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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

VOL. II.

OTTAWA, CANADA, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1868.

No. 9.

For the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

BY WILLIAM PITTMAN LETT.

"Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade—
Noble Six Hundred!"—Tennyson.

The word was given like flash of light;
Leaped forth six hundred weapons bright,
On Balaklava's bloody height,
In battle's proud array.
Six hundred sprits, brave and true
As e'er the reeking sabre drew,
To heroism's full stature grew
On that eventful day.

What boated they the cannon's sound,
The iron shower that plough'd the ground
And hurled fell destruction round,
And death, on every side:
Knee touching knee, they stood arrayed
In stately line, as on parade:
Each waves aloft his glittering blade,
And down the gorge they ride.

Like thunderbolt, that stunning dash
Of heroism, grand and rash,
Fell on the foe with shock and crash,
Dread as the crack of doom!
Like frostwork riven by bursting shell,
The Russian host before it fell,
And high the mounds of slaughter swell—
Their monumental tomb.

The battery on the height they gain,
The goal is won; the gory plain
Is choked with heaps of ghastly slain.
As backward, up the slope,
The fated squadron, with a cheer,
Held on their valourous career,
Loud o'er the clangour, wild and clear,
Hang out that knell of hope.

On, on they sped, that gallant band!
Well had they kept the bold command.
Through hosts of foemen, sword in hand,
The vallant remnant strode.
On, o'er the carnage-numbered track,
Mid smoke and blood—death, grim and black,
Marked the heroic pathway back—
The brave survivors rode.

Oh! 'twas a memorable day,
Never, since old Thermopylae
Shed patriotism's immortal ray
Of glory o'er all time,
Has such a light of valour shone,
Has such a deed of fame been done,
Has such a laurel-wreath been won
By bravery sublime.

Ottawa, February 22nd, 1868.

The English papers publish with great satisfaction a Fenian riddle that has just been concocted. The problem is, "My first, when he makes my second, calls himself my whole," and the solution is *Patriot*.

[FOR THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1754-64.

A just appreciation of military enterprise is necessary to the sequence of historical events, and this is more especially felt to be the case in comparing the relative position of British power on this continent with the dimensions it had attained in the year 1764. It is at all times an invidious task to review military operations, especially when long periods have elapsed since they were undertaken, as a large mass of oral and other evidence necessary to elucidate the cause of failure or success must, as a matter of course, have perished and been irrecoverably lost. At the same time, the reviewer has the advantage of being able to weigh all the circumstances without the deadening influences of passion and prejudice, satisfied that the dissemination of truth will cast more lustre over the achievements of his countrymen than the most elaborated fictions, and, by rendering full justice to the gallantry, patriotism, and statesmanlike abilities of his country's opponents and rivals, enhance the value of those achievements by which all North America was reduced under British rule.

A great writer, recently passed away, has well remarked that "as the greedy British hand seized the Canadas, it let fall the United States out of its grasp;" thus announcing, consciously or otherwise, the well understood political axiom of the impossibility of retaining the two great natural divisions of the North American continent under one system of social polity. The attempt of the French monarch in 1754 to extend his domination over all North America ended in 1764 by the total annihilation of his power, and eleven years afterwards the empire Great Britain had founded on the ruins was rudely torn asunder, so that of all her vast possessions the recently acquired French colony was all that remained. "History repeats itself," and it has left in this instance sufficient landmarks to shew the course events must necessarily follow. Nationality is no mere sentiment—the growth of a day,—nor is that system of social polity by

which the destinies of a people are influenced a mere matter of legislation so much as of geographical position.

A review of the events by which the eastern portion of North America came into the possession of Great Britain will shew the operations of those laws of political science already pointed out, as well as illustrate the causes which culminated in the independence of the United States. At the date of the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, 1748, the French possessions in North America extended from the St. Lawrence to the Mississippi. The provisions of that truce (for it was little better) left the respective boundaries so thoroughly ill defined that the foundations of innumerable quarrels was the immediate consequence. From the date of the treaty, the Governor General of New France contended that the boundaries of the French Empire in America were the western slopes of the Alleghany Mountains, and they prepared, by a chain of forts commencing at the mouth of the Niagara River (head of Lake Ontario) and ending at the mouth of the Mississippi, to make good their claims. This course of proceeding would have confined the English settlements to a narrow strip along the coast, and was the more grievous inasmuch as Cape Breton and Acadia (the former conquered during the late war by the valour of the colonists, the latter held by England since the Peace of Utrecht, in 1713,) were both given up to France by the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle.

The successful establishment of French pretension would have placed the English colonies in a net of which it may be said that it was only necessary to draw both ends tight and drive them into the sea. It is evident that if the French possessed a naval power fit to contest the sovereignty of the seas with Great Britain, the policy attempted to be carried out would be eminently successful. Having complete control of all the Great Lakes, she endeavoured to secure in the then state of mechanical appliances the communication with the Mississippi by occupying the only available strategical line by military force, and her persistence in a policy so decidedly aggressive undoubtedly

led to those measures which eventually deprived France of all her American colonies.

Early in 1753, the French, under the energetic government of the Marquis du Quesne, built on Presqu' Isle, on Lake Erie, where the city of Erie, in the State of Pennsylvania, now stands, a strong fort.—Thirteen miles south of this point, another fort, called Do la Riviere aux Boufs, or Fort Machault, at the present village of Waterford, in Erie county, Pennsylvania, (the name is given to a small stream which falls into French Creek, one of the tributaries of the Alleghany River, and preserves the memory of the time when Buffalo roamed through those wilds), furnished the next station in the line of those strongholds intended to keep the English colonists east of the Alleghany range in check. A waggon road twenty-one feet in width kept up the communication with the fort at Presqu' Isle. Fifty miles further down the stream of the French Creek, at the junction with the Alleghany River, where is now the village of Franklin, a fort called Venango formed the last post on the route to the Ohio; and at the further distance of fifty-six miles the Forks of the Ohio, at the junction of the Monongahela and Alleghany Rivers, was reached. This point, on which now stands the flourishing city of Pittsburg, was occupied by forty men of the Virginia Militia, under Ensign Ward, who had made a rude attempt at fortifying his post in the best manner possible, but who was at once obliged to abandon it when, on the 17th April, 1754, Monsieur de Contrecoeur, at the head of 1000 men and 18 pieces of Artillery, appeared before it, and who immediately erected Fort du Quesne in this advantageous position.

The French had now reached navigable water on the Ohio, and were sure of their communication with the Mississippi as long as the position at Du Quesne could be maintained. It certainly argues a thorough knowledge of the country and of its best strategical positions, to find them connect their forts on the Mississippi and the Great Lakes by water, with only thirteen miles of craniage road; and it displays culpable neglect on the part of the English colonists, to allow them to establish strong positions in the rear of their settlements, cutting them off from what was then the staple trade of America—peltry—and threatening their total political extinction.

A narration of the proceedings of the Governments of Virginia and Pennsylvania at this crisis establishes the fact of their total ignorance of the value of this movement, and the very imperfect knowledge of the locality itself, both fruitful, if not sole sources, of the disgrace and disaster which followed. The Governor of Virginia, apprehensive of the consequences, despatched the celebrated George Washington, then a Major in the Militia, in December, 1753, with a letter of remonstrance to the French commandant of Fort Venango, who received him kindly but, courteously and

firmly refused to accede to the wishes of Governor Dinwiddie. Nothing, therefore, remained but to try the issues by arms, and the expedition fitted out under General Braddock next year kindled the flames of a contest which ended in the supremacy of British power in North America.

Throughout the whole contest, whatever credit may be due for statesmanship or superior military ability remains with the French, and the fall of their power on this continent redounds to their honour and glory in a marked degree. The mission of Major Washington established the fact of the intentions of the French, and the mode by which they proposed to carry out their designs was evident from the fact of fifty canoes of birch bark and one hundred and fifty of wood being prepared at the fort on the Aux Boufs.

The Governor of Virginia at once took active measures to meet the threatened danger by calling out the colonial troops and despatching them to reinforce the party at the junction of the Monongahela and Alleghany River. Washington, now Lieutenant Colonel in command, met Ward's party on their return at Will's Creek (a tributary of the Potomac, in the State of Maryland,) and, acting on the principle that the next best thing to *puccution* in military tactics is to *check*, pushed forward to the Great Meadows, on the Monongahela, and erected Fort Necessity, at the junction of a small creek, about ten miles above Redstone Creek. His object in this was to provide a *point d'appui* from which operations for the investment of Fort du Quesne could be carried on when ever reinforcements arrived, as his own force only amounted to between three and four hundred men. On the 24th of May, Washington received intelligence that a secret expedition had started from Fort du Quesne two days before, with the intention of surprising any straggling English they might meet with, or procuring intelligence of their numbers or designs. This reconnaissance appears to have been brought about by a movement on Washington's part, who had despatched a Captain Stephens on a similar errand towards Fort du Quesne, but, being discovered, he was obliged to fall back, pursued by Monsieur Jumonville with forty-five men. On Stephens' report, Washington, with forty men, sallied forth from Fort Necessity on the night of the 27th of May, and surprised the French bivouac at dawn on the 28th. Owing to heavy rain and the fatigues of a night march, the firelocks of his party were useless, and seven men had lost their way, so that he charged the French, who fired upon his party, with the bayonet, his whole force being thirty-three men. Jumonville and nine of his men were killed, the rest, with the exception of one who escaped, were captured. On the 3rd of July, Monsieur Villiers, at the head of 600 men, appeared before the rude intrenchments of Fort Necessity, and, after a desperate fight of ten hours duration, the

defenders, having expended all their ammunition, were allowed to march out with the honours of war; they were even permitted to destroy their own artillery. The capitulation signed on this occasion, being written in French, has given rise to many needless and unfounded misrepresentations. It makes Washington admit that the death of Jumonville was an act of assassination, as the French maintained he was merely an ambassador carrying a flag of truce, accompanied by an armed escort. All this may be quite possible, and still the act by which he lost his life justifiable. Situated as Washington was, in front of a superior force, the approach of an armed party to his lines could only be met in one way, and that would be by attack. Ignorant of the French language, his interpreter either loosely translated the paragraph or left him in criminal ignorance of its exact meaning. At the same time, the French assertion that Jumonville was sent to request the withdrawal of the Provincial troops, and provided with the escort as protection against the Indians in alliance with the British, is probable enough, although, under the circumstances, it was by no means a judicious movement. Placed as Washington was, he could consider it in no other light than a hostile demonstration, especially as he had travelled five times the distance through unfriendly Indians, in the previous winter, with only one attendant and his guide, on his mission to the French commandant Legardiere de St. Pierre, at Fort Machault, on the River aux Boufs. Hence the idea of armed embassy must be as novel as suspicious to him. He acted in the only way a soldier could act, and the blame must rest with those whose injudicious conduct provoked so dire an issue.

The French had succeeded in establishing their line of military posts from Niagara to the Mississippi; they had swept away all opposition, and that struggle so fraught with momentous issues to both nations had commenced.

[For the Review.]

AN INCIDENT OF THE PENINSULAR WAR.

