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No. 7.

THE REVOLT OF THE

British American Colonies, 1764-84.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

The military, naval and political transactions in Europe during the year 1780, were of a momentous character. Admiral Geo. B. Rodney was appointed to command the British fleet in the West Indies at a time when the prestige of his name had been seriously tarnished. On his voyage out he was ordered to relieve Gibraltar, then besieged by the French and Spanish forces combined, and as that operation involved the convoying of a large fleet of transports and store ships, it was found necessary to detach a portion of the Channel fleet on that service; accordingly his fleet consisted of twenty-one sail of the line and nine frigates. On the 1st of January, 1780, he fell in with and captured a Spanish squadron belonging to the Caracas company commanded by Don Juan Augustin de Yardi, consisting of his flag ship the Guipuscoano 64 guns, six ships of war, and sixteen transports laden with provisions, naval stores and bale goods.

On his arrival off Cadiz Rodney received information that a Spanish fleet of fourteen sail of the line commanded by Admiral Don Juan Langara, was cruising off Cape Vincent, and without a moment's hesitation he made preparations for its capture or destruction. On the 16th January being off Cape St. Vincent the Spanish fleet was discovered to windward crowding all sail to escape. A lee shore had no terrors for Rodney, nor did he trouble himself to manœuvre for the weather gauge, the signal for a general chase was made, and at 5 p.m. the Bienfaisant 64 gun ship having brought the 70 gun Spanish ship San Domingo to action, and at the second broadside the latter blew up with a tremendous explosion every soul on board perishing. The long winter's night did not close the action which was continued to 2 o'clock in the morning when the wind having increased to a gale, Rodney made the signal for the

fleet to heave to. At daylight on the 17th it was found that one 80 gun ship and five 70 gun ships had surrendered, one of 70 guns had blown up, five ships of 70 guns and two frigates of 28 guns each had escaped. It was with great difficulty that the British fleet was extricated from the shoals of San Lucar.

This action was the occasion of one of those episodes which distinguishes modern civilization from the usages of earlier ages.

The Phoenix of 80 guns, the flag ship of Admiral Langara, had struck to the Bienfaisant, Captain MacBride, the conqueror of the San Domingo. The small pox was raging virulently on board the Bienfaisant, and Captain MacBride was anxious to avert that scourge from the Spaniards—for this purpose he addressed a letter to Admiral Langara stating under the circumstances he would not remove the men from the ship but should expect the Spanish officers to consider themselves prisoners of war on their parole of honor—the terms were rigidly adhered to, the Spaniards navigated their own vessel to Gibraltar and then surrendered her to the authorities.

The army and navy safely arrived at Gibraltar, and the provisions and stores being landed, the portion of the Channel fleet with the Spanish prizes and homeward bound transports under Admiral Digby sailed for England on the 15th February on the homeward passage. This fleet got sight of a French convoy but only succeeded in capturing a French ship of 64 guns named the Frithce and a few merchantmen.

From the beginning of the disturbance in America the Dutch merchants had endeavored to profit by the difficulties, by which it had surrounded British commerce, and in addition to the regular trade with the revolted Colonies, added that of supplying them with contraband of war, Holland being one of those countries from which John Hancock and his compatriots had carried on the smuggling trade before they had foresworn allegiance to George III. This conduct of the Dutch people became more marked after the interference of France, as they became carriers of naval stores to that nation also. All remonstrances to the Government having

failed to prevent this traffic, the British cruisers were ordered to seize all contraband of war on board Dutch ships, have the articles landed in a British port, pay the freight and allow the vessels to depart; but this equitable proceeding did not suit the people of Holland as it seriously crippled their trade, and rendered the supplies obtained by the French navy precarious, it was determined to put a convoy of Dutch ships laden with contraband of war under the protection of a Dutch squadron destined for the Mediterranean under the command of Count Byland. Information of this attempt to furnish the French ports with naval stores and munitions having reached the British Government, Commodore Fielding was despatched with a sufficient force to cruise in the Channel, examine the Dutch convoy, and seize such of the ships as had the prohibited freight on board. Both fleets met in the Channel on the 3rd January, permission to examine the convoy being refused and the boats of the British fleet being fired upon, Commodore Fielding fired a shot across the Dutch Admiral which was answered by a broadside and that was returned by another from the British fleet, when the Dutch Admiral struck his colors. The convoy had borne away for the French coast and the greater part succeeded in making their escape. Those that could be overtaken were carried into Spithead, whither Count Byland chose to accompany them to await orders from the States General of Holland, although he was told that he was at liberty to proceed on his voyage.

About this period at the suggestion of the King of Sweden the Empress of Russia willing to seize any opportunity for aggrandizing her own dominions promulgated the doctrine that free ships make free goods, a doctrine intended for the benefit of the Northern powers and especially directed against the interests of Great Britain, as it involved free trade at her expense in naval stores as her local situation enabled her to intercept any supplies from the North of Europe reaching France or Spain during the war. Denmark and Sweden joined with Russia in this movement, and all the other neutral powers of Europe were invited to assent to the princi-

ples laid down which were proposed to be established by a maritime force—it became the confederation known as the “*Armed Neutrality*.” It thus became evident that all the European powers were ready to take advantage of Britain’s perplexity and to strip the “*Mon of the Seas*” of all his boasted attributes, but thoroughly aroused the insult made that animal show his claws, and use them too, on the Dutch who were bound by treaty to furnish certain succors to Great Britain, and these had been demanded when Spain formed the alliance with France, but the States General had neglected to furnish them or give a satisfactory reason for withholding. The British Ambassador at the Hague now presented a remonstrance on the 21st of March on the subject, and declared if no satisfactory answer was returned within three weeks such neglect would be considered as a declaration that they withdrew from the treaty. This remonstrance being unnoticed, on the 17th April an order of the British Council suspended all treaties existing between the two countries.

Sir Charles Hardy, the Admiral in command of the Channel fleet, having died, was succeeded by Admiral Geary in the beginning of July; he suffered a convoy of thirty sail and two armed ships from Port au Prince, in the West Indies, to escape, he only succeeding in capturing twelve vessels. Towards the end of July a fleet for the East and another for the West Indies were sent out under convoy of the *Ramillies* and two frigates, after the French and Spanish fleets had effected a junction. On the 8th of August the *Ramillies* and her convoy fell in with a division of the combined fleet, commanded by Don Louis de Cordova, by whom over forty sail of merchantmen laden with naval and military stores were taken and carried into Cadiz, the *Ramillies* with the two frigates and a few merchantmen escaped. Admiral Geary resigned a command for which he was unfitted and was succeeded by Admiral Darby.

The hostile fleets appear to have studiously avoided each other this year, but the honor of England was ably sustained in several hard fought actions between single ships—of these the capture of the *Belle Poule*, famed in song and story, by the *Nonsuch*—the *d’Artois* and *Pearl*, by the *Romney*—the *Nymph*, by the *Flora*—and the *Count d’Artois* of 64, by the *Bienfaisant*; and her chivalrous commander amply proved that the daring of British seamen, when unhampered by absurd instructions, will never fail to strike in the right direction at the proper time; nor was this confined to the regular navy, Captains of Privateers have repeatedly upheld the honor of the flag without looking for gain; and at this time Captain Moore of the *Fame* Privateer of Dublin attacked five French Privateers off Cape de Gat and captured four of them.

Admiral Rodney arrived at St. Lucie on the 27th of March, the squadron which he

brought with him raised the British fleet more nearly to an equality with that of the French, although the preponderance in number was still on the side of the latter—but with this superiority they had obtained no commensurate advantage—on the contrary, their trade had been greatly crippled and their force lessened by the capture of several frigates; but till Rodney’s arrival no blow had been struck by the British fleet of decisive nature or that marked the character of its officers with that energy, decision, and daring for which the naval service has been famous.

On the 20th March, seven days before Rodney’s arrival, M. de la Motte Piquet, commanding a French squadron of five sail and a convoy, fell in off Monte Christi with a British squadron of three sail commanded by the Hon. W. Cornwallis—the French squadron consisted of two seventy-four gun ships, one of sixty-four, one of fifty-six and a frigate of thirty-two guns—the English of one sixty-four, one fifty, and one forty-four gun ship. The French being to windward made sail in chase, the British in line ahead, the action commenced at 5 o’clock, p.m., and continued throughout the night and part of the 21st, when as it fell calm both squadrons hove to for the purpose of repairing damages. Next day an attempt was made to renew the action, but it again fell calm, but at daylight on the 23rd three ships hove in sight which proved to be a British sixty-four gun ship and two frigates, Capt. Cornwallis at once bore down and endeavored to renew the action, but the French had suffered so much that M. de la Motte Piquet refused to renew it.

On the 16th April, Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney having received intelligence that the French fleet under the Count de Guichen, consisting of twenty three ships of the line, five frigates, a corvette, a lugger and a cutter, had sailed from Fort Royal harbour in Martinique on the previous night, put to sea immediately and made sail in chase. At 5 p.m., having previously sighted the French fleet, the distance between both fleets was so much shortened that the force of each was rapidly discernible, and the British Admiral formed his fleet in line ahead ordering the frigates to keep sight of the French fleet during the night.

The forces opposed to each other consisted of (on the part of the British) two ships of 90 guns, eleven of 74 guns, one of 70 guns, five of 64 guns, one of 60 guns and six frigates of 32 guns each—total 26 ships.

The French fleet consisted of two ships of 80 guns, eleven of 74 guns, and ten of 64 guns with five frigates and a corvette—total 29 ships.

On the 17th, at daybreak, the wind continuing southerly, the British fleet in line ahead on the starboard tack was to windward of the enemy, who had formed on the same tack. At 6 o’clock, a.m., Rodney, judging from the slowness with which the French

formed line that an attack on their rear would be attended with success, ordered his fleet to wear and form the line on larboard tack at a cable’s length distance, continued under easy sail till 8.30h., a.m., having then reached a desirable position, he made the signal to bear up in line ahead and commence the action; this was however adroitly frustrated by the French Admiral, who at once wore round on the larboard tack, thus recovering his line. Sir George Rodney at once hauled to the wind on the starboard tack, and stood on till 11h., a.m., when being nearly parallel with the French fleet, he made the preparatory signal, and a little before noon made that for the fleet to bear up in line ahead, and close the enemy—this order was either misunderstood or disobeyed by the van division of the British fleet, commanded by Rear Admiral Hyde Parker, who bore away and endeavored to bring the van of the French fleet to anchor, totally ignorant of the value of Rodney’s manœuvre which was to pierce the French fleet at or near its centre, and by doubling on its rear, compel a general engagement in which victory was certain—this is the first instance of that decisive manœuvre in naval tactics which afterwards was used with such effect by Nelson—in this case, however, it failed from the fact that the British van did not support the centre. After a furious action of three hours the French fleet bore up and made sail before the wind. The loss on board the British fleet was 120 killed and 362 wounded, while the ships were crippled and unable to follow. Two captains of Rear Admiral Hyde Parker’s division were tried by a Court-Martial, one of them dismissed the service, the other severely reprimanded. These were victims of expediency, sacrificed to appease popular indignation, but the justice of the King rectified the want of that quality in his Ministers and reinstated the disgraced Captain. The French loss was 158 men killed and 820 wounded. After lying to for twenty-four hours to repair damages the British fleet made sail in pursuit, and on the 20th again got sight of the French fleet but found it impossible to bring it to action, and he then bore away for Fort Royal harbor compelling the French fleet to take shelter under Guadeloup.

