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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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THE AUTUMNAL MANŒUVRES OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—NO. IV.

(From the Broad Arrow.)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH.

The supposed defeat of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions on Saturday has proved a temporary check, and to day the invading force is triumphant. The position of the 1st Division on Saturday night was with its front facing in a half circle, Frimley, Pirbright, and Woking. It was in this order the troops retreated and the enemy advanced, but the 1st Brigade received orders to pitch its camp on the northern slope of the ridge towards Bagshot, while the 2nd Brigade took up its position on the southern slope towards Pirbright. The enemy's right flank was supposed to stand behind Pirbright, while his left vanished into space somewhere in the direction of Sandhurst. The outpost duty from Sunday to Monday morning was given to the 4th, part of the 50th, and the Fusiliers, and they were extended for nearly two miles across the ridges. Not long after day-break, between five and six, the report came from the left wing of the outposts that the enemy was making up, and that skirmishers were advancing. This was almost immediately followed by another report that the enemy's artillery were coming to the front, and that the outposts were being driven in and were falling back upon their supports. Before the 2nd Brigade had sufficient time to strike camp, and hurry its baggage to the rear, the enemy's artillery were already down upon them, and would have played sad havoc with the greater part of it. The fiery steeds of the sundry furniture vans being neither accustomed as yet to such very early work, nor to such very rough ground, resolutely refused to do their duty, and it required the united efforts of all the Control Department, a certain number of artillery horses, and the police, to make the obstreperous animals "move on." In the meanwhile the Edmonton Rifles had advanced towards Pirbright, to check the enemy's advance, while the A Battery was posted on the top of the ridge, in the extensive turnip field, of which we shall hear again of by-and-by. It seemed, however, that it was the intention of the other side to commence operations by reconnoitring, for the attack was for the moment followed up, and the brigade was not therefore deployed, but kept as much as possible under cover of the Ridge. A second movement had in the meantime been made by the Volunteer Brigade, composed of the Sompersets and a scratch battalion from the South-Eastern counties, who had come up on Saturday

afternoon, and had camped with the troops the two previous nights. They marched across the ridge supported by the G battery, and descended into the plain, where the enemy's cavalry were massing in great numbers. The skirmishers were thrown out very wide, the artillery fired ten rounds with marvellous precision, and so well did the Volunteers do their business, that the cavalry were utterly routed, and retreated in great haste across the plain. At the same time the Household Cavalry supported them on the right, and a movement was made on the enemy's left, towards Lamley, with the intention of blowing up the railway and other bridges, and so preventing the enemy's two brigades from joining—a plan in which they were partly successful. The Volunteers alone, however were too weak to effect their purpose altogether, and withdrew once more across the ridges to the vicinity of the afore-mentioned turnip-field, where they were commanded to lie down.

Shortly after eight the fight commenced in real earnest by a vigorous cannonading of the enemy, who had placed his artillery in the forked junction of the two lines, near Pirbright, while the whole of his force had managed to occupy the railway itself, and was directing a very sharp fire upon our regiments. About this time the position of the 1st Division was as follows:—The Edmontons, supported on their left by the 1st Rifles, were parallel to the railway; behind these, drawn up in two lines, the rest of the 2nd Brigade. The whole extent of this country was flanked on their right by the turnip field, which surrounded by a hedge, may be said to have formed the tail end of Chobham ridges. Here stood the A Battery and immediately behind it, drawn up in beautiful array, the 1st Regiment of Life Guards. Behind these again, more towards Bagshot, reclined the Volunteer Brigade with their battery. Further on still, on the summit of Crawley Hill, was posted the heavy 16th Battery, supported by the 1st Grenadiers; while the rest of the Brigade had been drawn off to operate either on the right or left flank.

The infantry fire, after having been for some time on the move, suddenly became very violent shortly after eight, as the enemy showed signs of advancing. As the latter left the cover of the railway embankment, however, he became so exposed to the fire of the defenders that the lines wavered, and the 42nd were ordered to advance upon them. This manœuvre was carried out with beautiful precision, the red and black lines flying across the heather, closing up or extending in excellent order. Before they had fired two rounds, however, the Rifles, who

had skirmished out before them, fell back, the enemy having received reinforcements, and pushing on with greater determination than ever. The retreat was sounded. There was no help for it. Slowly and in good order, but ever back, and still further back they went. The movement in itself was indeed pretty to watch. At first there was the line of Rifles and 42nd. Behind them came the 4th and 33rd, at a distance of about 100 yards lying down; behind these, again, at the same distance, the 50th and 1st Middlesex. As the order to retire was given, the first line drew back at a running pace, turning round every ten paces to fire at the enemy, who was now advancing immediately behind them at the double. As they came to the second line, these rose on one knee and poured volley after volley into the advancing enemy, and brought him for a moment to a standstill. But the moment the body of the opposing force had come up there was another advance, the second line fell back as the first line had done, and the third now rose up and let off its volleys in the same fashion, until the whole field seemed to be alive with flashes and smoke.

The retreating force had now come to the middle of the hedge lining the turnip-field, and the Horse Guards were just preparing to dash out into the open and charge the advancing foe, when lo!—what is this vicious sputtering from the other side of the hedge, and what is the meaning of this cheer? The whole glittering regiment standing there so brightly in the sun could surely not be attacked in flank without a man knowing of it or a man to protect them. Yet so it was! As the hedge became lined with rifles and the cloudlets spurt out of it, the Colonel becomes faintly aware in what position he finds himself. He looked as though he would have liked to charge the hedge, but both this movement and advancing towards the enemy with this fire in rear would have been madness. Swords were drawn, and without firing a single shot or drawing one drop of blood, that splendid regiment turned tail upon the foe, under a most destructive fire hopelessly outflanked, while the infantry, whom they were intended to protect, were thrown into such utter confusion by this dexterous movement that it forgot altogether to cover its flanks, or even to look towards them, and retreated pell mell behind the guns that had been posted on the summit of the knoll. This movement seems to have decided the day, for there was no stand after this. In less time than it has taken to describe the incident, the enemy's guns were on the opposite ridge, and all along the horizon bodies of infantry could be

seen approaching, while in the immediate front the skirmishers pushed so hard that it was at times almost a question whether there would not be a sort of Sedan. On the north side of the knoll there was a momentary pause, while the artillery were at work; but presently the limber-up was sounded, and away went the guns tearing along at the top of their speed. The Grenadiers, the Rifles, and the 4th were now extending in a line facing the ridge towards Sandhurst, from whence the enemy were seen advancing. Perhaps they had forgotten that their original attack came from their left—Pirbright—which was now entirely exposed; what is certain, that all their attention and all their fire was directed to the enemy in front (which had been changed and was now parallel with the ridge), when their former enemies—those of the turnip-field—came upon them by stealth, creeping through the furze and just showing themselves above the hill until there were enough of them. Then advanced the Colonel with a shout of "at them boys, take them in flank!" and the black line advanced at lightning speed, while the bewildered 4th stared round, and exclaimed, "Where the— did they come from; which way are we to turn?" On they came, and had the movement not been counteracted in another minute the whole regiment must have been taken prisoners; as it was half of them had to run for dear life to change front towards the new enemy, and thus they had to withdraw running backwards through the uneven ground. From all sides the invading force now came in upon the defenders, every hedge and roadside was lined with men who kept up a sharp fire while the others retreated, and at half-past eleven the magnificent position of the Chobham Ridges was left in possession of the enemy.

