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# The Volunteer Review

## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

VOL. VII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1873.

No. 51.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The following appointments are gazetted: Hon. George Brown, to be a Senator; William S. Senkler, of Brockville to be judge of the County Court of Lanark, *vice* judge Mallock, deceased; William Ambrose, of Hamilton, to be judge of the County Court of Wentworth, *vice* judge Logie, deceased.

Mr. Moss has been elected for West Toronto, to the Commons, by a majority of 508, Mr. Chisolm is elected to the Ontario Assembly for the County of Peel, by a majority of 248.

The Kingston infantry school which was opened about ten days ago, is now in full working order. Twenty-three cadets are in attendance. Lieut. Colonel Jarvis is commandant; Lieut. Colonel Phillips, Adjutant; Sergeant Ryan, Sergeant Major; and Sergt. Smith, instructor.

A Postal Convention has been entered into between the United States and various European powers, including Great Britain, under which frauds upon the Customs revenues through the mails will be prevented.

The Kingston City Council has signed petitions to the Dominion Parliament and Governor-General praying for the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors as beverages.

A Mass meeting of workmen was held in New York on Tuesday night of last week when it was stated that there are 10,000 homeless men and women in that city; and that, out of eleven Trades Unions 20,250 men are idle.

A carefully compiled statement shows that the damage done to shipping on the lakes, during 1873 was \$3,976,000, or nearly a million more dollars than the year previous, and the number of ships lost or damaged was 1,318.

About 9 o'clock last Thursday night Mr. W. B. Wood, Agent at Nashville, Tenn. for Adams' Express Company, had his skull crushed in and his safe robbed of \$1,200. Three of the men concerned in the affair have been arrested.

The Pacific Division, 115 miles in length, of the Northern Pacific Railroad was finished on the 17th inst. This completes rail connection between the Columbia River and Tacoma.

The Richmond *Guardian* states that during the past week, not less than 5,000 French Canadians have returned from the United States, and that hundreds will leave every week for some time to come.

About 7 p. m. on Sunday evening a young man, accompanied by a young lady, both of Pembroke, were driving on the lake near that town with a fine pair of horses, valued at \$400. The ice not being sufficiently strong, suddenly gave way, in an instant the team and cutter disappeared under the ice, but the young man and lady escaped from a watery grave.

The *Toronto Globe* favours the use of the American line as part of the scheme of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The following is the *Globe's* explanation of the effect of that policy:—"If this scheme is carried out, our national enterprise, instead of being the successful rival of the American Company, competing for the Asiatic trade, which is now in its infancy, and building up the Dominion as no other undertaking will do will simply be the Canadian branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad entirely under its control, dictated to by it relentlessly."

Sir Garnet Wolsely is making things rather lively on the Ashantees. He recently attacked them at Abrakampa, and defeated them in the most thorough manner. The *Times* correspondent sums up the fight by declaring that the affair at Abrakampa was the worst disaster the Ashantees have met with since 1826. Not a single life was lost on our side, but twenty were wounded, ten slightly. It is possible the King may now be inclined to negotiate, but the correspondent thinks that negotiations should be conducted in Coomassie alone. It may now be affirmed that the Ashantee invasion is over, and that soon the Protectorate will be clear. In two months the second act of the drama will commence, and in three months probably Coomassie will be taken. The *Daily News* says the main body of the Ashantees had attacked Abrakampa in great force and with much persistence. They were unable, however, to stand against the fire of the troops, who were completely protected. After two unsuccessful attempts, the Ashantees, numbering 15,000, fled in the utmost confusion from their camp, leaving every thing behind them. Sir Garnet Wolsely had returned in triumph with spoils of war to Cape Coast Castle, and the excitement among the natives was immense. The Ashantee camp at Alampou has been deserted and burnt. Colonel Esting attacked the Ashantee forces near Dunquah on the 3rd November, and caused so much loss to them that, after a council of war, they decided to break up and reach the Prae as best they could.

A correspondent of the *Liverpool Daily Post* writes as follows:—"To give the public an idea of the amount of reluctance, that can be placed in native Fantee levies, I may mention that during the fight near Dunquah

that portion of the native levies which happened to be under the command of Lieutenant Pollard, R. N., suddenly became panic-stricken, and bolted. Most fellows would probably have felt inclined to follow their men when left alone under such very trying circumstances, but not so Mr. Pollard, who coolly began to fire off his revolver and fight by himself, when some few of his men, feeling a certain amount of compunction at leaving such a plucky fellow to fall a victim to the Ashantees, returned, and thrusting him into a hammock, ran off with him. A ludicrous termination to what might have been a very tragical story; but I think it is sufficiently proved the Fantees are worthless as fighting men, and are only fit to be employed as laborers."

The Prince of Wales has given 25 guineas to the newspaper press fund.

Advices from Cape Coast Castle to the 24th ult., report that General Sir Garnet Wolsely had completely recovered his health and had resumed active duty. During his illness the expedition was at a standstill, and movements had since been difficult owing to the large number of sick. The authorities at Madeira were placing all the obstacles they could in the way of the establishment of sanitary measures for the British soldiers stricken with fever.

A Prussian ordinance, was officially promulgated on the 17th, ordering that in future all Bishops, upon their installation shall swear to maintain complete subordination to the State and co-operation in the suppression of all disloyal intrigues.

At the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor said he had received a letter from the Duke of Argyll, respecting the Bengal famine, stating that things wore a hopeful aspect, and that it was not yet necessary to open subscriptions in England.

A society has been formed in Belgium for collecting all waste paper, and selling it for the profit of the Pope. The society has appealed to all the possessors of "bad books, such as the works of Voltire, Rousseau, Diderot, Volney and other detestable authors," to hand them over as waste paper.

A scheme is being considered for constructing a railway to the Isle of Wight. The proposal is to run a railway from Totton, a station at the top of Southampton water, on the Dorchester Line, to the Isle of Wight, by tunneling the west channel of the Solent. Totton is about twelve miles from the west channel.

A tornado passed over the town of Milton California, on the 16th destroying the entire place. Several houses were blown away from their foundations. A number of persons were badly injured. No lives were lost.

## LECTURE ON SMALL ARMS BY LIEUT. COL. FLETCHER.

The third lecture of the winter series delivered under the auspices of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society was given last evening in their rooms on Sparks street, by Lieut. Col. Fletcher, of the Coldstream Guards, Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor General. The audience, which was numerous, included several ladies, and among the gentlemen present we noticed Major Futvoye, Deputy Minister of Militia, Lieut. Col. Powell, Acting Adjutant General, Lieut. Col. Brunel, Lieut. Col. Wylie, Lieut. Col. Stewart, Major White and Captain Wickstead, of the Governor General's Foot Guards, Major and Pay-master Wickstead, the Rev. T. D. Phillips, Drs. Grant and VanCortlandt, Mr. Austin, Mr. E. A. Meredith, and others of the leading residents of Ottawa. The lecture was of a character highly

## INSTRUCTIVE TO MILITARY MEN

and all who take an interest in firearms, Col. Fletcher, from his extensive practical acquaintance with every detail of his subject, being able to afford the most complete information and intelligent explanation of its technical and historical branches; his experience gained while serving on the Small Arms Committee appointed by the Government to decide upon the best weapon for the British Army and Navy having afforded him every opportunity for acquiring the knowledge which he last evening imparted to his hearers in such an able manner. The President of the Society, Mr. Thornburn, occupied the chair.

The lecturer opened his remarks with a

## HISTORY OF THE STEPS

by which the authorities came to the conclusion to arm the forces with a breech loading weapon. He observed that until near the middle of the nineteenth century very little improvement had been made in the muzzle used for many years by the British army, with the single exception of the substitution of percussion caps for the method of ignition by the flint lock. Up to the time when the value of the cylindrical bullet was discovered very little trouble had been taken to instruct the troops in firing. A certain amount of ammunition was certainly issued for what was called

## "BALL FIRING,"

but no attempt was made to afford any instruction, the apparent object being just to fire off so many cartridges and have done with it. There was to a certain extent an exception made as regards the "Rifle Brigade" who were provided with a somewhat superior weapon to the ordinary musket. It was not until 1854 that the Enfield rifle, to carry the Minie bullet, was sent out to the army in the Crimea and even there Sir George Cathcart's Division was still

## ARMED WITH "BROWN BESS."

At Inkerman, the peculiar penetrative power of the cylindrical bullet was observed, in the damaging effect it produced upon the Prussian columns. Then came the era of "Musketry Instruction" as established at Hythe by the late Colonel Hay, who encountered extraordinary opposition in his task, which, however, accomplished by the force of character which distinguished him, though unfortunately he did not live to witness the full fruits of his labors. From 1856 to the Danish war

## NO GREAT ADVANCE

An improvement of the weapon was to be

noticed, the muzzle-loader still continuing ununsuperseded, but in that war the terrible effect of the Prussian needle-gun, which that power had already had in use for many years, was manifested; and here Colonel Fletcher expressed his astonishment that the Austrians, who were the allies of the Prussians, did not have their eyes opened at the time to the inferiority of the weapon with which their own troops were armed, and that it wanted the ensanguined

## BATTLE OF SADOWA

to bring the vital importance of the subject to their conviction. In 1865 a committee appointed by the British Government reported that it was essential that the troops should be armed with a breech-loading weapon, leaving it to the subsequent investigation to determine what peculiar pattern should be permanently adopted. The emergency was met by the Snider system of converting to breech-loaders the rifles then in use. Shortly after the Government

## OFFERED £1,000 REWARD

for the best weapon, £100 for the best mechanism applied to it, and £600 for the best form of ammunition, and appointed a committee to decide upon the merits of the patterns submitted for competition, a member of which was himself (the gallant lecturer). Col. Fletcher proceeded to explain the stringent conditions by which the committee were bound to decide, and the number of desiderata to be considered. All good judges held that the following qualities of the weapon were of primary importance, viz:—Strength, lightness, safety, flatness of trajectory, accuracy and penetration. Then there was serviceability, and the lecturer gave some amusing instances of the dismay which filled inventors when they observed the

## RIGID TESTS APPLIED

to their patterns, such as the pouring of fine sand over the lock so as to find out the weak points of its mechanism. It is still a fact that muzzle loaders shoot better in a slight degree, than breach loaders, and the reason has not yet been discovered, but Col. Fletcher gave his own theory of the cause. He showed how the various inventions, if they met one requirement, failed in another, and explained how the committee finally arrived at the conclusion that no one perfect weapon had been submitted to them, ultimately deciding to recommend a combination of the principles of the Henry and Martini systems, which was at length the arm adopted by the Government and which

## PROMISED THOROUGH SATISFACTION.

It would be difficult for us to make our readers understand, as Col. Fletcher was able to make his audience, the advantages of the new weapon, which he produced and exhibited for their more complete enlightenment, afterwards illustrating by the use of a carefully drawn diagram the simplicity of the interior mechanism. He then touched upon the trials of ammunition, and the adoption of a particular cartridge; also on the question of bayonet or sword-bayonet. He observed that,

## THE MARTINI HENRY RIFLE.

is cheaper than the Snider, being manufactured in large quantities for about \$10, and explained how this happened. He quoted various authorities in its favour. It will be interesting to volunteers to learn that the new arm weight only about the same as the short rifle now served out to sergeants. It has no exterior hammers, and is loaded so readily that it is unnecessary for a sentry

even, except in special cases, to carry his piece loaded. When loaded, by a simple lever the interior hammer is locked, so that the weapon can be safely handled. Twenty rounds can be fired with it in 48 seconds, and 30,000 rounds have been fired without any signs of wear appearing. The trajectory also was much flatter than that of the Snider, and that was a point for a military weapon of even greater importance than accuracy, which statement was fully explained. The lecturer proceeded to enumerate by name the different weapons adopted for the armies of other European powers, and remarked that his committee, with the single exception of that now chosen by the Prussians, have investigated the merits of each and rejected them in favour of the Martini-Henry. The committee for substantial reasons had not recommended the adoption of any repeating weapon, though the Winchester Henry pattern was that which seemed most advantageous. Colonel Fletcher then touched upon.

