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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. VIII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1874.

No. 12.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Imperial Parliament re-assembled on the 19th, and the Queen's speech was read. Her Majesty refers to a continuance of friendly relations with foreign powers, and alludes to the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh as a pledge of friendship between two great Empires. Warm praise is given to the troops comprising the Ashantee expedition for the courage and endurance displayed in the campaign. Speaking of the famine in Bengal, the Queen says the Governor General has been directed to spare no cost in his efforts to mitigate this terrible calamity.

The troop ship *Tamar* has arrived at Portsmouth from the Gold Coast with the Fusiliers on board.

A detailed account of the capture of Coomassie confirms the reported sacking of the King's Palace, and says:—"On the morning of February 6, the city was fired, the Palace blown up, and the troops started on their homeward march."

The congratulatory address to the troops, issued in Coomassie on February 5th, said: "All the people, both European and native, unjustly held captive by the King of Ashantee are now at liberty in camp, and you have proved to this cruel barbarous people that England is able to punish her enemies, no matter what their strength in numbers or position may be."

Stanley writes to the *Daily News* that after careful investigation he is convinced that Dr. Livingstone is dead.

The Roman Catholic Bishops of the Reichsrath say they will withdraw if the obnoxious ecclesiastical law is pressed.

The Paris *Pays* publishes a correspondence which shows that the Empress Eugenie and her son have finally broken off relations with Prince Napoleon. The cause assigned is because he refused to go to Chislehurst on the 16th.

Marshal Serrano, with 34,000 men and 90 pieces of artillery, is now face to face with a Carlist force of 35,000, while General Loma, with a column 8,000 strong, is moving on the enemy's rear.

The Right-Hon. Benjamin Disraeli and Sir Stafford Northcote have been re-elected to Parliament without opposition.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh visited the Empress Eugenie at Chislehurst on Tuesday.

The London *Times* announces that the Prime Minister of Ashantee, the King and his Captain-General have been brought prisoners to Cape Coast Castle.

The steamship *Laconia*, while on her voyage from Alexandria, Egypt, for Algiers, having as passengers 278 pilgrims returning

from Mecca, encountered a terrible gale. One huge wave which struck the vessel washed overboard from her deck 117 of the pilgrims, and all were drowned.

Sir Garnet Wolseley will go to Malta or Aden to meet the remains of Dr. Livingstone, and will escort them to England.

About seven thousand people were at the Chislehurst *fete* held on Monday the 16th. An address was read, to which the Prince Imperial replied. He said the presence of such a large assemblage on that occasion showed the alarm of France for her future. He considered a *plebiscite* as the only salvation of the country. If the decision was against Imperialism he would accept it. If in favour of restoring the Empire, he was ready to accept the responsibility of Government. His address was received with great enthusiasm.

M. DeKeraty was examined by the Committee of the French Assembly on Monday in relation to the charges preferred against M. Gambetta. He testified that M. Gambetta, while a member of the government of national defence, purposely refused arms to Bretons, that they might suffer defeat, and be unable later on to fight the Communes, the rise of which was already anticipated.

The report that Prince Frederick of Prussia is to make a tour of the world next summer, is contradicted.

A volunteer crew of the steamship *Algeria* rescued the captain and seven men of a ship discovered in distress on the 25th February. The heroic act was performed at great risk during a violent gale.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the charges against Dr. Kenealy, counsel for the Tichborne claimant. Mr. Whalley, M.P., demands that a similar committee be appointed to investigate the charges against Hawkins, the prosecuting Attorney.

The Fenian Amnesty Association has decided to present petitions for pardon to the Queen in person.

The Committee of the Reichstag, has voted a second time against fixing the ordinary strength of the army at 400,000 men.

General Sir Garnet Wolseley arrived at Portsmouth on the 20th.

The Brahmans in India chanted in their temples this prayer in Sanskrit, imploring their god, Vishnu, to avert the famine:—"O all-powerful and supreme Vishnu! Since thou art the preserver of the world, save Bengal and the other districts from the famine which threatens them. O God, we thy faithful people, humbly implore thee to remove from us this scarcity of grain. O asylum of mercy, pour upon us the rich dew of kindness, and let the world be nourished by a liberal harvest. In this age of sin, we

men live only upon grain. Spare, then, our lives while giving us this food, and spread far and wide over the universe thy divine glory. O Lord and governor of the world, thou art the only protector of the unfortunate. Pardon our transgressions in thy goodness, and whilst listening to our prayers give us thy universal benediction. Prolong, too, the life of the sovereign who governs us, for the prosperity of the subject depends entirely upon the well being of the monarch."

The ship *Thor*, from Jamaica for Europe, was abandoned at sea and the captain and crew rescued by the ship *Saterwell*, which arrived at Queenstown on the 16th.

Brady, the gallant seaman who brought the steamship *Pennsylvania* in safety to port, after she had lost her principal officers and all hope had been abandoned, is evidently as sharp witted as he is brave. He has returned a present of a paltry thousand dollars, and claims salvage.

The fire at Panama, reported by telegraph some days ago, resulted in the destruction of property amounting to between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

On the 18th a dense fog prevailed over and around New York, which seriously interfered with navigation and prevented thousands of people in Brooklyn, Jersey and elsewhere from reaching New York.

Bills have passed the New York State Legislature to facilitate the construction of the New York and Canada railway.

An Havana letter states that the *Arapiles* was leaking badly, having started her plates when she went ashore below New York harbour.

The celebration of the anniversary of Ireland's patron Saint seems to have been very general, at least on this side of the Atlantic, and to have been characterized everywhere by the utmost good feeling.

A Cincinnati despatch says the whole number of hogs packed in the West, from November 1st to March 1st, was 5,383,800, showing a decrease compared with last year of 72,194.

A committee of Temperance ladies in Chicago, petitioned Mayor Colvin to veto the Sunday license ordinance, but he refused, saying the repeal of the Sunday prohibition was one of the issues upon which he was elected, and he was pledged to its repeal.

Bald Mountain, in the western part of North Carolina, is in a state of volcanic eruption, and it is stated that farm houses and cottages along the sides and base have been prostrated by the convulsions and many of the inhabitants have fled. A thin vapor issues from the top of the mountain. A low rumbling sound is audible over the entire surface, and snow melts as fast as it falls.

THE ADVANCE UPON COOMASSIE.

THE BLUE JACKETS IN THE VAN.

General Sir Garnet Wolseley's victorious advance upon the Ashantees may be said to have begun on the morning of 27th December, 1873. At 2 30 that morning Sir Garnet proceeded up country with 276 blue-jackets and Marines, forming as it were the advanced guard of the expedition against Coomassie. This preference was given to those aloft in consequence of the active part they had taken in the Ashantee war. The *Himalaya*, *Tamar*, and *Surmalian* were lying off at anchor, the troops on board simply waiting for the order to disembark. That order was, however, to be deferred till the 1st of January, 1874, as it was presumed, the great leader of the Red River Expedition wished to commence the year well. The necessary magazines, &c., having been formed at Dunquah and Mansu, the wished for order at last reached Cape Coast, and at 2 30 a.m. the headquarters and left half battalion of the Rifle Brigade 2nd battalion, under the command of Colonel Warren, disembarked, and marched up country to Inquakim, about seven miles from Cape Coast. Everything appeared to favor the advance—full moon in the early morn and no surf—a thing which is of very rare occurrence on the Gold Coast. On the morning of the 2nd, at the same hour, the other half battalion of the Rifle Brigade disembarked and proceeded up country. The advance was thus to be made by successive half battalions to the front, each stage being vacated by the one wing of a regiment as the other marched up. This no doubt was necessary on account of the total absence of the roads in the Fantee country, so much so that the lines of operation had to be confined to one bush road or path, which has been cleared and widened under the superintendence of Lieut Gordon, 93th Regiment, to the extent of 120 feet. For this service and his untiring exertion in every way, this officer has been promoted to a Captaincy in the 84th Regiment. Great difficulty was experienced to obtain the necessary number of carriers for the Rifle Brigade. This regiment had after it over 600 carriers. This number may appear large, but it was absolutely necessary. The hammocks (about thirty in number) which followed each regiment required 240 carriers, in addition to the number required for the men's and officers' field kits.

On the morning of the 3rd January, the headquarters and one wing of the 12nd (Black Watch,) under Colonel McCleod C.B., landed from the hired transport *Surmalian* and marched up, the right half battalion landing at the same hour on the morning of the 4th. The first company of the 42nd landed in silence but the next was headed by a piper in full Highland garb, whose martial strains produced an immense sensation among the natives.

At last came the left half battalion of the 23rd Fusiliers, which landed on the morning of the 5th at 2 30 a.m., and marched to the front, with drum and life, band playing, and goat at the head of the regiment.

Here, however, difficulties were encountered. The lazy, cowardly Fantees, having been tried as soldiers and found worthless, were as a dernier resort made use of as carriers and some 5,000 engaged for that purpose at good pay. Finding the country clear of the enemy, however, and themselves in possession of more money than they ever had before in their lives, they began deserting en masse, so that the expedition was nearly brought to a stand still. In this emergency

the soldiers of 1st and 2nd West India Regiments, (colored) were asked to help, and cheerfully responded. In this way the troops were enabled to continue their advance, except the 23rd Fusiliers, who, much to their chagrin, were ordered back to the Coast to re-embark for want of sufficient carriers.

The Naval Brigade, mustering 23 officers, 183 seamen, 70 Marines and Kroomen and native cot carriers, under the command of Captain William H. Blake, R.N., after eight days' marching over the 76 miles distance, arrived at camp on the Prah's banks. What is greatly to the credit of the Brigade and the honor of the naval strength is the fact that every man marched into camp with his rifle and accoutrements, and every carrier also with his load. This very satisfactory completion of the Brigade's first eight days' march towards Coomassie excited the admiration of every one, the average loss sustained by the military in such a march having been as much as 5 per cent., arising from falling out from fatigue or footsore. To obtain this excellent result, even with our hardy seamen and Marines, great anxiety and careful watching over the men's health and comfort had to be given by Dr. Fegan and his colleagues. The Kroomen and the natives attached to the Brigade were treated with the same care and attention that had been given to the blue-jackets and Marines, but in marching along such vile roads as they have done, with bare feet and carrying loads of 50lb. weight upon their heads, it can be easily imagined that the number of complaints of sore feet were not small.

The climate on the Prah is described as most decidedly better than at Cape Coast Castle. The thermometer marks from 82 deg. to 86 deg. in the daytime, and during the night, at times, it falls to 52 deg. The scenery all through from the coast has been most beautiful. The river Prah at the camp varies in breadth from 120 ft. to 300 ft.; the water is very muddy, but very good after being filtered. The banks are in parts vertical, at others sloping. Lofty trees of every shade of green, with a rich undergrowth of bamboo, banana, &c., in great abundance, give shade and beauty to the scene.