In the winter of 1809, the —th Light Dragoons, forming part of the rearguard of the retreating British forces under Lieut-General Sir John Moore, arrived at the town of Benevento, on the Isla, a tributary of the Douro. The only bridge being held by the British, who had already mined the piers preparatory to blowing it up, the fords being impassable owing to the heavy rains, the British troops, commanded by the gallant Captain C., were ordered to remain and cover the sappers whilst destroying the bridge, Captain C. and two orderlies remaining on the south bank, watching the French advance and urging forward the numerous stragglers. Whilst thus occupied, a French troop of cavalry, hidden by the broken nature of the ground, advanced so rapidly

that before himself or orderlies could cross the bridge he had to give the signal for blowing it up, which order was instantly obeyed. The danger of capture or death was now imminent to the brave officer and his companions, which was only prevented by the coolness and audacity of his orderly, Patrick Scallion by name, a butcher, of Thomas street, Dublin, whose horse had been shot in a skirmish the day before, and who had armed himself and five or six other dismounted troopers with rifles picked up on the field, and were now loitering at the north end of the bridge, having foraged a little on their own hook in Benevento, an operation in which Master Pat was particularly famous and skilful. Seeing the peril of his officer and comrades, he and his party opened such a well directed and rapid fusillade as effectually prevented the too near approach of the French Horse. Captain C. and orderlies, seeing no other way of escape open, plunged into the river, and, after a violent struggle with the current, succeeded in reaching the northern bank in safety.—For the greater part of the passage across, they were undisturbed by the enemy; but, on the appearance of a French officer of rank, a rapid though ill directed fire was opened upon them. Master Pat and party, who had ceased firing on the first retreat of the French, not thinking this proceeding fair, used their rifles again so effectively that in a few minutes the southern end of the bridge was clear of the enemy, whose short carbines were no match in accuracy of fire for even the rude rifles of those days. On Captain C. mustering his troop to draw off, he ordered Scallion and his party from the bridge; but Pat requested permission to have one more shot at the monkey in gold lace, as he contemptuously termed a French officer who, attended by a numerous and brilliant suite, now rode along the southern bank searching for a ford. Permission being granted to his request, resting his rifle on the broken parapet of the bridge, he took a long and deliberate aim—he pulled the trigger, and, tossing his firelock to his shoulder, called out “Glory for Donnybrook.” At the same moment, the French officer was seen to spring from his saddle and fall heavily to the ground. The confusion consequent on his fall prevented any further attempt of the French to find a ford that night, and gave the wearied and exhausted British a twelve hours’ start, which, at this juncture, was the more important, as Napoleon commanded the advance of the French in person as far as Benevento.

Brigham Young has issued an edict ordering all the young men in his dominion to marry and not to stand upon the order of their marrying, but to marry at once. If this measure of policy does not soften the hearts of the few in Christendom towards the Mormon s. l. s. f, we don't know what would. Only of the effect which such an order from ant authority in the Province of would produce.

THE PAPAL ZOUAVES.

The hundred and fifty Lower Canadian recruits who recently left Canada for Rome are exciting much attention. This wholesale emigration of young men is not calculated to do the country much good. Many of the detachment already on its way to Rome have their military training in schools supported at the expense of the State, and have drawn bounties, we suppose, like other graduates. Our Government are bound to take this into serious consideration. Of course we cannot prevent individuals from going to other parts of the world, but we should be able to put a stop to the enlistment in this country of soldiers for service under a foreign government. Our young men are being recruited in hundreds, and are sent off in large bodies. It is true that the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act do not apply, as there is no war, but there must be some way of meeting a case such as this. Austria, the most pliant of Roman Catholic countries, has forbidden the enlistment within its borders of soldiers for the Papal service. Spain offered to send a legion to Rome, but Napoleon, the saviour of the Papal Government, the most devoted son of the church, would not allow the Spaniards to be sent. With these precedents before us, it cannot be considered improper to check an exodus from Canada. The quarrel between the people of Italy and the Roman Government is a political one, and it is not expedient for us, while paying so much money to induce immigration, to permit the counteraction of our efforts by individuals in our midst, whose position gives them unusual means of influencing the young men of this country. Very strange stories have been told by returned crusaders of the treatment they received while upholding the cause of the Roman Government. One of these disgusted individuals has written to the *Montreal Witness* to this effect:—

“Happy the recruit who has money with him, and bears a noble name! for the Zouaves are expected to be rich and noble, the plebian in that corps is an outcast, and must live on his three cents a day. “How much do you receive from home a month?” is a question very often asked. If you say nothing, you are considered as nobody; the officers look upon you with contempt, and say, “Another who had no soup at home.” On the contrary, the noble and rich man, when found out, is invited to dine with the Colonel and keeps company with the elite of the battalion. How disappointed we were the next day when at 9 o'clock, our first meal we marched to the kitchen to receive a scanty dish of soup, and daily loaf of bread two pounds for the day! Disillusion begins; no officer visits us; no friendly word welcomes us. Volunteers for a cause represented as so holy, we had expected to meet friends and brothers; we are received with contempt and indifference. “Are you rich? Are you noble?” These are the only words addressed to us.”

A letter lately appeared in the *London Times* from a Worcester boy who ran away from home, and had some experience in Rome. It confirms the words of the *Montreal reformed one*.

“I did not like the living nor the people with whom I had to associate. Our first meal was at 10 a. m., and this consisted of soup and about two ounces of cooked meat. We had nothing else till 4 p. m. and then about a pound and a half of cooked potatoes, or rice, or macaroni, varied most days, but no more meat, and nothing more till next day

at 10 a. m. Nothing to drink allowed but water. We had three pounds of bread served out to us every other day. Our bed was of straw, sowed up in some bagging, and we had a rug to cover us. I did not dare to take off my clothes for fear they would be stolen. I did not take off my boots even, all the time I was there, and my feet were swollen and sore in consequence. The money pay given to us was equal to 7d a week.”—*Kingston Whig*.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The *Times* and its correspondents take a very discouraging view of the prospects in Abyssinia. The commissariat and transport do not get ahead of the fighting force, and have a hard struggle to keep it living on from day to day and from hand to mouth. One correspondent says. We have absorbed six months in digging and eating our path to Senafe, sixty miles from Annosley Bay, or Magdala is distant about 300 miles from Annosley, we shall swallow up exactly two years and a half before we shall open the real business of the campaign before the walls of Magdala.

The *Times* remarks that though in some respects the enterprise is easier than was expected, there is not much in the Abyssinian campaign which can be viewed with satisfaction. The preparations err on the side of embarrassment. It is to be hoped that there is still time to remedy this defect, and that the Commander-in-Chief, aided as he is by some of the best officers in the service, will take those measures for prompt and decisive movements without which the end of the expedition seems to recede indefinitely into the future.

The *Post* says that the letters from Abyssinia published yesterday tell the old story of “How not to do it.” On a small scale, and with much less excuse, we are apparently repeating in Abyssinia the terrible blunders which cost us so dearly thirteen years ago in the Crimea.

The *Daily News* thinks that in some respects the scene in Abyssinia has been Balaklava over again. There has not been the disorder, but there has been the same inefficiency of labor, through neglect in availing ourselves of the resources of science. None could have worked better or harder with the means at their disposal than the officers and men actually on the spot. But the authorities in India and at home, whose business it was to have foreseen what would first of all be needed, and to have supplied it, cannot be freed from blame.

The *Star* remarks that Sir Robert Napier is evidently a man with a will of his own, and that, perhaps, is the first virtue in any general. Theodore has not a very high opinion of our ability to do him harm, but he was probably not prepared for the tactics of a general like Sir Robert Napier advancing from stage to stage with perfect deliberation, taking his stores along with him, and approaching the heart of the kingdom slowly, but as surely as the lapse of the months or the growing of the corn. Theodore contemned the telescope which Col. Merewether sent him as a present; he will now have an opportunity of studying the telescope mode of warfare; for the advance of the British army will compare to nothing so aptly as the gradual drawing out of an immense telescope, whose thickest part will be at Annosley Bay and the thin end at Magdala.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CAVALRY & EQUIPMENT.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW:

DEAR SIR:—In attempting to afford a summary as promised in my last letter to THE REVIEW, what might constitute a plain inexpensive equipment for a volunteer horseman, I am at once confronted with the traditional desideratum, *i. e.*, how best to keep weight off the horse without too much curtailing the kit of the rider; but as the volunteer's sphere of action may be deemed more local than otherwise, the last consideration is of secondary importance.

To begin with the head then;—say a tallish seal skin cap, chin strap, ear flaps, &c. A round or stable jacket (light blue with red facing would look well) hooked down the centre, with inch tape down the front and round the edges. Overalls, grey, with stripe outside leg: Wellington boots, and spurs. Nothing could be better than the Hupar saddle, lighter if possible than the regular service, with the indispensable cloak and blanket. An apology for a valise merely, with capacity to hold a change of flannels, towel, &c. might be permitted. For accoutrements, at once banish all suspended ammunition boxes; such jangling, bumping appurtenances are as ungainly as they really are inconvenient to a horseman. A flexible leathern, or tin-jointed girdle, capable of holding cartridges two deep would be preferable, and, should it be found to bear too exclusively upon the hips, small straps, upon the principle of braces, passing under the jacket, would leave the distribution of the weight to the wearer. This contrivance, as it became empty immediately under the right hand, when firing, could be easily hitched round till its contents were expended. For arms; the shortest description of carbine; the degree of twist in the grooving could be made to fully obviate any apparent want of length in the barrel. Add to the carbine the sabre, and we have the best hand to hand, or melee weapon extant. Its cut is the most severe, and its parry the most powerful of all swords. The regular service discarded the old sabre to adopt the French long cut and thrust blade, but the benefit accruing from the exchange is questionable. The gallant Frenchmen do, and will give point; the Briton seldom or never. He cuts, slashes and hacks if you will, but the only point he makes is that of closing with his enemy. The more demonstrative sweep of the sabre is not perhaps so effective as the quiet insidious thrust; be that as it may, there is an inspiring abandon, one might almost imagine a chivalrous pantomime in the sabre's lofty poise—a "stand from under" sort of warning ere it descends. Excuse what may be considered episodic in favor of a favorite weapon, and I resume my subject: but only to observe that a man equipped somewhat after the fashion above described, and tolerably mounted, would,

through a judicious system of instruction, become an invaluable scout, a good skirmisher, and, in short, competent for all kinds of out-post duty.

Yours truly,

SADREUR.

FROM SIDNEY.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW:

SIR:—I feel it my duty as a resident of Sidney to give you a short report of our company. I am not a Volunteer, but wish that circumstances were so that I could be one. The Sidney company has been organized about two years, it was six months before it was accepted, and as long again before they received their arms, and another six months passed before they received their clothing. Since the company was organized they have kept their weekly drills up very regular, with an average attendance of 25 men. It is no matter what the weather is, the men turn out. The company is made up of the best material, farmers and their sons form the principal part, with a few mechanics. The company has also good officers, the men esteem and respect them. They also have a first class M. S. Drill Instructor, (A. Vandervoort) who is always at his post, and, in fact, too much credit cannot be given him for the manner in which he has brought the company to its present condition. A better Instructor could not be wished for. T. B. Price has the arms and accoutrements in good order whenever required. I heard Lieut. Colonel Shaw, at last Inspection, say it was the cleanest armour in the Division. The Sidney company has everything it requires except a Drill-shed to make them equal to any other in the Dominion. I, for one, feel proud of them, and the Sidney people ought to feel proud to have a company like them. If the Fenians dare come over and the Sidney boys get a chance at them with their Breech-loaders, I believe they will give a good account of themselves.