## THE MITRAILLEUR

*nemitrailleuse* (he said the gender had never yet been definitely settled) and stated that it had still to be proved whether such an arm would form an advantageous substitute for artillery, thought for certain specific purposes, which he instanced, it certainly promised usefulness both in military and naval warfare. The principle would at all events have some trial during the present Ashantee expedition. The lecturer concluded a most instructive and entertaining discourse, listened to with marked attention, with the following remarks upon the effect which the employment of improved small arms would have upon

## MODERN WARFARE.

"And now, having very briefly described the course which led, first, to the adoption of breechloaders by the English army, and then to the introduction of the Martini-Henry; and having also shown that the Continental nations have universally replaced the muzzle-loader by the breech-loader, it may not be out of place if I put before you a few suggestions on the changes which this alternation will probably cause in the operations of war. I have already mentioned how the breechloaders was first brought prominently before the eyes of Europe in the campaign of Sadowa, when, notwithstanding the greatest bravery on the part of the Austrians, they were defeated and forced to treat for peace in the short period of about fourteen days, and when, even in the one success they obtained, the loss was so terrible as almost to render the success abortive. On the conclusion of the war, the Prussians, with their usual energy and clear-sightedness, proceeded to draw deductions from the changes the new arm had introduced into tactics; and among other treatises, a pamphlet published anonymously, but subsequently found to have been written by Lieutenant Meri, and called the "Practical Retrospect of the War of 1867," engaged the attention of the military students, and, I may say, practical soldiers of Europe. So great was the sensation created, that the highest staff authority in Germany is said to have prompted a reply to some of its more radical opinions. Notwithstanding, however, the opposition which the treatise met with, the ideas which it set forth received confirmation from the incidents of the great war of 1870, when the Germans, armed with the needle gun, met the French carrying the far superior weapon the chassepot. Then the Prussian or German troops partly influenced by the ex-

perience of 1866, partly acting on their military instincts, adopted new tactics and met the fresh requirements. They quickly refuted the arguments that had found favor with a great many military men, that the improved arms would give so undue a pre-eminence to the defensive, that war would resolve itself into war of posts. On the contrary they took the initiative with bold attacks, only in place of manoeuvring in masses, or even in line with skirmishers in front, they adopted an extended order for their successive waves of attack, thus giving the men the free use of their weapons, and allowing the rapidity of loading characterizing the breech-loader to have full scope. They instilled into their soldiers the necessity of economizing their ammunition, and of closing with the enemy, not in the old sense with the bayonet, but in order to make every shot tell from their comparatively short ranging rifle. In their instructions they laid special stress on what has been translated as fire discipline, teaching their men to act individually, or in small bodies in extended order with the same steadiness as when in close order under the eye of their col. The steady discipline and the instruction in their profession of every grade from the general to the private, and especially of the regimental officers, produced admirable results. The French, relying on their long range rifle, firing rapidly rather than carefully, and trusting to the defensive, contrary to the traditions of their army and the aptitude of their soldiery, were beaten; and although many other causes may have contributed to their defeat, yet those here given, together with the laxer discipline of the men and the inferior military education of the officers, were some of the principal reasons which led to the success of the Germans and the destruction of the armies of what had hitherto been considered the most military nation of the continent. What then do we learn from the history of this war? That with the introduction of the breech-loader, more stringent discipline, greater steadiness, and individual intelligence, is required from the men, and more careful study is demanded from the officers, especially from those of the lower grades, on whom increased responsibility will devolve. If we march with the age in military as well as other matters, we need not fear evil results from the introduction of the breech-loader. The steadiness of our Infantry which has recently received such praise from a French military writer. I allude to General Trochu's quotations from Marshal Dugrand's opinions, will stand us in good stead. The terrible fire for which in old wars they had been famous, will still characterize them when they have to use the new improved weapons. Only we must adopt modern ideas in regard to tactics, remembering that fighting in extended order does not mean looseness in drill, but rather increased steadiness and greater submission to discipline, and that rapidly and accurately shooting rifles are not intended to encourage quick and careless firing, but rather economy of ammunition and a desire never to throw away a shot. The men must be taught that when once launched forward to the attack, there is no retreat. They must advance rapidly over the ground swept by the enemy's fire, the supports and reserves, to use the old terms, closing on the advanced line as it approaches the enemy, filling up the gaps and adding the strength and impetus to the final rush. If so handled, the rapidly loaded breech-loader will do much to restore to the attack the advantage which accurately shooting muzzle loaders

had given to the defence, whilst it will secure to the Infantry the pre-eminence it has long held in modern armies. I venture merely to throw out these hints, taken mostly from recently published German words on the last war, for the consideration of those who are interested in military matters, and who seek a solution for the many questions which the recent changes in weapons have given rise to among all who study military history. I do not apologize for these remarks, as although I am addressing a literary and scientific audience, I know that among them are many who have devoted their time, their energy, and their knowledge to strengthening the defensive power of their native country by service in the ranks of her noble constituted arm, the Militia of Canada, and consequent will be able to appreciate any remarks that I may have made on military subjects."

On the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was proposed by Lieut.-Col. Powell and seconded by Dr. VanCortlandt it is hardly necessary to say that the proposition was cordially adopted. The gallant colonel briefly acknowledged this mark of appreciation, and then exhibited to such of the audience as remained the several rifles he had at hand to illustrate his subject.—*Free Press.*

## THE ASHANTEE WAR.

### THE FIRST ENCOUNTER.

The following is Sir Garnet Wolseley's official report of the first encounter with the enemy, which took place on Oct. 14.—The despatch is published in the London papers of Nov. 19.

Cape Coast Castle, }  
October 15, 1873. }

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that a column—namely, twenty nine Blue jackets, with one seven pounder gun, one rocket trough, twenty Royal Marine Artillery, 129 Royal Marine Light Infantry, 205 Second West India Regiment, 126 Houssas, ten armed police, thirty axemen, and 270 carriers—marched yesterday from Elmina, under command of Lieutenant Col. Wood, V. C., and destroyed the disaffected villages of Essaman, Amquana, Akimfoo, and Ampenee. I accompanied the column, in order to make it plain to the natives that I am sent here, not to administer the Government, but as a general officer to command Her Majesty's troops, and that I intend personally to take part in all military operations. I had resolved to destroy these villages, because I had for some time known that they were occupied by detachments of the Ashantee forces, and that their inhabitants were in league with the enemy. Our officers could not go to any distance from Elmina without being insulted and threatened with attack, and I had the best authority for knowing that the large force of Ashantees in camp at Mampon drew their supplies through these villages. I had summoned their chiefs to present themselves at Elmina. They, however, had not only refused to come, but sent insulting answers, to which they were prompted by the Ashantees at Mampon, who told them that the Ashantees were more courageous than the English, that the English would not dare to march into the bush to attack the villages, and that even should they do so, the Ashantees would come to the help of the chiefs. In order to surprise the vil-

lages and prevent any reinforcements arriving from Mampon, I carefully spread false intelligence that I was about to move with a force in another direction, on the night of the 13th, and I gave nearly two days for the news to reach the enemy.—The ruse was entirely successful. There is every reason to believe the enemy were completely surprised, and the distance between Mampon to Essaman made it impossible for the Ashantees to reinforce Essaman in time without previous warning. As soon as I had decided on my plan I invited the co-operation of the Senior Naval Officer, who held in readiness the Royal Marines and Blue jackets above specified, and landed an officer and forty two blue jackets at Cape Coast, and an officer and twenty blue jackets at Elmina, to garrison those places during the temporary absence of the troops. The detachment, Second West India Regiment, embarked on board Her Majesty's ships *Decoy*, on the evening of the 13th, and I embarked with some of my staff on board Her Majesty's ship *Barracouta* at nine p.m. The *Houssas* were already at Elmina. At about 1 a.m., 14th, the *Barracouta* and *Decoy* steamed for Elmina Roads, and about 3 a.m., the disembarkation of the troops commenced.—Owing, however, to the state of the tide and the heavy surf, the last of the Royal Marines were not landed till 5 a.m. About half past 4 a.m., the advance guards of *Houssas* had marched off, and the main body moved at a few minutes past 5.—About a quarter past 7 o'clock, after a march along a track, which at times led us through a swamp, knee deep, and at times through high bush, we encountered the enemy in a dense bush at a short distance from the village of Essaman, and after a short action drove him in, employing shells and rockets to dislodge him from the village, which fell into our hands at ten minutes to eight a.m. I caused the village to be destroyed. A large quantity of powder was found, together with many guns and some Ashantee war drums, indicating the presence of Ashantee war chiefs, and proving that our attack was a surprise. A few dead bodies were found but the nature of the bush renders all estimate either of the enemy's numbers or losses so conjectural that I prefer to make no attempt to define them. Our own losses were small, but I deeply regret that our list of wounded includes my chief staff officer, Colonel McNeill, V. C., C. M. G., whose temporary absence from the duties for which he is so efficient is a serious loss to the service at this time; and also Capt. Fremantle, R. N., the senior naval officer on the station, who was shot through the arm while superintending the artillery.—After a short halt we again marched at a quarter to ten, and arrived at Amquana at twenty minutes past twelve. This village was deserted, and I caused it to be destroyed. We were halted on the beach, and about two o'clock, after I had despatched the wounded with an escort of native troops to Elmina, left the greater part of the Royal Marines whom was anxious to spare undue fatigue, halted at Amquana, where they kept up my communications with Elmina, and moved with the remainder of the native troops and a few volunteers from the Royal Marines under command of Capt. Crease westward along the beach. After being joined by all the available marines and blue jackets who could be landed from Her Majesty's ships *Argus* and *Decoy*, we proceeded to Akimoo, found this village deserted and destroyed it. We then continued the march to Ampenee. This village was also deserted, and we destroyed it. The two last named villages had been shelled by