The scene is a busy one all throughout the day. At earliest dawn engineers and control laborers are paraded with noise and confusion truly inconceivable. In addition to these, 400 and 500 of Wood's and Russell's regiments are daily paraded for "fatigues." The Tower of Babel could have been nothing to the confusion of tongues, that here takes place, where every man insists on chattering, and the talk is carried on in all the many varieties and dialects of West African languages, few understanding each other, the European officers understanding none of them. In the midst of this confusion the men are paraded, tools are issued to them at the engineer yard, and they are marched off by officers to the work for which they have been told off—either to clear and level ground, to fetch building material, or to build huts. When under the constant superintendence of Europeans, these native work really well and willingly, but the moment the European turns his back work ceases. Native overseers cannot or will not make them work. The strain on the Europeans is, therefore, very great. At ten o'clock the working parties are brought in for mid-day rest, and to cook their meals. At one o'clock they turn out again till evening.

The camp of Prahau, which is rapidly assuming vast proportions, was stirred to its

centre by the arrival of the naval brigade, consisting of 250 picked blue-jackets from Cape Coast squadron. These brave fellows had marched from Barracoe, seven miles from here. They advanced in perfect order along the road, one half singing the well known song, "When Johnnie comes marching home," the other half keeping step and chorus to "John Brown's knapsack is number ninety two." If any set of men ever looked adapted for hard work the litho bodied, soft paced men of the naval brigade did. Their frames looked green, sapful, and their faces as cherry and healthy that one could hardly believe they had marched through the eighty miles of irremediable forest and swamp between Cape Coast Castle and the Prah River. Sailors always march as if marching were natural to them, as if they were animated men, of joints and muscles; while English soldiers appear stiff and rigid, more like walking machines in comparison.

The uniform of the sailors is the naval blueshirt and wide pants, which they use on shipboard, while they appeared somewhat jaunter in their broad brimmed straw hats, covered with a canvas cap fastened around the hat by a brown muslin veil. The naval brigade is armed with Sniders.

About 300 of the Second West India regiment arrived under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Webber. The Second West India regiment consists of coloured soldiers enlisted from the negro population of Jamaica, Nassau and other British settlements. Physically they are fine, huge fellows, some of them giants in frame, but as soldiers they don't strike me favourably. They are faithful, loyal men though, and I suppose are as ardent in Queen-Victoria's cause as the blue-jackets are, and no one can rob them of the laurels they have already acquired on this campaign in the bush skirmishes of Abecrampa, Dunquah and Fasus. But their appearance contrasted unfavourably with that of the naval brigade.

A memorandum of instructions to the soldiers was issued by Sir Garnet Wolseley. It is a very elaborate document, and contains many useful hints for guarding against climatic effects, as well as precise directions for the manner of conducting warfare in a country such as that through which the expedition will pass—"a great forest of gigantic trees, with an undergrowth of bush varying in thickness," as the Commander in Chief describes it. He mentions incidentally that "the operations beyond the Prah will last only a few weeks." It thus concludes:—

"Soldiers and sailors, remember that the black man holds you in superstitious awe: be cool; fire low, fire slow, and charge home, and the more numerous your enemy, the greater will be the loss inflicted upon him, and the greater your honor in defeating him."

The bridge over the Prah was completed on the 6th January. Lord Gifford, who commanded the scouts, had pushed to Essaman, 12 miles beyond the Prah, and had a slight skirmish with a few of the enemy's scouts left in the place. Some time previously some Ashantee Ambassadors arrived and were detained to see troops marched in. A Gatling gun was fired for their edification, and though they showed no great surprise the scene had evidently been too much for one of them, for on returning to quarters assigned to them he blew out his brains with his own gun. The letter they brought from the King stated the return of his army, and that his General attributed the several losses it had sustained to sickness,

Sir Garnet sent the Ashantee ambassadors early on the morning of 8th January across the Prabh, in charge of the naval brigade, who were in complete marching order. After escorting them some distance on their road, the brigade was halted a short time, and then marched back to its camp, having sufficiently performed the act of invasion in presence of the King's messengers, who would, no doubt, bear speedily to this King the unpleasant tidings of white men being on Ashantee soil. This act was meant to impress the King with the necessity for instant action, or induce him to listen with willing ear to the terms of the ultimatum which the English General had despatched to King Koffee by messengers.

The tactics of the Ashantees are said to be always the same, and on giving battle to an enemy their forces are disposed in a head and two wings, the head attacks and then feigns a retreat, and the two wings envelop the foe until he is entirely surrounded. Picket ambuscades are used to check the advance of the foe, and are placed alongside of the road, the men kneeling behind a thick barrier of boughs and leaves, having previously cut a path open in the rear so that they can make good their escape before their fire is returned. But the Ashantees surpass their neighbors more in that system than in these savage arts of war. When the Ashantee army marches to war, the soldiers, who are chiefly free men accompanied by corps of carpenters, blacksmiths, and other artisans; by money lenders, who advance gold dust at ten per cent. per month; by butlers, who sell provisions, and by women who carry the pots and calabashes. These women stand behind their husbands, serving out the powder and animating them by their songs. In battle the advanced skirmishers are slaves, who, if they show cowardice are killed. The Generals also have a code of honor, and if disgracefully defeated, kill themselves.

A curious story was reported from the camp of the Akims, some thirty miles eastward of Prabsu. An Akim merchant, long resident in Coomassie, had returned to his country and met his king. He told the king and Captain Butler (N.P. 69th Regiment), who was with him as commissioner, that some days previously an aroho had fallen in one of the principal streets of Coomassie. The inhabitants were greatly alarmed and attribute it to the British agency, many of them believing it had been thrown from their guns at Prabsu! High honor this to the powers of the little 7 pdr. mountain guns. Another and still greater prodigy had, however, occurred later. A child was born who was able to speak at its birth. Alarmed at this occurrence, the King ordered the child to be sequestered, with learned watchers to report its conversation. The child was accordingly secured at night but next morning no child could be found in the chamber, which was filled instead with bush. The fesh men were thereupon consulted and declared that this prodigy betokened the downfall of the Ashantee kingdom, and that in six months time the town of Coomassie would be covered with bush like the floor of the child's chamber.

Many particulars regarding recent actions were being learned in the course of the examination of prisoners and others. Thus the fate of a Houssa reported as missing since the action of 8th November at Aheest had only been ascertained. This man was knocked over in a river by a rush of fugitive Fantees, and supposed to have been drowned, though his body when searched for could not be found. It now appears he

escaped up the banks into the bush, and was captured by the Ashantees. He was brought before Amanquattia, their General, who examined his Snider rifle, caused himself to be instructed in the method of loading, and made many enquiries as to the number of arms of this description in our possession. When he had obtained all the information he required from the Houssa, he had him tied to a tree by his arms and legs, and had his head cut off, or rather, as an eye witness described it, hacked off with blunt knives.

A correspondent writes:—"The sailors of the naval brigade are the happiest fellows in camp, if one may judge by the hilarious sounds which issue from their quarters at night. They have a copious repertoire of ballads and songs with which they charm evenings which otherwise would be exceedingly dull. They are marched in couples through the camp during the day for many purposes, but the mere sounds of their regular footsteps are cheering, while they sometimes enliven their work with a well sung song and chorus."

THE BATTLE NEAR COOMASSIE.

NAMES OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The following appears in the New York *World* of Monday. No other New York paper publishes it:—

CAPE COAST CASTLE, February 5.—A great battle has been fought near Coomassie, resulting in the defeat of the Ashantees and the capture of Amoaful. The operations commenced at six a.m. on the 31st of January and lasted until three p.m. The British forces consisted of Lord Gifford and his natives scouts; the Forty second Regiment, under Major Macpherson, two guns of Ratt's artillery; the left column, under Colonel McCleod; Major Russell's native regiment, with Gordon's Houssas; two rockets under Lieutenant Palmer, and a wing of the Naval Brigade under Captain Grubbe, R.N. A path was cut at right angles to the main road, for 300 yards and then due north. Upon the left was the Forty second Regiment, and on the right a column under Colonel Wood, with a wing of the Naval Brigade under Capt. Lynamore, and two rockets under Lieutenant Knox. Colonel Wood's native regiment was to carry out the same plan on the right of the centre column. The second line consisted of the Twenty-third, supported by Colonel Wood's and Major Russell's native regiments on its flanks. The third line was composed of the Rifle Brigade under Colonel Warren. The enemy formed a broad angle, diverging from the main right apex of the Amoaful, and had a position on steep hills. The King of the Ashantees is supposed to have been present. The enemy fought most desperately, and suffered severely. Amanquattia, the Commander in Chief of the Ashantee army, is reported to be killed. The firing was very heavy for five hours. The casualties on the British side are: Royal Engineers—Captain Buckle, killed; Major Home, wounded in two places; Lieutenant Hare, wounded in two places; two sappers and thirty-six labourers killed. The Naval Brigade, which was 145 strong, had three officers wounded, namely, Captain Grubbe, Lieutenant Mundy, and Lieutenant Rawson; and twenty six men killed and wounded. The Twenty third, which was about ninety strong, had one officer and five men wounded. The Forty second lost nine officers and 105 men in killed and wounded, including Major Macpherson, wounded in two places. One bullet passed through his

leg, but he led his men the whole way. Major Baird was badly wounded in both legs and in the chest, and was carried to the rear, being unable to move. The carriers were attacked, and he himself was beloaded. Lieutenant Borwick was wounded in the ankle, and Lieutenant Stevenson, Captain Creagh, and four others were slightly wounded. The Rifle Brigade had an officer and twenty five men killed and wounded. No return of the loss of the native allies has been received, but it is heavy among Gordon's Houssas. The troops bivouacked on the ground. A baggage train has been attacked on the way up. Seven hundred and fifty loads arrived at Amoaful on the 1st of February, escorted by men of the Rifle Brigade, the Forty second and Second West India regiments. A strong force attacked Dequa, a mile on the right. The place was well defended, and the houses were loopholed. One blue jacket was killed and three were wounded, as well as some allies. The rear is threatened, and a large force is said to be to the south-west. Companies of the Twenty third Regiment are defending the threatened paths. Several carriers have been killed on the way up. During the battle on the 31st the staff was much exposed to the fire, but suffered no casualties.

Brevet Major William Baird, who had for the last six years been senior captain of the gallant Forty second Royal Highland Black Watch, was one the most highly thought of officers in that gallant corps, and beloved and esteemed alike by officers and men, especially by those of the A or the old Grenadier company, in which he had served off and on ever since he joined in 1854. He saw service both in the Crimea and Indian mutiny, and was decorated for both campaigns, and had been a captain in the Forty second for the last seventeen years, and was a grandnephew of the great Sir David Baird, who was taken prisoner by Tipoo Sahib in the first attack on Seringapatam, and who led the storming party, partly composed of the old Second Battalion of the Forty second, now the Seventy third Regiment, to victory at the taking of that fortress on May 4, 1799. He was only thirty three years old.