On the 15th and 19th of May another partial engagement ensued, when the Count de Guichen returned to Fort Royal. Sir George Rodney put his fleet in the best possible state, as the approach of the Spanish fleet was now a matter of certainty, and it was necessary that they should be intercepted before a junction with the French fleet could be effected. The Spanish fleet sailed from Cadiz on the 28th of April, under the command of Don Joseph Solano; it consisted of 12 ships of the line, a proportionable number of frigates and 83 transports, having on board 12,000 troops and a large train of artillery; its object being to reduce all the British settlements in the West Indies com

mencing with Jamaica. A junction was effected off Dominique between the French and Spanish squadrons, and as the troops had been crowded on board the transports a pestilential distemper had broken out amongst them which rendered all operations impossible for the time, both fleets returned to Port Royal where the troops were landed. After remaining for several weeks the combined fleets put to sea in the night of the 5th July, without making signals or showing lights, and directed their course to San Domingo—here they separated, the Count de Guichen with the French fleet putting into Cape Francois, whilst Don Solano with the Spanish fleet proceeded to the Havannah. The French fleet remained at Cape Francois till the homeward bound trade from the French islands had assembled, when taking it under protection it sailed directly for Europe. Sir George Rodney concluding that the French fleet only intended to convoy the trade fleet to a certain latitude and then proceed to America to execute the plan concerted with General Washington, sailed for New York with eleven ships of the line and four frigates where he arrived in September. As has been already stated, the fact was that the French fleet was so roughly handled and so damaged in the different engagements with Sir G. Rodney, that it was found necessary to return to Europe as speedily as possible for repairs.

The treachery of the agents of Congress and the Dutch were brought to light in a striking manner during this season: The Congress had appointed their late President Henry Laurens as their Ambassador and Minister Plenipotentiary to Holland, he embarked at Philadelphia on board a Dutch vessel which was captured by a British ship of war, when Mr. Laurens endeavored to throw his papers overboard, but were prevented from sinking by a seaman, and disclosed the fact that in September, 1778, a private interview had taken place at Aix la Chapelle between William Lee, an agent of Congress, and one of those who, with Richard Penn, had endeavored impudently to enforce on the British Parliament a lying statement of the feeling and resources of the revolted Colonies, and John de Neufville, a merchant of Amsterdam, acting under powers delegated to him by Van Berkel, Grand Pensionary of that city; the object of which interview was to plan an outline of a commercial treaty between the revolted Colonies and Holland. A series of articles were agreed upon, and in order to negotiate a loan of which Congress stood in much need Laurens was sent with those papers for ratification to the Dutch Government. On his arrival as a prisoner in London he was examined before the Secretaries of State and committed as a close prisoner to the Tower. As no satisfaction could be obtained from the Dutch Government for this flagrant violation of public faith, war was declared against the Republic on the 20th of December.

The Beacon lighthouse, St. John, N. B., was nearly carried away in a late gale.

EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON ON LAKE ST. CLAIR.

We are credibly informed by an eye witness—indeed yesterday we saw for ourselves tangible evidence of the truth of what is told us—that on Thursday, the 13th of January last, a most extraordinary and sudden rise of the waters of lake St. Clair occurred and was particularly observable in the vicinity of the mouth of the River Thames and along the South shore of the Lake to and beyond the River Ruscom. Parties resident on the Lake Shore inform us that at first two loud reports were heard, resembling the reports from cannons fired at a distance, after which was experienced a sensation as if from a gentle swaying to an uproar, as though an earthquake had been awakened from a century's repose. Upon visiting the water line, it was discovered that the ice had been suddenly shoved upon the shores and piled up several feet in height, carrying with it trunks of trees and logs, which had for a quarter of a century lain embedded in the sand of the beach. At the mouth of the River Thames and vicinity the ice was thrown to the height of two or three feet, while at the River Ruscom it was raised at least four feet above its ordinary level. As we intimated before, so sudden was the action of the water in the Lake that the ice and trees and logs were absolutely piled in a jumbled mass several feet in height along the Lake Shore for a distance of several miles, but was most observable on the South and South East quarter. At the mouth of the River Thames the waters fell to their natural level in less than two days; but in the vicinity of the River Ruscom it was fully a week before they had retired to their ordinary boundary.

Now, what could possibly have caused this wonderful freak of the elements? We cannot tell. Perhaps some of our savants can explain. Could it have been any volcanic action beneath the waters? Could it have been produced by the atmospheric elements above? Or could it possibly result from a field of ice making its way down the Detroit River and becoming checked in its onward course to Lake Erie? Perhaps. But it seems most extraordinary that this last circumstance—supposing it ever did occur, but of which we have no knowledge—could bring about the very wonderful effect which were most unmistakably for several miles along the South and South East Shore of Lake St. Clair. For our own part we don't pretend to be posted on these intricate and debatable matters, and do not feel disposed at present to discuss them. We prefer to leave their investigation and elucidation to others who have more time on their hands and whose bent of mind naturally leads them to find causes for astonishing and hitherto unexplained effects. We profess to be the pre-eminently practical—*Chatham Planet*.

ST. PATRICK'S BIRTH-PLACE.

Where was St. Patrick born? asks the *London Daily News*. The question, we are persuaded, will appear to the vast majority of our Irish brethren as ridiculous as to the comparatively few students of ecclesiastical history who have taken the pains to ascertain the acknowledged fact of the case. Nine-tenths of Irishmen, we fully believe, and Englishmen too, for the matter of that, would treat it as a joke of the "festive season" if we ventured to suggest that the

great apostle of Ireland was anything but an Irishman native and to the manner born. The idea of St. Patrick being an Englishman, a Welshman, a Scotchman or a Frenchman! Why, every Dublin boy knows that Nelson and Wellington were Irish heroes. One might as well pretend that the first of the royal race of O'Brien was a native of Middlesex, as that St. Patrick was born out of the Emerald Isle. It so happens, however, that while there has never been the slightest reason to believe that St. Patrick first saw the light in Ireland, the controversy about his birthplace, has raged amongst English, Scottish, Welsh, and French antiquaries almost as freely as the contest among the Islands of the Ægean Sea for the birthplace of Homer. Was the Saint born at Dumbarton, at Bristol, at St. David's, at Boulogne in France or Glastonbury? In the preface to the second volume of the collection of Ancient Laws and Institutions of Ireland, the Irish editors of the "Senachus Mor" have thoroughly examined the interesting question; and have arrived at the conclusion, supported as it seems to us by the incontrovertible testimony of the Apostle's own confession, that St. Patrick was born at or near Glastonbury, in Somersetshire, and that he returned in his old age to end his days in the land of his birth, and amid the scenes of his early youth, and was not buried according to the prevalent belief in Ireland at Downpatrick near Saul, "where he made his first convert and founded his first church in Ireland." It will rather be a shock to Irish patriotism to learn that their patron saint was the descendant of Roman colonists, a young Somersetshire gentleman, and son of the Roman Decurio, or Mayor of Bath. But it may console them to reflect that Glastonbury,

"Where the winter thorn Blossoms at Christmas, mindful of our Lord," and where Joseph of Armathea had deposited.

"The cup, the cup itself, from which our Lord, Drank at the last sad supper with his own."

under the shadow of the Tor of St. Michael was no unfitting or unworthy birthplace for this immortal confessor of the Christian faith.

The *Minnesota Tribune* says: "We have now employed in our office a man who has been in the English army for thirty-five years, was at the siege of Lucknow; had both of his ears cut off while sticking his head out of a sally port. He afterward served on the staff of Wellington at Waterloo, and subsequently accompanied Bonaparte in his celebrated Egyptian campaign, where he was arrested for conniving at an elopement with the Sphynx, and was confined in the Pyramids for three years. He has been in 481 pitched battles, and a great many that were not pitched. Everybody has read of the butcher who was killing a beef for the Commissary when the Balaklava charge was sounded, and who seized an axe, mounted a horse, and went through the battery and back safely. Well, this is the man we are writing about. He relates that thrilling episode in his checkered history with much enthusiasm. He used to have a maul, but a grizzly bear snatched it off his shirt bosom while he was laying the last tie on the China and Siberia railroad, Eastern Division. He says he is now tired of travel and adventure, and proposes to settle down and it is the general opinion that he will. He neither smokes, chews, drinks whiskey or swears, and can set type as well as he used to fight.

THE COLONIES.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR:—I venture to ask your insertion of some observations on the policy of England in regard to her colonial possessions.

I propose to consider the question wholly irrespectively of the recent correspondence between Earl Granville and the Committee, and to dissociate the special case of New Zealand from the general subject of colonial relation. Public opinion both here and in the Colonies, as I gather it, may be ranged under three heads. First, those who desire to get rid of the colonies, either on the ground that they bring no profit to, but are, on the contrary, a burden upon, and a source of danger to Great Britain, or that their own interests would be promoted by separation; second, those who, while they desire on the whole to continue the connexion, think that essential changes are needed, either by giving the Colonies a representation of some sort in Great Britain, or like Lord Grey, that the change must take the form of a surrender by the colonies of their present power of self government, and the devolution of those powers on the Colonial Secretary; and that it is necessary to determine now what the exact nature of the changes will be, and those who impressed with the advantage of the connection to both, regard its perpetuation as a paramount consideration; who believe that on the whole the existing relations do not work badly, but who are ready to consider in what respect they may be shown to work unfairly, and are equally prepared to revise them and to remedy whatever is inequitable, who deprecate the attempt now made to apportion with sharpness and precision, and by one general rule, the exact rights and duties of each in the future, and to supersede a system which answers all present ends by one which is wholly experimental, —out who, seeing in the present unsettled aspect of the question many elements of danger, consider that some authoritative expression of opinion or other form of action is called for, affirming the supreme condition of maintaining the integrity of the empire.

The merits of these various views can hardly fail to undergo discussion during the coming session. Indeed it would be most undesirable that discussion should be postponed, for, although I fail to perceive the existence of any tangible colonial grievance calling for relief by Parliament at present, it cannot be denied that the level of uncertainty and apprehension is doing its work in the colonies, from Canada to Australia; and the consequences of allowing the question to drift on without some guidance cannot be any other than pernicious. Continued speculation and doubt as to the probable immediate future is not a condition calculated to further contentment or the progress of a community. Men are distracted by the discussion of theories from the practical duties of the day; good administration and the adoption of sound views of policy are all subordinate, and becoming aspirations, either as Englishmen or as men founding a new nationality of their own, worthy of their race, are for the time wholly repressed.

Nor is this all, colonists abroad are, to say the least, as high-spirited as if they had re-

mained at home. They are sensitive to the charge of leaning in helpless dependence on the mother country, of clinging like frightened children to the skirts of the Old World, of adding to the burdens of her already overtaxed population; of being slack to use the functions of political maturity, and of being, in short, unworthy of Imperial protection. Would the English people desire to see their brethren abroad devoid of this susceptibility, or less ready than they are to resent the imputation of selfish and unmanly dependence?

The present danger lies in the continuance of misunderstanding on these points, and in discussing them in a captious spirit of recrimination. Separation in any case would be national calamity; separation now under emotions engendered by such imputations doubly so. It would serve no good purpose to inquire whether such feelings are warranted by anything that has occurred here. I believe that if danger from without actually menaced any part of the empire, however remote, England would as promptly in the future as in the past, throw aside all calculations of expediency, and that the whole power of the nation would be unhesitatingly put forth for its protection; but events have done a great deal to weaken that conviction in the minds of many in the remote portions of the empire. True, the words of no responsible Minister can be appealed to in advocacy of separation, still less words which would warrant the impression that the protection of England would be withdrawn, and it may be that colonial sensibility attaches undue importance to the apparent leaning of influential organs of public opinion on this question; but still the fact as it is has to be dealt with, and we cannot long postpone the practical consideration of the question whether the policy of England is to be one of abandoning or drawing the colonial family closer to her.

It would, however, be unfair to impute to the Colonial office the responsibility for any feeling that may now exist in the colonies. It is but simple justice to say, as I can do, after an experience of many years, that, whichever of the great parties in the state controlled it, I am aware of no instance in which representations or any important question were treated with indifference, or in which a full measure of consideration for the concerns and interests of any colony, or towards any colonists personally, was wanting.

The discussion of the subject itself will, I trust, for the present, be elevated above the arena of party, at all events, until a distinct separation of party opinion arises on the question whether it is not desirable to cement the connexion, rather than destroy it, assuming always that the relation shall be subject to such practical revision as time and altered conditions may call for.