Her Majesty's ships *Argus* and *Decoy* for some hours previously. After this last village was in flames, our troops were fired upon by a body of the enemy from the bush westward, and some of the blue jackets became engaged. By their fire and the use of a few rockets we drove off the enemy. After I had myself embarked on board Her Majesty's ship *Decoy*, some firing took place from the bush, on the eastward side of the town, and was replied to by Second West India Regiment, who drove the enemy away. The Second West India Regiment and the marines, who were bound for Elmina, remained until the men belonging to the *Argus* and *Decoy* had embarked, and then marched off leisurely, without further molestation. On the road home they were joined by the detachment left at Amquana, and arrived well and safe at Elmina, the Marines re-embarking on board Her Majesty's ship *Barracouta* immediately. The detachment of the Second West India Regiment arrived here this morning by road march. There were no women and children in Essaman when I attacked it, nor in any of the villages whom I destroyed them. I hope that I have taught the Ashantees a great lesson, showing to them that even in the bush they are not secure against attack and defeat by English troops, and I anticipate that the result of this action will exert a most beneficial effect upon the Fantee tribes, inspiring them with new hope, and so with new vigor. But no less important is the lesson I have myself learnt from this affair. I have been shown how little reliance can be placed on the best native troops in this bush fighting, where it is impossible to keep them under the immediate control of European officers. The Houssas showed undeniable courage and spirit; but their uncontrollable wildness, the way in which they fired volley after volley in the air, at imaginary foes in the bush, expending all their ammunition, shows how little use they are for the work we have in hand. I do not doubt they will improve under the teaching of the officers of my force, and I hope shortly to have them more under my control, but I cannot expect ever to make of them a thoroughly disciplined body. I have, &c.

G. J. WOLSELEY, Major-General.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War.

In the despatch Sir Garnet Wolsely enclosed a return of the casualties amongst the troops, marines, and seamen from Her Majesty's ships in action at Essaman, October 14th. The following are the names of the British wounded:—

General Staff.—Colonel McNeill, V. C., C. M. G. (colonel on the staff), gunshot wound, left forearm; very severe.

2nd West India Regiment.—Captain Forbes, wounded by slug, right hand; slight.

Royal Navy.—Captain Fremantle, gunshot wound, right upper arm; severe.

Non-commissioned Officers and Men.—Royal marines, Company 44, Privates Thomas Walsh, gunshot wound, left forearm; severe. Royal marines, Company 10, Privates W. Broderick, wound by a slug, thigh; severe.

Sir Garnet Wolsley also encloses a report from Lieut.-Colonel Evelyn Wood, who commands the troops at Elmina, as to the march on Essaman. He also forwards a copy of the letter which he wrote to Captain Fremantle, R. N., the senior naval officer on the West African station, thanking him for the services rendered by himself and the

detachment of Royal marines and blue-jackets from the squadron under his command in the operations against Essaman and Ampenee, the success of which was largely due to their valuable assistance.

Three cases of sunstroke occurred during the day, two of them of a mild form, the third very severe. The last-mentioned sufferer was William Phillips, a private in the Royal Marines.

The special correspondent of the *Times* writing on Oct. 15 from Cape Coast Castle, gives the following interesting particulars of the fighting.

Captain Glover, on arriving at Accra, set to work with his usual energy, leaving native troops and opening negotiations with the chiefs of the interior. The most powerful of these is the King of Akim, who can put 20,000 men into the field. He came down to Accra with a gun flint in his mouth, a token of war, and said he did not want any money or pay for his men, but only muskets and powder and flints and lead bars—for cutting up into slugs. A fortnight ago the King of Ashantee sent to Akim, his hereditary foe, a message of love proposing an exchange of prisoners, and declaring he had no palaver with him, but only with the people of the sea. Such is the policy of Ashantee; they make peace with one people when they wish to make war upon another, but they make war upon all in turn. Akim replied that if the King of Ashantee had no palaver with him, he had a palaver with the King of Ashantee. If the four messengers, he killed two, sent the third back to Coomassie, and the fourth on to Glover at Accra. This envoy is now at Cape Coast, and asserts that the King is marching in person upon us, and intends to take this town, or perish in the attempt, his principal object being to recover the bones of his uncle, the late King of Ashantee.

It is a custom of that country that if a king dies without having been on the war-path and the battle-field, he may not be buried in the family vault. The late King of Ashantee came to this miserable end, and his pious descendant, Calcutti, determined to remove the stain upon his memory. Quahoo Duh was dead, but yet he should go to the war; his bones should be borne across the Prae. In a certain battle early in the present year the Ashantees, as usual, gained the victory; but the Royal remains were captured in the fight, and are treasured as a trophy at Cape Coast—at least so the Ashantees suppose. According to their religious belief, the soul of this unfortunate King is now a prisoner. Far down below the earth is a shadowy land where the Kings of Ashantee, richly apparelled, covered with gold, surrounded by their nobles, attended by their slaves, reign as they reigned on earth, in a kingdom that shall have no end. But one throne is vacant. Exiled from his brethren, a royal spirit, solitary and forlorn, hovers over its captive corpse in the castle of the white men on the borders of the sea.

Captain Glover has now gone on to Ad dah, at the mouth of the Volta, and the tribes on the other side of the river, the proper left bank, are allies of Ashantee. Through the seaports Jella Coffee and Quitta these people, the Awoonas, obtain munitions of war, and send them on through a tribe called the Aquamons to the Ashantee frontier. The arrival of Glover threatens this trade, so both tribes have collected in force, and a few days ago there went forth a rumour that Glover was hemmed in. Next

day all Cape Coast was in a stir. The West India detachment which garrisons this town has been ordered on board the *Barracouta*. I went over to Government house and obtained permission to join the expedition, whatever it might be, and was informed that Glover required reinforcements, and that the general himself was going with them to Ad dah. At nine p.m. Sir Garnet Wolseley came down to the beach, and surf-boats took us off to the sloop. I thought the hour rather late if we were going to Ad dah, which is more than 100 miles to the east, and as soon as we were on board the truth came out. Our destination was Elmina. This, our newest colony, is also the oldest one we possess out side the Straits of Gibraltar. The Ashantees have a camp at Mampon, which is so near Elmina that they can hear the morning and evening gun. With gold dust they purchase powder, rum, and provisions from certain villages near Elmina. At times the market women are so numerous that the camp presents the appearance of a fair. Two villages are especially engaged in this traffic, Amponoo and Emsaman. Ampenee is on the seashore, and its people are fishers. They are also fishers of men, having lately captured and killed two sets of canoe-men belonging Cape Coast Castle. Two this village, the seaport of the camp smugglers bring munitions of war. But the Ampenees know well enough that any day a "smoke ship" may come and destroy their village; it is, therefore, Emsaman which is selected as the Ashantee magazine. This village is situated in the midst of a thick jungle four miles away from the sea. Here the insurgents, driven out of Elmina, used to speak of building a new town, where they might be secure from the white man; and here large quantities of powder, rum, dried fish and corn were stored up.

Sir Garnet has placed Elmina under charge of Colonel Evelyn Wood, V. C., a most energetic officer, who soon found out what was going on. He also ascertained that an Ashantee captain, with his company, was residing at Emsaman. On these facts being reported at headquarters the general sent a messenger to the head man of Ampenee and Emsaman and other villages, ordering them at once to appear at Elmina and give an explanation of their conduct. If they refused, he would punish them severely. The head man sent to the Ashantee camp for instructions, and were ordered not to obey the summons. Ampenee might be destroyed, but Emsaman was in the bush, and they need not be afraid, for white men could not fight in the bush. Accordingly the head man returned an insulting message, and Sir Garnet made his preparations. He determined to surprise Emsaman, and therefore kept his plan of operations a secret. In Cape Coast castle it was known only to three men besides himself, in Elmina only to Colonel Wood. These precautions were not superfluous, for Cape Coast Castle and Elmina are full of spies. Cape Coast was, therefore, thrown on a false scent by the story of Ad dah, and during the night policemen guarded every exit from Elmina.

Only regular troops were employed, and the force was considerable. As I mentioned in a previous letter, Commodore Commerell had left instructions that the marines on board the *Simoon* were not to be employed, except in defence of the settlements; but the last mail brought to Captain Fremantle, the senior naval officer, power to act on his own responsibility, and he at once placed, not only his marines, but also his seamen, at Sir Garnet's disposal. A certain number of blue jackets were disembarked to garrison

Cape Coast, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Festing, R. M. A. The detachments of the 2nd West India regiment were embarked on board the gunboat *Decoy* and landed before our arrival at Elmina. The marines and blue jackets of the *Barracouta* being stowed in three large troop-boats, were towed in a steam pinnace to the margin of the surf and were got on shore after some difficulty and delay. This was the only part of the business which did not work well; however, no harm was done. As soon as the men were landed the columns were formed, and at 5 a. m., the march began.