THE LATE CAPTAIN HUYSHO.—In Captain Huysho, of the Rifle Brigade who died of fever in the camp at Prabsu, on the 19th ult., the army has (the *Army and Navy Gazette* says) lost an officer of considerable promise. The deceased joined the service close upon eighteen years ago—in April 1856—and obtained his lieutenantancy the same year; he served as a subaltern in the 53rd regiment throughout the Indian mutiny of 1857-59. He purchased a company in the 53rd on the 19th of December, 1862, and exchanging into the Rifle Brigade early in 1864 joined the 1st battalion in Canada. In 1870 he was appointed to the staff of Sir Garnet Wolseley for service with the Red River Expedition. Returning to England with his battalion he became a candidate for the Staff College, and having passed a highly creditable examination, entered upon a course of study at Sandhurst in February last. On the decision of the War Office to place an armed force in the field against the Ashantees becoming known, Captain Huysho volunteered his services, which were at once accepted, and he left England with Sir Garnet Wolseley in the *Ambriz* in September last. It will also be remembered that Captain Huysho served with Sir R. Hunter's column in the operations in Central India in pursuit of Tantia Topo in 1858-59.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE NUMERICAL STATE OF THE MILITIA.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

11th March, 1874.

DEAR SIR—In the Vol. R. of 3rd inst. appear three excellent letters, one bearing the well-known signature ("Sabreur") of a correspondent whose communications are always fraught with the truest soldierly spirit; the second that of "Gladiator"; the third that of "Imperial Officer."

"Sabreur" introduces the principle, originated, I believe, editorially in the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, of throwing the onus of providing militia quotas on "municipal responsibility."

"Gladiator" justly insists on the inadequacy of the pay accorded to the Force.

"Imperial Officer" adverts in terms of merited commendation of "many municipalities in Ontario" which have voluntarily approached the realization of the editorial idea by votes of extra pay.

The liberality of such municipal councils is worthy of all praise. But there is reason to doubt the probability of so generous an example coming to be universally followed, and I fear it would be to be apprehended that the attempt to throw compulsory military responsibility on these bodies would be productive of grave discontent by reason, partly, of the "disgraceful obstructiveness" which "Sabreur" stigmatizes.

The writer of the article "Our Militia," in the *Canadian Monthly* for March, considers the two commonly urged remedies for the present unsatisfactory numerical state of the militia, viz:—"Compulsory Enlistment by Ballot," and "Greatly Increased Pay." Against the first of these he considers the arguments "to be almost unanswerable." I do not myself think that even all those which he adduces are so, but it is not my purpose here to enter on any attempt at refutation.

"With regard to the second," says "Miles," "it is, I think, hardly to be expected in the present economical age that the Government will enter into competition with the labour market, and thereby enormously increase the militia estimates; yet, if the present system be continued, and full musters are expected, some additional inducement in the shape of pay must, I fear, be held out." The italics are not in the original.

It would seem doubtful whether any, even the most clever or the most ardent of Canadian soldiers who have devoted thought to the subject, have been able to arrive at more definite conclusions than such as are expressed in the above article and letters.

Considering the subject from "a numerical point of view only" the words "if the present system be continued, and full musters are expected," are suggestive of some ideas which might possibly, in some slight degree, tend to smooth the way towards an elucidation of the problem.

Without going into any present advocacy of the ballot, let us suppose, for the sake of illustration, that it were in operation. It might then be assumed that the only system on which it could be fairly enforced would be in a strict ratio to population.

The population of the Dominion in 1871, as well as the actual recent musters of the militia, point to the proportion of one per cent. as the present reasonable limit of demand on the industrial energies of the people for militia purposes. This would give in round numbers 36,000 men, a number not very much in excess of late musters.

It is not, perhaps, advancing too much to affirm that conditions of excitement and national indignation, which give so strong and so beneficial an impetus to the creation of a national force, are false conditions, on which to base it for a performance.

Every district on the spur of such feelings as animate men's minds in the presence of an outrageous invasion of their soil, would contribute a contingent much in excess of what could be fairly required of it in the absence of such an incentive, or, still more, in the absence of any visible probability of such an incentive.

If this be conceded it will be apparent that from 1862, the time of the "TrentaFair," till the close of the year 1866, during which period the Dominion Force assumed its present definite form, was a period highly favorable, indeed, to the development of a martial spirit, but, for that reason, involving false data for the basis of a force intended to be permanent during the time of profound peace.

The palpable decadence of the Force during the year 1867 probably bears out this view, and its present condition seems to afford additional corroboration.

It is likely, therefore that many districts had assigned to them during the period of excitement, a force in excess of what they can conveniently maintain in times of mere dull routine.

I do not question the expediency of accepting the volunteered services of a contingent in excess of the populational quota where there remains, after the moment of excitement has passed, evidence of a military spirit enduring enough to survive.

But I think there are instances in which a transitory zeal has led to the establishment of corps beyond the energies of a district to sustain in time of peace, and I think there are also districts in which a reduction in the establishments of Battalions would be welcomed as a relief by Commanding and other officers, who necessarily abhor the sham involved in the continual recurrence of mus-

ters below the authorized and required standard.

Permit me to illustrate the point by one or two examples.

The county of Durham has, since 1866, with commendable spirit, supported two battalions, comprising fourteen companies, whose combined strength should be therefore 770 men. I am aware that one or two companies (I do not know precisely how many) of the 45th belong to Victoria. But of that presently. The strength of these two Regiments at Peterboro' in 1873, I find stated, doubtless correctly, by a correspondent of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, as follows:—The 46th, 320; the 45th, 150; total 470.

Turning to the Census Returns we find the actual population of the county of Durham to be, in round numbers, 37,000. We are, therefore, *prima facie*, led to the conclusion that she is over-taxed, and ought not to be called upon to contribute to the national forces more than 370 men, to which the muster she actually sent into camp in 1873 is an approximation, but in excess of her proportion, if we take into consideration her cavalry and artillery on the one hand, and on the other, make allowance for two or three companies of the 45th belonging to Victoria.

But this is not all. It is probable that no two Regiments in the service have been more indebted to the deserved personal popularity and soldierly qualities of their commanding and Field officers, and doubtless these are well supported.

Let us further give consideration to the fact that, but for the hap-hazard manner in which matters were bungled in June 1866, out of which arose the conflicting claims of Col. Cubitt and Col. Williams, there would never have been two Battalions in Durham.

On this principle the county of Victoria, having a population of, say, 32,000, ought, instead of merely contributing two or three companies to a Regiment of another county, itself to furnish a Battalion of 320 men.

Let us now take the adjacent county of Northumberland, which, with a population of 40,000 maintains a Regiment of the nominal strength of 495 men. Northumberland is therefore overtaxed by 95 men, in her infantry alone.

As a matter of fact (if the source above quoted be reliable) the 40th turned out, in 1873, 350 strong. If we take her cavalry into account, Northumberland will, including this actual muster of infantry have furnished last year probably a little above her proportion.

If the proposition of one per cent of the population, except in the case of cities and large towns be, as I believe it to be, the full extent to which the country will stand the drain in time of peace; and if it be conceded that continued musters far below nominal strength are mischievous as partaking of the nature of a sham; might it not be well to consider the expediency of reducing esta-

lishments to a quota more likely to be sustained without those extraneous efforts on the part of officers which form so large a part of the injustice of the existing state of things?

Let us suppose the principles to be adopted—First, that no county, we will say, should be called upon to furnish more than one per cent of its population to the militia, and—Secondly, that it is better that a county weak in population, should furnish a half battalion with its ranks full at the annual drill, than a whole battalion with each of its companies one third short of its establishment. Or, to put it in another shape, that it is better that the establishment of a company should be forty five, with that forty five reliable for muster, than fifty-five, turning out perhaps forty-five.

There is no real necessity that the standard of establishment either for Battalions or for Companies should be uniform. It would conform to population. A county liable to furnish 400 men might support a battalion of eight companies 45 strong. One liable to furnish 300 men might support a battalion of six companies, to which one major only might be allowed. A county furnishing 200 men would be called upon for a half-battalion only, of four companies, under a major, Counties furnishing a less number might either be simply organized into independent companies, or joined with another district to form a Battalion or half-battalion. Similarly, where townships habitually maintain weak companies, a half-company only might be required. And in this manner the quotas of overtaxed counties might be reduced. Thus take a county with say 45,000 inhabitants, quota 450 men. Say the Regimental District furnishes 9 companies of 55 men, 495. Here are 45 in excess of the quota in infantry alone. Reduce the quota to 8 companies 45 strong, 360 in all, and there is a margin left for a troop of cavalry and a battery of artillery, without undue draft. But in counties with populations such as Huron 75,000, Simcoe 65,000, and others, ten companies, 55 strong, would leave ample margins for the other branches.

If, as I think, most battalions of average reputation find little difficulty in maintaining and mustering about three-fourths of their existing establishments, but rarely, of late, succeed in turning out their full strength, does not the fact indicate that we are endeavouring to maintain a numerical strength beyond our peace power, and would not the reduction of nominal establishments in something like the proportions indicated, bring the numbers required nearer to those which the volunteer principle seems practically capable of furnishing, or at least of approximating to?

Such a scheme might, I think, be gradually brought about with but little alteration of, or interference with, existing numbers, designations, or honors, of Regiments; and might be managed without offence to esprit

de-corps. As resignations &c., occurred amongst officers, some small economy might also result. Officers whose companies or battalions (for no county should have more than one) were reduced or amalgamated might be placed on a supernumerary list of the Regiment till absorbed.

I have not touched on the conditions of cities, large towns, and districts whose exceptional military spirit, or exceptionally favourable circumstances may prevail. Concentration of population is probably the condition which best fosters martial spirit, and most facilitates its operations, and the system of keeping establishments well within the quota in comparatively thinly populated districts, would allow scope for the maintenance, within the limits of the number assigned to the whole Dominion force, of extra corps in places, (such as Toronto, for instance, or Bellville) in which it may be the pride and pleasure of the inhabitants to maintain them.

I have long thought that the obligation of service might be treated, by a sort of compromise, in a manner to practically avoid the odium and inconvenience of the ballot, and it would seem that a step, at least, in that direction would be to reduce the quota required to something like the probable average capabilities of the volunteer spirit.

The demand being reduced to strictly reasonable limits in reference to population, municipalities might be advised by proper orders, after due arrangement, of the proportions they would be legally called upon to furnish; and if it were intimated that the ballot would be put in requisition to make up deficiencies, there might be but little occasion for resort to it.

I venture, with great diffidence, on this imperfect, and merely tentative and suggestive sketch of a military Representation by Population, but I have thought it just possible that a consideration by abler heads of the principles I have indicated, may tend, if ever so little, to smooth the path of those who may be called upon to furnish the Government with an authoritative opinion.

With every apology for so extended a trespass on your space.

I am, Dear Sir, Respectfully,

FRANCIS TREVOR.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

The following is the text of Her Majesty's Speech:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I recur to your advice at the earliest period permitted by arrangement consequent upon the retirement of the late Administration.