The prettiest sight, however, was yet to come. It was thought at one time that a second stand would be made on the heights known as West End, Chobham, for the cavalry brigade was drawn up here, the 1st Rifles lined the slope, and the A Battery drew up. The enemy had not pursued, and was not therefore in sight; but at about half-past twelve there was a flash of cannon on the opposite ridges, and the cavalry received orders to withdraw. Massed as they were on that height, one shell would have done the work of ten. They had scarcely withdrawn by two different roads, when there was a cloud of dust in the plain, and the bright pennions of the Lancers were seen fluttering in the wind. At this sight the 1st Horse Guards were ordered to advance, but they were no match in speed for the Lancers. Half the regiment was able to meet them at the foot of the hill, and arriving at a gallop drew up within twenty yards of each other; the 9th Lancers massed together, and supported at the rear by the 2nd Guards. Against this the defenders made but a poor show, and the umpires rode down and ordered the 1st, who had by this time received support from the Blues, to retire. And well they might; for as they retired by sections the hill became crowded with the 12th Lancers, flanked by a battery of Horse Artillery, and the most fastidious judge could not deny that the foe had executed his movements to perfection, and fairly won the day.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH.

To-day the crowning battle of the campaign took place. According to the "general sketch" of the manoeuvres for yesterday (Monday), the 2nd and 3rd Divisions had for their object to reach the valley of the Thames, and the area of operations was re-

stricted on the north by the London and Southampton road, and to the east by the Brookwood Station, London and South-Western Railway. On Monday evening the positions of the contending forces were as follows:—Sir Hope Grant, after fighting in retreat the whole morning, had so impressed the enemy that he had been allowed during the afternoon to fall back without further molestation on Chobham Common, where he had commenced the formation of an entrenched camp. Batteries and redoubts had been thrown up on the most advantageous spots, and these had been further strengthened by shelter trenches, either connecting or running in front of the more important works. Emplacement for guns had been also made, and in front of the right a few rifle-pits had been excavated; but the batteries and redoubts were of weak profile, and most of them were unfinished. Additional lines of parapet and shelter trenches had been traced out, but time had been wanting to carry out the scheme in its entirety. Sir Hope Grant, aware that in this condition the fortification he had commenced could offer but a slight resistance to a determined enemy, sent out a working party of 1200 men very early this morning, and the Sappers were at work up to the very moment when the enemy came in sight. The right wing of the invaders, under Sir Charles Staveley, encamped last night on Hog Thorn Moor and the moorland to its left, while General Carey's camp was established in Bishmoor bottom, at the back of the Staff College. At about 7.45 yesterday morning both divisions marched towards Chobham Common, leaving their camps standing. Carey's line of march was by the Bagshot Park, on to the Sunningdale road, while Staveley marched to Windlesham. On approaching the position occupied by Grant between nine and ten yesterday morning, it was found that he had pushed forward his first line of skirmishers to within a short distance of the wood which separates the moor from Windlesham, supporting it with detachments of infantry of from one to three companies, who were concealed by the numerous hills from the view of the enemy. One battery occupied Fox Hill, and a second another hill overlooking the Sunningdale road. In rear near, and in the entrenched camp, were drawn up the rest of the army. The force would have been, but for the entrenchments, rather too weak to occupy the position properly. In order to be prepared for every eventuality, Sir Hope Grant had struck his camp early in the morning, and sent off all his baggage some miles on the Staines road. Pickets of infantry and cavalry watched the approaches by the Sunningdale Station, while the Blues and 3rd Dragoon Guards patrolled the Windlesham road on the other flank. About a quarter to ten the two regiments of Life Guards advanced to the right front, but no other movement indicated that the enemy were at hand. In deed, from the fact that Staveley's tents could be seen still standing, some inferred that some hours of day were to be anticipated. As we have already said, however, Staveley and Carey had both left their camps standing. Whether they did so with a view to deceive Grant or not, the ruse was not without its effect on the mass of Grant's troops. They were rudely awakened from their delusion, for a few minutes before ten a battery concealed in the fir wood to the west of the common opened fire, and a sputter of musketry quickly followed. The defenders were not slow to reply, and soon the artillery and skirmishers on both sides began to carry on a brisk combat. The defenders had the advantage of being sheltered by

a long turf bank, which ran half way across their front, while the enemy's skirmishers when they pushed out from the wood into the open were but partially covered by the swell of the ground. The light remained therefore in this quarter stationary for some little time. A little after ten clouds of dust were seen to arise caused by long lines of troops approaching the railway station. In a few minutes skirmishers began to advance against Grant's right flank, compelling him to execute a partial change of front to meet the threatened danger. Stewing round the guns on the top of the hill in rear of his hill in rear of his right, and extending fresh skirmishers, he opposed a vigorous resistance, but the enemy were not to be denied, and kept continually extending his line beyond the defenders right, which now ran almost perpendicularly to the original front. The skirmishers at the western end of the moor, emboldened by the appearance of their comrades, became bolder, and gradually forced back the line in that quarter. Carey had a short time previously sent troops along the outer skirt of the wood, with a view of turning Grant's left, strongly posted on a high plateau, Staveley's cavalry had also made a reconnaissance along the Windlesham road, and though a volley from two companies of the Guards had sent them flying back, still it was evident that Grant's advanced position was no longer tenable. The whole line, therefore, began to fall back on the entrenchments. The main pressure of the attack being on the right, but the defenders' line in retreating was oblique to the original front. Indeed, but for the fear of being compromised by the defeat of the right, there was no reason why the left should abandon their ground. There were, however, strong reasons for believing that the right would be crushed, and at one time the advanced left was in some danger. The guns on the right had been compelled to retire, and though the battery on Fox Hill and the artillery in the works fired steadily, the enemy owing to the nature of the ground, suffered comparatively little. It may here be remarked that the whole of the first line was composed of the three battalions of Guards, two batteries of artillery, the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, and the 1st and 2nd Life Guards. To check the progress of the enemy on his right Grant now brought up the two regiments of Life Guards and a troop of Horse Artillery to a field marked on the map, "Old Entrenchment," the banks of which were lined on the outside by a strong body of skirmishers from the Guards. Entering the field by two gaps, the Life Guards and artillery drew up in rear of a brow. The artillery fired very little, nor had the Life Guards an opportunity of effecting much. The enemy drew up several battalions, covered by infantry skirmishers, but the 10th Hussars, who happened to be on that part of the field of battle, seeing their old adversaries the Life Guards in front, could not resist the temptation of treating them to a show of bravado. About a score of Baker's dashing horsemen pricked gaily forward in extended order, and passing along the front of the bank lined by the Guards' skirmishers, who were only 400 yards distant from the outermost horsemen, amused themselves by firing their carbines at the Guards. They might just as well have let off soda water bottles at them, and every hussar would inevitably have fallen to their opponents' rifles. Enraged at the temerity of these military mosquitoes, Marshall sent two squadrons over the brow at them, but calmly turning their horses' heads, they galloped leisurely back to their supports ere the horses of the Life Guards had got into their stride. One