Let me, then, proceed to sift the causes of misunderstanding here, and in the first instance to test the soundness of the separatist argument by considering in what respect the Colonies are either a source of danger, burdensome, or profitless. If public opinion can be put right in this respect, as I believe it will be by an impartial consideration of the facts, and terms of appreciation will in future supersede those of complaint in discussions respecting the Colonies, and a readiness to adjust present difficulties be shown on both sides, we shall have reached the turning point of better relations. My previous habits of thought may cause me to lean to the Colonial side, and therefore my arguments may be taken with some qualification; but I will endeavour to state them as impartially as I can.

In considering the supreme question of the alleged danger to both, which results from the present connexion, I will take the case of Canada, confessedly, by reason of its geographical position, the strongest illustration against me, and because I am most familiar with it.

It is urged that, in case of a war with the United States, Canada must either be abandoned, or, if defended, must be overrun, and that in either case national disaster would ensue. This argument, if well founded, ought, I admit, to have great weight, and it therefore demands more than superficial examination. The question, however, has two sides. The consequence of abandonment now, has to be considered as well as that of defending, and this not only as respects Canada and her defence alone, but as the policy of the abandonment may influence the other colonial possessions of England in deciding them to make common cause with her or stand neutral in her quarrels. On a mere calculation of relative strength, the chances of war may appear to be against a successful defence of Canada, which is a narrow strip of land, some 3,000 miles distant from England, with a population of 4,000,000, continuous for more than 1,000 miles to the United States, with a population of nearly 40,000,000. But as regards Canada, very exceptional considerations exist. A war between England and the United States will be a war of exhaustion; both nations may be fairly looked on as equal in courage and appliances. The United States will never, as any one who understands the public feeling on that subject must admit, go to war for the sake of conquering Canada. An attack on her will only be an incident in the war, never the object of it. Now Canada possesses some of the strongest positions known—Halifax, Quebec, St. John, and, if properly covered, Montreal and Kingston, and other places in the Peninsula between Lake Ontario, Erie, and Huron. These positions are all remote from each other, St. John being 250 miles from Halifax, that fortress in its turn being 600 miles from Quebec, Montreal being nearly 200 miles still more remote, and Kingston lying 180 miles yet further to the west. To reduce even these positions separate armies and fleets would be required. In the greater part of Canada no army could keep the field in winter, and unless the works were taken in one year, the siege must be raised and operations begun afresh in the spring. True, the two countries are in some places contiguous; but in the parts where this contiguity exists the country is wild, the climate is most severe, and winter operations wholly impossible. In other places where it might be possible for any army to exist in huts, it is all important to bear in mind that for many hundred miles the invader would have broad lakes in his rear. Admitting, for argument sake, that the enemy had command of them, they are impassible in winter, whether for ship or sleigh. The supplies for a largo force and all munitions of war would have to be drawn from beyond them, and the winter supply must be transported in summer, and stored in a hostile country. I do not believe that the elements of climate and distance and inaccessibility have ever had their due weight in considering the question of the defence of Canada.

I have supposed for the sake of argument that the enemy obtained a superiority on all the lakes. But as regards Lake Ontario, the conditions are all on the side of Canada, if the advantage be properly seized at the outset. The American tonnage on it is not greatly superior to the Colonial. True, on Lakes Erie, Huron and Superior, the United

St. to have nearly three times the tonnage; but three-fourths of that tonnage cannot pass to Lake Ontario, and the remaining fourth only through the Welland Canal, a work on British soil which can be destroyed in a day. Canada has also a strong fortress and dockyard, and there are innumerable harbors on the north shore of Ontario whose vessels could be built. Above all she commands the only navigable means of access to it whether from the sea or westward. On the south shore there are but four or five harbours, and having no access by water through American territory all the offensive power must be created in its basin and the points of construction being few, the progress might indeed be very seriously impeded. Let me pause to ask them whether due weight has ever been given to the drain on the enemy's resources which the reduction of Canada would entail? What force both of men and ships would be required for a successful attack on Halifax? What for Quebec? What for St. John, either in New Brunswick or Newfoundland. For Kingston or Montreal. The difficulties attending the expeditionary operations against Charleston, New Orleans, Fort Fisher, and Mobile, which occupied so many years, and where the naval supremacy was wholly with the invaders, were as nothing to what would have to be overcome in those northern positions.

If the present feeling of devotion to England continues there are no sacrifices the Canadian people would not willingly endure to resist the attempt at conquest, or to make common cause with England in the struggle. The population of Canada comprehends nearly as many fighting men as the Southern States ever brought into the field. She has now 40,000 of active militia, well trained and armed, and in case of need it is computed that she could supply at least 500,000 men capable of bearing arms, leaving still a reasonable proportion of her population for the indispensable work of life. The returns of 1867 showed a registered tonnage (not computing Newfoundland and Prince Edward's Island, and exclusive of fishing craft) of about 6,000 vessels employing some 40,000 seamen; and those engaged in the fisheries, including Newfoundland, were computed at 30,000 more. The South had no England at her back; she had no seamen, no ships of war worth the name, however destructive to unresisting merchantmen her cruisers may have been.

I appreciate sensibly the great advantage which superiority in number, proximity, and unlimited resources would give over Canada in such a war. In courage, endurance and discipline I assume an equality. But knowing as an eye-witness the difficulties and losses to which every mile of advance subjects an invading force, in a country far less wild, and offering infinitely fewer obstacles to the progress of an army than Canada, I assert that conditions wholly novel all to the disadvantage of offensive, and favouring defensive operations, exist in her case. Military occupation of parts of the country might be held, but considerations of policy as well as what was due to the rules of civilized warfare (and no one will deny but that in the past these have been chivalrously observed by the only possible enemy) would prevent such an occupation being accompanied by any acts which the people of Canada would not for the time endure as the price of their loyalty. I leave those who are competent to form an estimate of the difficulties attending expeditions on a large scale to say how serious would be the exhaustion to any nation, and how severely these ex-

peditions would impair the powers of defence elsewhere.

Let those who commanded at Bull's Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness or Fredericksburg say whether the subjugation of Canada is an operation they would covet without armies as numerous and efficient as ever taxed the power of the United States to bring them into the field.

I must defer reference to the alternative of abandonment based on the hopelessness of defence until to-morrow.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant
A COLONIST.

The foregoing is the first of a series of letters by the Hon. John Rose to the London Times.

THE LONDON TIMES ON THE COLONIES.

The following are the concluding extracts of a lengthy article in a recent issue of the London Times. The remarks were drawn forth in consequence of a solemn "protest" drawn up by some colonists in London, who recently formed themselves into a colonial league:

The Colonist knows well that if France or the United States threatened them, the Mother Country would strain very nerve in their defence. A few years since we sent the Guards to Canada in the depth of winter, and hurried to sea the squadrons which should guard the British American coast and the West India Islands. Was there here any failure in duty any shrinking from the responsibilities which England has incurred by the planting of Colonies, any disregard of the Colonists as fellow-subjects or as men? It has been declared that England is ever ready to defend the Colonies from external and civilized enemies, but that it belongs to themselves to deal with local tumult or with the barbarous races who may exist within their borders. The pretence that such an apportionment of duties is an abandonment of our own, or a withdrawal of a due protection, tends to make us suspect the spirit in which the Colonist call for a closer union. As to the severance of the Colonies from the Empire, we retain the opinion we have always expressed—that, politically, socially, and commercially, the Colonies are in the highest degree valuable to England, and ought to be retained. When the abandonment was urged some years ago by Mr. Goldwin Smith, with the dogmatic intolerance of his school, we combated the proposal, and should it be renewed, we would combat it again. But there is a great difference between maintaining an honourable connexion with free fellow subjects and making them helpless by keeping them in leading-strings like children. God forbid that the Colonies should be abandoned! But if ever this comes to pass it will be the result of a conviction on the part of England that their inhabitants look only to the leaves and ashes of the Imperial system, and that the dependencies are suckers and are not feeders of the body politic. . . . We yield to none in the desire to maintain the Empire in its integrity. We believe it can be maintained if both parties—that is, if Home Britons and Colonial Britons—will fulfil their mutual duties in a spirit of true Imperial patriotism, untinted by selfishness, and showing itself in mutual forbearance and concession. But we confess we do not see our way to administrative unity, even were it likely to be

beneficial, which we do not believe. The British Empire must necessarily be organized on a looser system than Empires like the United States or Russia, which are territorially continuous. There can be no real political unity without financial unity, and there can be no financial unity without geographical unity. Australia and the Cape, the West Indies and the Canadian Dominion are too widely sundered from each other and from us, too various in their products and resources, to be embraced in one Budget, and to be charged in common with a single system of military and naval armaments. The man must be a visionary indeed who hopes one day to hear Mr. Lowe deal with the estimates and the Revenue of the United Kingdom and its forty Colonies in a Pan-Britannic Parliament. Yet between this and the local independence which now prevails we see no middle way. The theory of delegation is the product of the very weakest political intelligence. The Delegates would be ciphers, and if they were to gain any real power the Colonial Legislatures would be the first to suspect them of using it to limit-Colonial independence.

AN EXPLOSIVE AGENT.

SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT AT THE HOOSAC TUNNEL.

From the Springfield Republic.

Captain Von Schelika and Lieutenant Von Dittmar, both of the Prussian Army, and the latter the inventor of the explosive known as daulin, have been giving a practical test of its quality at the Hoosac Tunnel, which has proved very successful. The experiments included trials of power upon rocks, simply placing a few ounces on the surface and covering it with dirt, upon a boulder in the open field, the hole being drilled in the usual way, and the daulin lightly stamped in, and in the regular work of the tunnel, at the west and central shafts. In every instance the explosive did all that is claimed for it, and proved itself a powerful agent for breaking things. The same weight of the daulin is more effective than nitro glycerine, while it is also considerably cheaper, and is absolutely safe in the handling. Its obvious advantages over glycerine are so great, that a considerable quantity of it has been ordered already, and it is probable that it will soon be exclusively used by the Messrs. Shively, the Canadian contractors, in their work on the tunnel. Its great advantage is the safety with which it can be used, even allowing for accident or carelessness. While possessing many of the properties of glycerine, it is so prepared and combined with other substances as not to be exploded by concussion; indeed, when confined, and fire is applied to it, it does not explode but simply burns. Lieutenant Dittmar brought over with him from Germany 100 pounds of daulin in a carpet bag, and we are sure that he would not have treated nitro glycerine in that confidential manner. There have already been numerous fatal accidents from glycerine at the tunnel, and any explosive that will be equally effectual, and yet safe to handle, will be a real boon to the workmen if to no one else.

The Pope has issued a Bull against the Fenians in Ireland and America.

The earnings of the Union Pacific Railway for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1869, amount to \$4,011,161.33.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—In your issue of yesterday you have been pleased again to refer to certain opinions which I entertain as to simplification of drill, as a prepared system. Permit me, while thanking you for your very kind remarks, to deprecate the ascription of any undue importance to my ideas, and, with this view, to explain their nature and what I have actually done with regard to them.

Struck by the facts that we have now practically no drill between the annual drills—that the squads of recruits will inevitably be larger each year than the present system remains unimproved—and that there is consequently no sufficient time to produce any precision through squad drill, in company movements, as squad drill exists—certain principles appeared to me to offer the facilities needed to meet this condition of things to some extent, by admitting of the performance of one or two of the most necessary formations and movements with the least possible amount of instruction.

In sequence to these primary ideas I proposed to reduce the bulk of the F. E. by the elision of certain sections of squad and company drill altogether, and the shortening of others by cutting out a great deal not necessary to rough-and-ready rapidity of instruction.

I submitted a mere outline sketch of my ideas to the Adjutant General, who as I expected beforehand, did not find himself in a position to sanction any facilities for their trial, though he, with great kindness and courtesy, favored me, at considerable length, with his own opinion on various points of drill.