TRUE BLUE.

VOLUNTEERS AND MILITIA.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW:

Cordially endorsing the sentiments contained in the letter of "Another Volunteer" in your issue of the 17th inst., I follow out his suggestion with regard to the ventilation of militia matters through the press, by begging space in your valuable paper for a few remarks on the same subject.

In my opinion "Another Volunteer" has taken the initiative in a most important matter—in the representation of volunteers (as volunteers) as a large and influential portion of the body politic—and as entitled to consideration as such. He opens his letter by saying that he has not had the privilege of seeing the new Militia Bill—but he, in that respect is no worse off than any other member of the Force, so far as I know. Is this fair to the men, who, like "Another Volunteer," have labored hard to deep up

the Force in past times—who have lavished their time and money, and exhausted their energies in coaxing men to go through the course so vividly and truthfully described in his letter. Is it fair, that on the eve of important changes, which we are given to understand are to take place so shortly; that these men should be totally in ignorance of the position they are to occupy, as volunteers, should the proposed Militia Bill become law? Surely the opinions of such men are worth having—and certainly their assistance as *thirty thousand voters* is not to be despised. Let the Adjutant General make his measure known, and if of such a character as to suit the conditions of the country, we, as volunteers, will see whether the Ministry will reject it or not. It may not suit our legal friends to appropriate money where there is little chance of its being fingered by jobbers, or as paving the way to future success in election contests; but the prudence and loyalty of the people will outweigh any such cautious scruples, and justify the necessity of the motto—in *pace paratus*. I have no hesitation in asserting this, as the sentiment of Ontario, and can assure the Adjutant General that it is not the desire of the country that he should be harassed and hampered in his efforts to secure its peace and well being; and that popular opinion will bear him out in any well devised measure that will meet the exigencies of the situation. Nor in speaking thus, do I intend to detract from any good intentions that Government has shown towards accomplishing the same end, but I much fear that personal feeling and divided counsels are working a mischief that may result in serious consequences.

I am not one who desires to create panics, or to disturb the public peace unnecessarily, but I speak my firm conviction when I say I believe that this summer will prove to us that a well organized militia is necessary for the preservation of the country, *Government and all*. For the credit of Canada let not the scenes of June 1866 be re-enacted! Let us not be again taken unawares, and our citizen-soldiers sent out to meet the enemy half trained, half equipped, and whole starving. Thanks to the care of the Imperial Government we have the best arm that is extant, and we have haversacks, water bottles, and great coat straps; so far an improvement on 1866. But of what use are the arms, unless the men are trained to use them? And since their issue no annual drill has been performed, because, we are told, there is no appropriation to meet the expense. Suppose that true friend to Volunteers, Gen. John O'Neil, were to pay us another visit: Messieurs the Ministry, and our Volunteers were called on to meet him, carrying arms that they are not accustomed to, into the very presence of death; whose fault would it be, were the scenes of Lime Ridge re-enacted? Are our men, loyal and brave as we know they are, to be exposed to fire, as raw and undisciplined levies, because our Ministry is too improvident or parsi-

monious—I care not which—to provide for a necessity which is appallingly self-evident?

Is the spirit which animated our forefathers in 1812, and ourselves in 1837, 1860 and 1866, to be damped and crushed by the indifference of our political rulers? Are the efforts of those whose spirit has animated and kept alive the Volunteer Force since 1858 at last to go for naught? I should be sorry to think so, indeed. What, I would ask, is this? Let us see this new Militia Bill,—let us have it, to canvass its provisions before the House is called upon to decide if it shall be our Law, or no. And if the Adj. General is balked in his good intentions; if the Minister of Militia has cramped his efforts towards the safety and peace of the country, let us know it also. Again, regarding the annual drill, let it be performed at once. The Volunteer Force is Battalionized, and each Battalion is provided with a competent Instructor. Why not assemble each Battalion at its Headquarters about the 1st March, to perform eight days' continuous drill, which would be of more benefit to the Force than the occasional meetings of companies in the evenings. Nearly every Battalion has its Headquarters Drillshed in which to parade. Let the men get their annual pay at the termination of their annual drill, and not six or eight months after. Let the officers be paid \$1 per day each in lieu of pay and allowance, with a horse allowance of 50c. per day for mounted officers. And let us feel that we are the pride and defence of our country, and not the burden and bugbear and subjects for retrenchment that we seem at present. And should General John O'Neil show his nose on our borders the Canadian Volunteers will remind him that there is such a section in the Yankee Drill Book as "Right about turn, Double March."

A FRONT RANK MAN.

[The remarks of our correspondent are rather sharply put, but he seems to forget that the Adjutant General is not a legislator, nor could he have any hand in framing a Militia Law, except he were directed to do so by the Government. We are informed that the Minister of Militia will introduce a measure, early in the coming session, which will be calculated to place the Forces of the Dominion in that state of efficiency so much desired by all who have the true interests of the country at heart.—ED. VOL. REV.]

FOR THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

THE BRITISH NAVY—MATERIAL AND PERSONNEL.

There is scarcely a subject of national interest concerning which there exists in Canada so much ignorance and misconception as that of the British Navy. But little commented on by the Canadian press, such notices as do occur are more often incorrect than otherwise. Thus, in a recent notice in a leading journal of the launch of the iron-clad

Hercules, that ship is stated to be the largest afloat. A reference to the accompanying list will show that, although of immense size, she is nearly 1000 tons less than the *Warrior*, the *Black Prince*, and the *Achilles*, and nearly 1400 tons less than the *Minotaur*, the *Alincourt*, and the *Northumberland*. On the other hand, such impressions as we for the most part receive reach us through the blatant medium of the American press, so that it is not uncommon to find Canadians adopting the tone of almost the only information available to them, believing England to be an effete naval power, and giving blind credence to the garbled and unscrupulous braggadocio of American newspapers. For instance, the tremendous flourish of trumpets with which the launch of the American iron-clad *Dunderberg* was heralded to the world may be within the recollection of many of your readers. Nothing was to be compared to her: in size she far exceeded the largest English vessels of a similar class, and was, in short, clearly destined to "whip all creation." Well, the tonnage given was, certainly, by a few tons (less than 100), in excess of that of the *Achilles*, just then the largest British iron clad launched. I cannot say whether her tonnage was overrated, or to which side, in point of size, the English and American systems of measurement might give an advantage. The measurement of naval tonnage is somewhat precarious and arbitrary—in this wise, that the carrying capacity may be larger or smaller in different ships of the same nominal measurement, as the lines of the hull may be fuller or finer in certain parts of the bottom, or, in plainer words, according to the general shape of the bottom. Whether or no, it is pretty certain that our American cousins are not addicted to underrating their advantages, and it is equally certain that we have as much abhorrence of statistical exaggeration as they have affection for it. When, therefore, we couple with this knowledge the fact of the early sale of the redoubtable *Dunderberg*, it is difficult to imagine that she was other than a failure. Staunch, sea-worthy, and efficient iron clads are as yet too precious to permit the supposition that a great naval power possessing one would lightly part with it. As a broad matter of fact, our iron-clads are thorough seagoing vessels, and I fancy that is more than can be said of the United States iron-clad navy, except in a few cases.

These remarks are, however, somewhat digressional, and only serve to lead to the point I propose to illustrate, viz., the enormous power of the British Navy, even in the newest armament. I have no information at hand at this moment as to the actual strength of the French Iron-clad Navy, but we know that stupendous exertions have been made for some years in the Imperial dockyards, and I believe the actual number of such vessels, building and afloat, equals, if it does not slightly exceed, our own. It is, however, altogether improbable that the

material and workmanship are quite on a par with ours, and the efforts of Franco are spasmodic, whilst our increase is, so to speak, natural and steady. It should also be borne in mind that we suffer in expense and labour under the necessity of adopting a new style of vessel far more than a less powerful nation. In proportion to the number and magnificence of our old class vessels, is our loss in converting, putting aside, and otherwise disposing of them. The extent of our power under the old regime, I purpose to illustrate in a future article, and how far our remaining wooden fleet is still of a serviceable character, notwithstanding the introduction of iron-clad vessels.

For the present, recognizing the undoubted fact that armour-plated ships will, in course of time, entirely supersede wooden vessels of war, it will be sufficient briefly to consider what progress we have made in the development of a navy of the new stamp. It is about seven years since the *Warrior*, the first of our iron-clads, was launched. It may here be remarked that an impression is generally prevalent that the idea of armour-plated vessels is due to the Americans. I believe the French *Gloire* was the first specimen of her class afloat, and that she was followed by the *Warrior* before the Americans had launched any iron-sheathed craft. The number of vessels on the annexed list (38) shows an average of five per year for the last seven years, allowing for three of the five now building being quite recently laid down. In my next article, I shall show some curious comparisons of the relative tonnage of vessels of war at different modern periods, which will illustrate the stupendous size and power of our newest ships. That they are thoroughly sea worthy and capable of keeping the sea has been proved—as to the former quality, by plenty of heavy weather (as in the case of the *Prince Consort* in the Irish Sea, some four years ago,) and as to the latter capability, by the number we have in regular commission on foreign stations, and by the fact that we have no less than four Admirals' flags flying from iron clads, in different and widely remote quarters of the world. There is no question that the American Monitors are a formidable class of vessel, but there is a good deal of question about their seaworthiness, and there is, I believe, no doubt that on a recent occasion the much talked of *Miantonomoh* had to be convoyed across the Atlantic for fear of accidents. This is not the style of thing for which British ships are built, and I have as little doubt, should we unfortunately become involved in war with the United States, of any naval action on tolerably equal terms as Captain Broke, of the *Shannon*, had when he sent away his consorts and invited his equally chivalrous opponent of the *Chesapeake* to try their respective national fortunes in fair fight.

For fear of occupying too much of your space, I will only now add that in the list I furnish (which is taken from the Navy List

for January, 1868,) I have omitted any mention of iron-clad gunboats, and other vessels not close upon 1000 tons burthen.

G. W.

LIST OF IRON-CLADS IN THE BRITISH NAVY,—
EXTRACTED FROM THE NAVY LIST FOR
JANUARY, 1868.

In Commission—Channel Squadron.

	Guns.	Tons.	H.P.
Minotaur.....	34	6621	1350
(Flag-ship of R. Admiral Frederic Warden, C.B.)			
Achilles.....	26	6121	1250
Bellerophon.....	14	4270	1000
Pallas.....	6	2372	600
Prince Consort.....	31	4045	1000

Mediterranean Squadron.

Caledonia.....	30	4125	1000
(Flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Right Honourable Lord Clarence Paget, C. B.)			
Enterprise.....	4	993	160
Lord Clyde.....	23	4067	1000
Lord Warden.....	20	4080	1000

China.

Ocean.....	24	4047	1000
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Pacific.