could almost imagine that one heard the savage curses of the gigantic troopers echoed back by the derisive laughter of their lighter adversaries. The Life Guards, seeing that they might just as well attempt to ride down ostriches as try and catch their active tormentors, quickly retired back over the brow of the hill, but not before several saddles had been emptied by the fire of the enemy's infantry. Marshall, warned by his mishap of the preceding day, now thought it was time to be off before the enemy should bring artillery to bear on him. He accordingly filed off as quickly as possible, only just reaching the valley below in time. Hope Grant's skirmishers began at this time to fall back, all but one company of rifles, who seeing that the enemy's skirmishers were crossing the field in a very leisurely manner, crept along the outside of the south-eastern bank like Red Indians seeking to surprisè a foe, and reached unperceived a point about 200 yards distant from the opposing skirmishers. Finding then they were discovered they opened a sharp fire, which must have killed every one of their adversaries, who calmly stood up in a field so open that a hare could not obtain cover in it, and responded in kind. They ought either to have quickly retired or to have carried the bank with a rush. On, on, ever on, pushed Carey's men, the enemy fighting stoutly as they went, but steadily yielding ground, though by this time the guns of the entrenched camp thundered steadily over their heads, and were able to afford them assistance: not much though, for Carey also had artillery, which did not fail to reply. Fox Hill was carried with a rush by the skirmishers of the 46th, but here they were brought to a standstill, for the men had exhausted their ammunition, and the regimental reserve situated on the road not far from their rear was somewhat tardy in furnishing a fresh supply. We may here observe that Maxwell's brigade formed the left of Carey's division, and Colonel Smith's the left. The cavalry had mostly crossed the railway, and threatened, but did not execute, several charges against the Life Guards. Meanwhile, Staveley, seeing that Carey was fully occupying the attention of Grant, had pushed forward so as to bear hardly against that General's left. The Staple's Hill battery, however, and the skirmishers of the 4th Regiment, somewhat delayed his progress. The 46th had by this time replenished their pouches, and gradually drove the Rifle Brigade back. Carey's left brigade still gained ground, and bore fiercely against Grant's right, capturing with comparative ease an old half-ruined redoubt which crowned an isolated hill in that part of the field. His cavalry sought to do something worthy of their Royal commander, and made a dash at a cloud of Volunteer skirmishers hoping to capture them; but a body of Guards dashed down the hill, poured in a volley, which sent the intruders flying, and brought back the Volunteers in triumph to the redoubt. Carey then made a regular advance in echelon of Battalions from the left against the works, but was received with such a withering fire that he was obliged to abandon the attempt, and to retire up the opposite slope a short distance. Whilst the battle was thus raging on Grant's right, his left had been completely turned. The 60th creeping along the edge of a wood, drove back the 4th regiment, and several battalions were formed perpendicularly to Grant's line. Other battalions had also passed completely round the left and formed order of battle about Glover's and Gracious Ponds.

The whole of Grant's rear was thus laid bare, and his position seemed desperate. Carey and Staveley may be compared to the

arms of a pair of nutcrackers, and Grant to the nut which is being cracked. The nut was, however, a tough one, not to be broken without difficulty, for though, as we have said, his rear was laid bare, yet the large fortified enclosure in rear of his right bore directly on the valley up which Staveley's right brigade would have to advance, and the other works, being fortified in rear as well as in front, were in no more danger of capture than before. The Duke of Cambridge now considered the troops had done enough—the hour was half past twelve—and sounded the cease firing. The general opinion was that Grant had successfully maintained his position, but, on the other hand, it may be said that the works on which he relied were of such weak profile that they could easily have been destroyed, especially as the fire would have been converging. The artillery once silenced and the in'antry shako, the ditches were so narrow and shallow, that to capture the works by assault would have been no difficult or dangerous undertaking.

Immediately after the close of the action, the three commanders recalled their baggage and repitched their camp in the old position.

The remarks embodied in the following extract from the special correspondent of the *Times*, are too interesting to omit:—

"Last night (Monday) the outposts of the 1st and 3rd Divisions kept close and keen watch. The 1st pushed their pickets and vedettes as far as Chobham, and there were some firing in the early morning. A party of Staveley's sappers sent out yesterday evening to lay down faggots over a wet piece of road never turned up all night, and came into camp in the morning with a history of how they had been surprised by a picket of Grant's Highlanders, had lost their cart and tools, but had themselves escaped to a barn, where they lay all night, *perdu*, and very comfortable. Colonel Hamley, of the Staff College, is with the 3rd Division, in charge of a party of twelve of his officer-students, and four of the Sandhurst military professors. The officers have distinguished themselves both at the Hog's Back, and here as early and active reconnoiterers; they have a great deal of the road-finding, and have been very useful as guides to the columns. This morning Captain Lascelles and Captain Carder eluded the outposts at Gracious Pond got right into the enemy's position on Plutter's Hill, and came back into camp with their sabbatiches full of sketches of the redoubts, and their heads full of information as to the nature of the ground, the extension of Grant's outposts, the exact position of his flanks, &c. They were shot at, and had to gallop across the country for their lives.

"In order to allow the 2nd Division to get well on its way, Staveley kept his troops in camp till between nine and ten o'clock. The weather was most perfect, the somewhat withered beauty of the country rekindling in the tempered sunshine, which did for it what the waxlights of a ball-room do for a woman past her prime, making its faded cheek seem almost young. If a single shower had but laid the dust, there would have been nothing left to wish for. The cavalry and artillery stirred it up along the roads in choking clouds, but one breathed again on the moorland battlefield. Riding alongside the cavalry and artillery, who are leaving to leave a passage clear, the Staff had scarcely gone a mile when the booming of guns began away over the woods to the front. Can Carey already—it is just ten, and he has a good five miles to go—have got so far forward as to be bearing against the enemy's

right, or is it Grant at work pounding the head of Brownrigg's column, which has orders not to engage till it receives the initiative from the left? Opinions differ this way or that; but to make matters sure, a message is sent desiring Brownrigg on no account to compromise himself, as he cannot be supported, and is not strong enough to act alone. Escaping from the hedges and their dust clouds, we climb Pils Down, and get a splendid view of the country. We are among Carey's troops, already well to the front, and here is one of his batteries playing on a massed column of Horse and Foot Guards ranked along the edge of a wood a mile and a half off. Fox Hills and Grant's right batteries are the same distance in front of us, and there could not be a better point from which to study the whole position. The ground is high, and country extending into several counties is spread out round us like a map. An expanse of waste moorland, of wooded and cultivated country, a wide and beautiful landscape, lost at last in haze, but clearly spread out for many miles on every side, delights the eye. These, however, will be here to-morrow and for ever, and our present business is with the long moving line of bright and sombre colour, the processions, diminutive in the distance, of guns and horses, the solid and the glittering array of cavalry—all the pomp and circumstance of this week of mimic war. The skirmishers in front of one of Carey's brigades spread out in long lines over the Downs and advance towards those of the enemy, firing as they go. The artillery are hard at it on each side. The smoke is wafted away over the eastern woods of the enclosed country, and clouds of dust hanging over the roads tell of Brownrigg's columns. A flash of breast plates shows where the enemy's cavalry move northwards to protect the Bagshot road; our guns open on them at a long range, with what effect it would puzzle the umpires to say. The skirmishers push on. Carey's and Stephenson's infantry form their line of battle behind some rising ground a mile or so in front of the Fox Hills redoubts. Our guns fire when they can. The enemy's cavalry move uneasily, looking for something to do and finding nothing—I believe there was a charge, but I did not see it. This line of steel is the Life Guards, but it matters nothing, for to the right they are blocked by the railway-cutting, and in front by Staveley's guns. Brownrigg's 60th Rifles appear at Fellow End, and all along the front the troops of the 2nd Division are coming up, and lie down as they arrive within 1000 yards of the batteries. Staveley now reduces his left attack to an artillery fire, tremendously strengthens his right, pushes forward long lines of men and more skirmishers, drives in the enemy's, and is about to advance his line in a general assault. But the umpires hold that before he can do so he must make more impression on the redoubts with his artillery, for at present no infantry can stand before their fire and live. Presently an attempt is made on the right, but such a belching and bellowing broaks forth from the redoubts, and especially from one in a clump of firs, that the umpires will not let the regiments go. They retire and lie down, and Colonel Donville tries what he can do against the firs with some guns on a knob. Again the infantry are led forward; again fire, not from heaven, rains upon them and rages furiously for some ten minutes, the echoes rolling grandly through the woods. There is a strange contrast of sights and sounds. Soldiers with all the light of battle in their faces, listless idlers and ladies riding between tremendous fires,

(Continued on page .)

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SCARCITY OF OAK TIMBER IN EUROPE.