My foreign relations continue most friendly and I shall not fail to exercise the influence arising from these cordial relations for the

maintenance of European peace and faithful observance of international obligations.

The marriage of my son is at once a source of happiness to myself and a pledge of the friendship between the two great Empires.

The Ashantee war has terminated in the capture and destruction of the capital and negotiations which I trust may lead to a more satisfactory condition of affairs than hitherto. The courage, discipline, and endurance of my forces, and the energy and skill evinced in the conduct of the expedition have brilliantly maintained under the most trying circumstances, the extraordinary reputation of the British army.

I deeply regret that drought has affected the most populous Provinces of our Indian empire, and produced extreme scarcity in some parts, amounting to actual famine over an area inhabited by many millions. I have directed the Governor General of India to spare no cost in striving to mitigate this terrible calamity.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

The estimates for expenditure during the coming financial year will be forthwith submitted to you.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

The delay and expense attending the transfer of land in England has long been felt to be a reproach to our law and a serious obstacle to dealings in real property. I trust that the measures which will now be submitted for your consideration will be found calculated to remove much of the evil which is complained of. You will probably be of opinion, that re-arrangement of the judiciary and the blending of the administration of law and equity which were effected in England by the enactments of last session ought to be extended to Ireland. You will be asked to devote part of your time to the accomplishment of this object. The greater part of these changes are inapplicable to tribunals in Scotland, but you will be invited to consider the most satisfactory mode of bringing this procedure upon the Scottish Appeals into harmony with recent legislation.

Among other measures relating specially to Scottish interest, a bill amending the law relating to land rights, and facilitating the transfer of land will be laid before you.

Serious differences have arisen, and remonstrances been made, by large classes of the community, as to the working of the recent Act affecting the relationship between master and servant of the Act of 1871, dealing with the offences connected with trade and of the law of conspiracy. On these subjects I am desirous that before attempting fresh legislation you should be in possession of all material facts, and of the precise questions in the controversy. For this purpose I have issued my Royal Commission of Inquiry into the state and working of the present laws with a view to their early amendment.

If found necessary, a bill will be introduced dealing with such parts of the Acts regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors as have given rise to complaints, and appears to deserve the interference of Parliament. Your attention will also be directed to laws affecting friendly provident societies, and these matters will require your grave consideration, and I pray the Almighty to guide your deliberations.

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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1874.

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.

The recent change in the administration of the Imperial Government has developed some extraordinary features connected with the course pursued by their predecessors. It will be recollected by our readers that the great distinguishing traits of the late Whig Radical administration were declared by themselves, their partisans, and admirers to be—"The abolition of purchase in the army, re organization of the army and navy, and the providing for the Empire military and naval establishments founded on the great principles of efficiency and economy." To this end a thorough revolution in both services have been attempted, and to use the words of our contemporary, *Broad Arrow*, "they have been dealt with in an heroic manner;" in other words, a clean sweep of old and tried

institutions and usages has been made, and the theories of irresponsible as well as incompetent parties foisted on the British people as substitutes with the direct effort in the first place of totally disorganizing the army, reducing its nominal strength, and adding five million pounds sterling per annum to the sum that necessary institution cost the people of England. It is not our intention to enter into a resume of the wholesale blunder perpetrated under the specious names of efficiency and economy, or of the injustice inflicted in all cases on the rank and file; for in pay and rewards for actual service they are far worse off now than under the old *regime*. But our readers may remember at the commencement of the so-called Reforms, we pointed out the absurdity of the manner in which the most important civil branch of the service, the Supply Department, with the fanciful name of *Control*, was organized under a mere statistical pedant who had not even the merit, though nominally a soldier, of knowing what military service much less organization meant, and whom the author of the true reform has done more to immortalize under the name of Sir MARMADUKE BURLEY, than the evils his administration of *Control* could do; it will also be recollected that the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* not only pointed out the absurdity of the system but predicted its utter collapse; and how hard our contemporary, *Broad Arrow*, laboured to sustain the reputation of *its party* and the tottering fabric of useless rubbish it called a system, one by the way that actually took the command of the army out of the hands of a soldier and placed it in that of a presumptuous as well as ignorant civilian.

This *Control* branch, as it was called, has hardly waited the announcement that the great Mr. CARDWELL was to be rewarded with a peerage for destroying the British Army, we suppose, and sinking into the insignificance of a junior baron, before *Broad Arrow*, in its issue of 7th February, announces *Control in Extremes*, the resignation of the great Sir MARMADUKE BURLEY and the total collapse of the complicated castle of cards he built for Mr. CARDWELL'S amusement, his own, and friends' profit, and the loss of the people of England.

That there may be no doubt about this matter we copy in another page the article from *Broad Arrow*, together with the flimsy and inconclusive reasons given why the command of the Army should consist of a civilian at the War Office, a *Horse Marine* at Somerset house, and a soldier at Horse Guards. As *Broad Arrow* is an advocate of Round-head system, and hesitated for a while whether CARDWELL was a CROWWELL or MIRAHEAD, it is probable that in trying the role of the former he may have been endowed with the apish qualities of the latter, and remembered the precedent set him by the authors of "the self denying Ordnance," in appointing a committee of *Lady Triers* to choose

and examine candidates for commissions in the cavalry. We do not know whether the successors of the late Imperial administration will be smitten with the idea of dealing *heroically* with the army and navy, but for the sake of the Empire of which we form so large a part, we hope that the good sense of having questions of military or naval administration to soldiers and sailors will be a distinguishing trait of their rule.

The following interesting article on the organization of the "Italian Army" is worthy of careful consideration, and especially valuable to those officers of the Canadian Army who are desirous of seeing a change effected in the mode of organizing that force.

There is one change which has been long advocated by the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*, and that is, giving *substantive* rank to every officer connected with the army—the chaplain being the only non-combatant.

"The accompanying particulars of the new organization of the Italian Army have been taken from the *Giornale Militare Officiale* of 27th October last, and will, no doubt, be interesting to our readers:—

The land forces of the Italian Kingdom comprise—1. The Army (*Esercito*), with its reserves, staff, and departments, the *Cara binieri* or *Gendarmorie* being included therewith. 2. The Militia (*Milizia Mobile*.) The general officers' list shows 130 officers, five of whom rank as *generali d'esercito*, corresponding with the marshals of other armies.

It should be observed that in the Italian Army commissioned officers of the Medical, Commissariat, Pay, and Veterinary Departments hold substantive instead of relative rank; their names, therefore, appear on the staff-lists of their respective ranks with those of combatant officers. The Army Staff consists of 2 general field officers, and some 150 other officers, including representatives of the several army departments, and 110 clerks. There is also a standing committee, composed of a general officer of the highest rank, as president, with seven other generals as members, with a staff of thirty-three officers, specially selected from the Artillery and Engineers, and a large number of clerks whose duty it is to advise the Minister of War on all scientific questions relating to the army.

The Corps of Artillery is composed thus:—1. The Artillery Staff, comprising the officers attached to the standing committee above-mentioned, and the superintendents of the various Artillery manufacturing establishments, &c., &c. 2. Ten regiments of Field Artillery, each regiment with 10 batteries (6 light and 4 heavy) of 8 guns each, 4 companies of train and 1 depot. Each regiment is divided into three battery-brigades one of four, and the other two of three battalions each. These ten regiments muster on the peace establishment 770 officers, 13,760 non commissioned officers and men, and 6640 horses. The light batteries have 7 centimetre guns, and the heavy ones 12-centimetre guns. All the field guns are bronze breech loading pieces, with iron carriages. The peace establishment (*prima formazione*) of a battery is 4 guns. In the event of war, this will be increased to 6 guns (*seconda formazione*); the full war strength is, as stated above, 8 guns (*terza formazione*). 3. Four

regiments of garrison artillery, numbering from 11 to 14 (the Field Artillery regiments are numbered 1 to 10). Each regiment consists of 15 companies and 1 depot, and is divided into 4 garrison brigades or battalions, three of four and one of three companies. The total strength of the Garrison Artillery on the peace establishment is: 320 officers, 6364 non-commissioned officers and men, and 96 horses. 4. Coast Artillery, and Artillery and veteran companies. There are also two instruction batteries, and a school battalion for training Artillery non-commissioned officers. The total peace strength of the Artillery corps is: 1168 officers, 20,954 non-commissioned officers and men, and 6736 horses. It can be augmented from the Militia in the event of war.

The Engineer Corps is composed as follows:—1. The Engineer staff, including the members of the standing committee, the territorial and local engineer office, &c. 2. Two regiments of Engineers, each consisting of 4 pontooners, 16 sappers, and 3 Train Companies, and the depot. Formerly the pontooners were a part of the Artillery. The total strength of the Engineer regiments and staff, on the peace establishment, is 482 officers, 4906 non-commissioned officers and men, and 336 horses.

The troops of the Line comprise Infantry and Cavalry. These two arms have also standing committees for the consideration of technical questions pertaining thereto. A general of division being the president, and four other general officers members.

The Infantry comprises:—1. Ten regiments of Bersaglieri (Riflemen), each of 4 battalions and 1 depot. 2. Eighty regiments of infantry, each of 3 battalions and 1 depot. 3. Sixty-two district commands, answering, it would seem, to our out-pension districts, except that they provide for the organization of reserve men, not pensioners, and comprising 176 sub-districts, and 24 Alpine companies. 4. Staff of garrison and fortified places. The total strength of the infantry on the peace-footing is 6458 officers and 113,700 non-commissioned officers and men. The full war strength of a regiment of Bersaglieri is 100 officers, 3270 non-commissioned officers and men, 30 draught and 15 saddle horses; and of a regiment of infantry, 76 officers, 2187 non-commissioned officers and men, 21 draught and 12 saddle-horses.

The Cavalry consists of:—1. Twenty cavalry regiments of 6 squadrons each, and a depot. 2. Two remount depots. Each squadron of a cavalry regiment numbers 120 horses in peace and war alike. Each cavalry regiment maintains, in addition to the above establishment, a half squadron of picked troopers, to serve as staff guides. The full war strength of the cavalry is: 930 officer, 26,600 non-commissioned officers and men, and 16,840 horses.

The corps of Carabinieri or Gendarmerie is localised in 11 territorial and 1 instruction legions. It numbers 466 officers, 261 clerks, 19,725 non-commissioned officers and men, and 3154 horses.

The Sanitary Corps numbers 609 medical officers, of whom one ranks as a general and fourteen as field officers, and 16 sanitary companies.

The Commissariat Corps numbers 290 officers, eight holding field officer's rank.

The Veterinary Corps has 108 veterinary surgeons, including one veterinary field officer.

In addition to the above there are:—A corps of Invalids; a body of military apothecaries, military artificers, the officials in the Judge Advocate's, the Topographical and other military departments, &c.