Zealous.....	20	3716	800
(Flag-ship of R. Admiral Hon. G. F. Hastings, C.B.)			

North America and West Indies.

Royal Alfred.....	18	4068	800
(Flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Sir G. Rodney Mundy, K.C.B.)			
Favourite.....	10	2094	499

Omitted in Channel Squadron.

Warrior.....	32	6109	1250
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Particular Service.

Research.....	4	1253	200
Wivern, turret.....	4	1899	350

Other Turret Ships.

Prince Albert, at Devonport	4	2537	500
R. Sovereign, at Portsmouth	5	3765	800
Scorpion, at Portsmouth.	4	1833	350

Floating Batteries in Commission.

Terror, at Bermuda.....	16	1971	200
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Not in Commission.

Thunder, at Sheerness....	14	1469	150
Thunderbolt, at Sheerness.	16	1972	200

Other Iron-clads not in Commission.

Agincourt, at Devonport..	26	6621	1350
Black Prince, at Devonport	41	6109	1250
Defence, at Devonport..	18	3720	600
Erebus, at Portsmouth...	16	1954	200
Hector, at Portsmouth...	20	4089	800
Northumberland,			
[at Portsmouth.			
Penelope, at Devonport..	10	3096	600
Resistance, at Portsmouth	18	3710	600
Valiant, at Portsmouth...	24	4065	800
Hercules, at Chatham.....	12	5226	1200

Building.

Captain, turret,			
[at Birkenhead.			
Repulse, at Woolwich....	12	3734	800
Vanguard, at Birkenhead.	14	3774	800
Iron Duke, at Pembroke..	14	3774	800
Audacious, at Glasgow....	14	3774	800

In Commission, Portsmouth.

Royal Oak.....	35	4056	800
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The Bow street magistrates refuse to issue a warrant for the arrest of Eyre, ex Governor of Jamaica, on the charge of murder.

RETURN

To an Address of the House of Commons, dated 9th of December, 1867, for Copy of the Report of Colonel Wolseley, as to the Camp at Thorold.

(Copy.)

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Montreal, 20th December, 1866.

To the Adjutant-General of Militia,
Montreal.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that I assumed command of the Camp of Observation, at Thorold, on Wednesday, the 22nd of August last.

The position had been selected by Colonel Peacocke, then in command of the First Military District, and was admirably suited to the purpose for which it was intended.

The only objection in any way to it was a scarcity of water. I caused four good wells to be sunk by the Regular troops, which afforded an ample supply. Until they came into operation, water was brought daily to camp by contract.

The strength of the Force ranged from four guns of Royal Artillery, three Companies of Regular Infantry, one Troop of Volunteer Cavalry, and two or three Battalions of Volunteer Infantry.

Latterly, there was also an outpost of 200 Regular Infantry stationed at Port Robinson.

One Troop of Volunteer Cavalry, the Governor General's Body Guard, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Denison, was distributed into small posts from Ridgeway to Chippewa, following the lake shore and river. By them, that extent of frontier was patrolled every night, at uncertain hours. This important and arduous duty was most efficiently performed, and reflects the greatest credit upon that troop and the officer commanding it.

With the exception of the Governor General's Body Guard, no Corps remained in camp longer than a week, so that really there were only five days available for drill. On each of these days the men were drilled three times: twice a week I had field days, when both Regular and Volunteer troops were manœuvred together, and moved across country to the attack of the strong positions which are common in the neighbourhood of Thorold.

Once the Force marched to Allanburg, and once to Niagara Falls, encamping at both places for the day, cooking dinners, and retiring to Thorold the same evening.

My chief aim was to afford officers and men instruction in the practical work which real war presents, and to avoid repeating drill-book manœuvres which never could be required in Canada, such as forming square, &c.

In compliance with your orders, I was enabled to obtain the use of a field suitable for ball practice, where firing was carried on three times a day.

I regret to say that a large proportion of the arms would not go off, for, although clean outside, the nipples of many were clogged with dirt.

In marching I found that the Volunteers were soon knocked up from sore feet, owing to the Wellington boots, with small high heels, being in common use amongst them.

With regard to the relative efficiency of Battalions, it is most striking that such was generally in direct proportion to the number of old army officers and of those who had graduated in the Military Schools in them, thus proving the immense advantage which those institutions have been to the Militia Force of Canada.

In conclusion, I have to add that the Force was always ready to march upon the shortest notice. The arrangements for carrying four days' rations with us having been made by Assistant Commissary General Rogers, to whom, and to Captain Grant, 17th Regiment, the Brigade Major, and to Major Wadsworth, Volunteer Militia, who latterly acted as Camp Quartermaster, every praise is due for their zeal and energy.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY, Colonel.

Asst. Quartermaster General,
Late in Command of Camp at Thorold.

True Copy.

P. L. MACDOUGALL, Col., A.G.M.
13th December, 1867.

THE MODE OF IMPEACHMENT.

The sudden action of House of Representatives leads many persons to look up their "United States Constitutions," in order to ascertain by what process and in what manner the Black Republicans endeavor to place the American Warren Hastings on his trial. On this point the Constitution is clear. The 4th section of the Second Article of that instrument says that the President shall be removable "on in impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors;" and by the 6th and 7th sub-sections the mode of trial is defined. The first of these sub-sections places the impeaching power in the hands of the Senate in these words:—

"The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried the Chief Justice shall preside; and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present."

The other sub section gives effect to the conclusions come to in the 6th in the following terms:—

"Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment according to law."

The mode of proceeding is consequently clear. The issue has to be fought out at the bar of the Senate, which for the time will be presided over by Chief Justice Chase of the Supreme Court; the constitution wisely providing that the usual presiding officer,—who in normal times is the Vice-President of the United States,—shall have no voice or control in a procedure, the result of which would place him in the high office of the criminal on trial at its bar. It is open to question, however, whether the Senate will take the revolutionary step implied in the conviction of the President for the "crime and misdemeanors" laid at his door by the action of the House of Representatives. As a rule, the present senators sympathize with and vote in accordance with the policy of the more popular branch, but being men of mature age and conservative tendencies, it is probable that some of them, a sufficient number at all events, will refuse to take the "leap in the dark," which a vote of guilty would naturally involve. Let us

suppose, however, that they will return a verdict of guilty. In that event, Senator Benjamin Wade, of Ohio, the actual presiding officer of the Senate, will become President de facto, and remain in office until the inauguration of another President in 1869. He is a Radical of the Radicals, and if his past record may be taken as an indication of his future action, he will need neither whip nor spur in his efforts to "re-construct" the South on the Black Republican programme.—*Gazette*.

THEODORE AND HIS CAPTIVES.

The letter in the *Daily News* is dated Zulla, January 20, and contains the following passage—"Letters have been received from two of the captives at Magdala—Mr. Rassam and Dr. Blanc-bearing date December 23. There was no alteration in their condition; they were all well, and had had no further communications from Theodoros. His Majesty was known, however, as Reuter puts it, to be 'marching upon Magdala.' He was in the Province of Wadala, but what progress he was making was not known; indeed it is doubted now whether he was marching at the top of his speed. Those who hold the opinion that he is not, are by no means destitute of grounds for their belief; for, say they, what reason has Theodoros to hurry? He knows now that he has the coveted captives virtually in his hands once more; knowing that, why should he long to re-enter Magdala? At present he is feasting his army and followers on the fruits of the fairest provinces of Abyssinia—fruits, too, which cost him nothing; in Magdala he cannot maintain an army for any length of time, and without an army his life in the hands of the infuriated peasantry would not be worth an hour's purchase. His game is to seize the prisoners just in time to play his trump card, as previous determination or the impulse of the moment may influence him. On the other hand, there is a good reason to hold by the opinion that the movements of the Negus are as expeditions as circumstances over which he has long ceased to have control will permit. The chief of Talanta (or Dalanta) is obstinately opposing his advance; and though this rebel has not many men who can wield the sword and spear, he can muster a goodly number who can handle the spade and pickaxe. Instead, therefore, of waiting to join battle with a superior foe, Talanta cuts up all the roads, demolishes the bridges, and throws up as many impediments in his liege lord's way as time and the means at his disposal will permit. Wakshum Gobayze, too, arrant coward as he is, has not lost sight of Theodore, but sends bodies of men forward to lie in ambush on the hills and cliffs by which he must advance, with orders to watch their opportunity, and, Abyssinian fashion, hurl down large stones upon him, a proceeding tolerably safe for themselves, and very unpleasant for the Emperor. Wakshum, it may be remarked, evidently means to be 'in at the death;' he has lately sent a messenger to General Merewether with a letter containing expressions of delight at the advance of the English army, urging great haste, and promising cordial co-operation. These different views meet with well informed adherents, all of whom, however, readily admit that it matters little what detains Theodore—choice or necessity—so long as he cannot be checked altogether, or at least delayed until the roll of the British drum is heard in Magdala."

THE EQUIPMENT OF THE ALABAMA.

In his lecture on the cruise of the *Alabama* "Admiral" Semmes gives the following account of the equipment of that vessel:

"It being the object of the *Alabama* to cruise against commerce, she was equipped rather for speed and facility of handling, than for strength and heavy armament. I had nothing to do personally with the construction of the *Alabama*. She was furnished and equipped to my hand, under a contract between the Confederate States Navy Department, and Messrs. Laird, of Liverpool, superintended by a Confederate States naval officer.

"There is a little episode connected with the building of the *Alabama* worth mentioning. While we were contracting with the Messrs. Laird, the Federal States Naval Department were endeavoring to contract with them for a similar purpose. Mr. Welles, who was then, and is now, Secretary of the Federal Navy Department, attempted to induce Laird to build your boats for the Federal Navy. We were a little ahead of him, and offered a little the best bargain; and this is the only reason the *Alabama* was a Confederate instead of a Federal ship of war.

"It has been falsely charged that the *Alabama* was fitted out for us in a British port, and this I assert from personal knowledge. She left the waters of the Mersey as a merchant ship, without a gun or an enlisted man on board, as harmless as any other merchant ship. She was taken to the Azores, an island belonging to Portugal, and there armed and equipped. It was there I saw her for the first time. If any Government is responsible for her becoming a military expedition, so to speak, it is Portugal. But I must do Portugal the justice to say, neither was she responsible, for she had no force at the Azores to prevent me from arming her, nor did the home Government of Portugal know of my being there until sometime afterward. My first ship was the *Sumter*, with which I ran the blockade in July, 1861, captured 27 ships with her in seven months, and then laid her up and was returning to the Confederate States with my officers, when I received an order to take command of the *Alabama*. I retraced my steps to Europe, and arrived on the coast of England just after she had left. I followed, and on the 20th of August, 1862, saw her for the first time. She had already received her heavy guns on board and a portion of her stores. In four days, anxious for fear of the enemy's ships, which could have captured us without resistance, I had the *Alabama* formally in commission as a Confederate ship of war."

FRENCHMEN AND WATERLOO.