From the New York Post. Oak timber is disappearing in Europe with great rapidity. France with an annual production of 1,320,000,000 of gallons of wine, is especially injured by the change. In 1857 she imported 26,000,000 of staves, in 1866 she imported 63,000,000 at a cost of \$9,000,000. Most of the timber came from Austria. France requires every year 1,500,000 cubic feet of oak timber for wine casks, 600,000 for her fleet, 150,000 for railway cars, and 750,000 for building purposes. In 1826 oak staves were worth six cents each of our money; in 1866 they were worth fourteen cents each. In 1826 the total value of imported staves was \$4,000,000; to-day the total value was \$30,000,000. A similar increase in the importation of oak for the next thirty years would probably double the present price.

When Caesar marched into Gaul he found two thirds of its surface covered with forests; now the forests cover but one-seventh of its surface. France, after losing Alsace and Lorraine, 135,000,000 of acres, of which 20,000,000 are covered with forests. Of these timber lands, the state, the commune and public institutions own 7,500,000 acres, the remainder belonging to private persons. M. Thiers, in a speech made in the Corps Legislatif last year, said there was danger that timber for building purposes would disappear, and urged that no state forests should be sold.

In Norway the Central Administration of Forests declares that it is necessary to stop the cutting down of timber. Norway, Sweden and England not only furnish pine wood to England and the European countries on the Atlantic, but to Rio and Australia. Their exports of timber have doubled during the last ten years, while the local consumption is five times that of France.

In France, since the time of Colbert in 1669, no oak has been felled until full-grown, that is, until within thirty years of its probable decay. This rule was confirmed by the law of August, 1827. Near the end of the last century the Forest laws were changed, excepting this protection for oaks. Up to that time the production exceeded the consumption; but since then speculation has arisen, and the tall trees have been cut down. In the Commune forests the destruction has been slower, although the valuable trees are disappearing. Oaks of nine feet in circumference abounded in the state forests at the beginning of the present century. Now they are rarely found. The consumption of oak timber in France has doubled during the last fifty years. In 1866 \$50,000,000 worth were consumed, of which \$3,000,000 worth were imported, against \$25,000,000 worth consumed in 1820, of which \$2,000,000 worth were imported.

The same enormous consumption is going on all over Europe. France, with 40,000,000 of inhabitants, still possesses 20,000,000 acres of woodland, while Italy, with 25,000,000 inhabitants, has 1,250,000 acres. England has no heavy timber but her traditional oaks, and her imports are twice as large as those of France. Her distant colonies furnish very little timber, a special restrictive law having been enacted in India, March 1, 1866, to preserve the forests from destruction.

North Germany is rich in forests, but within half a century she has begun to cut down young trees, and is now importing from France. Austria has sold her forests at auction since the introduction of railways. Foreign

speculators have thus cut down to the stumps forests in the Cracow and Slavonian districts formerly inaccessible. This timber is sent by the way of the Sava and Julian Alps to Trieste, to be shipped thence to Western Europe. These woodlands contain but 250,000 acres. The timber is now nearly swept off from them. Five years ago one of these forests of magnificent growth was sold at about \$18 an acre. Spain and Greece are almost absolutely woodless.

In Sicily, Mount Aetna was called "neni-rosa," wooded, by the Romans, because of a belt of two hundred and fifty thousand acres of forest which surrounded it midway to the top. Now there is nothing to be seen but the bare rock.

The condition of the forests of Europe shows the importance of this subject, and the need that exists of giving it careful attention in this country.

The German Government has just issued a decree creating sixty-three forest "administrations" in Alsace and Lorraine, each to superintend fourteen thousand acres of land thus following up with vigor Napoleon's measures for preserving the forests.

ARTILLERY INSPECTION

The first brigade Halifax Garrison Artillery, as fine a body of young men as one can well imagine, under command of Colonel Mitchell, assembled at the Drill Shed last evening, according to notice. The brigade was formed into open column in rear of No. 1 Battery, when the Colonel, accompanied by Capt. Wainwright, Major. Albro, and Adj. Bland, passed along the front and rear of every man, as also those of the Band. After the inspection the Brigade was formed into close column on No. 3 battery, when Colonel Mitchell took the opportunity to address the men. He warmly congratulated them on their neat and soldierlike appearance, thanked them most sincerely for the zeal and attention they had displayed during the past three years, and trusted that every man present would sign the roll for three years more. The gallant Colonel alluded to the subject of camp duty, and said the matter would be brought before the Brigade previous to re-signing. He referred to the interest evinced by the Dominion Government in our militia, and said they only required to be reminded of our wants when they would be promptly attended to. Colonel Mitchell concluded his well-timed remarks by stating that the pay was now in the hands of the respective Commanding officers, but that no man whose drill was incomplete, would receive his money until he had complied with the statute, and an opportunity would be afforded them of doing so during this and next week.

The Colonel's remarks were to the point, and attentively listened to throughout by all present. At the conclusion, the Band of the Brigade under Prof. E. R. James, struck up a lively quickstep, and at intervals during the inspection, played some appropriate airs. The Brigade was then dismissed, and the Dartmouth battery marched to the steamboat wharf, headed by the band, while Capt. Coleman's battery returned to the inner drill room to receive their pay. The remainder of the Brigade will be paid off during the present week. Colonel Mitchell has every reason to be proud of the fine body of men over whom he is placed, and we believe that no more efficient or popular Commanding Officer stands in the Dominion to-day.—Halifax Citizen.

ACQUISITIONS OF ENGLAND IN THE EAST.

The rumoured purchase of the numerous islands on the confines of our Indian possessions in the East by the Imperial Government, from the Dutch, affords another instance of the sagacity of English statesmen. The Islands of Singapore, Malacca and Penang, with a few others of lesser importance, have been in the possession of the East India Company for more than 50 years, and long before the charter of the East India Company was withdrawn, and the Imperial Government assumed direct management of the affairs of the East Indies, these islands were directly under the control of the Imperial authorities. The great island of Java with its capital and chief sea port, Batavia, distant from Singapore about 48 hours by steambot, owned by the Dutch, has for years yielded immense quantities of the staple commodities of trade in that part of the East, such as rice, coffee, sugar, gutta percha, gambier, caoutchouc, and a great quantity of drugs and spices for the European markets; the policy of the Dutch being exclusive, the carrying trade has been conducted solely in Dutch vessels. The Islands now in question are situated between the coast of Java and the Bay of Bora, the Indian Ocean, reaching nearly as far to the south of the Equator as Torres Strait, which separates the coast of Guinea from Australia. Most of these islands produces large quantities of spice and other articles of merchandise, similar to the island of Java, the larger one being inhabited by a mixed Malay and Indo Malay race. Ships bound inwards to China and Singapore from the Indian Ocean always stop at Sunda Strait, but steamers and sailing vessels often bear up to the Bay of Bengal, leaving this group of Islands to the eastward, to reach the Islands of Penang and Singapore, thus obviating the necessity of casting anchor at the Head of Java or Sunda Straights.