It was a clear calm morning, with scarcely a cloud in the sky, and as the sun rose above the horizon, birds sang sweetly from the bushes which covered the plain. We marched in single file along a foot path, which was sometimes of red clay, sometimes of golden colored sand; at one moment we lived into a thicket deep and dark, and the next passed out into green meadows with tall tufted grass, and large white flowers, bathing in sunlit dew. But then came a quagmire of mud, black as registration ink, and giving forth an odor compared with which the Thames at low tide is rose water; and never have I seen, such abominable haunts as the two through which we passed on our way. The country was at first tolerably open, and we could see far ahead the Houssas running along thickets and copses, to and fro, on the right, and on the left, like a pack of hounds, their officers, in Elwood helmets and shining white puggarees, plainly to be seen, and always well ahead of their men. One or two shots were heard, but still it was, by no means certain that we should find the enemy. We had marched about three miles, and I was beginning to fear that the day would be blank, when of a sudden we heard a tremendous fusillade, and a strange gleeful yelling cry, prolonged and incessant—the Houssas giving tongue. As we pushed on, we found that the jungle was before us, stretching away on both sides as far as the eye could reach. In the midst was a lull, also covered with jungle, except that on its summit, was a clearing or plantation. Some men were seen crossing this patch, and Lieutenant Eyre "dropped" one at 300 yards, which probably astonished the natives. A little to the right of this clearing, and also on the top of the hill, was a village. The general and his staff, who were well in front, pushed on with the gun and rocket tube, while Colonel Wood took up a strong position in the rear. The Ashantees and their allies, as usual, employed flanking tactics, and for some time front and rear were equally hard at war; but in half an hour they were driven clear away in spite of the thickness of the bush. The seven-pounder was brought to bear on the village, and Lieutenant Allen set some houses on fire with rockets, making admirable practice. Brackenbury and Charteris were the first to enter the village, with some Royal Marine artillerymen, while Crease cleared the bush on its right. Afterwards passing through the village, he saved a child from a burning house; and throughout the severe march which followed, the Marines disputed as to who should "carry the kid." The native axemen did their work with great pluck, and Captain Buller, who was surveying the road upon the march had a slug lodged in his leather compass case. The first shot was fired at Lieut. Grayes, and lodged in his gaiter. The wounds caused by the slugs were as a rule slight, but Colonel McNeill had a bad wound in the wrist, similar to those which are caused by fragments of

shell. Two Houssas were shot in vital parts, and have since died. Captain Freeman was hit by a slug, which passed clean through his right arm, but he went through the whole day's work; and Captain Forbes, of the 2nd West India regiment, was wounded in the hand. Much praise was bestowed on Surgeon Adams, R. N., for his skill and promptitude. At 7.13 the heavy firing began; at 7.50 the village was taken and the enemy driven from the bush; at 8.30 the assembly was sounded; and at 9.45 the march was resumed.

It is difficult to describe the human tornado which raged for a half-an-hour over half a mile of African bush. The enemy were on all sides, and the firing incessant. The air was all flame and smoke, and filled with various sounds—the booming of the guns, the whizzing of rockets, the cracking of Sniders, shouts, groans, laughter, the whistling of slugs, the Houssas chanting verses from the Koran, English cheering, and then, as the village began to burn, the roaring of flames, explosions of powder, and blazing of ruins. The enemy fought in silence, they offered a steady resistance, but were surprised and discomfited, and had not a yell left in them. Their loss cannot be even approximately estimated, but must have been severe. Among the dead bodies found was that of a Houssa, probably an Ashantee slave.

While we were at breakfast we heard big guns. We marched through a thick jungle, almost without opposition, to Ampuena, on the beach, and destroyed that village. Ampuena lies between Elmina and Ampeneo. The wounded, in twelve hammocks were sent home with an escort, and as we had already made a severe march, only volunteers were accepted for the weary trudge along the beach to Ampeneo. As we approached that village, surfboats came off from the *Decoy*, and landed a case of claret, some lockers of water, and some bottles of brandy for which we were not ungrateful, and the following officers landed:—Commander Luxmoore, of the *Argus*, [having recovered from the wounds received at Chamab], with Lieutenants Young and Burr, Staff-surgeon Lucas, and Sublieutenant Sanderson. From the *Decoy* came Lieutenant Hext and Surgeon Fisher, with a boatswain and twenty men. We found that two villages were before us—Akimpfoo, which was destroyed without resistance, and half a mile further on, Ampeneo, which had hoisted a flag of defiance. On the beach in front of this village, lay the corpse of some poor unfortunate Fantee, with the head and right arm severed from the body. Ampeneo was burnt to the ground, but contained nothing except cats, bats and rats, which, especially the last, came out of the flames in great numbers. The enemy attacked the least extremity, and exposed themselves to a volley from the blue jackets of the *Decoy* which laid many of them low; then they tried the other end, but were again beaten off with loss, and wounding only one of our men. They had some rifles among them, as we could tell by the peculiar sound of the bullets in the air. These were probably English.

The General would not allow a pursuit into the bush, the sun being low and the men fatigued. At 4.25 he embarked on board the *Decoy*, and I was kindly offered a passage. We arrived Cape Coast Castle at seven p. m.

Let us now consider what is the value of this affair. In itself, merely a day's skirmishing, it is raised to much importance by the experience it has yielded and the moral

effect it has produced. The Fantees are rejoiced to find that the new governor will lead them to battle himself, and they also admire the style in which he carried out his enterprise. The attack on Emsamau was a genuine surprise; the natives had no time to remove powder, their corn, their sheep, and their ram; muskets and drums and powder belts were found in the village; a mother ran away leaving her child behind. Thus the Ashantees, who deal in surprises, were beaten at their own cards by the white men. It was also a complete day's work. Altogether six hostile villages were destroyed. What was the consequence? The Fantees are now willing to fight; they have confidence in the man who is to lead them. Secondly, it is shown what Englishmen can do in this climate. If the fighting was small here to the heroes of Sebastopol and India, the same cannot be said of the march, which amounted to twenty-one miles on a broiling day. The marines had been three months on board the *Simoon* without going on shore, yet they did the march in excellent style. Thirdly, it is now proved that, even in the bush, the natives cannot contend with the Snider.

Of the fourth part of the work of the Prussian General Staff on the war of 1870, to which we referred last week, the correspondent of an English paper says: "The fourth volume of the German General Staff's official history of the Franco-German war has just been published at Berlin. The period it deals with is the German march upon Metz and the operations before that fortress up to the battle of Colombey-Nouvilly, which occurred on the 14th of August. The greater part of the book is taken up by the narrative of the march, and this account brings the action of the German cavalry prominently forward. The volume may therefore be looked upon in a certain sense as an essay on the duties of cavalry, illustrated by historical examples."

The *Irish Times* understands that Mr. Gladstone during the recess has devoted much time and attention to the consideration of the plans proposed for preventing the annual destruction caused by the inundations of the Shannon and its tributaries. There is, therefore, some reasonable hope that a question which has been agitated for twenty years may be at last satisfactorily dealt with.

An alternation has been made in the manufacture of the buckshot cartridges at the British Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, by the substitution of bone-dust in lieu of plaster of Paris to fill in the interstices between the shots and to solidify the charge sufficiently to preserve its cohesion. From the experiments made with the two kinds of buckshot cartridges at the targets it appears that those in which bone-dust is used make twenty per cent. better practice than the original pattern.

The Mexican government is engaged in the work of re-establishing the navy. General Foster, military commander at Vera Cruz, has been called to the capital to receive orders from the supreme government to purchase four steamers in England for the navy.

Sir Stafford Northcote presided at the general court of the Hudson's Bay Company, when a report for 1872 was submitted, and an interim dividend declared of 6s per share. The governors and committee were re-elected.

Mr. Baring has left Lord Northbrook, the present Governor of India, one million and a quarter pounds sterling.

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The Volunteer Review,  
AND  
MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, DEC. 23, 1873.

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

## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

THE end of the present month closes Volume VII. of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW; and during the year we have made out and forwarded accounts to nearly all our Subscribers in arrears for Subscriptions to the REVIEW. Some have promptly paid up their indebtedness—who will please accept our thanks—but by far the larger number have paid no attention to it—to those we give notice now, that if their accounts are not settled before the 1st of January next, we will be under the painful necessity of handing them over to a Lawyer for collection.

THE great importance of training soldiers to the duty of skirmishing has always been recognized, but the use of weapons of precision and long range have necessitated its adoption as the only means of successful attack; its tactical use formerly was to cover

the advance and conceal as far as possible the movements necessary therefor, as well as protect the artillery; this is so far changed that the skirmish line no longer relies on the advance the main body and reserves, but itself becomes the first line by gradual accession and re-inforcements; and the fate of a modern battle will depend almost or altogether on the pertinacity with which the skirmish line holds its ground; and this will always be in proportion to the amount of training acquired by the soldier, the skill of the officer immediately in command, as well as the use of the topographical features of the ground for cover and the steadiness as well as certainty with which the line is reinforced from the reserves.

Those officers, therefore, like General MACDOUGALL, who advocate increased stringency in drill and training and deny the necessity for revolution in our minor tactics are perfectly right, much more will depend on training, in other words drill, than on any quality of mind of the individual soldier; although many military journals are strong advocates of what they are pleased to term individual intelligence, forgetting that an army is a machine to be operated at will and by the intelligence of one individual and there cannot be any other will in operation amongst the machinery. In this case training to instant obedience is the first great element, the remainder are mere mechanical operations which the dullest understanding can acquire by practice. The whole question then resolves itself into more constant training over a larger area than a mere barrack yard, carried out with the distinct purpose of adapting the formation to the ground over which the troops are operating. Amongst the many excellent places for effecting this object are on the "Proposed method of attack in skirmish line," by Capt. F. G. S. PARKER, 54th Regiment, which we transcribe, omitting the diagrams from No. LXXIV. of the Journal of the Royal United Service Institution. We omit the quotation from Lieut. F. M. the Duke of Wurtemberg respecting the persistent training of the Prussian infantry to *firing fighting* as well as their efforts to stimulate *apell* (disciplined intelligent obedience) as without both acquirements an army would be worth nothing, and at once introduce our readers to the gist of Captain PARKER's scheme.

All extended formations as yet introduced to notice appear to me inapplicable to the *daily drill* of our army. Our regiments are so weak when on the home establishment that after deducting the requirements of detachments, guards, fatigues, &c., it is rarely, (excepting during the periods such regiments are at the Curragh or Aldershot) that a sufficient number can be mustered for a really efficient parade on the present system of advancing to alternate half battalions or of skirmishing with the prescribed supports and reserves. I need

scarcely say more upon this than that I have myself in Ireland seen a head quarter parade for many months average four companies of single rank with only from sixteen to twenty men per company. At Aldershot and the Curragh where these drawbacks do not exist to such an extent, I have never found the men well in hand skirmishing, as at present laid down, the skirmishers get excited and continually rush from one extreme to the other; they open out too much and so lose the power of quick concentration or they crowd too much (especially if cover be frequent) and so expose themselves to artillery fire. The line of a single company extended is too great for the eye and voice of the Captain to control, more especially when a wind is blowing and firing going on and the unity of action which is so essential between skirmishers, supports, and reserves, has to depend on the intelligence of two or three captains instead of on the judgment of one.

"If it be said that the system of skirmishing in double companies and the general supervision of a major counteract these defects, I reply—Firstly, that the supervision of a mounted officer ceases to be promptly effectual directly, the smoothness of a drill ground is exchanged for the ever-varying extent of broken woody or rolling country; and secondly, that men never work very well in double companies for they only hear words of command from others than their own company officers, and in extended formation it is of prime necessity that the men should recognize the voice that orders them. On a regimental parade ground men obey the command of any officer provided his voice be powerful, but during the excitement of a sham fight (and how much more during the actual engagement) unless the tone be recognized the order is apt to fall upon unheeding ears."