The *Standard* calls attention to a singular discussion which has just taken place in the French Senate. It was raised upon the petition of an enthusiastic and sentimental patriot to the Emperor, praying him to revive with the Belgian Government the old subject of the lion surmounting the mound which commemorates, on the historical Brabant field, the Battle of Waterloo. The Chamber exhibited equal good sense and good taste, without the slightest abandonment of national feeling, in refusing to endorse the memorial. Its author however—M. Jules Bertin—must be allowed credit for a more practical motive, since he is him-

self a sculptor, and wanted to substitute a work of his own for the monarch of the desert. He proposes that the royal beast, an emblem of sanguinary struggles, shall be dethroned, to make room for a colossal statue of Peace. Our contemporary gives three reasons why this should not be done. In the first place, it would be proposterous to erect an image of Peace on this spot where, within living memory, the flower of three armies was buried in blood and slaughter; in the second, it is childish to suggest such a tribute to a spirit which does not exist, after Europe has witnessed, within the compass of a few years, three formidable conflicts, and is preparing with her utmost energy for at least the possibility of another; lastly, nations have a right to perpetuate their trophies.

The *Court Journal* says:—"We are very glad to see that the question of the *Alabama* has at length slunk away. Lord Hobart and Mr. Morley have succumbed, the former with a very bad grace; but if ever a writer was pounded to death with solid argument and fact, it is Lord Hobart by "Historicus." We should advise Lord Stanley, should the question arise again, simply to hand to the United States the statesmanlike paper of "Historicus," and say, "Read that, and go to breakfast with what appetite you have." "Historicus" deserves the thanks of the nation, and we hope to see these articles of his marked and not slighted by. Such a pen the country may be proud of. Where is its like?" The same journal says:—"Lord Hobart is about to proceed to Constantinople, where he was some years ago sent as Commissioner to enquire into the state of Turkish finances in the capacity of resident director of the Ottoman Bank, with a salary of £3,000 a year."

REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

During the week ending Feb. 29th, we have received, on account of subscriptions, as follows:—

CORNWALL.—Major B., \$1; Capt. P., \$4; Ensign McF., \$2; Ensign G. M., \$2; Capt. McL., \$1.

RICHMOND, (Ont.)—T. G., \$2.

PERTH.—G. K., \$2.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE.—All communications addressed to the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, must be accompanied by the correct name and address of the writer, to insure attention.

R. Y. E., Toronto.—Missing numbers sent last week.

CAPT. A., Sandwich.—The late heavy snow storms will account for the irregularity of the mails—the No. for the 17th ult., has been sent to your address.

J. A. R., Perth.—We do not know of any one having a "Rifles" sword belt for sale. *Circular memo*: Sept. 5th, 1864, sets the price at which a new sword belt of black patent leather, may be obtained from the Militia Department, at \$2.40.

CLUBS! CLUBS! CLUBS!

1868.] THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW. [1868.

SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS

FOR THE

FORMATION OF CLUBS.

LARGE CASH PRIZES OFFERED!

The Proprietor, in order to increase the circulation and thereby add to the usefulness of

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW,

offers the following liberal terms to persons who will exert themselves in getting up clubs for the paper during the months of January and February 1868:—

1st prize—For the largest club, \$50 in cash.	
2nd do	2nd do 25 do
3rd do	3rd do 15 do
4th do	4th do 10 do
5th do	5th do 5 do
6th do	6th do. 'Review' 1 year.

It will be understood that from the number of prizes offered no one need despair of securing at least some return for his time and trouble in getting up a club; for besides the prizes enumerated above, we allow 12½ per cent on all subscriptions sent to us in this way, which the person raising the club will deduct from the total amount of monies received by him on account of subscriptions in forwarding the same to us.

Our terms for the paper are \$2 a year, payable strictly in advance. It is not necessary that the address of persons sent us in a club should be all at one Post Office.

an hour or two a day for a week spent in canvassing for subscribers by one person in each company throughout the Dominion will certain to secure a very profitable return for the time expended.

Persons desiring to act as agents will be furnished with show bills and further particulars, by applying as below.

Post Office orders, being safer, are preferable to any other mode of remittance.

Address,

DAWSON KERR,

"The Volunteer Review" Office
Ottawa, Ont.**THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW**

Is published EVERY MONDAY MORNING, at OTTAWA, Dominion of Canada, by DAWSON KERR, Proprietor.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum, strictly in advance.

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.

BUSINESS NOTICE.

Mr. DAWSON KERR, on the 1st day of February, instant, having purchased THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW from Mr. GEORGE MOSS, will henceforth conduct the paper on the same principles as have been observed by its late proprietor, and hopes by strict attention to it, to secure in the future a continuance of that success which the paper has met with since its commencement.

NOTICE.

IN connection with the sale and transfer of the "VOLUNTEER REVIEW" to Mr. Dawson Kerr, the undersigned begs to give notice that all money due to the paper on account of subscriptions are payable to the said Dawson Kerr; but that all accounts for advertising, up to the 1st of January, 1868, must be settled with

GEORGE MOSS.

Ottawa, February 1st, 1868.

**The Volunteer Review,**

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1868.

THE NEW MILITIA SYSTEM.

In connection with the subject of Canadian defence, there is no matter which requires more careful and mature deliberation than that of the organisation of the Volunteers and Militia. This subject has been well ventilated in the columns of the Review, and many leading members of the Force throughout the Dominion have expressed their views upon this most important question. We have ourselves, to a great extent, refrained from saying much upon it, as we wished to become more thoroughly satisfied as to the temper of the people with regard to the various schemes proposed; and also

to give it that mature consideration which a question of such importance to the future independence and prosperity of the country demands. In our last issue we gave a resume of the different systems in operation on the European Continent, and their relative merits and defects; but we do not see that any one of them is suitable to the peculiar condition of Canada, socially and politically, although taken together they may perhaps assist us in forming such a modification of each as will enable us to establish a military system which must be cheap and effective. We use the words *military system* because the day of Militia and Volunteer organisation is passing away, and the country must be prepared to undertake the burthen of national defence on the broadest principles. Political exigencies may have for a time retarded the introduction of the long desired and expected Militia Bill, but, it is a measure which cannot be delayed much longer without serious injury to the country. We are not among the number of those who believe a war with the United States an inevitable event which may be postponed for a time but which is sure to occur sooner or later. But nevertheless such a war is possible, and we believe the best way to avert it is to be prepared, for weakness invites aggression, and it is a disagreeable trait, in nations as in individuals, for the strong to oppress the weak.

There are three grand considerations which present themselves to the mind on approaching the subject of Canadian military organisation. The first is the geographical and climatic condition of the country; the second the social condition of the people; and the third the relations existing between England and the colony on the one hand, and the influence naturally exercised over our affairs by our proximity to the Great Republic. Therefore in undertaking to provide an adequate military organisation for the Dominion of Canada, our legislators will need all the wisdom they possess, and all the knowledge gained by experience, that an equitable and permanent system may be adopted. The people of Canada are beginning to grow sick of changes which seem only to lead to fresh embarrassments, and fresh changes that merge into mere repetitions of former complications. The first important consideration is the geographical and climatic condition of Canada in reference to its capabilities for defence, but as this part of the question has been exhaustively dealt with in former numbers, we will merely notice it in connection with the distribution of the population, to insure the mobility of the Militia Battalions when called out for the purpose of defence. It is well known that there are certain points along our frontier which must of necessity become salient in case of invasion, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that they should be well defended. In this respect we hold that corps should be brought to act as much as possible in their own localities; for it is

evident that those acquainted with the peculiar nature of any section of the country are the best fitted to defend it. Internal communication is a great desideratum and there can be no complete system of defence without it.

The next thing to be considered is the social condition of the people in connection with their adaptability to military organisation. This is without doubt the most difficult part of the question to deal with, and we apprehend much trouble in properly adapting the people to the end proposed. Any measure which would tend to draw any considerable portion of the people from the active pursuits of life will be found not only too expensive, but so utterly opposed to the feelings of the great mass of the population as would completely defeat the object for which it was framed. Our population is very small compared with the extent of territory occupied, and to organise that population for defensive purposes, it will be necessary to carefully study its condition. Here then we find that that system adopted by Switzerland approaches nearest to what is required in Canada; for it provides the best means of defence at the least cost. Every male citizen should be liable, under certain circumstances, to service in the Militia, and we believe a system could be devised by which all capable of bearing arms might be taught sufficient of military discipline to make them of real service to the state should they ever be required to take up arms in its defence. Volunteers should be allowed privileges above the ordinary militia which would tend to keep their ranks full, and also foster an active military spirit amongst the young men of the country, which would be one of the best guarantees of their patriotism and usefulness. To properly carry out this system a permanent staff will be requisite, and such could be easily formed on principles of efficiency and economy; with an eye to the distinctions necessary to be observed between the different arms of the service. For the absurdity of Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry all in one Battalion has had a practical illustration in Canada before to day. On account of the great extent of the country it is highly necessary that some well defined central authority be established, and that that authority be fortified by a well chosen staff formed from such members of the force as have proved themselves competent in the past. But, at the same time, we enter our protest against this system being made to provide for the hangers on of needy politicians. Abuses we are well aware will creep into the best of schemes, but it is the business of the people at large and the Force in particular, to oppose a barrier to its being made a vehicle for securing political ends. As the forces of the Dominion at present stand, they are all but disorganised, and this untoward state of affairs has to a great extent been caused by the unsettled and ill-defined position of individual members of the force; taken in

connection with the great revolution which has been recently consummated quietly in the destinies of our country. We must remember that we are not dealing now with the province of Canada, but with an extensive nation full of youthful vitality; possessed of great natural resources and a high spirit of perseverance, combined with a fractious propensity to "kick over the traces." Therefore we would recommend the adoption of a measure suitable to the conditions we have before pointed out.

The third grand consideration is our position in reference to our dependence upon the British Crown, and our relations to the United States. Although we have placed this last, it contains as it were the very ground on which we must build up our system; for as there is only one quarter from which we can apprehend interference so is there but one quarter to which we can look for support and assistance in event of such interference. In case of war the Imperial forces serving in the Dominion could only be made to form a nucleus about which the real defensive army of the country must be made to rally. So long as Canada cherishes British institutions and connection, so long will we be obnoxious to war with our republican neighbors, and, as the political state of distraction in which they live can have no charms for Canadians; it is not likely that we will change our allegiance for the purpose of enjoying the privileges incident to mob law and political fanaticism.

In a few days more we will have an opportunity of pronouncing upon the merits of the new Militia Bill, and in the meantime we will do all in our power to set the matter as fairly as possible before the country. We trust it will be such a measure as we can accord our best support to. We have no political object to serve, and only desire to see the defensive force of the country placed upon a firm, efficient and reliable foundation.

A MODERN CRUSADE.