The great island of Sumatra, the principal one of this group of islands, appears to be the great object of the English authorities, heretofore like Guinea, it has been a terra incognita to the commercial world; but about 18 years ago a thorough exploration was made of those islands, and the coast's lines thoroughly surveyed by Commander Richards and a staff of competent officers in the surveying schooner Saracen. Geological explorations revealed the fact that gold existed in Sumatra, and what was of more special importance large coal deposits of a superior quality were discovered. Guinea is separated from the coast of Australia by a narrow strait called Torres Strait. A number of islands scattered here and there in this last-named strait have recently received the attention of the Australian authorities, and the Prince of Wales' Island, one of the largest, has been found to possess a soil and climate well adapted for agricultural purposes. At the point of departure from Torres Strait, is Booby Island in the Indian Ocean. This island has for a long time served the double purpose of being selected as a station for shipwrecked sailors, as well as a rendezvous for obtaining supplies, and ships passing through these straits are required to pay attention to any signal that may be visible, and if short of provisions may take any reasonable quantity sufficient to carry them to the nearest port, and should there be any shipwrecked sailors they are supposed to bring them off. From this island the high land of Sumatra is visible on a clear day, and sailing vessels, especially steamers, sail close to its shores. The view from the deck of a vessel is grand beyond

description. The high land and away inland as far as the eye can reach, is covered with a thick foliage of evergreen. Ships can approach near enough for the spectator to see the wild animals which are so plentiful. Monkeys, buffalo, tigers and other beasts of prey. Nearer the equator the rude huts of the Malayan inhabitants are visible, and men and women, almost as primitive in appearance as the animals, throng the shore to look at the ship. Some put off in sampans or boats, to barter the luscious tropical fruits, such as the pine apple, the banana, the mango, coco nut, tobacco, &c., and a hundred other things. The island of Sumatra is situated between latitude 5° 45m. N. and 5° 55 m. S; and longitude 95° 20m., and 106° 5m. East. Its extreme length is 1,000 miles, and breadth about 300 miles. It possesses one of the best harbors in the world named Tapanooly, but has several excellent harbors at various points along the southern west coast. On the opposite coast there are fewer harbours, but some are to be found centrally situated, available for vessels of the largest class. The navigation is, however, very intricate. The possession of these islands by England will give her a position in the East that commands the entire seas. No vessel can penetrate in this direction or by the Bay of Bengal to China Japan, if England wishes to prevent it. Indeed these islands are the key to the arch of the Java and China seas and the Bay of Bengal. It commands the southern coast of Australia, for in 12 hours steamers can pass into Torres Strait, and out again into the Pacific ocean, and in 24 hours anchor in Port Phillip, or make for Morton Bay at the other extremity. The supply of coal is unlimited, and in no part of the world is the article more needed for the supply of vessels of war, or for the mercantile marine in peace.

Seldom has English gold been expended with greater judgment and wisdom,—if we look not only at the immediate benefit to England, but to the great advantages to the poor Malayan inhabitants who are at present little better off than slaves. The Dutch rule with a rigorous despotism, and the native princes exact from the unfortunate people the very bread that nature in her profusion so abundantly supplies in that part of the world.

CANADA FIRST.

There is no more gratifying feature in connection with the union of the British American Provinces, than the hearty, in some cases almost enthusiastic, Canadian spirit which it has evoked. For years the absence of this spirit was a matter of deep regret to the farseeing well wishers of this Country. Its existence, contemporaneously with a feeling of earnest loyalty to the Mother Country, was regarded by many persons as impossible, the larger sentiment in their view, absorbing and destroying the smaller. But recent events have dissipated this illusion. Canada is not a whit less loyal to the Crown than it has ever been, and danger to it would excite the same earnest interest that it has ever done. But there is a growing feeling that duty to this Country, an active working for its development and prosperity, and an unflinching interest in whatever tends to its advancement, is, in the best and truest sense, duty to the Empire. The union of the Provinces in 1867, and the discussions which preceded that union; the important results which, in spite of some adverse influences, have already followed it; the addition since of the enormous territories to the North-west of us, and, later still, the incorporation of the Pacific Provinces of

British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, riveted attention to Canada itself; and a growing conviction is forcing itself upon the public mind that in this Dominion we have the elements of future greatness; and that in the promotion of its prosperity we have a work and a destiny worthy of any people.

Then the very misfortunes, or what appeared as misfortunes, of the last few years, have proved to be, in the highest sense, blessings in disguise. The great civil war which raged for four years in the neighboring republic, roused us to a sense of the national duty of preparation to avert it. The military temper of the country was aroused, and a national spirit was evoked by the international duty thrown upon us of protecting our frontier against those who would make it the base of operations for attacks upon a people with whom we were at peace. Later the same spirit was, in a more emphatic manner, called out by the necessity of protecting our frontier against attacks from a miserable banditti whom that same friendly power had nursed into being. At the same time came the "new policy" of the Empire which necessitated the withdrawal of the Imperial troops, thus awakening us to the fact that hereafter, except in case of actual war, we must rely upon our own resources for the defence of our country. That was a lesson which we were forced to learn at the very moment when it was most important that lessons of self reliance should be impressed upon us. In this way, by a combination of circumstances, some of them gloomy enough in their appearance at the time, have the people of Canada been forced to look upon Canada as their first charge, and upon the development of its interests as their first duty.

This growing Canadian spirit, for the greater diffusion of which the prayers of every well-wisher of the country should be daily uttered, forms the subject of a most interesting address by Mr. W. A. Foster, which is printed as the first of a series of national papers which Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co., of Toronto, propose issuing. The first part of the address consists of a brief resumé of those events in the history of Canada, both before and since its transference to British rule, upon which Canadians may dwell with some degree of pride and self-congratulation. It is amazing how the aggregate Canadian mind has been disposed to forget those periods in our history, which, grouped together, as Mr. Foster, with a master hand, has grouped them, form an epic worthy of any people. The story, too, may be read with profit by others than Canadians. The miserable superciliousness which has too often characterized the rule of the Colonial Office and the utterances of Imperial statesmen and Imperial authors and journals, and the cruel injustice both of the policy and the opinions, are presented with singular force. The object in thus presenting them is to show how little we are indebted to extraneous aid for the progress of the past, and, therefore, how fairly we may ignore extraneous aid in our national work in the future. To the evident aim of some passages of Mr. Foster's address on this point we might, perhaps, take exception; but these may fairly be overlooked in the general reason of self reliance which he so admirably enforces.

This national Canadian spirit is unquestionably the great want—a want fast being supplied, but still a great want—of the Canadian people. "The safety of Troy," says Mr. Foster, "depended upon the possession of the Palladium. Every people has its Palladium. Are we to be the sole exception? Stumbling forward we know not

where! groping for we know not what! only too glad to live on sufferance! fully satisfied so long as we are permitted to garner the weekly wage of toil!" The questions are important ones, and without stopping to scrutinize their manifest drift, they deserve the consideration of every well-wisher of the Dominion. To be a "Canadian" ought not, must not, be a term of reproach, and we know of no portion of the people of Canada upon whom this fact requires to be more deeply impressed than upon the English speaking residents of this Province of Quebec. Here, unfortunately, even yet the old habit of making the name "Canadian" a designation for those of French origin alone, and in too many cases using it as a badge of inferiority, is a besetting sin of the Anglo Canadian people. It will be a happy day for us when we get rid of this practical repudiation of our national name. To be a Canadian with Canadians of what ever origin should be a proud boast, just as to be an Englishman with Englishmen is esteemed "a glorious charter." And we hail with satisfaction every new worker in the patriotic duty of enforcing this lesson. The address before us wisely says, and we coincide with the quotation, "we know not what the future may have in store for us. Let the event be what it may it is our bounden duty to prepare for it like sensible men conscious of obligation to humanity. The problem of self government is being worked out anew, with fresh data, and we must do our part in the solution. There are asperities of race, of creed, of interest to be allayed, and a composite people to be rendered homogeneous.

We have too many among us who are ever ready to worship a foreign Baal, to the neglect of their own tutelary gods. There are too many who whimper over our supposed weakness and exaggerate others supposed strength. But there are those who do not despair of the State; who are neither weakened nor faint of heart; who know that strength comes from within. Let each of us have faith in the rest, and cultivate a broad feeling of regard for mutual welfare, as being those who are building up a fabric that is destined to endure. Thus stimulated and thus strengthened by a common belief in a glorious future, and with a common watchword to give unity to thought and power to endeavour, we shall attain the position of our cherished hopes, and give our beloved country a favored position among the nations of the earth."—*Montreal Gazette*.