The educational establishments include:—1. A practical school of artillery and engineering. 2. A military school for infantry and cavalry officers. 3. A military academy for Artillery and engineer officers. 4. Military colleges for preparing youths for the military academy. 5. The infantry normal school (musketry). 6. The cavalry normal school (equitation, &c.). Also, three instruction battalions of infantry, of four to six companies each; three instruction squadrons; three instruction batteries; for training non-commissioned officers for the three arms.

The army establishment also includes some disciplinary companies for provost purposes. The army reserve of officers is modelled on the German system.

Turning now to the Militia Mobile, we find that it consists of 960 companies of Militia Infantry, 60 companies Militia Bersaglieri, 60 companies Militia Artillery, and 10 companies of Militia Engineers. In war time, four companies of Militia Artillery would be attached to each regiment of Field Artillery in the Regular Army, and five companies of Militia Artillery to each garrison Artillery regiment. In like manner, the Militia Engineer Companies would be attached to the Regular Engineer regiments.

The Infantry Militia could be regimented and brigaded, either by itself or in combination with the regular troops. The Militia officers are appointed by the King. The Militia staff is composed of officers of the Regular Army. The force is armed and clothed by the War Department.

To provide a competent railway staff, officers of the Commissariat Department are attached, in peace time, to the management of the several lines of railway, so as to acquire, practical knowledge of the details of railway administration and traffic management.

In the event of war, the army would be divided into two or three field armies. Each army would consist of two or more army corps. Each army corps would consist of two divisions and a reserve. Each division would consist of two brigades. Each brigade would have 2 regiments of infantry of 3 battalions each, 2 squadrons of cavalry, 3 batteries (1 brigade) of artillery—two light and one heavy battery. The reserve of each army corps would consist of 8 squadrons of cavalry, 1 regiment of Bersaglieri of 4 battalions, 2 to 4 battalions of artillery, 2 camps of Engineers, and bridge equipage for 160 yards of bridge. Attached to the staff of each division would be a strong force of horse and foot gendarmes, and also 4 squads of cavalry guides of 24 men each. These guides, as before stated, are supplied by the cavalry regiments, and from them two standing orders, mounted, are assigned to each regimental commanding officer of infantry or Bersaglieri in the division—an excellent arrangement. Each army ammunition park carries 100 rounds per gun and 50 rounds per rifle in the corps. Each division park carries 200 rounds per each gun and 50 rounds per each rifle in the division. Field battalions carry 160 rounds per gun for 7 centimetre guns, and 96 rounds per gun for 12 centimetre guns. There are no battalion ammunition cars. Each man of the infantry and Bersaglieri carries 88 rounds on his person. The ammunition-parks, together with the staff wagon, the ambulance, the field ovens, ration-wagons, &c., are horsed by the companies of artillery train, which, as we have seen, form a part of each field artillery regiment. The Engineer parks, the field telegraph, the pontoon equipage are, in like manner, horsed by the companies of Engineer train.

The armies are numbered 1-3; the divisions, 1-20; the brigades, 1-40. In the field, the cavalry, artillery, and Engineer troops of the several armies are distinguished by the name of the division or brigade with which they are serving, as the cavalry of the Second Division, the artillery of the 25th Brigade and so on.

We shall make no apology to our readers for copying the following article from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* of 14th February, on a proposed project of a Mr. WIARD for rifling the celebrated Rodman Guns—the best specimens of cast iron smooth-bore Ordnance in the world—and of the experiments connected with which we had occasion to write some time ago.

All artillery problems or experiments are sufficiently important to deserve extended notice.

"The public has lately been treated to wonderful accounts of the 'triumph achieved by the 'Wiard Gun.'" These accounts appeared simultaneously in all the daily papers, with the usual variations common to vendors of quack nostrums, and were republished in a pamphlet, a copy of which is now before us. A correspondent elsewhere in this number exposes some of its fallacies. We will here refer to others.

"When the professional reader examines these reports, he finds that the so-called 'Wiard Gun' is our old reliable 15in. Rodman, the value of which was never doubted except by Mr Wiard, and persons influenced by his pamphlets on the 'Inefficiency of our Heavy Ordnance.'" This gun is rifled by Wiard on a plan which is neither new nor good, firing a special shot in which the part that is good is not new, and the new part not good. Furthermore, Mr. Wiard proposes to alter, on this plan, all our heavy guns, which he estimates at 6,000 in number, at a cost of \$500 per gun, or \$3,000,000 in all. This is emphatically a clever project, when we consider the actual cost should not exceed \$20 per gun; there are in fact machinists not ten miles from this office who would be glad enough to undertake the work at that price. The practice of rifling cast-iron guns, and continuing to fire spherical projectiles from them has in it nothing new, and is indeed the practice in the Navy at this date; every rifle gun having an allowance of spherical projectiles for special occasions.

"Let us examine his claims to originality as the inventor of the first combined rifle and smooth bore gun. From about 1854 numerous persons, prominently Mr. Bashley Britton, in England, have persistently advocated the conversion of the large number of smooth bores then on hand into rifled pieces firing elongated expanding projectiles with such charges as would produce strains and recoil, equivalent to the regulation charge and spherical shot. Mr. Britton says: 'All I intended to do to the guns was to rifle them with a few broad shallow grooves about a sixteenth of an inch deep. My object was not only to utilize the present stock of guns, but also that of the spherical projectile we have.' It is evident that Mr. Britton was on the right track. For the purposes for which he proposed to use the guns, namely, at distances beyond 1,000 or 1,200 yards, where precision at an increased range was required, numerous official trials proved that they were rendered much more effective while their ability to fire common shell, round shot, and grape, were not

diminished. He did not pretend to say that they would be as efficient as guns constructed for the purpose; but that they would serve for all secondary purposes, such as rotating the fire of wooden ships or for bombardments. His reasoning, excellent for the 32-pounder and 8 in. English guns, is not applicable to our 9 and 11 and 15 inch, since these are much lighter and with larger proportional calibres; therefore will not admit of a suitable shell.

In 1855 the French, after some successful experiments with the smaller calibres, commenced the manufacture of the 16 cm. (equivalent to our 100 pounder rifle), of 32 smooth bore calibres. This gun was fitted with two grooves, and for the same reasons given by Mr. Ward to enable it to utilize the old round shot and shell for the same calibre. In 1858 the model was changed; and also the number of grooves to three, for reasons evident to every artilleryman; they still continued to use spherical projectiles. About this time the importance of centring the shot in the bore became manifest, and arrangements were made which while allowing sufficient windage to enable the shot to enter easily, assured the centring.

They used a studded projectile and reasoned as follows: "Lorsque le projectile est rendu au fond de l'anne, il est soutenu en équilibre sur ses trois tenons, puisqu'il s'inscrit places autour du centre de gravité; mais son axe n'étant pas maintenu tout entier sur celui de la pièce, il en résulte au moment de l'explosion de la charge, des battements, des chocs violents, contre les parois de l'anne; on a garni l'arrière du projectile de trois rondelles en zinc appelées plaques isolantes."

These plaques isolantes are the "boutons" of Mr. Ward, and serve exactly the same purpose. It therefore appears that neither the combined rifle and smooth bore guns, nor the plan of centring the shot is original with Mr. Ward. The "gills" of Mr. Ward are entirely his own; but no practical artilleryman, certainly, not one who has fired guns in anger, could ever give his sanction to such a delicate and complicated arrangement.

With respect to the form of the projectile the pamphlet report says, it has the English ogival point—so far so good—but as it weighs no more than the solid spherical shot it may be said to be all point, and besides it very imperfectly fulfils the requirements of a rifle projectile. Moreover, all projectiles having a mechanical fit, (as the one Ward proposes), require a greater nicety of construction and greater windage to allow for the inevitable fouling after continued fire.

We next come to "the triumph achieved" by penetrating 15 inches of 3 in. iron plates without backing, at 60 yards range. Now we have before this called attention to the fallacy of the great point attempted to be made by penetrating 15 inches of iron simply. The fact is, this target was a laminated one, made up of three 5 inch plates; and besides as the appearance of the iron shows, it was of a quality quite unfit for armor. Reference to the English experiments with the 10 inch and other guns against solid plates prove conclusively that the effect of the shot on the target at Nut Island is no criterion whatever by which to gauge the effect of shot on the armored sides of an enemy. Mr. Ward, in fact, set up a target in no way representative of present armor, and fired at it projectiles propelled by a charge of powder (140 pounds) which might be used for a sensational experiment, but which every one knows the gun could not be called upon to stand for a number of consecutive fires.

We do not pretend to see further into a millstone than other people, but we think we readily discover, in the manner of the conduct of Mr. Ward's experiments, and the subsequent exploiting of them, reason enough for suspecting that a scheme for extracting money from the Treasury is all that underlies this singular gunney business. One does not, in fact, need to go further than the \$500 a gun he proposes to charge for his patriotic invention (which is certainly not new, and would do more harm than good), to find the motive of Mr. Ward's solicitude about our great guns.

Many of our correspondents seem to favor the idea of staff college in connection with the Canadian military force. Our own opinion is, that—a staff may be formed sufficient for all purposes out of existing material without college training, but that it may be necessary to create such an institution, if the higher scientific knowledge cannot be obtained without it. Appended are the "Regulations for Staff College Examinations" of the British Army for 1875.

The regulations regarding the examination of officers who may be candidates for admission to the Staff College in February 1875, have been issued by the War Office.

There will be vacancies for twenty officers, of whom three may belong to the Royal Artillery and two to the Royal Engineers, provided they are among the twenty highest on the list. The qualifications requisite for admission are:—

(a) A service of not less than five years, previously to examination, exclusive of leave of absence. (c)

(b) A certificate from his commanding officer, that the candidate is in every respect a thoroughly good regimental officer.

(c) A report on the following questions, to be confidently answered by a board, consisting of the commanding officer and the two next senior officers of the candidate's regiment, (b) viz:—

Is his conduct marked by steadiness and prudence? and is he temperate in his habits?

Is he extravagant in his mode of living? Does he display zeal, activity, intelligence, and discretion, in the performance of his duties? and does he appear to take an interest in his profession?

Report any other characteristic of the officer which render him suited or otherwise for the duties of a staff officer.

Is his disposition such as would enable him to perform those duties with tact and discrimination, and in a manner calculated to ensure their being cheerfully carried out by those to whom orders would be conveyed by him? or, are his manners and temper objectionable, and likely to cause him to disagree with those with whom he might be associated, or brought in contact?

Is he active and energetic in his habits? Is he a good (fair or indifferent) rider, and is he short sighted?

(d) A certificate that the candidate, if not a captain, has passed the examination for a troop or company.

(e) A medical certificate of good health and fitness for the active duties of the staff.

(f) This is not to apply to the usual leave of absence granted to officers.

(g) Officers on half pay whose regiments have been disbanded, are, if possible, to obtain answers to these questions from the three senior officers under whom they have most recently served.