The departure of a large number of the young men of Canada for Rome, to take service in defence of His Holiness, presents perhaps one of the most extraordinary episodes in the history of this extraordinary age. These young men, the flower of the youth of the Province of Quebec, have embarked upon an enterprise, of the real consequences of which, we believe, they can have no very clear idea. Doubtless it is a lofty spirit of religious fanaticism which animates them; but wait a while, we have seen similar instances before, and if that spirit does not become considerably subdued if not transformed into something very different, we are greatly mistaken. Wait until those enthusiastic young crusaders have gained a few months' experience of a system which we have long studied and observed, but of which they as yet know nothing.— Wait till they have fully entered into the Papal service, with its petty surveillance

and menial fatigues. Wait till they are themselves shunned and despised by the people they go ostensibly to defend. Wait till they are compelled to exist on two meals a day, composed of black bread, garlic, and a jar goats' milk, and if a change does not come over the spirit of their dream, then all we can say is that they will prove themselves heroes of a higher type than any who have yet trod the streets of the Eternal City. We remember seeing, a few years ago, at the time when Garibaldi wiped a host of petty and foreign tyrants out of Italy, an enthusiastic corps, like the Canadian Zouaves, gathered from the young men of Ireland, on their way to Rome to defend the Holy Father. Like the Canadian Zouaves, they were full of health, faith and enthusiasm. In a few months after, we saw them, or rather what was left of them, returning, and a more miserable, pitiable, crestfallen, draggetailed lot of mortals it has never been our misfortune to see, before or since, — with the exception, perhaps, of a shipload of Garibaldians who went from England to assist the Liberator about the same time as the Irishmen went to assist the Pope. And what does this show? The great absurdity of all such foreign interference; the utter uselessness of such levies, and their inevitable failure to be of any use to the cause for which they are enrolled.

We are sorry, for more reasons than one: first, for the loss to the country of so many able and promising young men; and secondly, for the young men themselves, who, in the homely figurative language of the backwoods, may be said to be like young bears, with all their troubles before them.

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

Another scene is being played by our American cousins in the drama of Reconstruction. The President who has so long stood a bulwark in defence of the Constitution, resisting the furiously rabid tide of Republican oppression, is to be impeached. The determined, almost defiant stand taken by President Johnston in removing Stanton from office the second time, has at last exasperated the dominant party in Congress to urge to a final issue the struggle which has so long been carried on between the Legislature and the Executive. Both President and Congress take their stand upon the Constitution; the former upon it in its first integrity, the latter upon it as patched, altered and amended by themselves to suit the views and objects of the Republican party which, having got the reins of power in its own hands, is determined to ride the political horse to the end of race; wherever that may be; for, like the river in the Vision of Mirza, it is wrapt in impenetrable gloom. Mr. Johnston adhering to the old constitution maintains that the recent acts of the Legislature, restricting the authority of the Executive, are illegal, persists in opposing the "tenure of office" bill; and in thus per-

sisting he has reached the sublimity of do termination or obstinacy. There are few men, we venture to assert, in the United States, prolific as it is in ultra demagogues, who would have the courage to push their authority, if placed in a like position, to the last extremity in defiance of such a body as the Congress of the United States has proved itself.

The Constitution, of which we used to hear so much, is no longer worth even the paper upon which it is written, for its provisions, having once been broken through for the purpose of preserving the union, it no longer opposes a barrier to innovations necessary to the exigencies of party politics. Mr. Johnson's evident democratic proclivities, joined with the protection he has striven to afford the conquered South, are doubtless the great causes which have rendered him obnoxious to Congress, which, being assured of the sympathy of the greater portion of the people and the army, have determined upon this final step in overthrowing the power of the President. It is more than probable that the action of the latter will be upheld by the Supreme Court, but at the same time there can be no doubt but Congress will legislate itself superior to that authority, and then we may expect the finale of this exciting drama. Our neighbors are fond of sensations, and this is one not lacking in interest.

It has been the fortune of the United States to teach the world many new ideas in national polity; and often, by the grim whimsicality of their dealings with the most momentous questions, have raised a curious smile on the visages of the more sedate politicians of Europe. If, as has been observed, it is the moral character of the citizen which mainly determines the state of order or disorder prevailing throughout the community; then must we deplore the unfortunate condition of our distracted neighbors. If the probable end of this threatening and dangerous state of affairs could be foreseen or anticipated within any reasonable period then we might hope for an approaching triumph of common sense over passion and fanaticism; but the national earthquake has not yet given its last throes, and we would not be astonished at another reign of terror with additional anarchy and confusion. Already, we are informed, a new man, Benjamin Wade, has selected his cabinet and is ready to take possession of the Presidential office. But, unless Andrew Johnson belies his whole former career, he will not quietly give up the helm of state to any usurper even though he be appointed by Congress. How this conflict may end it would be hard to guess; however we hardly think the conflict of authority will result in open violation of peace, although such an event is possible; the good sense of the people, we should hope, will be found sufficiently powerful to avert such a catastrophe. In the meantime who have no very great interest in the matter, can quietly look on, while putting

our own nose in order, and apply the lessons they are teaching us, that we may avoid the rocks upon which they have split; nor require, like them, a fiery baptism of blood in the midst of ruin and anarchy, before we learn our true place and mission among the nations of the earth.

We understand that a number of the young men who lately left Canada to take service in the Papal army, are graduates of the Military Schools; and would direct the attention of the Government to this flagrant abuse. While we are straining our nerves to establish a system of defence, we find our money going to educate soldiers for a foreign power. Every graduate of the Military Schools should be required to give a guarantee to refund the gratuity granted by Government upon his leaving the country, especially when he goes to take service under an alien power.

In this impression we publish the report of Colonel WOLSELEY, late Commandant of the Camp at Thorold. There are some parts of it particularly deserving the attention of Volunteers, who will find some valuable hints for their consideration if placed in like situations in the future.

WEEKLY SUMMARY.

On account of the heavy snow storms no mails have reached us, from the West, since Tuesday last; which will account for the absence of our usual correspondence from the Ontario Battalions.

The last issue of the *Huron Signal* contains a notice of the demise of Joseph Seal, Esq., on Limestone Ridge, County of Welland, aged 53 years. His premature death is traceable to the Fenian raid. At that time Mr. Seal was with his team acting under the orders of Dr. Thorburn, and while proceeding along one of the by-roads was upset by a quantity of logs having been thrown across the road by the Fenians. He has not been himself since. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss.

At Toronto, on the 25th ult., the Hon. Robert Spence, Collector of Customs for the port of Toronto, breathed his last, aged 57 years, that day being the anniversary of his birth. Mr. Spence was a native of Ireland, and descended from a good old family. He came to this country when a young man, and settled in the Town of Dundas. Mr. Spence was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and an active supporter of nearly every public charity in the city.

On Monday last the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec prorogued the first Parliament of that Province. The usual ceremonies on occasions of this kind was observed, and His Excellency, having taken his seat on the Throne, was pleased to command the attendance of the Assembly, after which the various bills passed during the session received assent in Her Majesty's name. After which

the Speaker of the Council announced the Parliament prorogued until the 2nd April next.

At Washington, the House committee appointed to prepare articles of impeachment expect to report in time to be ready for the Senate by to-day.

General Thomas, on the 27th ult., caused papers to be made out in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, entering a suit against Secretary Stanton for damages, in the sum of \$15,000, for false imprisonment and arrest and malicious prosecution. His counsel, it is said, intend to press the case as fast as possible, and they hope to give Mr. Stanton considerable trouble yet. The friends of Mr. Stanton intimate that he will order a court-martial for the purpose of trying General Thomas for refusing to obey his orders a few days since.

Earl Derby has resigned the Premiership, and his resignation has been accepted by the Queen. Mr. D'Israeli will replace Earl Derby as Prime Minister, retaining his present post as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Both Houses of Parliament will adjourn for a week to await the re-construction of the Cabinet.

The *London Times* says the American Minister, who will succeed Mr. Adams, could not have an easier or more gracious task than the settlement of the questions which have arisen concerning the rights of naturalized citizens.

On the 27th ultimo, the House of Lords passed a bill renewing the suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus in Ireland.

It is thought the appointment of Sir Hugh Cairns as Lord Chancellor, will defeat all hopes of effecting reform in the Irish Church.

The Corkonians, on the occasion of Geo. Francis Train's third lecture there, broke into the room without paying, smashed all the forms, tore down the gaspipe and left George to foot the bill. He did so, and left Cork in a hurry.

Mr. Disraeli, the new premier of England, is nearly as old a man as his predecessor, Earl of Derby, being about 60 years of age. He first entered Parliament in 1837, for the borough of Maidstone, and since 1848 has been the recognized leader of the Conservative party.

The *Herald's* special says: Enough is now positively known to prove that the impeachment of Andrew Johnson will not pass the Senate. The requisite two-thirds vote cannot be obtained.

The *Times's* special says it is the opinion of the best lawyers in the House, that to include the charges already passed upon him by the House, in the articles of impeachment, would prove fatal to both the moral and legal effect of the prosecution.

It is stated that the Naval Brigade, of Hamilton, is to be called out in the spring to do duty on one of the Lake gun-boats.

The new President of Liberia, inaugurated on the 6th ultimo, was formerly a slave in Kentucky.

CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 28th February, 1868.

GENERAL ORDERS.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

No. 1.

7th Battalion "The London Light Infantry."

To be Lieut.-Colonel:

Major Robert Lewis, vice Taylor, who resigns the command of this Battalion.

To be Battalion Drill Instructor:

Lieutenant and Adjutant Thomas Greene.

9th Battalion "Voltigeurs de Quebec."
No. 8 Company.

To be Lieutenant (temporary):

Ensign Elzear Gauvreau, M. S., vice Roy, promoted.

23rd "Essex" Battalion of Infantry.

The Resignation of Major D. Doherty, is hereby accepted.

25th "Elgin" Battalion of Infantry.
No. 1 Company, St. Thomas.

To be Captain, (temporary):

Lieutenant Niel Caswell, M. S., vice S. Day, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

No. 5 Company, Aglmer.

To be Captain, (temporary):

Lieutenant John Campbell, M. S., vice J. C. Lee, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

To be Lieutenant, acting till further orders:

George Alexander Taylor, Gentleman, vice Campbell, promoted.

To be Ensign, acting till further orders:

Andrew Wickett, Gentleman, vice McDonald, left the limits.

28th "Perth" Battalion of Infantry.

The name of the Assistant Adjutant and Battalion Drill Instructor appointed to this Battalion is Lydon, and not Leyden, as heretofore stated.

34th "Ontario" Battalion of Infantry.
No. 8 Company, Columbus.

To be Captain, (temporary):

Lieutenant John Edwin Farowell, M. S., vice Prentice, deceased.

To be Lieutenant (temporary):

Ensign Joseph Scurrah, M. S., vice Farowell, promoted.

35th Battalion, "The Simcoe Foresters."
No. 6 Company, Oro.

Ensign William C. Wilson, having obtained a Second Class M. S. Certificate, 28th January last, is confirmed temporarily in his rank from that date.

38th "Erant" Battalion of Infantry.

To be Adjutant and Battalion Drill Instructor:

Lieutenant David Spence, of No. 3 Company, vice S. W. Fear, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

46th "East Durham" Battalion of Infantry.
No. 2 Company, Port Hope.

To be Captain (temporary):

Ensign Thomas Dixon Craig, M. S., from No. 3 Company, vice S. S. Smith, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

No. 3 Company, Port Hope.

To be Ensign, (temporary):

William Craig, Junior, Gentlemen, M. S., vice T. F. Craig, promoted.

49th "Hastings" Battalion of Infantry.
No. 3 Company, Sidney.

Captain B. H. Vandervoort, having obtained a Second Class M. S. Certificate, on the 14th July, 1867, is confirmed temporarily in his rank from that date.