Coolie servants have drawbacks which the Caucasian finds it difficult to overget. A St. Louis household which has for some time enjoyed the orderliness and celerity of an almond-eyed Celestial, was thrown into consternation the other morning, at prayers by the perplexing antics of the "Chinee," who gravely followed the example of the family by rapturously and piously worshipping the brass andirons at the fireplace, and what is more perplexing, the propitious pagan insists on spending four mortal hours daily over his improvised idols.

A Franco-German company has been formed under the title of the Rhino Steel Works Company, and has erected some vast establishments for the production of Bessemer cast steel. Tools have also been provided for the transformation of ingots into rails, tyres, axils, rings for cannons, etc. The greater part of the works are now in activity, and the whole will be in regular operation with the close of the current year.

the ground littered with brass bound cartridges, with paper which has wrapped powder and which has wrapped sandwiches, with the rubbish of battles and picnics. Suddenly the 'cease-firing' sounds, and silence drops like a curtain. There is no question who has won. How can anything win which advances against well-posted guns over a long expanse of open ground? But every one is sorry that the final assault is not permitted, if only for the sake of his spectacular effect.

"At Weaver's Down, at Fox Hill, and now here, the Duke has stopped the fight just as it was about to culminate. A soldier must be content, there may be good reasons—is it that they are afraid of the men bayoneting each other in the excitement?—but the public who come out to see what they can see, and whose appetite grows upon what it feeds on, must grumble.

(To be continued.)

WHO OWNS THE GOLD?

What New York owes to Canada.—A Powerful Corporation.—Where do our Merchants Borrow their Gold for Duties?

It is clearly beyond any one's power to ascertain how much Foreign Capital is employed in the money market of New York; and there are few financial subjects upon which more caution is needed, in framing an estimate. A substantial advance in the rates of discount in Europe may sometimes give us a clue; but even the movement which follows such a change is too involved to allow of a close calculation. The most immediate influence of Foreign Capital, upon this market, is wielded by a power which receives but little of the attention it deserves; and the movements of Specie, between it and ourselves, attract no attention, because they are made by land, and not by steamships that report their treasure list. It is not England or Germany that has the most direct power upon our Gold and Loan markets; it is our little neighbor, the Dominion of Canada.

Those whose business makes them familiar with the workings of the Gold Exchange are aware that the Canadian Banks are constantly to be seen influencing the course of affairs, by their loans of Coin, and their operations in Foreign Exchange, as well as by their loans of Currency. But the weight of these Corporations is not critically estimated. Nine men out of ten, who speak on the subject, appear to treat this power with ridicule; except when, on the appearance of some noticeable change, they suddenly veer round, and ascribe everything to the operations of the Canadian Banks. Very little that can be called authentic has been printed about this matter; in fact, a paragraph in yesterday's Money Article, giving some figures of the assets of the Bank of Montreal contains information that we have reason to believe is not familiar in Wall Street. We will follow up that paragraph, by giving the figures of the position of the Canadian Banks at large, as published in Tuesday's Montreal *Gazette*. The chief facts are, in brief, as follows: The Banks of Ontario and Quebec have a paid up Capital of 37½ millions, Circulation of 24½ millions, and Deposits of 55½ millions, with Assets of 129½ millions, which include, besides cash and cash items, a Discount line of 85½ millions, and Balances due from Banks and Agents outside of Canada to the sum of 14½ millions. All these figures represent Gold Dollars.

The importance of these figures will we think, impress itself upon our Wall street

people, both from the large Banking Capital and yet more from the extent of the funds which these Banks employ abroad, that is chiefly in New York. Of these totals, the following portions belong to the Bank of Montreal: Paid up Capital, 6 millions, Circulation 3½ millions, Deposits (Government and private, on demand and for stated times) 19½ millions; and on the Asset side of the account, Discounts of 15½ millions, and Balances outside of Canada, 9½ millions. While, therefore, the Bank of Montreal reports, but one-fifth of the total Discounts, it has two thirds of the Balances abroad.

It is not part of our purpose, at present, to inquire how far the accumulation of the Canadian Balances contributed, together with Mr. Boutwell's course, to produce the plethora which oppressed this market for months, nor how far it contributed to bring money up to fifteen per cent. in Montreal, while it was not over seven here; nor yet to amuse our readers by detailed reference to the course of the price of Bank of Montreal stock, from 290 down to 225, and up again to 240. The single object in publishing these figures, is to call the attention of those whose business leads them to try the temper of the New York Gold and Money Markets, to that class of Foreign Capital employed here, which is most easily handled and most invisibly withdrawn. We think that this statement of figures may arouse our merchants and dealers to a truer appreciation of the power of our Canadian neighbors; and it may lead them to rejoice, that the vast resources of the Bank of Montreal are wielded by so able a man as its President. Any one who is familiar with the operations of Wall street, can picture to himself what could be done with all this power in a single hand, and even if all were true which street rumor at times ascribes to the President of the Bank of Montreal, he might well, like Warren Hastings, "stand astonished at his own moderation."

If, after reading an expression of uncertainty as to the course of our money market when all appears smooth and calm, the reader thinks the financial article in the *Commercial Advertiser* is unnecessarily bilious, let him ask himself, first, what he knows, about the Syndicate of the first of December, and, second, what he knows about the plans of the Bank of Montreal. And, when he has got, as we hope he will, a satisfactory solution about the Syndicate, let him return to the other conundrum, it will still be a useful exercise for his wits.—*New York Spectator*.

THE DEFENCE OF THE COUNTRY.

It is clear from the language of the British press, and from the expressions of England's statesmen, that steps will be taken at the meeting of Parliament to provide against the contingency of war. The nation's policy has been a policy of peace and good will, and under the impression that these humane sentiments governed the actions of other powers, England had ceased to provide for the eventualities that follow hostilities. Her standing army has been reduced to a peace footing; and if her navy has not felt the injurious effects of a Whig policy, it is simply because of her continual intercourse with the rest of the world, which could brook no sacrifice of protection.

The "nation of shop-keepers," which under the rule of Manchester Radicalism, England has become, could not suffer its maritime prestige to decay, but it had no sigh of regret if colonies were driven to desperation by the cold shoulder which Downing Street was made to present; and it look-

ed on with perfect indifference as the gallant red-coats were recalled, that no menace might be offered to American cupidity.

The occurrences in Europe within the last six months, and the language of the American people through their chief magistrate, go far to show that a policy resting on universal humanity, however pleasant in theory is far from applicable to the concerns of nations, and England is now convulsed with the thought that a war may be forced upon her, and that, too, while the country is in the hands of men hostile to a policy of national greatness.

The assurances supplied by Mr. CARWELL, that the honor of the country and the Queen would be maintained, is a hopeful augury; but if Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government is to transmit to its successors, without stain, the full measure of the inheritance that belongs to Britons, quite a different policy has to be inaugurated and maintained. It may be, as Lord DERBY says, that England's position calls for no gigantic land force, and that in the event of war her militia is available. No doubt great reliance can be placed on the stubborn will of the people of the British Isles. But much depends on the manner in which a people meet the first shock of battle, Bravery is not enough as against the terrible engines now called into use, and where disparity in numbers prevail, the weaker, if wise, will by a more perfect knowledge of the arts of war, and in the appliances to be used, poise the scale of chances. If the situation of England calls for serious reflection, surely it is not out of place in us asking our representatives to dwell on the probabilities of the future if England should become involved.