I am, dear Sir, &c.,

G. W.

FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

A letter to the *Gazette*, under the signature of "A. J. G.," expounds in a very clear manner the uselessness and worthlessness of the Militia Act of 1868. After very clear explanatory passages he says, "In short, the system of defence embodied in this Bill is simply a delusion and a snare, as any system must be which makes of Volunteers the first and only line of defence, instead of placing them in the position they should occupy, viz., that of a reserve or auxiliary force." The point seemed to be aimed at is that every able bodied man should undergo a system of training to fit him for duties in the event of war. A modification of the Prussian system is quite adaptable to us. The question is, are we or are we not prepared to assert our rights as a nation, and if we are there is but one alternative—we must drill to a man or otherwise perfect our-

selves, so that in time of need we have but to step in. The practical experience of the Act so far has been to the effect that volunteering has not attained the results desired. "A. J. G." concludes in this spirited style: "There is indeed but one system that can avail us; one which must be gradual but compulsory in its operations. When a standing army of any consequence is out of the question, it were as wise to think of carrying on the machinery of the Government by voluntary contributions as to propose creating an official defence, of which the Volunteer system shall be the main if not the only feature. If the people are willing there can be no reason why, in a comparatively few years, and with a very small sacrifice of each individual's time, every Canadian should not be fitted to take his place at a moment's notice in the ranks, and with a very considerable knowledge of a soldier's duty. If they are not willing, then let them without more ado give up the dream of founding on this continent a separate and enduring nationality."

All very true, and the sooner the fact is recognized the better for the Dominion.

The removal of the headquarters of the troops from Montreal in the Spring is anticipated with regret. Montreal cannot but be the looser from the fact, and we will after that time be dependent upon Volunteer turn outs for any military display.

It is generally understood that several companies in this city have tendered their services for Red River in the spring. It is intended to garrison the forts there with Volunteers, the term of duty not to exceed three years, pay and discipline to be equal to that of a standing army.

Though aware of companies having tendered their services for a length of time, in the absence of anything official it is premature and useless to propound theories and appear wise, so shall hear soon enough when anything definite has been agreed upon.

Capt. Muir and his No. 1, troop turned out for inspection last week, a large muster being made only two being absent. They assembled in the Drill Hall and looked as they always do, every one of them a soldier.

Col. Bacon was the Inspecting Officer and one would fancy by the minute and careful inspection of them, their arms and accoutrements, that he had made up his mind to find fault with them. Their carbines and saddlery were then closely examined, and the result was as one might imagine highly creditable to the troop. Col. Bacon expressed his satisfaction at the result of his examination. Capt. Muir, and Drill Instructor, Col. Lovelace, need no puffing from my pen, their reputation is too well known, and as for the men of No. 1 Troop, they would compare favourably with regular cavalry.

Another batch of returning Zouave will arrive here at the end of next month, or as a French contemporary says "gallant heroes

returning from gallant deeds done," and we may add in same strain when they have returned they will be "warriors taking their rest."

The Volunteer police news, with which I will keep you posted, this week comprises one of the "Mount Royals," up for a petty offence. All quiet among the Chasseurs.

B.

REVIEWS.

"The Soldier's Pocket Book for Field Service," by Col. J. G. Wolseley, Deputy Quarter Master General in Canada, London, McMillan & Co., 1869.

"The Hand-Book for Field Service," by Br. General Lefroy, R.A., F.R.S., with the aid of several contributors. Fourth edition, revised. Woolwich, John M. Boddy, 36 Artillery Place, 1867.

To such as have made military science a study—not mere drill, nor even only the broader fields of strategy and tactics, but those problems of perhaps still greater importance to the officer of the national force of Canada, involved in the treatment of men and bodies of men, the recent work of Col. Wolseley contains matters of the deepest interest. Of high import to the rising generation of regular officers, it has also a peculiar significance to those of the Dominion Militia.

It is probable that it has occurred to many a Volunteer officer who, unbiassed by the customs and traditions of the army, has given the subject any consideration from the stand-point of a natural man's common sense, that the relations generally existing between officer and man in Her Majesty's Regular Service are altogether overstrained in the excess of their distance. I know that although brought up in a school of the strictest discipline myself, this has struck me very forcibly ever since I first began to give serious consideration to the best mode of working a service efficiently.

A great many of us know a little of Col. Wolseley by having served under his command, and most of us know by reputation that he is one of the best practical staff-officers in the army. His authority may, therefore, be rated very highly. To the Canadian Volunteer who cherishes the hope that he may one day prove his ability to command a Militia regiment with satisfaction to his men and to his government, and credit to himself, it is essential that careful study of the existing conditions of different forms of military service, a deep and broad fore thought, a habit of mind open to receive few impressions, yet cautious in judging their value, and an almost intuitive perception of the tendencies of those changes, moral, physical, scientific, which, in these latter days pass over us so continuously and so rapidly, should, as far as possible, supply the place of that actual experience in which most of us are deficient.

The exercise of these means, powers, and

qualities, in connection with that development of kindly feeling which is more or less attendant on increasing general mental culture (to say nothing of considerations of obvious expediency) will soon lead us to the conclusion that the relations between officers and men as practically carried out hitherto in the army, are not of a nature to constitute a model for the Volunteer service. But as it is always satisfactory to us to be as like the army as common sense and the peculiarities of our service will permit us to be, it is pleasant to find an officer of Col. Wolseley's standing indicating the course which military men will inevitably have to follow (for there can be no retrogression from a just liberalism) and which is so much more congenial to the constitution of our force than the stilted intercourse which was lately prescribed. I say lately, for I do not find it laid down in the Queen's Regulations for 1868, as formerly, that a soldier desirous of addressing an officer is to be brought up by a non-commissioned officer.

The bold promulgation of the broad ideas of a new generation, will, perhaps, constitute the chief value of the "Soldier's Pocket Book" to the Canadian Volunteer. But the value can scarcely be overrated. While the red-tape worm still wiggles in its strong, though sluggish, vitality, while the cadets of the Infantry schools continue to have their brains confused by a mass of absurd and complicated War Office forms, and to undergo rigorous examinations in prices of clothing, rations, formulæ of company accounts, stoppages, &c., which are not, and are never likely to be, applicable to our service, while there are still officers of Militia who would willingly cling to pompous battalion movements, and to the traditions which they have learned of a "de-haut-en-bas" intercourse with their men, it is no small matter to the more far-seeing to find such utterances as the following in a work published by a "representative man" of the rising generation of British generals.

"In our intercourse with the rank and file we must make them realize that our interests are identical.

"Let us give up the phrase 'officer and gentleman' substituting that of soldier.

"In an army praise, administered with discrimination, is the greatest of all moral forces; it creates an intimacy between the giver and the receiver which it is most desirable to establish.

"Study to be familiar without being vulgar, and habit, if not intuition, will soon enable you to be gracious and intimate with your men without loss of dignity."

Unconventional, however, as Col. Wolseley is, he is no advocate for carelessness in dress. "Whatever," he says, (speaking of the unnecessary roughness amongst officers in the Crimea) "the officers think fine the men will think so too," and he alludes to the Duke of Wellington's remark that many of his best officers in Spain were the greatest dandies.

On long hair and unkempt beards his remarks are especially worthy of observation by Canadian Militiamen. "It is very difficult," he says, "to make an Englishman look like a soldier. He is fond of longish hair and uncut whiskers. Men who have never worn beards are apt to think that to wear one saves a great deal of trouble. So it does if you do not clean it, but to wear one and keep it clean, demands more time and trouble than shaving." Now, there is no doubt of the truth of this. But the misfortune is that if the Englishman is fond of "longish" hair, the country Canadian is fond of very long hair. Slovenliness is, perhaps, the worst of his shortcomings, and if he elect to wear a beard as well as his long hair, the chances are that it will look more like a colt's tail after a run at grass in the season of burrs, than any human appendage in a reasonable state of decency.

"In the field," continues Col. W., in his valuable hints on campaigning. "no man's hair should exceed half an inch in length. None except those who have worn their hair thus can appreciate the luxury it confers on service. Hair is the glory of a woman but the shame of a man."

What the Colonel says about drill on service cannot but be very encouraging to Volunteer commanders, "at once you give up the humbug of the barrack-square and its aimless exercises. Practice your men in marching. The army that can march best is the best army, and the regiment that can march best in an army, is the best in that army. As for drill the worst militia regiment can do enough for all practical purposes. The running drill has been a glorious innovation, &c." But more quotation would scarcely be allowable, and I must glance very briefly at the bulk of the work. If the extracts I have made should stimulate the curiosity of officers who have not as yet read it, it will be no bad thing.

The diagrams and instructions for pitching camps, the advice as to what should constitute the kit of an officer on field service, the duties of Staff-officers, Courts martial, and a mass of general information on all points, are all interesting and mostly serviceable.

The plan of the officers of each company messing together on the same food as their men in the field would seem to be not unworthy of our attention in considering arrangements for the next annual camp. It is not improbable that a good deal of trouble, expense and dissatisfaction in the establishment of officers' messes might be avoided by its adoption.

Of course there are some subjects treated of, such as sea transport, which have comparatively little bearing on the Canadian Militia; and I have seen, in the United States Army Regulations, a diagram of an itinerary which conveys a clearer idea than Col. Wolseley's description. But the quantity, the practical nature, and the tone of

the general information on all points of service, will amply recompense the Volunteer in search of information for the trouble of perusal.

Another book of no little value and interest to the zealous officer of any branch of the Militia is the "Artillery Handbook for Field Service." Its speciality is, of course, Artillery, but it contains an immense amount of miscellaneous information on all branches of the service, and the illustrations and diagrams are very numerous and of the most useful description.

This work possesses all the advantages guaranteed by a combination of talent and experience, having been compiled, and from time to time revised, by Gen. Lefroy, R. A., with the assistance of about twenty of the most scientific officers of every branch of the service, whose names are given in the preface in acknowledgment of contributions. It contains in a condensed form, as much information on Artillery alone as is to be found in half the bulky volumes published on that subject. No Volunteer officer who is really desirous of attaining to some acquaintance with all the multifarious duties which may possibly fall to his lot, should be without these two volumes. Their united cost is about \$2.50, or probably less if ordered in any number from the publishers. The Artillery Handbook which I possess only cost me 75 cts., but it was obtained through the kindness of Capt. LaGrive, the able and courteous Adjutant of the Artillery School, who took the trouble to order them for the class to which I belonged. Between the two volumes ample, and in many cases minute information is afforded on every department of the service, and on every point of duty, and their acquisition is particularly to be recommended on account of their constituting to a great extent a substitute for more expensive works. For instance the articles on tactics and strategy in the "Artillery Handbook," are by Col. Hamley, and embody, in condensed form, the principles to be deducted from his larger volume, the "Operations of War," a work which costs (or did two years ago) eight dollars.

Field-sketching, reconnoissance, signalling, fortification, marches, outposts and many other points of service, are treated of in an interesting manner. The "Pocket Book" contains a number of useful mathematical formulæ, while the "Handbook" gives a series of elaborate tables of Logarithms, Powers, Roots, Circles, Natural Lines, Tangents, &c., and both have a number of excellent cooking receipts. G. W.

A French gunboat has just carried a monument to an obscure river—the Nunez—on the West Coast of Africa. It is there to be erected to the memory and glorification of Rene Caillie, a brave though almost forgotten traveller, who in the beginning of this century crossed the African continent from the river Nunez to Tangiers via Timbuctoo. He achieved this extraordinary feat disguised as an Arab, and at the cost of £40, which was all that he possessed in the world.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

VOLUME IV.

1370.

ON account of the liberal patronage extended to the REVIEW since its establishment we have determined to add fresh features of interest to the forthcoming Volume so as to make it every way worthy of the support of the Volunteers of the Dominion.

On account of the great increase of our circulation we have been compelled to adopt the **CASH IN ADVANCE** principle. Therefore, from and after the 1st of January next the names of all subscribers who do not renew their subscription will be removed from the list. The reason for this will be obvious to our friends, as it will be readily understood that a paper having so extended a circulation must be paid for in advance, it being impossible to employ agents to visit all the points to which it is mailed.

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LT.-COL. R. LOVELACE, for the Province of Quebec.

MR. ROGER HUNTER, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

REMITTANCES should be addressed to **DAWSON KERR**, Proprietor **VOLUNTEER REVIEW**, Ottawa.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE **VOLUNTEER REVIEW**, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.