No. 4 Company, Madoc.

Captain G. D. Rowe, having held a Second Class M. S. Certificate at the time of his appointment, is confirmed temporarily in his rank from that date, and not acting, as was then stated.

The resignation of Lieutenant J. Tassie is hereby accepted.

53rd "Sherbrooke" Battalion of Infantry.
No. 4 Company, Sherbrooke.

To be Lieutenant acting till further orders:

Ensign G. Etienne T. Rioux, vice Morin, left the limits.

To be Ensign, acting till further orders:

Alfred L. Darche, Gentleman, vice Rioux, promoted.

58th "Compton" Battalion of Infantry.
No. 6 Company, Compton.

To be Ensign, acting till further orders: Albert P. Farewell, Gentleman, vice W. B. Ives, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

Grand Trunk Railway Brigade.

1st Battalion.

No. 2 Battery.

To be Captain:

1st Lieutenant Charles Chandos Brydges, from No. 3 Battery, vice Jones, left the limits.

1st Infantry Company, Beauharnois.

To be Ensign:

Sergeant James Smith, M. S., vice Bourdon, left the limits.

St. Eustache Rifle Company.

This Company, having become disorganized, is hereby removed from the list of the Volunteer Militia.

BREVET.

To be Major:

Captain Michael Martin, of the 1st Beauharnois Infantry Company.

No. 2.

SERVICE MILITIA.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

North Simcoe Teachers' Drill Association.

A Drill Association is hereby authorized at Barrie, in the Regimental Division of Simcoe, under the command of Mr. Edwin Brokorski, M. S., to be composed of school Teachers, in the county of Simcoe, and to be styled the "North Simcoe Teachers' Drill Association."

Collingwood Grammar School Drill Association.

A Drill Association is hereby authorized at Collingwood, in the Regimental Division of Simcoe, under the command of Captain A. Bligh, 35th Battalion Volunteer Militia, to be composed of the master and pupils of the Grammar School, and to be styled the "Collingwood Grammar School Drill Association."

By Command of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief.

P. L. MACDOUGALL, Colonel,
Adjutant General of Militia,
Canada.

For "THE REVIEW."

BE READY.

Canadians, be ready, the storm is nigh,
Already the dark cloud half covers the sky;
The war-horse is standing accoutred for strife;
The whirlwind is on us; the fight is for life.

Canadians, be true to yourselves as of yore:
Give heed to the warning, you'll hear it no more.
Soon, soon the young yeomen determined will stand
To battle for God, freedom, country, our land.

Canadians, be ready, the day is not far
When the hireling ruffians will force us to war.
Let us meet them determined at what time they come,
Few, few of the blackguards will ever go home.

Then furbish your rifles and sharpen the blade:
Haste! learn all your duties, 'tis the Volunteer's trade.

Let them come: we will cumber the ground with their dead.

Praise him, then, as bravest, who dyes his sword red.

Haste, haste, to your posts; man the line for the war;

Already the thunder is heard from afar:

They come on in thousands and eager for blood;
Canadians, stand firm as your forefathers stood.

BATTERY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

By a private letter just received from Australia, we learn that the Duke of Edinburgh was about to become a member of the Masonic Brotherhood, preliminary to conducting the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a public hall in Sydney.

It now appears to be generally understood that the President has tendered to General McClellan the appointment of Minister to England, but it is not known whether he will accept or not. It is expected that Mr. Charles Francis Adams, the present American Minister to the Court of St. James, will retire some time during next April.

It is said that a gentleman who has received half pay for over fifty years has never in his life joined his regiment or worn a uniform! What a capital joke at the nation's expense.

[This is understood to be Lieut. Parlour, H. P. 6th West India Regiment, who has been drawing unattached pay since 1816, and never served a day. He is one of six receiving half-pay as an Adjutant.]

Alluding to the absurd telegrams attaching importance to the movements of Admiral Farragut in the Mediterranean, the *Court Journal* says: "He has sent off to Garibaldi—not to Washington—for orders, and a reply from Caprea was being waited for before any final action was taken. We shall hear next that Mr. Seward was the original draughtsman of the French Press Bill, and that General Grant has suggested to Sir John Pakington the best means of introducing economy into our War Office."

The pay in the Prussian army is to be increased, but, even with the additional grant, lieutenants will get only twenty-five to thirty thalers (the thaler is equal to seventy cents, gold,) per month. Colonels will receive 2,600 thalers a year, with several extras for horses. Surgeons, 600 to 3,000 thalers. Prussian military officers, however, expect to make good the deficiencies of their pay by contracting advantageous marriages; a circumstance which, joined with the fre-

quent union of the matrimonial and the military questions in the debates of the French Deputies, shows how important the holy marital state is to the military powers of Europe.

CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE POPE.—A Paris correspondent states that letters from Rome say that a court-martial has assembled to try six non-commissioned officers of the Pontifical Artillery, accused of a conspiracy against the Papal Government and high treason against the person of Pius IX.

A duel was fought between the Italian Deputies Nicotera and Assanti. Nicotera received a dangerous wound in the head, which has brought on congestion of the brain.

The gunsmiths of Limerick have been required to hand over to the constabulary their stock of fire-arms, and the powder dealers have lodged their superfluous stores in the military magazine. In Tralee, and several other towns in the south of Ireland, the same measure of precaution is being taken, in obedience to recent orders.

THE NAVAL FORCES OF PRUSSIA.—Mr. Bancroft, representative of the United States at Berlin, has received instructions from his Government to open negotiations with Prussia for a new treaty—maritime and commercial. Letters from Germany state that the secret object of it is to facilitate to Prussia the means of augmenting her naval forces with the briefest delay.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES.—The home Department has issued a return showing the number of special constables in Great Britain. From this it appears that the total number reported is 113,674. London has 52,974; Leeds ranks next with 4,000; Manchester stands sixth on the list with 2,265; Cost-bridge has 1,500; Carlisle, 1,000; Airdrie, 487. No return appears for Glasgow, and Greenock appears on the list of places, but no numbers are given in the parallel columns.

THE PURCHASE SYSTEM.—The *United Service Gazette* has reason to believe that the Minister for war is at last about to take the purchase system in hand, and that the first step towards its abolition will be the withdrawal of the lieutenant-colonels and majorities of regiments from the commission market. It is consolatory to see that even the military journals are beginning to contemplate with serenity the end of that pernicious and corrupt system which they used to maintain "accelerated the promotion of the rich without retarding the promotion of the poor; provided the country with young officers in the higher ranks, and, above all, ensured that all British officers should be gentlemen."

The British army of the future (as rumour goes) will consist of an Indian and Colonial army, the men composing which will be enlisted for a long term of years; an army for home service, enlisted for a short term, and sent on furlough when they have become thoroughly acquainted with their drill, and a large administrative staff to provide for volunteers, militia pensioners and yeomanry, who will constitute part of the home army. The volunteers are to be at once brigaded. A correspondent of the *Carlisle Patriot* says, "we shall probably see the whole force brigaded in the early part of the

summer, so as to leave the regular army free to take part in the impending war with America, which must come sooner or later."

The world moves. Austria has abolished its Aulic Council—a body of veteran generals, mainly responsible for Mack and Wurmser's defeats in Italy at the latter end of the last and beginning of the present century; for Guilly's reverses at Magenta and Solferino, and for the more recent disaster of Sadowa. The Emperor's Government has at length recognized that prudence may be carried to an extreme; that in these days of steam, electricity, breech-loaders and rifled guns, the fate of an army must depend on the instant decision of the General in command, not on the slow deliberations and the obsolete tactics of a council five or six hundred miles from the seat of the campaign. The information is conveyed in a telegram from Vienna to the *Times*, and is conspicuously displayed in the in the leading organ:—"Up to the present time there has existed in Austria an office in which was vested the absolute command of the army, called the 'Armee Ober-Commando.' This is abolished, and its authority is given to the responsible Minister of War. The Archduke Albrecht retains the duty of inspecting the army. These measures will be announced to-morrow, and will be enthusiastically received as an additional guarantee of the constitutional system."

ABYSSINIA.—THE HEALTH OF THE TROOPS.—We have received news to the effect that the health and spirits of the expeditionary force are alike excellent. Hospital accommodation will be provided at the rate of seven per cent. for the British part of the forces, disposed as three divisional field hospitals, and separate tents for regiments and field batteries, &c., proceeding on the march. The largest central depot hospital will probably be at Senafe, which appears to possess a healthy climate, and to be the most convenient position for concentrating the sick coming down from the front. In our opinion, an hospital of this kind will be preferable in every way to employing iron steamers as stationary hospital ships in the Red Sea. The ration is said to be of good quality. It consists of 1 lb. of bread, or 1½ lb. of flour, 2 oz. of ghee, rice, 12 oz. of potatoes, with onions, salt, sugar, tea, and an allowance of rum. The meat will be fresh when procurable, and preserved, in preference to salt, when not. Every soldier is to have a pair of leathern gaiters, and is to be supplied with a waterproof to place on the earth or floor of his tent. The sanitary and medical arrangements appear to have been of a very satisfactory nature.—*Lancel.*

MR. GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, THE FAMOUS CARICATURIST, is Lieutenant Colonel of the 48th Middlesex (Havelock) Volunteers. As every body knows, the great artist is an old man—about seventy-five—and it appears that some of his officers and non-commissioned officers thought it was time for him to give up the command of the Middlesex. The two Majors resigned on his refusing to retire, and fourteen out of the nineteen remaining officers adopted the irregular course of applying directly to the Lord-Lieutenant for an investigation into the matter. This memorial was, of course, forwarded to the War Office, and the result has been that the fourteen remonstrants have been cashiered.