What Lord DERBY says in respect to the volunteer movement at home applies with still greater force here, and as his references are both reasonable and applicable, we append the following excerpt from a statesmanlike and vigorous speech to the Lancashire volunteers:

"I trust, and believe, that the very greatest care will be exercised to leave unimpaired that which is the essence of our Volunteer system—I mean the free, spontaneous, and practically gratuitous character of the service given. (Applause.) If other reserve forces are wanted—I do not enter into the question here—let the deficiency be supplied. But this at least is clear, that by the present system the country gets, at trifling direct cost, and, what is quite as important, with very little disturbance of ordinary business, a vast additional defensive force which it could not command so cheaply any other way. (Applause.) I am quite aware that there are many people who, having been struck with admiration—and no wonder that should be—at the marvelous power whether for aggression or defence, which the Prussian organization gives, wish to see some modification of it introduced into England. Now, to such persons I would say, take hints from your neighbors by all means but do not servilely copy their institutions without first considering whether your position is like theirs. (Applause.) Now we are in a totally different position, as has been said many hundreds of times, from that of any Continental State. We have no frontiers. No enemy can pour half a million of men into this country. The utmost strength which we can be called upon to repel is only that which can be carried across the Channel by a hostile fleet, assuming such a fleet to have escaped our own navy, or that a temporary disaster had occurred. That is what we have to provide against, and when people talk of drilling and disciplining by degrees, year after year, the entire able-

bodied population of this country—that is four or five millions, at least—in order to repel a possible attack of, at the most 100,000. I say they must either have a wonderfully low opinion of the fighting powers of Englishmen, or else they must be thinking of something beyond mere defence—that is to say, of a policy which I won't here characterize or argue against, but which I believe to be neither suited to the ideas of our time nor consistent with the real interests of our country. (Applause.) Mind, I do not quarrel with those who contend that the State has a right, if it thinks fit, to call on every able-bodied man for personal service. Rights are more easily talked about than defined. But an appeal of that kind has always been made, and always will be made when the exigencies of a national defence require it. (Hear, hear.) Extraordinary occasions require and, because they require, justify extraordinary measures, but when in ordinary times you come to apply the principle of compulsory service you are met with the difficulty:—if you apply it universally and endeavour to train everybody, you are making ten times the amount of preparation that you can possibly require. If you are merely to pick and choose or take men by lot, you cannot by any arrangement I ever heard of prevent great practical inequality and injustice in the application of the law. Admit substitutes and the hardship falls exclusively on the poor; insist on personal service, and the loss of time, which to the young man of fortune is nothing, and which to the lowest class of laborer is unimportant because the pay serving is as good as he could get elsewhere, becomes a very heavy tax on the skilled industry of the artisan, or the professional man, or those who have business habits to acquire. (Hear, hear.) There is something also to be said in a country where the sentiment of individual freedom and conscience is highly developed as here against the justice of compelling men to take personal part against their will, in wars not merely defensive, and which they may themselves in their conscience believe to be unjust. (Applause.) But I don't dwell on that, I simply assert my belief that in the long run, it will be even cheaper, to say nothing of any other consideration, to pay the fair market value of the military labour you want, rather than take it by force. However, I don't want to dogmatise on these matters; I have given my opinion for what it is worth. If wrong, I am open to conviction. Of one thing only am I sure—a nation was made to be something else than a camp, and that a system under which wars shall be carried on, not, as in modern days till now, by comparatively limited armies but by the whole mass of the people, is not an advance in civilization, but an essentially retrograde step. (Cheers.) It may be change, it is certainly not progress, if that much abused word has any meaning at all.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The precarious state of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales continues to excite the sympathy of the British people, not only in Great Britain but throughout the world. The intelligence of unfavorable symptoms, noticed in our last, and which occurred on the 7th inst., created the utmost sorrow throughout British America; little, if any, improvement in the condition of the illustrious patient has since occurred, but it has awakened the latent loyalty of the people and effectually disappointed the republican

propagandists—Dilke, Odger and Bradlaugh. As Englishmen are eminently practical, they displayed this characteristic by breaking up by force the meetings of those traitors in speech lacking the manliness to become traitors in action. At Birmingham a meeting was held on the same day in favor of reforming the House of Lords—it ended in a row, and at Reading Odger had to run for his life. All classes of society have testified their condolence with their sovereign and earnest prayers have been offered that Almighty God would be pleased to avert the great calamity the death of His Royal Highness would be to the Empire.

Sir James Yorke Scarlett, the distinguished old Crimean cavalry general, died on the 6th at the age of 72.

The Imperial Parliament will meet on 23rd January.

While English traitors were spouting sedition at Birmingham, attacking the time honored and glorious institutions of their country, the loyal people of Ireland were celebrating an event which saved the British empire at the most untoward crisis of its history. On the 7th December the anniversary of closing the gates of the *Maiden City*—Derry—was celebrated with all honor.

In France a change of Government seems to be imminent. Thiers, no longer able to control the majority in the Assembly, has, it is said, offered to resign in favor of the Duc d'Aumale, the second son of the late Louis Philippe. A bill introduced into the Assembly for repealing the exile of the Orleans Princes was rejected and it is said that increased feeling for the restoration of the Emperor Louis Napoleon, manifesting itself in the army, and as it is a fair representative of the people, it is evident that momentous changes are imminent.

The Assembly refused to remove to Paris.

A great deal of excitement was created in Madrid on the reception of the Message of the United States; the portion relating to Cuba showed conclusively that a pretext for a quarrel was sought, reinforcements for the island were at once voted of 4000 men and four ironclads.

A complication between Russia and Prussia is feared to arise from a quarrel between the Czarowitch and the Prussian Ambassador in which the former so far forgot himself as to strike the latter.

Politics in the United States are of such an extravagant and exaggerated character as to cause no surprise at any proposition emanating from men in public life, the latest is said to be an attempt to impeach President Grant by a combination of the Democratic leaders and the disaffected Radicals. The allegations for this course are as frivolous as can well be imagined, but the people of the United States delight in sensations no matter what outrages may be offered to common sense thereby: even this course has its inconveniences; their little peculiarities in abetting outrages against international law is being chastized in a peculiar manner.

The *Internationale*, that society so useful to Communists and the revolutionary machinery of republican propagandists, has found a congenial resting place on the soil of the United States and has made such headway in New York that the civic authorities have been obliged to put down by force a contemplated demonstration of those lamb like exponents of "American sentiment," who wear red neck ties and feathers of a like sanguine hue, and the city police are obliged to make them move on, as they have a strange penchant for improving by using petroleum and torches.

A bill has been placed before Congress by General Banks for fulfilling the conditions of the Washington Treaty.

The Grand Duke Alexis has been feted in Boston, the staid Yankees manifesting their aptitude for Prince worship and how thoroughly they relished toad eating.

The President's Message in Utah resulted in a proposition to limit polygamy at once, allowing the present generation of those who are *too much married* to die out without interfering with their coadition.

A meeting of the National Board of Trade was held at St. Louis at which delegates from the Canadian Board were present. A lot of nonsense was talked about annexation, independence and a Zollverein, all wholly impossible, although some of our people amuse themselves by looking to the *ignus fatuus* of a reciprocity treaty with all its fallacies. The Canadian delegates appear to have understood their position but they would have done far better by staying away altogether. The Detroit Convention demonstrated the utter uselessness of attending such meetings, and although some of our commercial men went into agonies of despair over the abrogation of the old reciprocity treaty, events have proved it was the salvation of the Dominion. It is evident to any one not blinded by the hope of personal gain, that the interest of this country is entirely distinct from that of the United States; we can have no community of goods or interests, our natural and artificial productions are different as well as our political affinities, our foreign trade does not need an outlet through the United States to the ocean, and while we are prepared to deal with them on a footing of perfect equality we are not inclined to place our manufacturing and commercial interests in the hands of the Yankees.

Lt. Col. Atcherley, the Deputy Adjutant General of No. 4 Military District, has resigned and the Brigade Major, Lt.-Col. W. H. Jackson, a most meritorious and skillful officer, will in all probability succeed him.

Senators have been appointed for Manitoba and British Columbia.