It appears to us that each section of a company skirmishing should be under command of a sergeant or non commissioned officer, whose duty would be confined to placing his section in position, seeing the men did their duty, and carrying out the orders transmitted to him from the captain by signal or whistle, or whatever mode might be most advisable, allowing twenty-six files to a company (say fifty-two bayonets) and a space of three yards between each file, the distance from right to left of the line would be say 73 yards with the captain posted twenty yards in the rear of the centre, he would be within fifty yards of either extremity and could find no particular difficulty in communicating with any section of the line; the flank sections should be also under command of the ensign and lieutenant, both would be enabled to assist in carrying out the orders if in the rear of their respective commands. We cannot see any difficulty beyond the want of *apell* in the whole problem, and that want must be supplied by *drill*.

Captain PARKER, however, has the following "Proposed Formation," from a battalion in line, of which he says:

"The formation which I would submit to notice has these advantages:—

"1. It can be efficiently practised by a single company as by several, by a weak regiment as by a strong one, and by one or more regiments in a brigade.

"2. It habituates the men to work in the loosest as well as in the most compact order.

"3. It teaches the company officers to handle their men on an extended and over-varying front. Each company is under the eye and complete control of its captain so that every advantage can be instantly secured and every disadvantage rendered as nugatory as possible.

"I have given the manœuvre from the line only, but it is obvious that it can be assumed with equal facility from any column formation when within 1,000 yards, or as much nearer the enemy as the nature of the country, &c. will allow, the commanding officer gives the order *advance in columns of sections from right* (2nd, 3rd, or left sections) *of companies*. Hereupon 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections make a half right turn (or respectively half right and left or half left) receiving "front turn," from the respective section commanders and advance.

"Upon arriving within the enemy's fire, the battalion commander (or major if advancing by half battalions) orders "*Leading Sections Skirmish*," upon which the captain of right flank gives "*Leading sections from the left extend, inner sections half right turn*," at the same moment the commander of rear (4th) section halts his section.

"Simultaneously the captains of the other companies perform the same manœuvre—but with this difference—the left flank company extends its leading section from the right and its 2d and 3d sections make a half left turn—the leading sections of the other companies extend from their respective centres and their inner sections receive the order "*outwards half turn*." The rear sections are halted by their respective commanders same as the right flank rear section.

"Second and third sections when respectively in rear of centre of right and left half of skirmishing section, get from their section leaders "front turn" and step short or halt till the skirmishers are 150 yards ahead, when they continue the advance.

"The rear section of each company reserves its advance at 150 yards distance from and covering the interval between 2nd and 3rd sections.

"The two flank sections on receiving the order to extend in line to their outer flank, the left file in the one case and the right in the other turning to the front, and commencing the extension when opposite the front that was the outer flank of the section before the extension.

"It may appear at first sight a drawback that in this formation if the heads of the columns of sections on the correct distance apart (i.e. 8 number of files) there will be a skirmisher to every two paces on first extending—but in an actual advance (other than a very short one on a barrack square) such accuracy is impossible, and it is evident, and in the present case it is intended, that the respective company columns open out to irregular distances from each other according to the nature of the ground, so that in practice there will not be less than three paces interval, which is a useful minimum and when necessary this distance can be readily increased.

"Furthermore against the possible objection the following advantages are to be balanced.

"a. Skirmishers are to be reinforced, relieved, overlapped from either flank or the enemy misled by a refused flank or echeloned skirmishers or sections.

"b. If advisable so to do line can be readily formed.

"c. Groups and forces of skirmishers and groups or section squares readily formed if threatened by cavalry.

"d. The front can be readily extended or contracted.

"e. A great depth (an important point in an army which like ours must generally fight a defensive—offensive battle) obtained with a minimum exposure to artillery fire.

"f. The skirmisher swarm kept well in hand since each section is under the eye of its leader and each company will under the command of its captain whose general place will be with the two supporting sections until the whole are absorbed in the skirmishing line."

"NOTE.—1. Whenever halted under fire the three supporting sections should, as a general rule, lie down.

"2. In advancing under fire the three sections should march in loose order, i.e. with about two paces interval between the file.

"In this and in every mode of extension the rear rank man should invariably be on the left of his first rank man when extended.

"4. Skirmishers when re-called should always clear the front and rear by the nearest flank.

"5. Skirmishers should fire on the knee or lying down as occasion best serves, the present system of running to the front to fire is bad as it "pumps" them and endangers individuals in a long advance being shot by any men of less wind and speed who must lay.

"6. Individual skirmishers should be taught to forward only when they see good cover within a remarkable distance (say 25 yards as a maximum) the section commanders giving order if a longer rush has to be made.

"7. For skirmishing and outpost duty a whistle should be used to direct men when out of actual eye-sight or easy voice range. There have been for many years whistles constructed wherever the whole of the bugle calls can be sounded; if this be thought too complicated an instrument for rough and ready use (though why should it be so considered) or any simpler kind might be adopted. In the campaign of 1866 the Prussian officers provided themselves with common dog whistles and wore them attached by a piece of string for those duties. The bugle is too loud for secret and instantaneous direction of skirmishing sections."

*Broad Arrow*, in its issue of 1st Nov., admits the failure of Mr. CARDWELL'S Army Re-organization Bill to effect the object of its title, and the Royal Commission is now laboring to efface or find some way of doing so the evils called into active existence by the total disregard of right and constitutional law exhibited by the Whig Radicals on the occasion of the passing of that measure. Our contemporary is altogether wrong in admitting that it was a failure—on the contrary, Mr. CARDWELL and his colleagues effected the object they had in view, and that was to disarm England to strip and leave her naked before her enemies, and in that effort they have achieved an eminent success. To an outsider it looks supremely ridiculous that an attorney at law should not only be allowed to destroy one of the best and most efficient military organizations the world has yet seen, and to substitute for it impracticable theories; but that he should be also allowed to over ride the constitutional law of the country and in doing so insult His Sovereign, exceeds absolutely the bounds of credibility and savors more of the *coup de theatre* of a French revolution than the deliberative act of a people governed by representative institutions. We well remember the paens of triumph with which the insolence of CARDWELL was hailed by our contemporary and the traversities of historical parallelism in which he indulged during the hysteria of triumph. However, putting all that aside, we have in the article under discussion entitled *Purchase and its Defenders*, a good specimen of Whig-Radical honesty and logic as well as undoubted evidence that the great Field Marshal CARDWELL—the Cromwell Mirabeau of our contemporary's laudation, has made an entire muddle of the British Army and of the War Office into which his presumption has carried him and that his friends are endeavouring to *kick up a dust* in order to cover his retreat in the confusion. We should be less hard on our contemporary's sins in relation to this mischievous and vulgar Charlatan and his colleagues but for two reasons; the first is that it as a military journal, has taken a partizan stand in the matter of the Re-organization of the Army to the length of being the apologist



of that fellow's insolence to his sovereign and the abettor of his over-riding the constitutional law of the realm to perpetrate and legalize an act of robbery, or if it is thought better of confiscation of personal property in order to create patronage for the worst purposes. Our second reason is to be found in the fact that our contemporary in the article under consideration does not deal fairly with the question of Purchase, or tell its readers honestly that its abolition has only succeeded in making the Whig Radicals to squander money for the benefit of their followers, prevented the English peasant or patrician from entering the ranks of the British Army, and opened its ranks to the introduction of a class of officers under which no Englishman will serve, half school-masters, half clerks.

The ingenuity with which our contemporary shifts ground is surprising, it is the Crown that now "felt itself fettered in the nomination of its officers," and not the Whigs. The attempt made in Queen Anne's reign to take the officering of the army out of the hands of the aristocracy was made under BOLINGBROKE'S administration, and for the express purpose of placing the army at the disposal of the Ministry in the event of attempting to over-ride the law of the land by changing the succession contrary to the Act of Settlement—is that an exact historical parallel to the Whig Radical successors of BOLINGBROKE'S unprincipled and disastrous policy. Happily in the former case the people of England were alive to the consequences and prevented the consummation of the rascality, and we expect Lord Justice James's report will finish Mr. CARDWELL'S career at the War Office.

Our contemporary knows very well that the special corps are no example of the truth of the theory on which the destruction of the British Army was effected, Engineers or Artillery men are necessarily artisans trained to particular handicrafts, it could only be by superior education that an officer could get appointed to either corps, together they did not form one-fifth of the whole army; and how was the rest to be recruited, as special corps, better pay, more comfortable quarters, and less moving about awaited those soldiers than the rank and file of the battalions or the individual trooper; the latter volunteered or enlisted voluntarily to follow the colors, because he knew he would be commanded by gentlemen who purchased their commissions as an equivalent to the providing the rank and file necessary to give them their standing in the army, thus relieving to a certain extent that special object of Whig Radical affection, the British taxpayer, from a part at least of his burthens. It is only necessary to say that Mr. CARDWELL has changed all this and the results are that Britain is without an army for the first time in her history, and that a Royal Commission is now actually sitting to devise a remedy for as our contemporary puts it,

"discontent therein"—but in reality to endeavour to find out and remedy what is radically wrong, which is the whole system devised by those who have misgoverned the Empire; and we should not be surprised to see a return to purchase, or its equivalent the duty of providing the requisite number of volunteers as much a necessary qualification as passing a competitive examination, in which the English classics largely figure for a commission; it will be the only salvation of the service which has sunk so low in popular estimation, that even Mr. CARDWELL'S friends the White Chapel gutter snipes will have nothing to do with it.

Whatever the final result of the *Virginian* affair, we shall reap this much advantage from it: the country will realize, for the moment at least, the advantages and the necessity of having a strong naval establishment, and Congress will assemble in December with better disposition toward legitimate naval appropriations than it has shown for years. Within a month so wise a gentleman as an ex-member of the Cabinet, Mr. BOUTWELL, has seen fit to thus air himself before a New York audience on the subject of our naval establishment: "If you have considered the subject of a large navy, even without reference to the question of war or peace, I think you must have reached the conclusion that the day of naval engagements is over, or if it be not over that for us, a people occupying a continent—40,000,000 strong, with an extensive sea coast on both oceans—that for us no naval conflict would ever settle any question in which we were concerned; and after some reflection I reach the conclusion that the ability to conduct a naval warfare on the ocean, except so far as it may relate to coast defences, is not of the least consequence to a great power, and that for the purpose of protecting the commerce of the country it is sufficient that we show the flag of the country in the Mediterranean, in the seas of the East, upon the coast of Africa, in the Gulf of Mexico, upon the coast of South America, for the time, in my judgment, has already come but if it has not come it is near at hand, when America will have power enough to exact what is just from every nation in reference to commerce without resort to force. There may be other questions in which a naval armament may be of some consequence, but it will relate merely to our coast defences, and not to offensive operations in other seas or against other countries in other quarters of the globe. Now, then, if I do not err in this, it follows as a necessary consequence that the naval armament of the country, may be much reduced, and especially the size of the ships diminished on which our flag is shown in the different seas of the globe, and instead of an expenditure of \$17,000,000 or \$20,000,000 a year, I look for a time within ten or twelve years when our expenses in that department of Government will be reduced at least 33 per cent. I believe it to be practicable to make that reduction."