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The Volunteer Review, AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1870.

One of the gallant veterans who fought through the war of 1812-15 suggests "That it would be a just tribute to the army and navy and veteran militia of 1812," to publish the despatches of the commanding officers engaged in each action, and such other information as would tend to illustrate so glorious a period of Canadian history. The readers of the REVIEW are requested to send any information, personal or otherwise, which might be in their possession relative to that war. And the biographies of any of the surviving veterans as would throw light on those transactions connected with any branch of the military or naval service would be highly acceptable.

In another page will be found a letter to the *Times* (London,) in which the defensive capabilities of Canada are fairly detailed, with the important exception that it is nearly as inaccessible to invasion in summer as in winter. As the writer truly says, Great Britain and the States would wage an *exhaustive war*, but it would be of that character alone on the part of the former. Every square mile of her territory is open to insult and attack on the Atlantic seaboard, and it would take

every man who could be spared from her forty millions of population to defend it.

"History repeats itself." The wars of 1754-64, 1764-84 and 1812-15 conclusively prove that the United States would be unable to conquer Canada if the latter was sustained by the naval power of Great Britain. In arguing this question hitherto the writers who endeavor to educate public opinion in Great Britain ignore all facts of history and willingly shut their eyes to existing facilities for defending Canada because the *suppression* *verio* answered the purpose of building up the theories of the Radical school, whose objects were to cut the Colonies adrift.

Assuming, as the writer of this letter does, that a Yankee force had invested those principal points which he names, the conquest of the country would be as distant as ever, simply because the rural districts would be untouched, and would require an army twice as numerous as that engaged in the operation of investing Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal and Kingston, to obtain even a precarious footing therein, and they would have to fight through in detail seven well defined lines, and beat in detail a force numbering fully 400,000 men fighting on their own farms, for their own properties and birthrights.

The Yankees came to take Canada twice and went away without it; they will not burn their fingers a third time, the chestnut is too hot.

In 1812, with a population of only 100,000 in Upper Canada and a magnificent British army of 2,000 men all told, the Canadians captured General Hull, a Yankee army of 2,500 men, two ships of war, the City of Detroit, and the whole State of Michigan. The United States had a force of 25,000 men on or near the frontiers; the war, though fearfully mismanaged by British officers, closed without the Yankees holding a single rod of British territory, although the Canadians did hold Michillemackinack and controlled Lake Michigan. What has been done before can be done again, and the Canadian people are quite willing to put it to the test whenever such a course suits Great Britain.

All those absurd stories about the vulnerability of Canada are derived from two sources—the motive before mentioned and the reports of military officers whose instructions restricted them to a few thousand regular soldiers. In fact the defence of Canada rests with her people, and if England will do her duty they will ever be ready to perform theirs. English journalists may rest easy on the score of Canadians being both able and willing to take their own share in any contest that may arise with the States. At the darkest period of the history of the Empire when the Rebellion of the British Colonists on this Continent threatened to shake it in pieces, the people of Canada not only were enabled to defend their own Province but captured so many of its invaders that they were obliged to dismiss them under a convention, (being

really more numerous than their conquerors, and in order to prevent the possibility of violating one of the principal conditions, which was not to serve during the war, they treated the Yankees as Alexander Selkirk treated his goats, and sent them across the lines with their ears slit.

There are very many reasons why the United States will not meddle with Canada, and not the least is that which dear bought experience has taught.

The London *Times* evidently cannot get clear of the peculiar ideas of centralisation, which have become the keystone of European government during the first half of the present century, and it is to be feared that British Statesmen are not before the *Times* in dealing with the great question of the connection between Great Britain and her Colonies. The leading English journal cannot see the way to "Administrative unity, even were it likely to be beneficial," and this problem is and has been the *pons assinorum* of the English Radicals, who are utterly incapable of bringing their ideas to the practical level of reason or common sense.

The *Times* lays down as propositions capable of proof that "the British Empire must necessarily be organised on a looser system than Empires like the United States or Russia, which are territorially continuous. There can be no real political unity without financial unity, and there can be no financial unity without geographical unity. To the proof of the first proposition it can be at once objected that although the Empires named have their various territories continuous, yet a greater diversity of interests, laws, language, customs, and social life prevails in every individual State or territory than in any of the British Colonies, which in all those great national characteristics are far more homogenous than any other people, and it is only owing to the incapacity of English politicians to grapple with this question that an administrative union has not been effected long ago.

The only financial unity requisite at present would be uniformity in coinage, and that each individual unit of the Empire should bear its own proportion of the general defense. Nor need it be necessary that any Radical or Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer prepare a budget for the forty Colonies in a Pan-Britannic Parliament. The contingent of each Colony could be voted there but nothing more. The *Times* must be aware that each individual State in the United States administer their own affairs and only support the Federal Government in general matters. The Colonies, while maintaining their own autonomy, could have a general system of laws, fiscal regulations, and commercial intercourse with each other and the British Isles, as simple and uniform as now exist between England, Ireland and Scotland.

The last proposition is an absurdity, "geo-

graphical unity" means any or everything, and if "financial unity" was an impossibility without that, what was it took the British arms to India or made them spend millions in the acquisition of America and in wresting from France her insular West Indian possessions? The world never heard of those efforts of political wisdom till the Radical school propounded the theory that the Colonies were a source of expense to Great Britain (they cost her £3,000,000 sterling per annum), and that she was unable to defend them in the case of war, and to this cry the *Times* lent its powerful aid, pretty much in the style of the beggars' petition. It remained for the latter day political philosophers, with Messrs. Gladstone and Bright at their head, to make the notable discovery that the Colonies were a source of weakness and that old England was in her dotage, fitter to degenerate into a nation of cotton spinners than the descendants of those who bore

"The flag that braved a thousand years
The battle and the breeze."

To victory against all odds. The Colonists can offer the *Times* counter proposition, which is, if they are sources of weakness and expense—now what would they be if cast off—drift into independence? England, by the scoundrelism of her advanced Radicals, created the Thirteen Colonies into the United States. If they had still remained British Provinces would they have cost Great Britain more money or be a source of greater danger than as a rival power? The *Times* knows well that if still British Colonies Great Britain would be the leading power in the world, and it also knows that the United States cannot put an iron-clad in the hands of the builders without Great Britain being compelled to build two,—the cost may be counted by Mr. Low.

All the special pleading of the Radicals and the cleverness of the *Times* or *Pall Mall Gazette* will not stave off the consideration and solution of the Colonial Problem, which may be shortly stated: "The Colonies want a closer connection with Great Britain for purposes of mutual defence, inter-commercial regulations and the management of foreign relations." They desire this because they want their fellow subjects in the British Isles to share the prosperity which a larger and more productive territorial area affords, and to direct British capital to its legitimate purpose of developing the resources of the outlying dependencies of the Empire instead of building up the adverse interests of Foreign States and rivals. This is the problem which English statesmen must solve, and the sooner the question is fairly met the better.

Those people, if there are any in Canada, who are in favor of paying the Alabama claims, will do well to study carefully the following specimen of the manner in which the United States fulfil its international obligations. This is only one instance of the

impudence and assurance of people who have no claim to our respect or sympathy. The House of Representatives at Washington has presumed to meddle with the Red River affairs, and one donkey occupying a seat therein submits a resolution, in which the President is called upon as a mediator between the Dominion and the insurgents in Rupert's land, recommending annexation as a solution of the difficulty. If those cool Yankees have set a value on the sympathies of Great Britain during the war, what price should they pay for their sympathies with the Winnipeg rebels?

If ever those Alabama claims are resuscitated Canadian demands for indemnity for Fenian outrages and want of Yankee sympathy will square the account. This consideration is recommended to Mr. Secretary Fish as an easy solution of the problem.

The New York *Post* of the 18th ult. contains the following extraordinary, but by no means unexpected, narrative of matters at the New York Fenian headquarters, No. 10, West Fourth street:

"Great dissatisfaction is felt throughout this city and country generally by the O'Neil section of the Fenian organization, touching the management of the War Department by its present incumbent. Both here and in Brooklyn the feeling is intense in this connection, and assuming a shape the most aggressive; as it has been almost decided to arraign this functionary before a convention that is now projected, for the purpose of depriving him of his position, and the opportunities of handling such considerable sums of money as he has been expending in the interests of the Brotherhood.

Ever since the losing, on his part, of certain important documents, in Ireland, which led, it is said, to some Fenian arrests, this official has been viewed with suspicion by many excellent, however misguided, persons connected with the organization. It is even hinted that President O'Neil has no very exalted opinion of him, and there has long been bad blood between them. It is to the pecuniary losses to which the 'Lethren' have, as alleged, been subjected, however, that the present soreness is felt; and, if rumor speaks truly, there are ample grounds for dissatisfaction.

"Among the most palpable neglects and errors in this connection was the bringing of a Gen. Smolenski from Washington as Assistant Secretary of War, at one hundred and fifty dollars a month. The General was said to have commanded a Polish contingent in the Crimea, and had served in the French army in Algiers. He was, consequently, regarded as an able military man, and was entrusted with the preparation of a new system of tactics that was designed to give the Fenians a superiority over their enemies in the field. After some months of hard labor the manuscript of this work was placed in the hands of the Secretary of War for publication; who, lo, and behold! he permitted the work, at the loss of many hundred dollars, to be stereotyped and go to press without correction. Gen. O'Neil and two or three of his assistants having been actually engaged for weeks in revising the proof-sheets after the book appeared. At this point it was discovered that Gen. Smolenski's tactics were not practicable, and that his services could be dispensed with.

"To this blunder may be added one more serious and egregious. Through some shuf-

file of the cards this same officer managed to get into his hands the right of contracting for the purchase of old muskets and other fire arms, and having them turned into breech loaders at a cost of eight dollars each, a sum said to be nearly two dollars in excess of what it ought to be. Nearly all the available funds of the organization have been absorbed in this direction, without, as it is asserted, as lucid vouchers as could be desired. But, who would dare to interfere with the Secretary of War? Now, however, it turns out that through some misunderstanding relative to this contract, the parties engaged in altering the guns are to receive, in addition to the sum realized by the eight dollar arrangement, an amount reaching many thousands more.

"As might have been expected, the course of this official has had its effect upon 10 West Fourth street. The Treasurer has resigned in disgust. The Adjutant-General and his assistants have gone, followed by the two principal secretaries and others. The truth is, headquarters is all but deserted, not a single one of the old staff remaining. O'Neil only is to be found at his post, and a new comer who has recently arrived from Ireland. No one, it is averred doubts the honesty and patriotism of the president, and, therefore it is that many are said to sympathise with him in his present unenviable condition. In the pursuit of an *ignis fatuus* he finds, too late, that he has left himself without a dollar in the world; while less deserving men have managed to advance the interests of the cause that has been his ruin. However, in all this the astute observer cannot fail to perceive "the beginning of the end," and that the next Fenian Congress will, possibly, be the last that will ever be held on this continent.

The *Volunteer Service Gazette* of the 22nd of January has, under the title of "The Forthcoming Drill System," given its readers an outline of what the "New Field Exercise" is likely to be, and says it will not be a revision of the manœuvres now in use, but in most respects radically different therefrom, embodying a simple and easily understood system, involving the abolition of the greater number of complicated movements excessively ornamental on the parade ground but practically useless in actual warfare.

It is evident from the outline given by the *Gazette* that "the march of improvement" in this direction has only begun, and must be considerably accelerated, especially in the Colonies, where the great mass of the population must receive a military training to a considerable extent, and that must be necessarily the most simple and easily understood which can be devised.

In the present case the "Horse Guards" have moved with a celerity which must amaze those conversant with the conservatism and machinery of the War Office, and the necessary caution required in revolutionizing the system of practical tactics on which the discipline of the regular army was founded. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief deserves great credit for the energy with which he devoted his attention to the task by receiving suggestions and plans from every quarter, irrespective of the authorities from which they emanated,

and by means of a well constituted committee trying each on its own merits, and finally adopting that best suited to each case. Practical tests being applied in every case—the result is best given in the words of the *Gazette*:

"And now the main principles of the new squad, company, and battalion drill, are, we understand, finally settled, and we are in a position to present our readers with the chief features of the scheme. It is not, of course possible, nor would it be desirable to enter very closely into details which are still susceptible of modification, and what we now give must be considered by no means as a working system, but merely as a general account of the main changes which have been resolved upon.