Captain Smith, though not one of the memorialists, resigned his commission on learning this decision. Subsequently an appeal was made on behalf of some of the deposed officers, but this request was peremptorily refused, on the ground that an officer once dismissed was incapable "of ever again holding a commission in Her Majesty's service." How, we should like to know, do the War Office authorities reconcile this regulation with the appointment of Lord Ernest Vane Tempest to a captaincy in the Durham Volunteers, after he had been expelled from the army?—The annual meeting of the Havelock Corps took place on Thursday evening, and there was a crowded attendance of the members. Upon the entrance of Lieut. Colonel Cruikshank he was greeted with loud applause, which lasted several minutes. Colonel Cruikshank having expressed his thanks for the warm reception, said—My enemies thought I was dead, but I will let them see they are mistaken. (Cheers.) There is an illustration of what I say in a picture by Landseer, where a dog is sitting by the man's side and looking up into his face, and it is written beneath. "There is life in the old dog yet." (Cheers.) The event which has taken place (alluded to the cashiering of fourteen officers of the corps by the War Office) is one of the most extraordinary that ever happened in a volunteer corps, but I believe it will do a vast amount of good by the warning it will be to others. I have had a hard battle to fight with respect to some of these officers. Major Saunders and Woodward began to be a nuisance to me some years ago, and they behaved with such rudeness and insubordination that I was obliged to put them under arrest. There was a court of inquiry, but when they had made their defence the gentlemen of that court asked me if I had any thing to add. I said, "No." They asked me to retire. I did so, but supposed they would call me in to reply. I found afterwards that the court was at an end. But if I had had an opportunity of replying, those officers would not have remained in the corps. (Cheers.) Their object was that Major Saunders should obtain command of the Corps, although he is not more fit for the command than I am. I knew what they were about, and took care to have my papers before the Lord-Lieutenant first—(cheers)—and the Lord-Lieutenant felt it to be his duty to refer to the Secretary of State, who wrote to him saying there could be but one opinion regarding the act of the fourteen officers who had signed the memorial, and he considered it such a serious infraction of military duty that he recommended Her Majesty to dispense with their services and Her Majesty was pleased to approve of his recommendation. They say that our corps has always been laughed at in the field. I appeal to you whether that is not a falsehood. (Cries of "It is.") With regard to filling up of the vacancies, he said—We have two doctors, six applications of gentlemen in the army for the "majority," and six captains now, and we shall have eight to-morrow. (Cheers.) There are also four ensigns, and we shall soon have the roll filled up. (Cheere.) Having urged the men to appear largely on parade on Saturday, he referred to a statement of the dismissed officers, that only five boys were left as officers of the regiment. The words of the poet, that "Men are but children of a large growth," appear to applicable in this case, for although one of the officers is as young as twenty-one years, they average thirty-five each; two of the boys are forty-five years old each, and there is one old boy who is seventy-five years of age. (Roars of laughter, and cheers.) In conclusion the

Colonel-Commandant said the days of horse whipping had passed, or he might buy one. (Laughter.) He had been accused for shaking his fist, but if he had been in private life he would have done something else with them. (Cheers and laughter.)—The proceedings terminated with three cheers for the colonel, three for the adjutant, and three for the officers remaining loyal.—*English Paper.*

NOBLE SOLDIERS.

The following anecdote is given in an article on the Christian Commission, in a recent number *Lippincott's Magazine*.

Two of us picked up a man in our arms to carry him off the field. A shell had struck him in the mouth, leaving an awful wound, which was bleeding profusely. I offered the poor fellow a drink from my canteen. One would not have guessed, in looking at him, that he could have thoughts beyond his wound at the time. The first sensation after a wound is well known to be of intense thirst. Yet the soldier refused the proffered draught. I asked him why. "My mouth's all bloody, sir, and it might make the canteen bad for the others." He was "only a private," rough and dusty with the battle, but the answer was one which Philip Sidney or the Chevalier Bayard, *sans peur et reproche*, had not equalled when they gave utterance to the words which have made their fames immortal.

The following is told by a delegate at Mission Ridge:

We met four soldiers bearing back a comrade on a blanket. The men halted when they saw us and laid down their burden, asked if we would see whether the color-sergeant was badly wounded. I knelt down by him and said, "Sergeant, where did they hit you?" "Most up the ridge, sir." "I mean sergeant where did the ball strike you?" "Within twenty yards of the top—almost up." "No, no, sergeant; look at yourself for a moment; *tu es* where you are wounded; and throwing back the blanket, I found his upper arm washed and mangled with a shell. Turning his eyes to look for the first time on his wound, the sergeant said, "That is what did it. I was hugging the standard to my blouse and making for the top. I was almost up when that ugly shell knocked me over. If they had let me alone a little longer—two minutes longer—I should have planted the colors on the top. Almost up; almost up." We could not get the dying color-bearer's attention to himself. The fight and flag held all his thoughts; and while his eye was growing heavy in death, with a flushed face he was repeating. "Almost up; almost up." The brigade to which he belonged had carried the ridge, and his own regiment, rallying under the colours which had dropped from his shattered arm, was shouting the victory for which he had given his young life, but of which he was dying without the sight.

NITRO-GLYCERINE AND GREEK FIRE.

The following memorandum, relative to the treatment of nitro glycerine and the extinction of Greek fire, has been issued by order of the Home Secretary:—

Nitro Glycerine is not applied as an incendiary agent, and if used as an explosive it will not be scattered loosely about, but will be employed in cans or other closed vessels.

If such should be discovered, they should be carefully removed, some heavy body attached to them, and they should be cast into deep water without any attempt being made to open them. True Greek fire is simply a solid, highly combustible composition, very similar to carcase composition. What is now commonly called Greek fire consists of a solution of phosphorus, or of sulphur and phosphorus, and a very volatile liquid, the bi-sulphide of carbon, to which occasionally some mineral oil is added with the view of increasing its incendiary powers. When this liquid is thrown on any surface exposed to the air, the solvent evaporates, leaving a film of the phosphorus or sulphide of phosphorus, which will then inflame spontaneously, but will not very readily set fire to wood or combustible materials. The proper mode of extinguishing the flame produced by such an incendiary agent is to throw upon the burning surface a quantity of wet or damp sand, ashes, sawdust, lime, or any other powder, or wet sacking or carpeting—any material, in short, by which the flame can be stifled by exclusion of air. No attempt should be made to remove the covering for some time after the flame has been extinguished. The place should afterwards be thoroughly scoured by playing upon it for some time by a powerful jet of water.—Should any scattered liquid be discovered which has not become inflamed, it should be washed away as above directed as quickly as possible, and if a jet of water is not immediately at hand, it should, in the meantime, be covered in from the air by the application of any of the materials named above.

VOLUNTEER DINNER.—We learn that the Annual Dinner of the Mount Forest Volunteer Rifle Company, which was held in that Village on Friday evening last and was a pleasant and successful affair. The dining room was handsomely decorated with a number of very well executed mottoes, and at either end of the room was a warlike arrangement of military implements. About 75 persons, comprising the volunteers and a number of gentlemen of the Village, specially invited sat down to a table covered with everything that could be desired on an occasion of the kind. The chair was occupied by David Spence, Esq., and Samuel Wallace, Esq., occupied the vice chair. After ample justice had been done to the eatables, a few hours were put in very pleasantly, toasts, speeches and songs being the order of the evening.—*Fergus News Record.*

VOLUNTEER FESTIVITIES AT BOND HEAD.—A most brilliant and successful amateur concert took place on Wednesday last at the drill shed of the Bond Head Volunteers. The large room with its 500 seats was well filled. The orchestra was graced with a fine piano and harmonium, while the courtly cup, lately won by Sergeant Ward of the company, held a conspicuous place. The Sharon silver band with several well-known amateur vocalists, gave their valuable services, and were so well appreciated by the audience that owing to numerous *encores* it was midnight before the conclusion of the concert. This was followed by a ball in the Orange Hall, where dancing was kept up with much spirit until morning.—*Leader.*

The Leith Volunteers Soiree came off on Thursday evening last in their new Drill Shed at Vanwyck's corners. We are happy to learn that it was a grand success.

CANADIAN ITEMS.

DEATH OF AN OLD SALT.—An old French sailor, named Legas, who fought against the British Admiral Cook in the West Indies, and was taken prisoner there, died recently at Les Eboulemens. The old man wore the decoration of the St. Helena medal.

THE 100TH AMATEURS.—The amateur corps of the 100th P. W. Regiment gave an entertainment at the Theatre Royal in Montreal, on the 25th ultimo. The popularity which the corps have gained for themselves by their former performances in Montreal was evinced by the fulness of the house, and the hearty round of cheering which followed the raising of the curtain. In the opening piece, "The Ladye of Lambytho," Mr. G. W. D. Gordon and Mr. H. C. Boydell specially distinguished themselves, the former as Javalin Belleisle, the Norman Free Lance, and the latter as John the Jester. Mr. Marsland, as the Hunchback, contributed greatly to the success of the piece. If we were disposed to be critical, it would be easy to notice the slips incidental to such amateur performances, but we should not do justice to the talent of the corps if we did not pronounce the acting far superior to what is generally done on such occasions. At the close of the piece, Mr. J. Robertson performed some very difficult gymnastic tricks, which were well received. The after piece, "Going to the Derby," was gone through with infinite humour. The orchestral performances were very creditable, a solo by Mr. R. Quinn being specially worthy of notice.—*Montreal Herald.*

THE LATE W. L. MACKENZIE.—In the Ontario Legislature, on the 13th ult., Mr. McKellar presented a petition from the widow of the late William Lyon Mackenzie, asking payment of an amount due to her husband by the Government of Upper Canada. The petition was referred to a committee to report upon the facts of the case, the Government not pledging itself to anything more than a willingness to hear the facts which might be reported. The sum asked for is £500 voted in 1835 to Mr. Mackenzie by the Legislative Assembly, to defray expenses incurred by him in going to England with petitions for changes in the administration, where he had remained a year and a half at his own charge. Although the sum mentioned was granted to him, it was never paid over, and the object of the present petition by his widow is to recover the amount. Whatever may have been the faults of Mr. Mackenzie, he passed through a long political career without once attempting to enrich himself at the expense of the people, as is too often the case with politicians; the consequence being that he died in comparative poverty; and it is nothing more than simple justice that the Province should now pay to his widow the sum actually voted to him, which we hope there will be no hesitation in doing as soon as the committee reports.

IS CANADA DEFENCELESS?—The Adjutant General of Militia lately delivered a lecture before the Militia Officers' Association, of Montreal, in the course of which he handled the principles and applicability of two of the great axioms of warfare with more than usual research and ability, in that careful, painstaking manner which have already given him such an enviable position among

the military writers of the empire.—And although not avowedly designed to point out the strength of our position on the left bank of the St. Lawrence, Colonel Macdougall's remarks incidentally alluded to what we may truly call the impregnable position of this city, for he conclusively shows that by means of a line of forts, or rather an intrenched camp, covering what we will suppose to be Longueuil, St. Lamberts and Laprairie, our means of defence can only be measured by the extent of our endurance—that fifty thousand men, in fact in such a position, such a camp, would be a match for all the available force our neighbours could bring against it. This was also the opinion of Colonel Jervoise, and tested by the well-tried principles which Macdougall applied throughout his lecture, it fully establishes the pretence that, defenceless as Canada appears to be, it could yet be successfully defended against all the odds which might be brought against it. The knowledge of this fact cannot be to extensively circulated. It is calculated to give healthy tone to our new nationality; to make it feel respectable and self-reliant, and for this reason we are glad to see that in this it has the weight attachable to the experience and science of such a well-versed military man as Colonel Macdougall.—*Montreal Gazette.*

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT, Customs, Quebec, March 6, 1867.

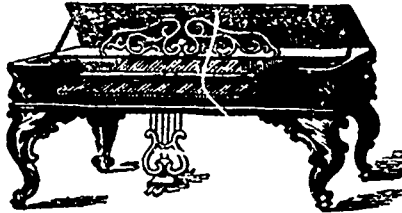
It is directed by the Hon. The Finance Minister, that hereafter Weekly Notices be published and furnished to Collectors of Customs, as to the rate of discount to be allowed on American Invoices, which is to be in accordance with the price of gold as represented by Exchange, at a rate equal thereto.—Such Notices to appear every Saturday in the "Canada Gazette."

R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT, Customs, Ottawa, Feb. 14, 1868.

In accordance with the above Order, Notice is hereby given that the authorized discount is declared to be this day 25 per cent, which percentage of deduction is to be continued until next Weekly Notice, and to apply to purchases made in the United States during that week.

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