Such excitement as this which has grown out of the *Virginian* affair, shows how impossible it is for governments to control the question of peace or war, and yet here is a gentleman who has served in our Congress during the rebellion, held a position in the Cabinet, and been for years in a position to study our people to the best

advantage, urging as though the millennium had already come, and a simple Fourth of July appeal to the "flag" was sufficient to make the nations fall down in awe before the image of American greatness, and cheerfully concede to us all that the most sensitive honor might exact.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Boutwell could not have reserved his views on this subject for another month, and then presented them at that meeting held in Steinway Hall on Monday last, when some of the very men who applauded his wise remarks were assembled to howl for war with Spain and to cheer to the echo eloquent prophecies of the bombardment of Cuban towns and the sinking of Spanish iron clads. We are glad to see that our Navy Department is wisely taking advantage of the present excitement to put our Navy into better trim.

The above is taken from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* and shows the danger any nation will incur from leaders whose ideas of national policy are of a purely commercial character. Representative institutions are favorable to the growth of such political fungi as the late ex-Secretary of the United States Treasury, men whose idea of national life and honor are confined to the percentage of profits gained by the class they represent without reference to the interests of all other classes of the community; this policy or folly or by whatever other name it may be called, has been and is the sole cause of all the troubles which afflict the United States, her affairs are managed by a knot of commercial speculators in their own interest, they forced on the contest between the two sections of north and south, they have been at the bottom of the present embroglio with Spain, and they have left the country destitute of a naval force respectable enough to cope with a third rate European power.

The reform our neighbors need is one that will rid them of the commercial night mare which has hitherto wasted the national strength under the high sounding names of enterprise and progress—in reality meanness—and gambling with the best interest of the people who blindly trusted to the leadership of mere commercial speculators, for it is well known that the qualities which made a *Jim Fisk* or a *Jay Gould* are more highly appreciated amongst our neighbors than those that make a Statesman or a patriot—and such men as ex-Secretary BOUTWELL will be rapturously applauded, have all the honors of the State forced on them by the class they represent, till on some occasion like this of the *Virginian* the nation awakes from the fool's paradise in which it slumbered to find itself in the presence of imminent danger without any means of defence, and must coolly contemplate the possibility of having its posts blockaded, its mercantile marine destroyed, and possibly contributions levied on its cities as the result of allowing the commercial class, possibly numbering one in a hundred of the community to plunder the other ninety-nine.

This very affair of the *Virginian* could only cause trouble to a nation whose govern-

ing class were a lot of unscrupulous sharpers. She was freighted with a lot of cut-throats for the purpose of disturbing a legitimate government and carrying slaughter as well as desolation to the firesides of peaceable people in order to swell the gains of some commercial swindlers in New York. That she was engaged in no lawful traffic is beyond doubt, and the Spaniards are acting wisely in refusing to give any satisfaction for acts done in self-defence; she was a pirate and nothing else, the quibbles of sea and International lawyers to the contrary notwithstanding, and the Government of the United States shows its disregard of common humanity by reclaiming her or any portion of her crew.

That power can lay the blame on its commercial subjects or citizens that have left it in such a pitiable defenseless condition, that it has not a vessel capable of floating. The *Kansas*, one of its ironclads sailed for Santiago de Cuba on 20th November, and is heard of at Bermuda on 8th December, she may reach her destination some time in March; what a comment on the preponderance of the commercial element in the Councils of a State.

#### THE SHIELDED GATLING

The English having adopted our Gatling gun, are studying to see how they can make it most effective in actual service; and to meet the objection that the men handling it may be picked off by sharpshooters, they propose to protect it with a shield. The *London Engineer* recently published an illustrated article showing how the mitrailleuse could be thus protected, and giving the credit for the idea to one Herr Sigl. This has waked up Mr. L. W. Broadwell, who writes to that journal from Vienna as follows:

Sir: Your journal of the 10th inst contains an illustrated article on "Shielded Mitrailleuse," which erroneously awards to Herr Sigl the credit of having constructed the "folding shield" which he employs upon the Montigny gun exhibited by him. If there be any merit in the peculiar construction of this shield, and in endeavouring to introduce it in connection with the mitrailleuse, it is due to the undersigned, and not to Herr Sigl, as I shall prove in the following statements of facts: In 1870 the Hungarian Government ordered some Montigny guns from Herr Sigl and ten Gatling guns of me, for comparative trials. The Sigl guns had in the beginning no shield worthy of the name; the front sides and lids of the two axle ammunition boxes were made of steel plates, the intention being to raise the lids to a perpendicular position during action, and thus protect the men engaged in operating the gun. Between the axle boxes and below the axle there was no plating, and consequently the protection was found to be insufficient. The Gatling guns were provided at the beginning with a folding shield of my designing, and consisting of three Bessemer steel plates, the heights of an inch thick, and weighing altogether 210 Vienna pounds. The middle plate was rigidly fixed to the gun carriage and pierced for the gun, the

other two plates being hinged to the middle one—the lower to lift forward and the top one to fall to the rear—both to the horizontal position—thus forming a seat for two or three men upon the gun when travelling. I enclose a tracing taken from my Austrian patent of April, 1871. I also send you the blue book containing the drawing and specification of my invention, by which you will readily perceive that it is identical with that employed by Herr Sigl. To test the efficiency of this shield the committee caused it to be fired at with the Austrian musket and regulation charge at the short distance of 100 paces. The plates were severely indented but not pierced. A Gatling gun with the same shield thus tested may now be seen here any day, as it forms part of the military trophy in the Hungarian department of the International Exhibition. A trial was made to test the comparative durability of the two systems of Shield during campaign work, Herr Sigl having by this time considerably amplified his design. For this purpose the two guns were travelled over the roughest roads and fields to be found in the vicinity of Vienna, for the greater part of ten days consecutively, the result of which was that Herr Sigl received official instructions to apply my shield to the Montigny guns ordered by the Hungarian Government. Herr Sigl declines to compensate me for the use of my invention, and as it is well established fact that in no single case has a foreigner ever succeeded here in recovering damages by legal process from a native or local infringer of his patent. I have not deemed it wise to waste time and money in trying by a suit at law to compel Herr Sigl to that to the doing of which the most limited sense of justice compatible with common honesty ought to be sufficient compulsion."

The *London Navy and Military Gazette* classes the Gatling gun with the torpedo as a weapon too deadly in its effects to be tolerated in these days of Geneva conventions and international arbitration; a condemnation which will not, we imagine, greatly disturb the equanimity of either the inventor of the gun or the Government officials who have adopted it. The modern theory is to make war so deadly to those immediately engaged in it, and so enormously expensive to the nations who provoke it, that they will hesitate before proceeding to extremities long enough to give opportunity for more pacific counsels to prevail. In this point of view even a member of the philanthropic profession of medicine, like Dr. Gatling, cannot be held to have falsified his principles by his practice, because he has invented such an efficient peace-persuader as the mitrailleuse.

The above is extracted from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* of 29th Nov., we cannot give the *Naval and Military Gazette* credit for great perception if it endorses a weapon which is all but useless as a field gun, the comparison between it and the torpedo is good enough, when motive power or force can be applied to the latter and range to the former they will both be good weapons in their way, but neither will be available to influence issues which must be tried by war; nor will they exercise any particular influence on the act itself. Such notices will serve to advertise Dr. GATLING'S invention however.

We direct attention to Mr. TOPLEY'S card, which will be found in our Advertising pages. He has decidedly the finest stock of Albums to be found in the city, as well as a very superior lot of Pocket and Blank Albums and Scrap Photos. No better or more suitable Christmas or New Year's present than one of these Albums.

REWARD OF MERIT.—We learn that Mr. James Wilson, of the Grand Trunk Battalion, has received a badge and \$20 from the Ontario Rifle Association, awarded to him for the highest score at the recent match of the county of Perth Rifle Association. Mr. Wilson is a crack shot, and we understand has been the recipient of many other marks of distinction.—*Stratford Beacon*, Dec. 5th, '73.

News of H. M.'s ship *Riflesman* has been received, from which it appears that she left Gwadar on September 5, arriving at Charbar on the 6th, where she was sent to benefit the health of the officers and crew, of whom twenty-six were on the sick list, chiefly fever cases. On the morning of the 8th she left Charbar for Gwelter, to intercept His Highness Syud Abdool Azez, who was reported about to embark in a dhow for the Arab coast, where he intended to raise a rebellion against the present Imaum of Muscat. Arriving at Gwelter, September 9th, it was found that the prince had succeeded in leaving the coast about thirty hours previously. The *Riflesman* immediately steamed across to Ras-el-Hed, where, on September 12, she captured the Prince and eleven of his followers, all armed, six miles from the shore. The *Riflesman* then proceeded to Muscat with the Prince, and arrived there on September 14. On the 16th September His Highness was transferred to the *Columbine*, which vessel took him to Kurrachee, and handed him over to the Indian Government authorities. The *Riflesman* left Muscat again on September 19, for Charabar, and arrived at that port on the 26th. During the first week in October, it was understood that she would proceed up the Persian Gulf. We are sorry to learn that the ship, although especially fitted for the Persian Gulf, has been very unhealthily, having had fifty cases of fever out of a crew of seventy-four white people. The *Columbine* is still at Kurrachee.

*Broad Arrow* of November 1 says: "The steamer *Lilian*, which is being laden with all despatch at the Woolwich arsenal with stores for the Gold Coast by gangs of men working day and night, has had a large figure of '4' painted on her bows and quarter, as she is the fourth of the transports specially chartered for the expedition. She takes out, among other things, the second locomotive engine between decks, amidships with two long wagons or tenders, fitted like the engine, with both flange wheels for railway travelling, and broad flat wheels for passing over roads. A large quantity of flints accompany the muskets, to replenish as have or may become defective, and special ammunition for these ancient weapons is being packed ready for embarkation in the same ship."

