and they are hereby appointed Inspectors of Imported Refined Petroleum at those Ports respectively; and that the respective Collectors of Customs and Sub-collectors of Customs at all other ports and out-ports in Canada, shall be and they are hereby appointed Inspectors of imported Refined Petroleum at their respective ports and out-ports, with power to employ in the actual process of testing such oils any officer or officers under their respective surveys whom they shall consider competent for that purpose.
2. That the instrument to be used for testing all imported refined petroleum shall be the "Coal Oil Pyrometer," made by Charles Potter, Toronto, Ontario, and all such petroleum as will not stand the fire test of 105 degrees, as required by said Pyrometer, as required by section 2 of chapter 15 of 24 Victoria, when used according to the instructions accompanying the same, shall be dealt with as may be ordered by the Minister of Customs in each case.
3. That every package of imported Refined Petroleum, inspected as before provided, shall be legibly marked or stamped in such manner as the Minister of Customs may direct.
4. That no imported refined Petroleum, which will not stand the said Test, whether designated as "Coal Oil," "Naphtha," "Benzine," "Benzole," "Paraffine" or other oil or fluid, distilled, manufactured or produced by any process or treatment whatever, shall be admitted to entry for consumption or Warehouse in Canada, unless the Importer shall have produced a license from a Collector or other proper Officer of Inland Revenue, authorizing him to import and keep the same on hand.

W. A. HIMSWORTH,

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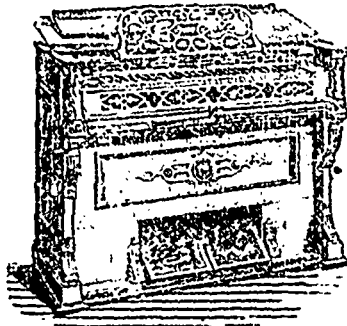
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