"The chief features of the new system are, in short, as regards battalion drill, the abandonment of permanent pivot flanks, the release of the captains from their present thralldom, the substitution of movements in fours for all double wheels, and the abolition of all formations by sections and subdivisions, except in forming square.

"The place hitherto held, in column or in line, by the captain, will, in future, be occupied by one of the subalterns, the captain being, in column, probably in front, and in line certainly in rear, of his company. All wheels will be on moveable pivots, and in a few exceptional cases, the French plan of forming up file by file instead of wheeling will be used. There being no absolute pivot flanks, and the order of companies being considered as of no importance, an open column will wheel into line to either hand, or form successively by companies, as may be most convenient. For the same reason all changes of front in column will be made by countermarching the companies independently, the countermarch round the centre and the manœuvres for 'changing the order of companies' being abolished.

"The little used movement 'along the rear in open column' is abandoned, and a more practical mode of prolonging the line to a flank is substituted.

"For advancing and retiring 'from a flank or central company in open column,' a more comprehensive method is used, by which any company may be named to commence the movement, the companies on its right following it, and those on its left coming afterwards. The double wheels are, as we said, done away with, each company moving to its place in fours. As any company may commence these movements, there will be no use for double columns of subdivisions, which, indeed, would involve a prohibited formation, but double columns of companies are still allowed.

"From line all columns will be formed in rear of the named company.

"Now we come to the formations of line from column, in which important changes are made. These formations, whether from open or closer columns, will all be made in one way—that advocated by the American General Morris—with the improvement that all deployments are made upon the front company. The principle, though very simple, is a little difficult to describe without the aid of a diagram; but it will probably be understood if we say that each company is led in fours by the shortest line to the point where its *inner* flank is to rest, and then moves, still in fours, along the alignment till it has taken up its ground, when it is halted and fronted. Any number of companies may, of course, go to one flank, and the remainder to the other, as at present.

"Squares will, as a rule, be two deep, the

four-deep formation being quite exceptional. "Changes of front in line will be done nearly as at present, except that the companies will always wheel on moveable pivots.

"These are the principal alterations in battalion drill. It will be easily seen that squad and company drill will necessarily be greatly simplified. In the latter drill, indeed, subdivisions and sections are allowed, but they are only to be used for route marching, and never, as we have said, in the manœuvres of a battalion in the field, except for the formation of battalion squares. As for 'the close column of sections,' it is altogether got rid of, companies threatened by cavalry simply forming fours deep, and closing and facing outwards.

"We refrain from any description of light infantry drill, for we believe that the details are not yet fully settled. We believe, however, that the men of each file are in future to work side by side instead of one behind the other, and, of course, supports will move always in fours to a flank directly or diagonally, instead of in echelon of sections.

We must not conclude without adverting to a very important point, that of the rate of march. This, both in quick and double time, will, we believe, be considerably accelerated. Great pains have been taken, we understand, to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion on this subject, every general and commanding officer in the United Kingdom having been consulted and every regiment experimented upon. The time honoured slow time 'often takes leave, but seems loth to depart;' but its final extinction appears at last to be drawing nigh. It is still retained for funerals, of course, and for marching past, but in the latter case shorn of its glories by being performed with the ranks at close instead of open order."

This is indeed a great step in advance, but it is evidently behind the requirements of the day. Many Canadian Volunteer officers will be enabled to make such further requisite improvements on this system as must adapt it to the conditions necessary for developing the capabilities of their own commands. It would appear that, under existing conditions, the actual requirements are: rapidity of movement—thorough knowledge of the use of the rifle—and the capacity to improvise cover. The first involves thorough subordination to command and the power to act mechanically; advancing in line or column, and most simple possible of battalion manœuvres. The next demands steadiness, care, and that methodical precision which can only be attained by practice, while the last requires an amount of skill which must of necessity be derived from the instructions of the officers immediately in command of the battalion unit. In future, therefore, the necessity for giving the officer in command of troops a more careful training is sufficiently apparent, as they must not only know how to *drill* soldiers but act as designers and instructors in the complicated duties of a military engineer.

This simplicity of drill and manœuvres will necessitate a great extension of the duties of military engineers, because it will depend in a great measure on the facilities with which these impromptu entrenchments may be thrown into a formidable line of de

fence whether defeat or victory is to follow any particular movement.

The appearance of the new "Field Exercises" will be looked for with interest by the Volunteer force of Canada, and it would be well if our local authorities followed the example of the "Horse Guards," and appointed committees to consider the value of drill alterations suggested by the various Volunteer officers who have devoted their attention to this matter.

OTTAWA RIFLE MATCH.

The second of the series of rifle contests taking place in this city came off on Saturday the 5th instant, between No. 1 Battery (Capt. Eagleson) of the Brigade of Garrison Artillery and the Civil Service Company. These matches are becoming very popular, there being already arrangements made for several others amongst the Volunteers, and a challenge has issued from the 60th Rifles to fire with No. 1 Company of the 43rd Battalion, who are the present champions. By the scores it will be seen that the Artillery "took the right of the line," but if they do not improve, the Civil Service will give them a rub after another practice over the deceptive snow. Gunner A. L. Russell heads the list by seven points.

No. 1. O. B. O. A.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|------|
| | 200 yds. | 500 yds. | T'l. |
| Gunner Russell | 2333333 | 4343433 | —44 |
| " Morrison | 2344333 | 0023433 | —37 |
| Corp. McDonald | 2233334 | 0333240 | —35 |
| Sergt. Harris | 3424022 | 0000343 | —27 |
| Gunner Walters | 3330343 | 0600000 | —19 |

Total 162
CIVIL SERVICE RIFLE COMPANY.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|-----|
| Pte. DeBoucherville | 4332223 | 0203343 | —34 |
| Sergt. Walsh | 3331333 | 0002433 | —30 |
| Pte. Morgan | 2223332 | 3300330 | —29 |
| Corpl. Yeoman | 3322322 | 0230003 | —25 |
| Capt. White | 0223433 | 0000000 | —17 |

Majority for No. 1 Battery 27

At the conclusion of the match, which was witnessed by a number of spectators, the weather although a little dark and cold, nevertheless a most agreeable one, three cheers were given for the victors.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS for Feb. 5th, has the following illustrations:—Lumberman's Shanty—outside view. A portrait of M. Emilio Olivier; the Whirlpool, Niagara River; Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal; a Sunday in the Backwoods of Canada; Fashion plates; duel between a Crow and a Snake, with the usual cartoon on the last page.

The Dominion Monthly bears evidence of much care in its selections, and its notices of the early life of Canadian settlers possess an historical value of sufficient importance to warrant great exertions in procuring all existing documents which may throw

light on so interesting and important a subject, for instance one of the most interesting papers of the last issue is "A winter Journey long ago," which gives a vivid description of the state of this country between Kingston and Montreal in 1804.

THE MUSICAL GUEST for February contains three beautiful songs:—"Bloom upon the Cherry tree," "The moon light at Cape May," and "When you were Seventeen." As specimens of poetry they are all good, but the last is really beautiful, as the following extract will show:

Oh! when the roses bloomed, Nellie,
So many years ago,
Oh! when the sky was red, Nellie,
With sunset's crimson glow,
Then hand in hand we strayed, Nellie,
O'er meadows bright and green,
When I was twenty-one, Nellie,
And you were seventeen.

The terms for the GUEST is \$1.00 per annum; address Whitney's Palace of Music, Toledo, O. Canadian subscribers must add 12 cents extra to prepay postage.

No musical family can afford to do without PETERS' MUSICAL MONTHLY. It is printed from full-size music plates, and contains in each number at least twelve pieces of choice new music. Price, \$3 per year. Subscriptions received at this office, where a sample copy can be seen.

The VOLUNTEER REVIEW and PETERS' MUSICAL MONTHLY, one year for \$4.

PRESENTATION.

On Monday night, Feb., 7th, No. 1 Company, 57th Battalion, met for their usual weekly drill in the Drill Shed, Peterboro'; and according to previous arrangement presented a beautiful silk sash to Quarter-Master, F. H. Knapp. After a short drill, Capt. H. C. Rogers called the Quarter-Master to the front of the Company, and said:—Quarter-Master Knapp, it gives me great pleasure to be deputed by the Non-Commissioned Officers and men of No. 1 Company, to read you the following address and also to present to you, this silk sash:

To Quarter-Master F. H. Knapp.
Sir,—The members of No. 1 Company, 57th Battalion, in order to acknowledge their appreciation of your very successful management of your department of the service, while in camp in October last, by which the non-commissioned officers and men of the Battalion were provided with rations, &c., at a much cheaper rate than any other Battalion in the Province of Ontario, beg leave to present to you this silk sash, which they hope you may be long enabled to wear in the Volunteer force of Canada. Receive it with the best wishes of the men of No. 1 Company, and when you are called out on duty hereafter, let it remind you, that, let others slight the services of an efficient officer if they will, the members of the Volunteer force will always acknowledge them with thanks.

On behalf of the members of No. 1 Company.

ERAMUS GREEN, Col. Sergt.
JOHN IRWIN, Sergeant.

To the Members of No. 1 Company, 57th Battalion Volunteer Militia.

GENTLEMEN,—It is with no little pride and pleasure, that I this day receive the very handsome testimonial of your appreciation

of my efforts to do my duty towards you, as Quarter-Master of this Battalion during the past year. I can assure you that such a testimonial coming as it does, not only from members of my own Battalion, but also from the Company with which I was so long associated as a member is doubly gratifying to me, and will, if possible, render me more diligent in the performance of duties which it has always been a pleasure to perform.

Hoping that it may be long ere we shall be divided from each other in our duties as Volunteers, and with every wish for your prosperity both as a Company and individually.

Believe me to be

Your obed't servant,

F. H. KNAPP,

Quarter-Master 57th Batt.

Lieut. Col. Poole then came forward, and said:

Capt Rogers, officers and men of No. 1 Company, it gives me very great pleasure to be present with you to night, and to see this presentation, though I do not approve of presents being given by the men to their officers, yet, in this case, everything accords so well; it has been well deserved, and so very handsomely given, that no fault can be found, on the contrary, every praise is deserved; and I must say that nothing can be more pleasing to me, than the kind friendly feeling displayed by the members of "old No. 1 Company" toward each other. I look back with pleasure to my own connection with your Company for the past thirteen years, and now after all that time, I still find the Company the same in spirit and feeling, ever attentive to drill, always ready for duty, and determined to be not only No. 1 in position in the Battalion, but No. 1 in everything. Capt. Rogers, you were absent from town at the time of the half yearly inspection by Brigade Major Patterson, and I now tell you that the Brigade Major was very much pleased with the "turn out" of your Company on that occasion, and also with their neat soldierly appearance; he said it was by far the largest muster in his district, and everything connected with your Company gave him pleasure. I endorse all that he said at that time, and I know that No. 1 Company by its earnest attention to drill, is following the only course which will keep it up to its old standard of efficiency, and make the public still admire it as "Old No. 1 Company."

Capt Rogers said, that it gave him the highest gratification to hear that his Company had acquitted themselves so much to their credit during his absence; and he would now close the proceedings of the night by calling on all present to join in giving three cheers for the Queen, which were given with a will, three cheers were then given for Lieut. Col. Poole, and three for Quarter-Master Knapp, when the Company was dismissed. W. J.

DEATH OF A TRAFALGAR MAN.—On Saturday, the 20th January there died at St. Anselme, County of Dorchester, Mr. W. Venner. The deceased was born at St. Mary of Bristol, County of Exeter, England, on the 4th October, 1780. He entered the navy in 1795 and was present at many engagements, amongst them that of Trafalgar. He then entered the cavalry and joined the 3rd Dragoons. He was through most of the Peninsular war, during which he received many wounds. On leaving the service he came to Canada in 1803, with a detachment of invalids. He married in 1812, and resided in St. Roch's till 1831, where he had acquired some property; he then retired to St. Anselme where he died.