(f) Every candidate before being admitted to the entrance examination, will be attached to the staff of a general officer commanding a brigade or division, who at expiration of this period will report confidentially upon the candidate's general fitness for staff employment, and especially upon his aptitude for business, and for conducting official correspondence. (c)

Every application to study at the Staff College must be made through his commanding officer, whilst the officer is present and serving with his regiment. No application from an officer on leave will be entertained.

Home station officers serving in the United Kingdom who are desirous of entering the Staff College, must, before the 1st of May next, inform their commanding officer, by whom the certificates from (a) to (e) will be prepared and forwarded through the usual channel to the Adjutant General of the Forces. General officers, in transmitting these applications, will record their opinions as to the fitness or otherwise of the applicants for staff work, should they be able to do so from their personal knowledge of them.

If these certificates are satisfactory, orders will be issued for carrying out the test prescribed in paragraph (f).

General officers will report not later than 30th June, upon the candidates then attached to their staff; after which date, the officers, if approved, will receive, from the Director, General of Military Education, the rules to be observed at their examination.

The examination will take place in London on 23rd July next, and following days.

General officers commanding at foreign stations will issue their own local orders, specifying the date up to which applications will be received by them from officers wishing to be examined.

A board of officers will be appointed at the most convenient station of the district by the general officer in command, and will consist of three officers; one of them to be, when practicable, a staff officer, having the rank of field officer, and the other two, if possible, not under the rank of captain. One of these officers will belong to one of the scientific corps, where any such officer can be obtained.

The candidates will write their answer to the question in the presence of the board, and their papers, together with the printed examination questions, will be collected at the hour appointed, and made up into a packet, which will be sealed before being taken from the examination room.

The board will, immediately on the conclusion of the examination, forward the papers of the candidates to the general officer commanding, for transmission to the Director General of Military Education, accompanied by a certificate that the candidates obtained no assistance from books, or help of any kind, in their examination. The board will at the same time, forward the names of the candidates, corresponding with their index numbers in the examination, in a separate envelope, for transmission to the Director General of Military Education.

The following will be the order of the examinations:—

First Day—Military drawing, 3 hours; Hindustani, 3 hours. Second Day—Fortification (obligatory), 1½ hours; ditto (voluntary), 1st paper, 1½ hours; ditto (ditto), 2nd paper, 3 hours. Third Day—Mathematics (obligatory), 1st paper, 3 hours; ditto (ditto), 2nd paper, 3 hours. Fourth Day—Mathematics (voluntary), 1st paper, 3 hours; ditto

(c) See General Order 19 of 1871.

(ditto), 2nd paper 3 hours. Fifth Day—Military history and geography. 1st paper, 3 hours; ditto, 2nd paper, 3 hours. Sixth Day—French, 3 hours; chemistry, 3 hours. Seventh Day—German, 3 hours; geology, 3 hours.

The examination in military history and geography will comprise the following subjects, as stated in G. O. 86 of 1874, viz.:

a. *The campaign of 1813 in the Peninsula.* Candidates will be expected to have a general knowledge of the geography of the country.

b. *The general principles of war.* Text Books: Jomini "L'art de la guerre"; H. H. H. "Operations of War."

There will be, in all cases, an interval of not less than one hour between the two periods of examination on each day.

No communication whatever will be allowed between the candidates at the examination.

General officers commanding at foreign stations will place no restrictions upon officers competing, further than the exigencies of the Service may absolutely require. It will be understood that a rule by which only one officer can be spared from a battalion at a time, for the purpose of studying at the staff college, does not apply to candidates from battalions which have officers now at the college, but whose course of study will terminate in December next.

Officers serving abroad who may be successful candidates, will be allowed passage home, on joining the staff college.

The names and examination numbers of the candidates who are successful in the competition, as well as of those who prove themselves qualified, but for whom there are no vacancies, and the examination numbers alone of candidates who fail, will be published immediately after the reports of the examiners have been received by the Director General of Military Education, with the total number of marks gained by each candidate, and his place on the list.

Candidates are recommended to obtain the reports of past examinations for admission, with copies of the examination papers, published by Messrs. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London.

The late election contest in Great Britain has brought to light some curious facts connected with the manner in which the GLADSTONE administration has managed the affairs of the Empire. The following synopsis of a speech gives the best possible and least exaggerated epitome of the transactions under the late Imperial Government:—

"Sir James Elphinstone, in a second speech, in the Portland Hall, Scitsea last Friday, said:—"A great feature of Mr. Gladstone's administration was Mr. Childers' reform of the navy. Mr. Childers came in for the purpose of creating a navy that was to dominate over the whole navies of Europe, and at the same time to be at half the cost of the present navy. Now, seeing that our ships cost about a quarter of a million a piece, I do not think that was a very possible transaction. The first thing they did to lighten the cost was to dispose of all the surplus stores in the dockyards, and the consequence was they ran the stores down to such a position that when the Channel Fleet came in here, there was no rope, twine, or anything else to fit them out. The whole stores were exhausted, the coal contracts were put into the hands of mercantile people, who supplied a description of coal called 'Baxter's mixture,' of which much the largest propor-

tion went out at the top of the funnel, and the smallest quantity was applied to the steam power of the ship, reducing the steam-power of the ships to such a rate that they could not keep clear of each other. And we are told that, under these circumstances, it might be possible to maintain the sovereignty of the seas! Mr. Gladstone not only did that but he reduced the pay and discharged large sections of public servants who had served the country with the greatest ability and fidelity for very many years. He discharged men from the dockyard in very large numbers, and turned them loose upon the population of this town, for maintenance out of the poor-rate, and it was only when the most energetic appeals were made to him that he at last consented to convey the women to Canada, where they were acknowledged to be the best emigrants landed in that country for a very long time. But why should he export the best of our wealth from this country, which is our mechanical power, to a colony? It was but a very few months afterwards that a pressure arose, and these men had to be replaced by men from private yards, who did not understand the work of the public yards, because I submit to this meeting that the operations in connection with building a private ship are totally and entirely different from those for building a man-of-war. They resorted to extraordinary means to keep out of war-arbitration. Arbitration is a very good thing between two gentlemen, or two neighbours, or between private people if you can get a friend in a quiet way to become arbitrator, but in our great national affairs I look upon it as a most mistaken mode of settling the question. As to the *Alabama* question, let it be understood that the Americans had no intention of fighting; it was simply a row in America for the purpose of keeping up their elections. They had no more intention of fighting at that time than I have of fighting anybody here. It was held out by the Government that we were in danger of war, but there was no more danger of war than of a free fight in this room. They went and entered our international law, which I endeavoured to read as a civilian all my life, with regard to seafaring matters. It was sufficiently complicated before, but they have made it more complicated now, and I defy anybody to understand how those five articles stand with regard to international law. They submitted our case to an arbitration of five arbitrators, chosen from countries who were perfectly ignorant of our municipal laws, our national character, and the whole idiosyncrasies of this country. It was submitted to an arbitration which was perfectly certain to decide against us, and which they were perfectly sure would be decided against us by making out a retrospective judgement. It has resulted in this, that we find our country men imprisoned and massacred in different parts of the world without our even calling for redress. There was the crew of the *Deerhound*. I mention the *Deerhound* was pursuing a lawful occupation; she was transporting Mr. Bright's Birmingham muskets to the North of Spain. They were manufactured in Birmingham and going to be discharged at a Spanish port. There was no blockade of any sort, and, according to the old laws, the ship was perfectly entitled to land her cargo. She was taken, and her crew confined in a loathsome Spanish dungeon for two months. There was no man of war on the north coast of Spain, and Lord Granville never asked where they were, or anything about them. What became of those unfortunate fellows shot in St. Santiago de Cuba? They were shot under the most ambiguous state of

international law, and have we called upon the Spanish Government to give redress for the murder? We have done nothing of the kind. The fact is, that under Mr. Gladstone's Government a British subject may be murdered in any part of the world without the slightest redress or notice being taken of it."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS TO THE THRONE.

London, March 19.—In the House of Lords the address, in reply to the speech from the Throne, was moved by the Marquis of Lothian, and seconded by the Earl of Cadogan. An interesting political debate followed. The Duke of Somerset, Liberal, made a sharp attack on Gladstone for listening to, if not encouraging, the parties who favoured the dismemberment of the Empire.

Earl Grey, another Liberal, described the dissolution as an act of political suicide committed during a temporary fit of insanity.

Lord Selbourne, late Lord High Chancellor, came to the defence of Gladstone with a brief but eloquent vindication of his course.

The Earl of Derby, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the course of some non-committal remarks on England's policy abroad, intimated that the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh with the Princess Marie Alexandrovna was a matter of political importance.

In the Commons there was a very full attendance, and the galleries were crowded with spectators.

Mr. Disraeli, on entering the Chamber was received with triumphant cheers by his supporters. When the members had returned from the Chamber of Peers, the Speaker read a letter from Lord Chief Justice Cockburne, informing the House of the circumstances under which one of the members, Mr. Whalley, was adjudged guilty and fined for contempt of Court.

Mr. Anderson gave notice that on the 31st inst. he would call attention to the fact that British subjects had not yet received compensation for their losses in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Washington.

An address in response to the Queen's speech similar to that introduced in the Upper House was moved by Sir William Stirling Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Callender.

Mr. Torrens moved an amendment to the address, declaring Parliament to be conscious of its obligations to special care for India, and assuring Her Majesty of the interest and anxiety with which it will consider measures to alleviate the distress in that country and to prevent its recurrence.

Mr. Gladstone rose and said he would not seek to place any obstacle in the way of the Government in its treatment of India. He deprecated the appointment of a commission to enquire into the relations of employers and employed, and concluded by promising to give the new Government a fair trial.

Mr. Disraeli objected to the amendment moved by Mr. Torrens as inopportune, and it was withdrawn.

The Address was adopted, and the House adjourned.

"CURFEW MUST NOT RING TO-NIGHT!"

CONTROL IN EXTREMIS

England's sun was setting o'er the hills so far
Filled the land with misty beauty at the close
And the last rays kissed the forehead of a man
He with step so slow and weary she with sunny
He with bowed head, sad and thoughtful, she
Struggled to keep back the murmur, "Curfew
must not ring to-night!"

"Sexton" Bessie's white lips fluttered, pointing;
With her walls so tall and gloomy, walls so dark
"I've a lover in that prison, doomed this very
At the ringing of the Curfew, and no earthly help
"Cromwell will not come till sunset," and her
As she spoke in husky whispers—"Curfew must
not ring to-night."

"Bessie," calmly spoke the sexton—every word
Like a thousand gleaming arrows—like a deadly
"Long, long years ago rang the Curfew from
Every evening just at sunset, it has tolled the
I have done my duty ever, tried to do it just
Now I am old I will not miss it, girl, the Curfew
rings to-night!"

Wild her eyes and pale her features, stern
And within her heart's deep centre, Bessie made
She had listened while the judges read, without
"At the ringing of the Curfew—Basil's life
And her breath came fast and faster, and her
One low murmur, scarcely spoken—"Curfew
must not ring to-night!"