There has been a serious riot among farm servants in the north of Scotland; several tenant farmers were roughly handled. The farmers thought the men asked too high wages, and angry words were followed by a general fight.

## CHALKED.

How I won my darling ?

This is all the tale ;  
On the broad Atlantic  
We were under sail.

Wildly outspread the water  
Rippled in the light ;  
Swiftly on the quarter  
I love a sail in sight.

In its onward speeding  
We, with eyes intent,  
Every movement heeding,  
Watched it as it went,

Soon it passed, and fleetly  
Rosa darling flew ;  
"To the bow!" cried sweetly ;  
"There the letter view."

Luckless victim ! Smartly  
Jack was to the fore,  
Quick for fun, though partly  
Bent for grog gulore.

All absorbed he found her,  
Lost to sea or foe ;  
Kneelt, and softly round her  
Chalked a magic line.

By the circle bounded,  
What might set her free ?  
Coin or kiss ? Surrounded,  
Smiled she then on me.

Like the prisoned starling,  
Caught and ill at ease,  
"Do," she cried—the darling !—  
"Do unchalk me, please !"

I obeyed, and won her—  
Mine to have and hold  
In a defter circle,  
In a ring of gold.

—Harper's Bazar.

## TRIAL OF MARSHAL BAZAINE

(From Broad Arrow, November 15.)

(Continued from page 593.)

## TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.—NOV. 7TH: THE THIONVILLE DESPATCH.

When the court resumed on Wednesday last week, the first witness called was General Palikao. He gave evidence respecting the acts of his Ministry, and accepted the responsibility for the march on Sedan. He declared that after the 22nd of August regular communications were kept up with Marshal MacMahon's only. If the campaign failed it was through peculiar circumstances which would not be foreseen. Gen. Palikao affirmed that on the 27th of August the Germans were completely ignorant of Marshal MacMahon's movements. He declared that Marshal Bazaine's well-known despatch of the 23rd of August was received by him in Paris. If he did not notify Marshal MacMahon of it, it was because he thought the latter was already apprised of its contents. On leaving the court General Palikao went up to Marshal Bazaine and shook hands with him.

It appears from the evidence of several other witnesses that it was possible to enter Metz up to the 22nd of August. Many of these witnesses had given proofs of great courage, and the Duke d'Aumale congratulated them on their patriotism.

M. Larry, chief physician of the Army of the Rhine, and the Abbé Métaire, chief military chaplain, also gave evidence, but nothing fresh was elicited.

## TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.—NOV. 7TH: THE THIONVILLE DESPATCH.

As the court had adjourned over Thursday, it resumed its sitting to-day. The first witness called was M. Lallement, who deposed that on the 27th of August he was the bearer of an important despatch from Thionville, which he handed on the 29th to Colonel d'Arc and General Beurman.

Boetmann gave confirmatory evidence, stating that he met M. Lallement in a railway train. M. Boetmann was the bearer of

a despatch from Marshal Bazaine in Metz to his family.

M. Hulme deposed that on the 29th he conveyed a despatch to the Emperor, and subsequently to Marshal MacMahon, which had been brought from Thionville by M. Lallement. A written deposition of Marshal MacMahon was then read, in which he stated that he did not recollect the circumstance. Other witnesses, however, were called, who confirmed M. Hulme's evidence.

The examination of witnesses belonging to the fourth category was then commenced—namely, relating to the military operations under the walls of Metz up to the 1st of September. General Coffinieres gave evidence, and stated that he considered the proper part for the army to play was to remain in Metz and threaten the enemy's communications, but that more energetic action was necessary than that which had been displayed.

## TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.—NOV. 8TH: THE ALLEGED DESPATCH OF AUGUST 23RD.

Marshal Canrobert having been recalled, declared that Colonel Lewal spoke to him about the advance of the army of Chalons, adding that to the best of his belief no despatch arrived on the 23rd of August, and that Marshal Bazaine never mentioned any thing about Marshal MacMahon's advance in the council of war held on the 26th of August. Marshal Lebouf corroborated Marshal Canrobert's statement, and declared that there was always a good supply of ammunition.

General Ladmirault gave evidence to the same effect.

With reference to this day's sitting the correspondent of the Times has since written:—"The principal point was that, on the 22nd of August, after receiving Bazaine's despatch of the 19th, MacMahon had written the following despatches:—

"'Marshal MacMahon to the General Commanding Verdun.

"'To the Chief Commander of Montmédy.

"'To the Mayor of Longuyon.

"'Send this very important despatch to Marshal Bazaine. Send it him by five or six messengers, to whom you will pay for fulfilling the mission the necessary sums, however considerable they may be."

"'MacMahon to Bazaine.

"'Received your despatch of the 19th. I am at Rheims; I am marching in the direction of Montmédy. The day after to-morrow I shall be on the Oûene, whence I shall operate according to circumstances to come to your aid."

"Now, the first question to be elucidated is this—Did Bazaine receive that despatch before the 26th of August, or did he not? We must, in the first place, state that MacMahon, in all probability, sent off the despatch on the 22nd by telegraph for Montmédy, Longuyon, and Verdun. From those three points Metz is reached in a few hours—in a day at most. On the 22nd it was easy to enter Metz. Bazaine maintains that he received the despatch on the 29th. Colonel d'Andlau, Major Samuel, Colonel Lewal, and several others affirm that the despatch was handed to him on the 23rd at noon. Now, on the 26th, after a hard day's fighting, all the commanders of army corps, all the generals commanding in chief, Marshal Canrobert, Generals Frossard and Ladmirault, Marshal Lebouf, &c., were convoked in council at the Farm of Grimont. There Bazaine held long conferences with them on the situation of the forts of Metz, the state of supplies, and on a thousand other things,

and the conclusion was that they should still remain some time longer beneath the shelter of the walls of Metz. But when these generals are asked whether they knew anything of MacMahon's despatch of the 22nd, some, like Canrobert, answer in picturesque language; others in solemn tones like Lebouf, each, to be brief according to his humour, that they were entirely ignorant of its existence.

"Here is what Canrobert says on the subject:—"After the battles of the 16th and 18th the morale of the soldiers was slightly cast down; but we did our best to restore it. It has been pretended that we knew that Marshal MacMahon was marching towards us; that is not possible. Indeed, I remember that one day Colonel Lewal, who was my aid-de camp during the campaign in Italy, said to me that it was much to be regretted that we have not succeeded in our march forward, because we should have lent a hand to Marshal MacMahon's army which was coming to our help. I answered, "Oh, Colonel, that is not true; I don't even believe a word of it." We did not even know that Marshal MacMahon had an army. Later that conversation came into my mind again, and I remembered that Colonel Lewal had given me to understand that the marshal knew that MacMahon's corps was coming to our help. That worried me, and when I met Marshal Bazaine during our captivity at Cassel I determined to have an explanation with him. He was no longer my chief. I could then speak freely with him. I asked him what truth there was in what Colonel Lewal had told me. He declared he never knew of the existence of Marshal MacMahon's army. Col. Lewal is a serious man. On the other hand, the marshal is precise in his declaration. I remain undecided between the two."

"If, therefore, this page of Marshal Canrobert's deposition contains the whole of the facts that can be ascertained; if the marshal received MacMahon's despatch on the 23rd at noon, as the officers above cited pretend, as the honest witness Marchal pretends, the conclusion forced upon us is a terrible one; for when General Frossard is asked whether they could have forced the lines on the 25th, he answers, "Certainly, if we had known that MacMahon's army existed we should all have advised the march forward. It is true it was raining, but it was raining for both sides."

"That is the opinion of all the generals, if only they had known that MacMahon's army existed, or that he would have marched to meet them. The rest of the evidence of these generals becomes of secondary importance, &c."

The following official notice of the blockade of the Gold Coast is declared by the senior British naval officer on the west coast of Africa: "I hereby declare that on the 29th day of August last the Gold Coast from Cape Coast Castle, in latitude 5 deg. 6 min. north, longitude 1 deg. 14 min. west to the river Assinee, in latitude 5 deg. 5 min. north, longitude 3 deg. 23 min. west was placed in a state of blockade by a competent force of her Majesty's ships, and are now in such a state of blockade, and that all measures authorized by the law of nations and the respective treaties between her Majesty and the different neutral powers will be enforced on behalf of her Majesty against all vessel which may attempt to violate the blockade."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

Sir—I have read with pleasure your answers to R in your issue of the 9th inst, with the exception of one, namely, the 4th.—with your answer to that question I must join issue with yours—I don't in the least agree with you that the answer to this query is that such a question in statistics is not known. But as Canadian Volunteers are presumed to have brains as well as others, about the same number can judge distance as those who are marksmen. "Now, Sir, in all due deference to you, I must beg to inform you that I have, from my own observation, found many men who are marksmen totally wanting in judging distance, not only in our Canadian Army but also in the Imperial service. I myself was, when in the service a marksman as far as judging distance went and within a point of it in firing: It is a distinct branch of rifle shooting from that of being able to hit the centre at 900 yards with the rifle. It must be taught, because it must be acquired. It is quite a different matter to the eye finding that the distance between yourself and an object, the distance from you of which is unknown to you, to that of running the eye along the sights of a rifle and knowing the distance, being able to hit that object. I have known numbers of men, marksmen as far as firing went, who, when it came to judging distance, failed of entering the select few of the regiment who were marksmen in both branches of musketry.

Take some crack shot who has not practiced judging distance, and put another man 75 yards from him, then 150 yards and see if he will come within 50 yards, at the long range and 10 at the short. I fear not to say he will be far out in both his calculations. Or take any distance you like and not once will he come near it. No, Sir, I don't fear in the least to say I am right. It not only requires teaching but constant practice to make a man a good judge of distance. Why, Sir, take one instance of how far astray even a good judge of distance may go; put a dip in the ground between the judge and the distant object, a dip of say 30 feet from the line of fire and the surface of ground at the deepest part of the hollow, and you will soon see how far astray the judge will be in his calculations. I got caught myself that way once, but it taught me one great lesson, and that was, not to allow too much for hollows. One word before I close. I would suggest that fewer rounds be fired during camps, for we go there to learn manoeuvring and handling men in large and small bodies; allow each man so many rounds ball cartridge per annum to be fired some time between the

15th May and 15th September, in squads of not less than 10 or more than 20 for each target, such squads to be in charge of an officer who must keep the practice return himself on the range, such returns to be sent to the D.A. G's and by them to Head Quarters. The returns must be certified as correct by the officer in charge and the Colonel of the Battalion or officer in command of the corps to which the men belong.

Yours truly,  
OLD SOLDIER.