AN UNPUBLISHED POEM.

The writer of the subjoined poem was a gentleman of great literary ability, but unfortunately did not attempt to cultivate his rare talents as a poet until comparatively late in life. Had he done so sooner he would assuredly have won for himself a high place in the ranks of the poets. He was born in Edinburgh, and in early life a writer to the *Signal*. He came to this country as private secretary to Lord Sydenham, and afterwards became Collector of Customs at Kingston, where he died a few years since. We are indebted to Evan McCol, the poet, for a copy of the poem

THE BATTLE OF ALMA.

See! the Hosts to Alma tending,
France and Britain's armies blending;
Horse and Foot are quickly forming,
Alma's heights prepared for storming.
Array'd the Moslem's wrongs to right,
And curb the haughty Muscovite.

See! the river's banks where treading,
Infantry their ranks are spreading;
See! the troopers forward dashing,
Swords against their chargers clashing.
Hearts of men for combat burning,
Horses hoofs the ground are spurning.
All! the hope of glory gladdens,
All! the thirst of battle maddens!

Pennons in the van are dancing,
Bay'nets in the sun are glancing,
Drum and fife are loudly pealing,
Throbs each pulse with generous feeling,
O'er the heights resolved that, gleaming,
Britain's flag shall soon be streaming!
Although around these heights there close
Myriad fierce and savage foes!

Hark! the gun for onset booming,
Many there to death is dooming!
Hark! the loud huzza declaring,
How their hearts are full of daring!
On they push through Alma's water,
Redden'd all its waves with slaughter,
Speed they up the highlands higher,
To the heights of Alma higher.

Through the foes, to stem them rushing,
Break they all before them crushing!
Russia's bands in serried numbers,
Guns of iron hurling thunders!
Balls from the thousand rifles whistling,
Rocks and crags with sabres bristling,
Nothing can their purpose alter,
Not a moment do they falter!

Where the swords most keen are clashing,
Where the fire's most brightly dashing,
Where the smoke's most densely curling,
Mortars, shells most frequent hurling,
Britain's sons are onward straining,
Numbers, fire, and sword disdaining!
With shouts! and courage still unspent,
Press they up the steep ascent.

On the right, hark! shouts replying,
Friendly voices to them crying!
See! the riders heads appearing
Mong the cliffs,—see! horse careering!
France's gallant sabres flashing,
Mid the flying form in crashing!
Gallia's sons upon them fall—
Britain's sons shout "Onward!" call.

Though their life-blood flows as water,
On they force in spite of slaughter;
Up the ascent where gore is gurgling,
See on hands and knees they're struggling!
Though dead in heaps their comrades lie,
Their flag behold! on Alma fly!

Hush'd the shouts of victors greeting,
Still'd the vanquish'd's cries retreating.
Grateful thoughts are gently swelling,
Back their souls to holler feeling.
To the Lord our voices raise we
Let all hearts adoring praise Thee!
T'hor for us this day has given
T'hor! the victory hast given!

JAMES HOPKINS.

Woodstone, April 12th, 1855.

—*People's Journal*.

DIAMONDS.

From the earliest times up to the beginning of the eighteenth century, India was supposed to be the only diamond producing country. The first brought to Europe were from the kingdoms of Visapur and Golconda. They were found at the base of the Neela Mulla Mountains, in the neighborhood of the Krischna and Poinar rivers—a

district so sterile that previously to the discovery of the treasures contained in its soil, it was little better than a desert. During the rainy season the floods descend in torrents from the mountains, and after their subsidence numbers of diamonds are found in the ferruginous sands washed down from the rocks.

The diamonds thus found were conveyed to the city of Golconda, where they were disposed of, either to native princes or foreign merchants. The qualities of the diamonds were distinguished by the name of Hindoo castes; the best and largest were called Brahma, the second Krischna, the third Bysch, and the fourth Sudra. The use of these gems was formerly a regal privilege of the Rajahs and Sultans, but as successive dynasties were overthrown, diamonds ceased to be the exclusive property of royalty.

The tradition of a valley of diamonds, similar to that described in the story of "Sinband the Sailor," is of great antiquity. The celebrated Venetian traveller of the thirteenth century, Marco Polo, thus relates what he heard on the subject:—"In the summer, when the heat is excessive and there is no rain, they—the Indians—ascend the mountains with great fatigue, as well as with considerable danger, from the number of snakes with which they are infested. Near the summit, it is said there are deep valleys, full of caverns and surrounded by precipices, amongst which the diamonds are found, and here many eagles and white storks attracted by the snakes on which they feed, are accustomed to make their nests. The persons who are in quest of the diamonds take their stands near the mouths of the caverns, and from thence cast down several pieces of flesh, which the eagles and storks pursue into the valleys, and carry off with them to the top of the rocks. Thither the men immediately ascend, drive the birds away, and recovering the pieces of meat, frequently find diamonds sticking to them."

In the time of Travernier, a French jeweller, who published all his travels in the East in the seventeenth century, the mines of Golconda employed 60,000 persons and in a still earlier age were so productive that the Sultan Mahomund, who died at the end of the twelfth century, left more than four hundred pounds weight of diamonds in his treasury.

The largest quantities of diamonds are now imported from the Brazils; they were found accidentally while searching for gold. So little did the gold-seekers suspect the nature of the little hard translucent pebbles occasionally picked up, that they either tossed them carelessly away or used them as counters while playing cards. One Bernardo Fonsica Lobo, who had seen rough diamonds in India, formed a shrewd guess as to their value, and took several to Lisbon where they were identified as real diamonds. From that time gold digging was abandoned to slaves, and all the population united in the search for the precious gems. These valuable productions of the Brazilian soil were at first found in immense quantities: in the first fifty years after the discovery, it is said that diamonds to the value of twelve millions sterling were exported.

The process of digging and washing is carried on entirely by negroes. Large diamonds are of course rarely found. If a slave discovers one of eighteen carats' weight he

immediately receives his freedom with the privilege of working for himself henceforward.

These precious stones are scattered about in such profusion, that whenever a fowl is killed the crop is examined and diamonds frequently found. A negro once was fortunate enough to find a diamond worth three hundred pounds sterling adhering to the root of a cabbage he had plucked for his dinner. Fowls are well known to be addicted to picking up any shining substance instead of gravel. The only diamond ever found in Europe was discovered a few years ago in Wicklow, and was supposed to have been conveyed thither by some bird of passage. In Gibraltar, the migratory pigeons that are caught at certain seasons have frequently particles of gold dust about their feet, brought no doubt from the auriferous deposits in the hitherto unexplored regions of Africa.

The diamond supply from the Brazils is now falling off; but we are on the eve of the discovery of new fields that may probably prove as productive as the districts of Golconda and Cerro de Frio. Late news from Ballarat gives notices of fresh discoveries. A Diamond Mine Company has been established at Melbourne, the object of which is to work a field on the Cudegong River in New South Wales, where not only diamonds but numbers of other precious stones have been found. Most of the diamonds hitherto picked up have been brought to Melbourne; the value of one of these stones is estimated at four hundred pounds sterling. Diamonds have also been lately discovered at the Cape of Good Hope. When we consider the wide districts of Australia and Africa now open to exploration, it is impossible to set a limit to the riches that may be revealed. As objects of beauty the preciousness of diamonds must always remain the same; but it is just possible that great discoveries may so far reduce their marketable value as to render the possession of a parure of diamonds no longer a mark of distinguished rank or wealth. As jewels are not subject to wear or tear, every one found is one added to the world's store; those worn by the Roman Emperors are no doubt still in existence, and in purchasing a jewelled ring we may possibly acquire possession of a gem that once sparkled on the finger of a Julia or Faustina.

Though the pure white diamond, colorless and pellucid as water, is the most esteemed, these stones are found of various hues—yellow, blue, green, pink, and even black. One of the most perfect specimens of the colored diamond is that belonging to Mr. Hope, which unites the lovely hue of the sapphire with the brilliancy of the more precious gem. The insignia of St. Esprit, formerly worn by the Kings of France, consists of a dove formed of a single sapphire, mounted on a ground of white brilliants and surrounded by blue diamonds of a color almost as intense as the sapphire. The button of the King of Saxony's hat is composed of a splendid green diamond of great value.

The diamond possesses a remarkably high refractive power; it is to this power of separating the rays of light into their elementary colors that its great brilliancy is owing. Though it is found in numerous forms they are all derived from the regular octohedron. The facets of the crystal are often curved, however, thus giving the stone a spherical appearance. The structure is lamellar, and the diamond may be readily cleaved parallel to the plane of the octohedron.

Boetius de Boot, in 1609 was the first to suggest its inflammability; the same surmise was made by the great Newton; but the

first record of experimental proof, was from an Academy of Florence, in 1694, under Duke Cosmo the Third, when a diamond was subjected to a powerful burning lens. It first split, then emitted sparks and finally disappeared. M. Guyon de Morveau in 1785, exposed a diamond inclosed in a cavity in a piece of iron to intense heat. When the cavity was opened the diamond had entirely vanished, but the iron around was converted into steel, thus proving the gem to consist of pure carbon.

It has been found possible to manufacture diamonds by the crystallization of carbon, but hitherto of a size so infinitesimally minute as to be of no value except in a scientific point of view. Brilliant points may occasionally be observed in coke that has been exposed to furnace heat; these are diamond particles and are capable of cutting glass. Thus, in the marvellous laboratory of nature, the commonest and poorest matter becomes converted into the most precious gem.

The diamond frequently becomes phosphorescent on exposure to the sun's rays. The Hon. Robert Boyle, writing in 1672, says, "I have in my keeping a diamond which, by water made a little more than lukewarm, I could make to shine in the dark." It is no doubt this phosphorescent quality that gave rise to the legendary power of diamonds and carbuncles to light, a belief we find very ancient. In the talmud it is said that Noah had no other light in the ark than furnished by precious stones. The Vedas of the Brahmins also speak of a place lighted by rubies and diamonds which emit light like those of the planets.

The rough diamond is a little more attractive than the common pebble; its brilliancy being concealed under a hard crust, that can only be removed by diamond powder. Though the art of cutting the gem has only been brought to perfection during the last few centuries—those cut and polished at Golconda being of clumsy workmanship—the stone was formerly valued for other, and for the most part fabulous, qualities.

THE LATE LIEUT.-GENERAL WINDHAM.