She with light step bounded forward, sprang
Left the old man coming slowly, paths he'd
Not one moment paused the maiden, but with
Staggering up the gloomy tower, where the bell
Then she climbed the slimy ladder, dark, with
Upward still, her pale lips saying "Curfew
shall not ring to-night."

She had reached the topmost ladder, o'er her
And the awful gloom beneath her, like the path-
See, the ponderous tongue is swinging, 'tis the
And the slight less chilled her bosom, stopped
Shall she let it ring? No, never! her eyes flash
And she spruces and gasps. It hardly—"Curfew
shall not ring to-night."

Out she swung, for out, the city seemed a tiny
There, twice heaven and earth suspended as
And the half-deaf sexton on long years he had
And he thought the twilight Curfew rang young
Still the maiden clinging firmly, cheek and brow
Still her frightened hearts wild beating—
"Curfew shall not ring to-night!"

It was o'er the bell ceased swaying, and the
Firmly on the damp old ladder where for hun-
Hum in foot had not been planned, and what
Should he told long ages after—as the rays of
Light the sky with mellow beauty, aged sires
Tell the children why the Curfew did not ring
that one sad night.

O'er the distant hill came Cromwell; Bessie saw
Lately with shuddering horror, flows with
At his feet told her story, showed her hands all
And her sweet young face so haggard, with a
Touched his heart with sudden pity—his
"Go, your lover lives," cried Cromwell; "Curfew
shall not ring to-night."

The retirement of Sir Henry Storks from the position of Surveyor General of the Ordnance, though eused, we are sorry to hear, by ill health, seems peculiarly opportune at the present time. We have for so long been accustomed to hear of the collapse of the Control system, that it should be a matter for surprise that the system still exists; but at last Control appears to be approaching the climax of its career, and we cannot but believe that the end is now at hand. At no time has the system prospered. From the first it was viewed by those who were best qualified to form an opinion on its merits with suspicion and distrust. Military reformers there were, it is true, who were high in their praises of the "Intendance" which worked so well (in 1868) in the French Army. But, alas, the military history of France, has scattered to the winds the theory of the excellence of the administration of the Supply and Transport services as organized by our neighbours, and our British Control service has nothing to recommend it beyond its own inherent merits. What these are the last six years have shown us. From at no time a firm basis, a structure has arisen which has shown itself more and more rickety at every stage, until now it threatens to topple over altogether, and bury itself in its own ruins. In fact, the changes which were admittedly to be feared in the organization of the new system, have developed to an extent even beyond that which the most prejudiced opposers of Control could have prophesied, and confusion and inefficiency have been the result.

The question of "Control" has been so fully and frequently discussed by ourselves and our contemporaries that to dilate on the faults of the system would now be a work of supererogation. The faults of the system have been too apparent to render their existence any mystery requiring explanation, but the dead lock which has threatened to take place in the administration of the department has caused a War Office Committee to be hurriedly assembled. It would seem that at last the authorities have become alive to the fact that the evil lies at the very root of the system and the committee is invited to suggest what is the easiest and simplest method of getting at it.

It has been found that the Military and Control Departments do not work satisfactorily in accord with each other, and it is to suggest a means of establishing a better understanding between the two Services that the committee has been formed. But to suggest a remedy, is now at this date still no easy matter. The enmity between the military and Control officers has been so carefully nurtured and diligently encouraged, that a reconciliation is now all but impossible, and any patching up can only secure a temporary lull in the storm which will surely sooner or later break out afresh and with renewed violence. It will be remembered that when the Control system was established it was decided that the Control officers should be accountable directly to the Department of the Secretary of State for War. The Supply and Transport services were removed from under the control of the Commander in Chief, to whom they had hitherto rendered allegiance, and they were raised to the high dignity of receiving their orders from, and rendering their reports to the Secretary of State direct, who was, of course, the superior officer of the Commander-in-Chief. High as this privilege was in theory, practically it has turned out to be a drawback, and indeed it is this "privilege"

which has been the ruin of the Control system. To place the Controller side by side with, but not accountable to, the general commanding, was the War Office scheme which has been adopted with such mischievous results. In the first place what could have been more absurd than to relieve the commanding officer of all responsibility with regard to the supplies of his men. No one can do better than he what they wants may be, and upon him should rest the duty of seeing that they are properly supplied. The removal, however, of the Control officer from under the control of the military officer was not only a mistake in placing certain duties in the hands of a War Office employe whose allegiance was not to the same master as the military officer owned, but it was mischievous in either giving power without responsibility to the general in command, or in creating an antagonism from the existence of which the public service must necessarily suffer. If the Controller happened to be a weak officer, he immediately became the tool of the military officer, who, having no personal responsibility in the matter, could induce the Controller to do what, if he were the superior, and responsible for the Controller's actions, he would hesitate to sanction. Or if, on the other hand, the Controller were an officer of character inclined to hold his own, and to do his duty to his civil master in Pall Mall, the military and Control elements were immediately at variance, and discord was the result.

To the honour of the Control Office, let it be said, that discord has been the result. Its officials have honourably striven to justify the trust that was imposed upon them. These duties have been to check the demands and requirements of the military officers, and in fulfilling this ungrateful task, they have created a breach between the combatants and Control officers, which we fear no recommendations of a War Office Committee will bridge over. The Control has bought its independence dearly at the price, indeed, of its very existence, and the time has come when it must either submit to place itself at the orders of the military branch, or become extinct altogether. The want of accord between the two services which has been becoming for some years now more and more noticeable, has latterly resulted in open scandal. The quarrelling and bickering which has been going on for so long, has at length attracted the notice of the public, and the time is at hand, we venture to believe, when the only real remedy which will be efficacious, will be applied. To subjugate the Control to the Commander in Chief, or in other words, to place the Supply and Transport Departments under the Quarter-master General, is the real remedy which must be resorted to, if the organization of the army is to be placed on a practical and satisfactory footing. Divided responsibility has resulted—as divided responsibility generally does, in no responsibility at all—and until the general in command has control over the officers whose duty is to provide the supplies and transport for his troops, the existing confusion will reign supreme.

Sir Henry Storks, though professionally a soldier, has never had any sympathy with the military element. Whether serving the Colonial Office or the War Office, he has always held a *civil* post, and since he has assumed the position of Surveyor General of the Ordnance, and has been made a member of Parliament and of the Government, his proclivities have become more civil than ever. With Sir Henry's retirement, then (much as we regret its cause),

let a new era begin. To be called upon so soon again to settle a new Control question is, at first sight, somewhat awe inspiring to admit; but with all the experience of past years before us—and the experience of failure is the most valuable kind of experience to be had—with a host of excellent officers at our disposal, anxious and ready to render the most zealous assistance in the establishment of a better state of things, and with an honest desire on the part of all concerned to place the Control Service on such a footing that it will be a model to other armies and an ornament to our own, we do not believe that a thorough reconstruction of the Control Department need occupy an undue share of the time and attention of the authorities in Pall Mall.—*Broad Arrow.*

GREAT IRELAND.

Washington, March 9.—A large and distinguished audience assembled at Lincoln Hall to night to hear the interesting and instructive lecture of the Hon. A. M. Waddell of North Carolina in regard to the settlement of this continent before the discovery of Columbus. He had delivered it in several of the Southern cities during the past summer, and was invited by the leading members of the Senate and House of Representatives to repeat it at the capital.

Beginning with an allusion to Vico's system of "historical returns," and giving Goethe's conception of that subject (the circular theory of civilization) in a few sentences, the lecturer said that his investigation of the subject under discussion was prompted by a passage in Humboldt's "Cosmos," which stated, as a fact, that the first voyage of the Icelanders to Greenland in 983 "was followed by voyages to North Carolina." This, he said, excited his curiosity and caused him to read everything bearing on the subject, the result of his conclusions being that Humboldt's statement was not only true, but less than the whole truth, for, in his opinion, the evidence which he was about to offer established the fact that voyages to and settlements on the coast south of Chesapeake Bay were made by a Celtic race before the discovery of Greenland by Eric the Red.

He then briefly recounted the several voyages of the Northmen to the northern part of America, beginning with Lief's voyage in the year 1000, to Vineland or New England, giving the evidences on which their real occurrence is based, including the finding of the Runic stone on one of the islands in Baffin's Bay, which attracted so much attention among the learned when Rifa's great work, "Antiquitates Americanae," was published in 1837.

Leaving then the discoveries on the northern coast he began the discussion of his main subject, which was to prove that the country lying between Virginia and Florida was, before A. D. 1000, settled by Christians, was designated Hvitrarnaland, or the Land of the White Men, and was expressly called Island it Mikla, or Great Ireland. To fortify his position he gave a rapid sketch of the wonderful literature of Iceland, distinguishing the principle Sagas which treated of these maritime expeditions, and vindicating their authenticity, particularly the "Landnamabok" and the "Eyrbyggja Saga," the latter of which contains the romantic story of Bjorn, the champion of Breidavik, who was discovered in this country of Great Ireland thirty years after his disappearance from Iceland, by Godhef Gudlangson, who visited the country in 1023. Many other

evidences of a like kind were produced. He then, in allusion to the old story of Prince Madoc's voyages to this continent, recited some remarkable facts going to show that the country was inhabited by a Celtic race at a very early period, and gave a very interesting account of the early civilization of the Irish race, about whom, he said, there seemed to be wonderful misapprehension even among enlightened people. Following this up with an account of the rise and fall of free government both in Iceland and Greenland, he came to discuss Columbus's voyages. So far from making any attempt to rob the latter of his glory he gave him full credit for his "discovery" and mentioned one or two curious and interesting anecdotes connected with it.

In reply to the very natural question of what became of those early settlers, he observed that his inability to answer it furnished no argument against the fact that the Irish did make voyages to this country. The same question, he said, might, with equal propriety, be asked in regard to whole races who have existed on each of the four continents; for instance, the "Mounted Builders" on this continent, whose monuments by thousands are still visible in many of the States. Analogous cases of still later date are not wanting. As an illustration, White's colony of 119 persons, 17 of whom were women, were certainly left in North Carolina in 1587. That is a fact which nobody would deny; but they were never heard of afterwards, and, although it is reasonable to suppose they were killed by Indians, still nobody knows such to be the fact. We only know they were there and disappeared, and that is what we know, and all we know, about the early Irish voyagers. As yet it is impossible to tell, with any degree of certainty, what became of them; it must remain a matter of speculation. But there is an equally difficult question involved in the discussion, which these doubters entirely overlook, and which is now respectfully submitted to them, viz: Where did the children with fair complexion, blue eyes, and auburn hair, found about Roanoke Island, in the year 1584, come from? The fact that they were there cannot be denied. It is as well established as any other fact of history. Of course they were not full blooded aborigines, but must have descended from a Caucasian on one side; but there is no other record of a visit by Europeans to that part of the coast before 1584, except that concerning the Scandinavians from the Orkney Islands and Iceland, who did not attempt a settlement; and these Scandinavian themselves testify to a still earlier Irish emigration.