Dec. 10th 1873

Montreal, 19th Dec., 1873.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir—A friend handed me a copy of your paper of yesterday's date, with an editorial on some correspondence signed R, which much surprised me. As an old volunteer officer, and one who has had much to do with shooting and management of shooting matches, as also having had the pleasure of teaching (many years ago) some of our best match shots the wrinkles of shooting, I was much astonished. Surely you do not give it as your deliberate opinion that a soldier who cannot shoot is quite as useful as one who can! If your opinion be correct, why should the British Government sanction the expense of increased pay to marksmen? 1. Again in the present age a bayonet charge is an impossibility against breech loaders. All movements of advance, would require to be covered with a dense cloud of skirmishers. 2. Unfortunately, although the rules of musketry instruction are in the Red Book, they are very often neglected, and very often unread.

3. The writer has a very lively recollection of being guilty of "playing the fool" in one of the late Fenian raids by throwing his sword into a baggage wagon and carrying a short rifle. The men of his company were not of the opinion that he was making a fool of himself, or that the fact of carrying a useful weapon in place of a toasting fork incapacitated him from looking after them.

4. The judging distance drill is a thing that requires a good deal of practice and time, and I am sorry to say I do not think we could get many volunteers to devote sufficient time to it to become expert.

5. As to small bore shooting being of no benefit, as an aid to shooting with the Government arm, I would venture to wager, if the opinion of any of the cracks of the Dominion was asked, a very different reply would be given. I might name as competent persons to express an opinion Larkin of Nova Scotia, Blackin of New Brunswick, Thomas or Worsley of Quebec, J. J. Mason, Murison, or Major Cotton of Ontario. I can assert without fear of contradiction that all of these gentlemen will agree with me. Further, the class of men who can afford to spend \$100 to \$200 on a small bore rifle, are the main supporters of

Rifle Shooting and it is to their exertions and energy that the success of our Provincial meetings is mainly due. In our own Province, Quebec, two years ago I introduced the system of optional matches, Snider against Small Bore, and since then the practice has become quite common. A handicap in which the Snider receives 300 yards in distance from the Small Bore, is as nearly even as possible; the best proof being that during the last two years, Snider in the Optional matches have taken as many prizes as the Small Bores.

6. The reason the Martini-Henry is not used against the small bores, such as the Metford and Rigby, are, first, the poorness of the sights; secondly, the badness of the cocking. Most of the Martini-Henry's being so short in the stock as to severely punish the unfortunate firer. Vail, the only one of the Canadian Team who shot in the second stage of Queen's Prize Match at Wimbledon this year, 1873, was completely disabled by the recoil of the gun.

7. In answer to this question, "What is being done to improve Rifle Shooting in this country?" I am sorry to say little or nothing. Were it not that in most of the large cities there are a few men who are fond of the rifle, and make great efforts once a year to induce their friends and the public to subscribe to Local and Provincial matches, shooting would die out. As to Canadian Army regulations or General Orders helping to make riflemen, those who know the real state (not paper state) of the so called army, Heaven save the name, will know their value. Six years, or even seven years ago Canada had a Volunteer Army any nation under the sun might be proud of. Where is it now? Ask the men who obtained commissions for purpose of lending political support to parties lately in power, who drew pay for hundreds of men who never were in existence. Ask about a battalion whose colonel sent in an outrageous pay-sheet to his Brigade Major who refusing to countenance so gross a swindle by recommending it, was threatened with loss of his office by one who had the power to deprive him of it. Were it worth while I could readily explain why so few men of standing and position now remain as volunteers. As to the Dominion Association no real riflemen or rifle shot could ever conscientiously utter a word in its praise; about the only good thing attached to it being the secretary Col. Stewart, who is deservedly popular with all who are unfortunate enough to be deluded into attending its matches. The dearest wish of the writer is, that the MacKenzie Government will see fit to abolish the annual grant of \$5000 to the Dominion Associations, I had not intended writing so much, but my pen has run away. As you seem rather savage with your correspondent "R" I may state that although his style may be flippant and he asks a good many questions, there does not exist

a man in Canada who has the interest of rifle-shooting more at heart, or who gives the matter more time and attention. He also, I believe, pulls some of the wires in several Rifle Associations and knows what he is talking about. I have not written for the *Volunteer Review* since 1869, I think, when I used to sign myself Royal. I must however, deny any knowledge of "R's" letter beyond seeing it in print.

I am, yours truly,

ROYAL.

To the Editor of the *Volunteer Review*.

Sir—I have read some remarkable statements in your last issue, in answer to some enthusiastic rifleman, who has evidently taken in hand a weapon he knew but little of. I would be glad to hear something more on the subject.

You say "the soldiers that can't shoot is often more useful than the individual who can?" Leaving out the question of grammar, can you give some examples of superiority?

How would you manage a bayonet charge through a stump field or a bit of bush, such as are common in this country?

How do you know only sixty per cent of rifle bullets are effective? "Drawn Bullets" I never heard of, but for steel barreled rifles some of my men have a great fancy.

I do not know how it may be with others, but my men would be none the worse of being taught to "judge distance."

Yours truly,

AN ENQUIRER.

Morrisburg, 15th Dec., 1873.

### THINKING SOLDIERS.

The *Review* affords its readers, in an extract from *Broad Arrow*, an article under this head, in which the author boldly prades his representative men, Messrs Atkins and Smith in contradistinction to a phantom, which he invests with a "local habitation and a name," in the "mentally iron bound soldier of the *regime*." These typical heroes—as a result of their "thinking"—possess the astounding perspicacity of actually detecting the weakness of their sergeant major, in shirking the necessity of a salute to a superior. If this is the requisite intellectual gauge for the indispensable "thinking" soldier, then, it is maintained their predecessors, of the old *regime*, ventured upon a higher exercise of an iron bound intellect, and evinced an infallibility indiscriminating between the gentleman and snob, the latter character being—as a rule—the first-horn of a successful tradesman. No military discipline can hinder or fetter the moral nature of man, and that of the old school, never attempted impossibilities, nor sought to stultify itself with ethical subtilties, but enforced and demanded implicit obedience, as the *sine qua non* of its discipline. Crochets and

theories upon mental culture may deceive or amuse, but can never substitute this indispensable to all military organization Soldiers do, and must think, but were they permitted to act upon the suggestion of their reflections, who cannot see the inevitable confusion worse confounded. Then, where the use of, and how utilize these deep thinking men? Now, as the army is not likely to absorb the literati of the kingdom, and there being no defined educational process for this indispensable, to modern warfare, to graduate through, the problem must be permitted to restore itself into its natural prosaic conditions. Take any given number of men under identical training, and the dolt, the average, and smart soldier will severally present themselves; but in no strictly calculable proportion, nature or aptitude settles that. Yet the aggregate can be moulded into good soldiers under able, efficient and gentlemanly officers.

In conclusion, I am constrained to observe, that an ungenerous, carping, and often ignorant criticism of the old *regime*, is but a dubious warrant for perfection on the new—if some adopted innovations can claim that distinction—and would remind those passionate critics, that it is the traditional fame of the old army, which sheds a halo of invincibility around that of to day; and, that to the indomitable courage and reckless daring of the unthinking soldier, the British Army is indebted for what prestige it continues to retain.

SABREUR.

New Hamburg, 17th Dec., 1873.

The *Jewish Chronicle* asks that peerages should be conferred on two distinguished members of the Hebrew community, Sir Moses Montefiore and Baron Lionel Rothschild.

A Government return gives the total number of emigrants from Ireland during the first ten months of the present year as 85,287 persons. Up to October 31, 1873, upwards of 2,247,883 persons emigrated from Ireland since May, 1851.

From a return just issued it appears that during the last twelve years England has expended a sum equal to \$32,646,933 upon coast fortifications, distributed for the most part at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Portland, Pembroke, Sheerness, Dover, Gravesend, Chatham and Cork.

Advices from Cape of Good Hope the 17th November report that disturbances have occurred near Natal. A band of natives, led by their own chiefs, and committing many excesses. The Government have set the volunteers against them. A son of the Colonial Secretary of Natal was killed in the late skirmish.

A telegram from Singapore says the body of Dutch troops, under the command of General Van Sweiten which lately landed on the coast of Acheen have had an engagement with Sulnat's army and defeated it.

General Garcia at the head of 2,000 men has defeated a Spanish column, and also captured some large fortifications, making prisoners of the entire garrison, without firing a single shot.

England has asked France to co-operate with her in instituting an investigation of the Villo du Havre disaster, offering to pay all expenses of witnesses. France cordially accepts, and promises the investigating shall be searching and complete.

The dangers to be encountered on the west coast of Africa may be estimated from the fact that out of the 110 officers and men of the marines who embarked in England a few months since, only six have been able to remain on that station.

A special despatch from Berlin to the *London Times* says that in consequence of the formation of fortified camps at Belfort, Besancon, and Verdun, Prussia will increase her military reserves. The Federal Council has ordered the distribution among the States of the German Empire of another installment of the French war indemnity amounting to 20,000,000 thalers.

The *Flying Fish*, another of the unarmored composite screw sloops, of which class a number have been sent afloat from the various English dock yards during the past year, was launched from the Chatham (England) dock-yard on the 8th Nov. The building of this vessel was very rapid, as the authorities were anxious to get her completed and ready for sea.

The Sedwick memorial fund has nearly reached the splendid total of £10,000. This amount includes £1,000 from the Duke of Devonshire, £500 from Professor Selwyn, and 100 guineas from the Prince of Wales.

There are only four old Prussian colors remaining in France, with the exception of two old flags on the grave of Napoleon I. To this number must be added the Prussian cavalry standard, which are in the groups of colors of the Second battalion of the Sixty first regiment of infantry, which were lost at Dijon during the last war. All other Prussian trophies which were formerly in the possession of the French were either taken by the Prussians in 1814, or, as the French say, burned together with all the colors kept at the Hotel des Invalides at Paris by the veterans resident there, as they saw the capture of Paris was unavoidable. It is said that they collected the ashes of all the trophies burned, threw them into a cask of wine, and drank the mixture to the health of the Emperor. The sword of Frederick the Great, which the First Napoleon took from Potsdam in 1806, could not be found in 1814 and 1815, in spite of all search. It had been concealed in the Cupola of the Hotel des Invalides, but it is said that it is now in the possession of some private gentleman. Whether the upper part of the colors of the Second battalion of the Sixteenth Regiment of Prussian Infantry, which was shot off at Vionville and found on the field of battle by the French, has been sent to Paris or not has not been ascertained. Two Prussian guns lost at Gravelotte were returned at the surrender of Metz; and, in fact, only one Prussian gun, lost during the late war at Beaune-la-Rolande, remains in the hands of the French.