It is our mournful duty to day to record the death of Sir Charles Ashe Windham, K. C. B., the General lately in command of Her Majesty's Forces in Canada. Our readers were made aware a few days ago of the illness of this veteran and much respected soldier; and it was known that the symptoms of his disease had been sufficiently alarming to induce a call for Lady Windham to follow him to Florida, where he had gone on leave of absence in the hope that a milder climate and release from duty might restore him to health. The later intelligence which reached us respecting him led to the hope that he might partially recover, though the disease of the heart, from which he suffered, did not permit of the expectation of his complete restoration. The last news which had been received in this city, previous to that which we now communicate, represented him as somewhat better. This was to the 26th ult.; but on that day the house where he resided was destroyed by fire, and the General had to be removed. How far that may have hastened his end, we do not yet know; but there can be little

doubt that, in the state to which he had been reduced, the agitation caused by this occurrence must have had an exceedingly ill effect. He died next day 3rd inst. Sir Charles came of a distinguished line of Englishmen, being the son of the late Vice-Admiral, who was the nephew of the eminent statesman, William Windham. He was born in 1810, and was, therefore, 60 years of age; entered the Coldstream Guards as Lieutenant on the 30th Dec., 1826; became Lieut.-Colonel 29th June, 1846, Major-General 8th September, 1855, Colonel of the 46th 17th June, 1861, and Lieut.-General 5th February, 1863. General Windham served in this country during the troubles of 1838, and continued here till 1842. He was afterwards in Ceylon and on other service with the corps to which he belonged. At the breaking out of the war with Russia, he was appointed A. Q. M. G. to the 4th Division, and landed in the Crimea on the 14th September, 1854; continuing with the army without a single day's intermission of duty till July, 1856. During the siege of Sebastopol he was promoted by General Simpson to the command of a brigade, and all the world knows the distinguished part he took at the battle of Inkerman, and afterwards at the assault on the Great Redan, which no led in person on the eventful 8th September. On that day he remained almost single handed exposed to the overpowering force of the defenders of the work until almost every one of his followers had been mown down by the repeated showers of grape and musketry. He was, notwithstanding, one of the few survivors of that gallant assault who returned un wounded from the "imminent deadly breach." For this action he was promoted to the rank of Major General, created a C. B., with the command of the 4th Division, and made Chief of the Staff. When Sebastopol was captured he received the additional honour of an appointment to the Governorship of the Suburb of Karabelnaia. He was elected member of Parliament for East Norfolk in 1857; taking his seat on the liberal side of the House. But in the same year his military services were again required, and he was sent during the mutiny to India, where he commanded at Cawnpore, and at the action on the Pandoo Nuddee, where he beat the Gwalior contingent on the 26th November. He also commanded in actions on the 27th, 28th and 29th of the same month, and led a division under Lord Clyde during the advance to the Kallee Nuddee, the action on that river, and the farther advance to Futteghur. He was subsequently appointed Military Governor of Lahore. He succeeded Sir John Michel in the command of the Forces in this country in 1867. Sir Charles received the Crimean medal with four clasps, and the Indian medal; was a Commander of the Legion of Honour; was one of the first class of the Military Order of Savoy, and of the second class of the Medjidie. We need only add to this short account of Sir Charles' distinguished services, that his bravery on the field was equalled by the courtesy which he exhibited on all occasions to those with whom he was brought into contact by official duties or social relations.

We believe that General Windham, though in ill health from disease of the heart when he left Canada, had, on his way to Jacksonville in Florida, gone round to Kansas for the purpose of seeing some lands which he had purchased there in the Spring of last year, from whence he went to the milder climate of Florida. His death-bed was soled by the presence of Lady Windham, who had happily arrived in time. Capt. Hudson and Mr. Hare, his Aide-de-Camps, were also present, as well as Dr. Smith and

Mr. P. S. Stevenson, himself an invalid at the great Southern Sanatorium. It is at present supposed that he will be buried in Florida, but this is uncertain.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Maori rebellion in New Zealand, about which so many fears have been expressed and which seem likely to lead to a serious difficulty between the Home and New Zealand Governments is apparently drawing to an end. A battle is reported to have taken place between hostile Maories and the Colonial force, the latter consisting of a mixed force of natives and English. The hostile Maories were completely overthrown, and driven from the pass in which they had entrenched themselves.—Thirty-seven were killed, and several women were taken prisoners, the remaining men escaping into the woods. The leader of this band was a chief of the name of Te Kooti, who had previously shown himself active amongst the native enemy. He escaped along with the other fugitives, but the moral effect of the victory will be great, especially among the waverers of whom there are several natives of influence, who now express a wish to make terms with the British. The effect of this turn in events will, doubtless, be most salutary, and give a great impetus to immigration to New Zealand—a country whose climate is found to be most congenial to Europeans, and which from the geographical situation and surroundings is not likely to be disturbed by outside political influences.

A silver mine has been discovered in Carnarvonshire, Wales.

The British Parliament will re-assemble on the 8th of February.

A project is on foot to build a railway from Morristown, U. S., to Philadelphia, to connect with the Brockville and Ottawa Railway.

The remains of the late Mr. Peabody were taken from the *Monarch* to the City Hall, Portland, on the 29th inst., amidst great ceremony.

MILITARY SURVEYING.—A party of Royal Engineers went yesterday morning on a surveying expedition on the St. John's Road; they were accompanied by a fatigue party of the 69th Regt.—*Quebec Chronicle*, Jan. 29th.

VOLUNTEERED.—The members of the Mount Forest Rifle Company, at the drill on Saturday evening last, by unanimous agreement instructed Captain Pearce to offer the services of the company to the Government for duty at Red River, if required. This was duly transmitted on Monday by the Captain through Lieut. Col. Higginbotham to Col. Taylor, D. A. G. The spirit of patriotism thus shown is most creditable to the officers and men of the company.

MORE AMERICAN "CHECK."—The matter of extending protection to "American citizens," held by Great Britain for participation in the Fenian insurrection was recently under consideration by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. A resolution was authorized to be reported, calling upon the Secretary of State for information regarding such "Americans" as are now imprisoned, and expressing the opinion that the government ought to demand their instant release. It remains to be seen whether this "resolution" applies to the "Americans" in the Kingston Penitentiary.—*Daily Intelligencer*.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

LONDON, Feby. 3.—The amount of specie in the Bank of England has increased £228,000 stg., since last Thursday.

Despatches have been received from Bombay, announcing that the *Great Eastern* was signalled off Malabar coast on the 28th January.

Mr. Callan, member of Parliament for Dundalk, announces his intention of demanding a Parliamentary investigation into the condition of the imprisoned Fenians.

In consequence of the frequent rumors of the Pope's ill-health, the public mind is busy with the names of candidates for succession. The election of Archbishop Manning is strongly advocated in England.

The Archbishop of York has returned encouraging answers to the clerical petition for the disuse of the Athanasian creed.

Lefry has resigned his seat in Parliament for Dublin University.

Paris, Feby. 3.—The amount of specie on hand to-day in the Bank of France, is 10,100,000 francs more than last Thursday.

Victor Hugo's new drama, "Lucrezia Borgia," was produced at Porte St. Martin Theatre last night. The audience was noisy and disorderly. Paul de Cassagnac, journalist, was hissed, and otherwise insulted.

ALEXANDRIA, Feby. 3.—It has been fairly demonstrated that vessels drawing no more than 17½ feet of water are able to pass through the Canal with safety.

NEW YORK, Feby. 3.—The following telegram explanatory of the Key West tragedy has been received in this city:

KEY WEST, Feby. 1.—The duel between Castanon and Reyes, editor of *El Republicano*, did not take place because the authorities interfered. Another Cuban challenged Castanon, but the latter would not accept. The Cuban then insulted Castanon, who fired a shot at him. The fire being returned, Castanon was killed.

NEW YORK, Feby. 3.—The jury in the Glason divorce case could not agree, and were discharged yesterday. They stood seven for the plaintiff, and five for the defendant.

One of the thieves who has been operating for some time upon the American Express Company's line, has been arrested.

KEY WEST, Feb. 2.—Intelligence from Havana states that up to 10 o'clock on Sunday night about 350 persons had been killed and wounded by the Spaniards, in the tumult growing out of the Castanon affair. At latest accounts the carnage had not ceased. The Cubans seem to have been murdered without any respect to persons.

HUDSON, N. Y., Feb. 3.—A terrible accident occurred this morning on the Boston and Albany Railway, half a mile west of Chatham Village. A large freight train going east broke its couplings near the centre of the train and eleven cars ran back down a heavy grade, coming in collision with another freight train, piling them all up a mass of ruins, with the engine, and instantly killing the conductor, brakeman and fireman; another brakeman was seriously injured, and an engineer slightly. The cars were heavily laden with valuable produce, which is reported to be nearly ruined.

NEW YORK, Feby. 3.—Prince Arthur, at the invitation of Gen. McDowell, visited the Harbor Forts this afternoon. He was received with a royal salute at Governor's Island.

HAVANA, Feby. 3.—The Capt.-General sent a despatch to Matanzas, in which he warns

the Volunteers that they will give a poor idea to the government which employs them, by committing acts of retaliation, and advises them to confine themselves to their duty, maintenance of public order, in performance of which are the firmest staff of the authorities.

NASSAU, Jan. 30th, via Havana, Feb. 2.—The British guanoat *Dart* discovered the steamer *Anna* anchored near Berry Island on the 25th inst., and brought her to this port, where an investigation was held. It was found that her papers were regular, so she was released. The following day her consignees applied for a clearance for St. Thomas, but it was refused. Yesterday a guard was placed on board the *Anna*, and the American flag lowered.

The *New York Commercial Advertiser* says: "The British monitor *Monarch* now in Portland harbor will be a study to our naval officers gathered there. We Americans have an idea that our iron-clads are superior to any afloat, and that the States of Europe as naval powers, are but third-class. It is only recently that the Secretary of the Navy broke this dream of delusion by informing the country that both in numbers and in efficiency our iron-clads were inferior to those of more than one European power. In fact, with all our bluster about Spain, her navy has iron ships which would very soon make an end to our low lying monitors. We built very fast during the war, and as we had no navy to contend against we built these floating batteries, from which the land works of the rebels could be assailed. The splendid, costly, and lofty hulls of mailed ships, like those of England and France, were not reared here. Our own *Miantonomah*, which has gone to the Peabody funeral has so far proved more destructive to friends than foes, and she has to be carefully watched lest she break away and go careering around among the marine that bears her own flag. Our officers speak enthusiastically of the sailing qualities of the *Monarch*, the English monitor. Her speed was 200 miles per day easily, with wind alone. She could bring her turrets into action, says Captain Macombe, of the *Plymouth*, in a gale "where I could not exercise my guns." All this is rather severe upon our national pride, which may learn a lesson even from the haughty Briton. The lesson, too, comes at a good time, while we are flattered by the compliment to Mr. Peabody.

FEJEE ISLANDS.—Yankee journals are at present glorifying over the alleged fact that the Fejee Islanders want to be annexed to the United States. There are about 1,800 Fejee Islanders, and just 154 islands in the group. The habits of the inhabitants are voracious, white man broiled being their favourite lunch. The latter fact alone should make our cousins anxious for the annexation, for then could there arise immediately a market for a commodity which is at present dead stock on their hands. We mean that in those daily little occurrences in Chicago, New York, &c., in which one free and independent citizen pistols another free and independent citizen for amusement. They might combine profit with the fun of the thing, by shipping the Republicans to Fejee, where they would be found useful in the way of lunch. The Yankees are a practical people, let them act on the suggestion.

—*Daily Intelligencer*.

The two hands found in the nunnery yard at Montreal turn out to be the paws of a bear.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS.

Ottawa, 11th February, 1870.

GENERAL ORDER.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

7th Battalion, "The London Light Infantry."

No. 6 Company.

To be Ensign:

George Edgar Laing, Gentleman, vice Mahon, promoted.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

The formation of the following Corps, to be attached to and known as "No. 5 Company" of "The Provisional Battalion of *Témiscouata*," is hereby authorized. Officers provisional, except those who are qualified under 33 Sec. of Militia and Defence Act.

An Infantry Company at *Isle Verte*, Regimental Division of *Témiscouata*.

To be Captain:

A. Fraser, Esquire, M. S.

To be Lieutenant:

P. R. Dube, Gentleman, M. S.

To be Ensign:

J. B. Raymond, Gentleman.

9th Battalion "Volligeurs de Québec."

No. 1 Company.

To be Ensign:

Louis Elzéar Frenette, Gentleman, M. S., vice L. N. Dionne, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

Provisional Battalion of *Rimouski*.

No. 3 Company.

The services, as an officer in the Militia, of Captain Louis Lapage, of this Company, are hereby dispensed with.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General.

P. ROBERTSON-ROSS, Colonel,
Adjutant General of Militia,
Canada.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 4lb., 1lb., and 1lb. tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

Tuesday, 25th January, 1870.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

ON the recommendation of the Honorable the Minister of Customs, and under and in pursuance of the Act 31 Victoria, Chapter 6, intitled "An Act respecting the Customs," His Excellency has been pleased to Order, and it is hereby Ordered that on from and after the first day of February next the Port of Amherst in the Province of Quebec, shall for all the purposes of that Act be designated and known as the Port of Magdalen Islands.

WM. H. LEE, Clerk, Privy Council.

Ottawa, Feb. 1, 1870.

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Ottawa, August 7th, 1869. 32-17

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