He continued with many other evidences, and quoted Baron Humboldt's protest against "the rejecting spirit" in regard to such things. He then discussed the remains of various sorts not of Indian origin which have been found in this country, particularly the iron implements; but before going into that he called attention to the discovery of the Phœnician stone in Brazil last year, giving an account of an expedition to that country five hundred years before the Christian era.

Among the strange things discovered on the Carolina coast he mentioned that of a large skeleton of a man which was found near Wilmington many years ago, around the waist of which was a copper girdle bearing an unknown inscription. It was just such an one as meets the description of a Scandinavian warrior. The evidences of mining in an early age which have been found in western North Carolina were also discussed. The lecturer closed with a recapitulation of all the points in the testimony,

which, when grouped together, appeared very formidable.

The foregoing is a very brief synopsis of the facts contained in this novel and interesting discourse, which was listened to attentively by a large and highly cultivated audience.—*N. Y. Sun.*

DYNAMITE CARTRIDGES.

The *Vedette Austrian Journal* gives the following results of experiments carried out at Breitenzee, Austria, June 26th, 1873:—Dynamite cartridges, 2 lbs, in weight, were used for these experiments, being the same as those supplied to the cavalry pioneers. The tin cylindrical boxes containing the dynamite were of two kinds, one having a circular section with a diameter of 3.5 inches, the others having an elliptical section. The latter, owing to their flat shape, are more easily carried. The exact object of the experiments was to institute a comparison between their destructive effect, and that of the cartridges with a circular section. The railroad which was experimented on had been constructed with much care by engineer soldiers, the material employed, rails and slippers, was, moreover, of the very best quality.

First, a box having a circular section was placed against each of the rails of the road, at the point where two join, and each was ignited separately. In both cases the fishplates and slippers were completely torn apart, the rails were raised up and bent upwards from the middle, the total displacement being from nine to twelve inches, and they were cracked in various places. Two of the railway engineers declared that the road was sufficiently injured to throw a train off the line.

Two cartridges having an elliptical section were then tried. The first had the longer axis vertical, the second had the shorter axis vertical. In both cases, but more especially in the second one, the effect produced was very superior to that which had been obtained with the boxes having a circular section. The fishplates and a part of the flange of the rails right up to the end bolts were thrown to some distance. The experiment was renewed by placing an elliptical cartridge in such a way that the larger axis of the ellipse made an angle of forty five degrees with the rail. The result was still more surprising. The extremities of two adjoining rails as well as the fishplates which united them, were in some manner reduced to powder. Some large pieces were thrown fifty yards, others, smaller, as for instance the heads of the bolts, fell 200 paces off. Consequently, it is advisable to keep some distance off, when experiments of this kind are being made. A new attempt was then made with two cartridges placed towards the centre of the rails. The first had its generating points placed perpendicularly to the direction of the railroad; the second was, on the contrary, placed parallel to the rail. The first made a round hole in the rail, and lifted the flange, and it produced relatively but little effect. The second completely broke a piece of the rail off the same length as its own. Finally, a cartridge was placed upon a slipper 3 feet from the rail, and parallel to it. Experiments made in France had, it had been said, led to the preference being given to a similar way of placing the cartridge, but the officers present were considerably surprised at this statement. The result put an end to all doubts on the subject; for at the termination of the explosion the rail remained perfectly intact; the slipper alone was broken

en. The Beckford fuse, and the time fuse, made by the Artillery, were used to ignite the cartridges. The Beckford fuse invariably gave excellent results. As to the time fuse, it acted as usual in a very irregular manner. Thus, of two of these fuses, which ought to burn for a minute, the first one burnt for a minute and thirty seconds, the second for one minute, fifty seconds before producing an explosion. It may, however, be observed that these fuses had been made two years, which may partly account for their irregularity. It is most important that in the field simple and certain means of ignition should be employed; the engineers should consequently invariably make use of the Beckford fuse instead of the time fuse.

THE ASHANTEE WAR

The danger to which men are exposed who take part in the war on the Gold Coast, may be gathered from the following instructions and advice which has been issued by Sir Garnet Wolseley for the guidance of the soldiers and sailors who are about to take part in the attack on Coomassie. Besides giving the men good advice relative to their health, he describes, for their guidance, the mode of fighting the most applicable in dealing with the Ashantees.

On this subject Sir Garnet says:—"The climate is much better and more pleasant in the interior than on the seashore, and if ordinary precautions are taken there is no reason why any of the troops should suffer in health during the few weeks that they have to remain in the country. The officers must see that tea or chocolate with a little biscuit is provided for their men every morning before marching, and quinine will be served out by the medical officers. During the heat of the day, or when marching late in the morning, commanding officers may, at their discretion allow the patrol jackets to be taken off and carried by the men. These can be easily carried slung behind under the waist-belt. Immediately that the march is over, or if any long halt takes place, these jackets must be put on, for a chill when the body is heated is, above all things, to be avoided.

Never allow the body to suffer a chill, and there will not be much chance of your ever being sick. Never expose the head uncovered to the sun, and when halting or on sentry get into the shade if possible. When camping for the night do your best to construct a raised sleeping place, even a few inches off the ground.

In reference to the mode of fighting, the General states:—"The theatre of operations will be a great forest of gigantic trees, in an undergrowth of bush varying in thickness. At some places men can get through the bush in skirmishing order; at others they will have to use the sword bayonet to open paths for themselves. All the fighting will be in skirmishing order, the files being two, three, or four paces apart, according to circumstances. Every company will, therefore, be at once divided into four sections, and each section will be placed under the command of an officer or non-commissioned officer. These sections, once told off, are not, on any account, to be broken up during the war, nor are the commanders to be changed except under extraordinary circumstances, and then only by order of the officer commanding the battalion. All details of duty will be performed by sections, or, when only small guards or pickets are required, by half section. In action, as a general rule, the three sections only of each company will be extended, and the fourth will form a support

in rear of the centre of the company's skirmishing line, and at from 40 to 80 yards from it. Care must be taken that the support never loses sight of its own skirmishers and that it conforms to their movements, but its commanders must never allow it to become mixed up with the skirmishers, unless it is ordered forward by the officer commanding the company. The captain will always be with the skirmishing line, exercising a general control over it, and as the enemy only fight in loose skirmishing order it will seldom be necessary to bring forward the support into the skirmishing line. The Ashantees always employ the same tactics. Being superior in numbers they encircle the enemy's flanks by long thin lines of skirmishers, hoping thereby to demoralize their opponents. The men engaged in our front line should not concern themselves about these flank attacks. They must have the same confidence in their general that he has in them, and depend upon him to take the necessary measures for meeting all such attacks either in flank or rear.

"In action the two companies forming each file must always keep together, and the officers and non-commissioned officers commanding sections will use their utmost endeavours to keep their sections from mixing up with those on their right and left. If during the advance into the bush, fire is unexpectedly opened by the enemy concealed behind cover, the men will immediately drop on their knees behind trees or any cover that may be at hand, pausing well before delivering their fire, and taking care to fire low at the spots from which the enemy were seen to fire. All firing against a concealed enemy should be slow, and officers and non-commissioned officers in command of sections must spare no efforts to prevent the men from wasting their ammunition. It must be explained to the men that, owing to the difficulties of transport, the supply of ammunition beyond the Prah will be very limited and that every shot fired which is not deliberately aimed not only encourages the enemy, who would soon learn to despise a fire that did them no injury, but seriously affects the efficiency of the force, for if ammunition were to run short a stop would be put to our further advance. The advance will be made along narrow paths, where the men can only march in file, and sometimes only in single file. When an action commences, the troops on the centre path will deploy to the front in skirmishing order, either to the right or left of the path, as ordered, upon the leading file. The rear section of each company will always form the support, and officers commanding companies will be careful to lead these deployments, so that their front may always be as nearly as possible at right angles to the path they had been marching upon. Whenever the advance and double is sounded, it is to be understood to order a general advance of the whole front line upon the enemy. The men will then advance, clearing at a fast walk, making short rushes whenever the nature of the ground will allow of their being made. All such advances will be preceded by a heavy fire of guns and rockets. On reaching a clearing, in the course of an action, or when the enemy is in the immediate neighbourhood, the troops will not cross over the open space until the clearing has been turned, and the bush on both sides of it has been occupied. When once a position has been gained, it is to be held resolutely. All plundering and unnecessary destruction of property are to be strictly repressed. Officers are held

responsible that when a village or camp is occupied their men are kept together, and prevented from dispersing to seek plunder.

It must never be forgotten by our soldiers that Providence has implanted in the heart of every native of Africa a superstitious awe and dread of the white man, that prevents the negro from daring to meet us face to face in the combat. A steady advance or a charge, made with a determination, always means the retreat of the enemy. Although when at a distance, and even when under a heavy fire, the Ashantees seem brave enough, from their practice of yelling and singing and beating drums in order to frighten the enemies of their own colour with whom they are accustomed to make war, they will not stand against the advance of the white man, English soldiers and sailors are accustomed to fight against immense odds in all parts of the world. It is scarcely necessary to remind them that when, in our battles beyond the Prah, they will find themselves surrounded on all sides by hordes of howling enemies, they must rely upon their own British courage and discipline, and upon the courage of their comrades. Soldiers and sailors remember that the black man holds you in superstitious awe. Be cool, fire low, and charge home; and the more numerous your enemy, the greater will be the loss inflicted upon him, and the greater your honor in defeating him."

ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The Council of this body met in Toronto on the 17th. Mr. John Gordon, of Toronto, was appointed President, in place of Lt Colonel C. S. Gzowski, resigned. The ex-President signified his intention of this year giving his annual subscription of \$100 to the Association, accompanied by a silver cup as a prize to be called "Lieut. Colonel Gzowski, ex-President's prize," and to be competed for on terms and in a manner to be determined by the Council, with the condition that it shall remain permanently the property of the Association. The Council decided to again vote the bonus of \$20 to affiliating Associations for 1874, together with a special badge; on condition that the winner of the badge should present himself at the Ontario Rifle Association matches for 1875, to compete in a match provided for the purpose as a means of insuring a full representation from affiliating Associations, and to aid in the selection of marksmen from Ontario at future Dominion and Wimbledon competitions. A balance of \$512 remains in the hands of the Treasurer after paying expenses.—*Belleville Intelligence.*

WE understand it is the intention of the Governor General's Foot Guards to give a Vocal and instrumental concert in aid of the Reading Room and Library Fund, on the 24th inst. The concert will be under the patronage of their Excellencies Lord and Lady Dufferin.

A complimentary banquet was given at the Albion Hotel to the Masonic brethren of Ogdenburgh, by their brothers of the Mystic Tie, belonging to the Baiter's and Eddy Lodges of the city of Ottawa and Hull.

WE are glad to see that justice has been done to the Ottawa Valley in the elevation of the Hon. H. W. Scott to the Senate.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We are obliged to lay over, till next issue the communication of "Canadian" and other correspondence.