At the general assizes for the former Province, held at Winnipeg, the Honorable Judge Johnson presiding, Oisean Letenieu, a Metis from the United States, was found guilty of being one of the late Fenian invaders and sentenced to be hung on the 24th February next.

The late military expedition under Major Scott, has been conducted with great success demanding the admiration of the Manitoba press; it endured far greater hardships than that under Colonel Wolseley.

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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, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1871.

In the last number of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW we gave a synopsis of the provisions of the Militia Law under which our Canadian army is organized. Its discipline is entirely governed by rules and regulations issued by the Adjutant General and founded in a great measure on those of the British army; that officer is the actual commander-in-chief of our military force, and as the law which organized it was passed while the Imperial troops were in Canada it was deemed advisable to prevent any difficulty in case of actual service to make the commanding officer of the Canadian Militia the Adjutant General thereof with the rank of Colonel. Since the withdrawal of the British troops such a position is anomalous and that officer should be at least a Major-General, while the Deputy Adjutant Generals should have the rank of Colonel with the Brevet of Brigadier Generals.

The cost of the headquarters establishment is singularly small considering the amount of work done, and it is as follows:—

| | |
|--|-------------|
| CIVIL ADMINISTRATION. | |
| Department of Minister of Militia..... | \$11,080.00 |
| Account Branch..... | 6,775.51 |
| Store Branch..... | 5,050.00 |
| | \$22,905.51 |
| Adjutant General's Department: | 16,969.49 |
| | \$39,875.00 |

The sum expended on the whole force is \$1,250,000 per annum, of which the outlay on administration is less than 3/4 per cent., while our Horse Guards costs 1/4 per cent. We can safely challenge comparison with any department of state in any country in the world for economy, and there is no private establishment in which such a sum of money is expended yearly that does not pay more than five per cent for its administration. The force organized, clothed, armed and commanded for the sum stated is, in round numbers, 45,000 men, and it includes provisions for the enrolment of 670,000 of a reserve. In the year 1870-71 the estimated cost of the British Army was £14,962,200 sterling; of this sum £9,465,400 was paid to the combatant force, leaving £5,496,800 as the cost of administration, and non-effective service or not, quite 57 per cent. It is impossible to conceive how any people will submit to such gross mismanagement, especially when the whole force at home and in India sustained by this vast outlay does not number quite 178 000 soldiers of all ranks, or about four times our own force, which costs a little less than 1 1/2 per cent of the gross cost of the British army, and with all this expenditure it takes six months labor to put 30,000 men, badly supplied, in the field. The mobility of the Canadian troops has been proved on several occasions; it is no boast to say that with a tithe of the labor, cost or appliances we could put 100,000 men in the field in half the time.

Our Headquarter Staff consists of a Deputy Adjutant General, Director of Stores and Military Secretary with the rank of Assistant Adjutant General, and some half dozen clerks; by simply making each Military District complete within itself in organization we have so simplified matters that little more than marching orders are necessary to set the whole force or any portion of it in motion. That the value of our system has forced itself on the attention of our neighbors in the United States, the following from the *Army and Navy Journal* of 9th December, will show:—

“AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM.—The people of Canada, the Vermont *Herald* thinks, have attained the chief object in devising a militia system, which is to discover a method whereby the whole able-bodied male population may be trained to the use of arms without any lengthened detention of the men from their industrial pursuits. The people of Canada seem to have come nearer the attainment of that end than any other. The real militia of the Dominion is organized under a law which orders the enrolment, discipline and payment of forty thousand men. The law requires of these men but sixteen days' drill in the year, but the spirit of competition among the men leads them to drill at least once a week, while they spend the whole of the time for which they are paid under canvas. The officering of this force is provided for by Military Schools. One of the best features of this system is the constant target practice to which the men are subjected. The expense of maintaining this force amounts to a little less than twenty eight dollars per man.

The majority of the men drop out of the ranks when their terms of service has expired, leaving their places to be occupied by others, so that at least five thousand men are added to the drilled force every year.

“We see no reason why the States cannot carry into effect a similar system. The time is fast approaching when a more uniform government of the National Guard of the United States will have to be enforced, and more liberality displayed by both State and United States Authorities.”

Our neighbors rarely admit any excellence in any purely British measure, and it must have forced itself on their attention in so convincing a manner as to preclude the possibility of doubt. As they have a small military force, the organization of which is, of course, all but perfection, it was natural that ours should be relegated to the National Guard or States Militia. There can be very little doubt that Great Britain must adopt some such plan if she will have an efficient defensive force.

Our respected contemporary, the *Broad Arrow*, appears to have gotten into a mild fit of irritability because we have declined to accept its views of the notion of the Whig Radicals when they abolished purchase by the unconstitutional use of the Royal Prerogative. As there is not the slightest intention on our part of “darkening counsel without knowledge,” or presuming on the courtesy and good nature of that journal to “fill brains as well as arguments” in this case, we will state our views of the whole matter exactly as they occurred and then leave our readers to judge whether we have attempted to misrepresent the case or whether the Gladstone administration, with the redoubtable Carlwell in front, acted constitutionally or otherwise. In this connection we have only to say that the three estates of the realm must agree on any measure before it becomes law; a bill may be very popular with the majority in the Commons and may be rejected by the Lords, or it may pass both houses and be rejected by the Sovereign; the *Broad Arrow's* idea of a *dead-lock* as any excuse at all for forcing legislation or extra constitutional measures we repudiate as unsound in principle, mischievous in practice, and demoralizing as a precedent; constitutional practice and etiquette demands in case of “a dead-lock in the machinery of Government,” that the extra constitutional element—the ministry—should do one of two things, either allow the measure to lie over till next session or resign. This abolition of purchase was not of such moment as to warrant the measures taken, nor was there any necessity whatever for bringing the authority of the House of Lords into contempt and making precedent for those “kid glove revolutionists,” which our contemporary so truly describes. The situation was simply this, “a Bill to reorganize the British Army” had been placed before the House of Commons at its late session; so totally inapplicable did it appear to

Mr. Gladstone's supporters that after laboring through the House for five months it came out shorn of all its provisions with the single exception of the clauses embracing the abolition of purchase, and those were in such a crude condition, without any provision being made for a reorganization of that army which the measure as it then stood simply disorganized, that it was met in the House of Lords by the following amendment which was carried by a majority of twenty-five, the leading peers of Mr. Gladstone's party supporting it.—“That this House is unwilling to assent to a second reading of this Bill until it has laid before it either by Her Majesty's Government or through the medium of an enquiry and report of a Royal Commission, a complete and comprehensive scheme for the first appointment, promotion and retirement of officers for the amalgamation of the regular and auxiliary land forces and for securing the other changes necessary to place the military system of the country on a sound and efficient basis.” In order to effect a bit of sensational trickery which would at once bring the authority of the sovereign into contempt and humiliate the hereditary legislators, the British Premier with a thorough disregard of consequences, did in the most unjustifiable manner induce his sovereign to recall the Royal Warrant under which purchase had been established, thus using the prerogative to neutralize the legislative action of the upper house. The *Broad Arrow* can also remember that Mr. Cardwell had to assure the House of Commons that Her Majesty would no more use her Royal Prerogative in such a manner, and that the evil effects of this revolutionary *coup d'état*, for it was nothing else, recoiled on its authors with redoubled force.

The action of the House of Lords was based on the fact “that no provision had been made for reorganization; that the measure was a crude one, and that it was so near the end of the session that sufficient time was not allowed for discussing its provisions,” and it was not disguised that Mr. Gladstone resorted to unconstitutional measures simply because the rejection of the bill would show that the majority in the House of Commons had done nothing but squabble during the session which, without this unjustifiable triumph, would have been absolutely barren. It was not the intention of the Whig Radicals to use the Royal Prerogative if they could have forced the legislation, failing in that, they applied it to bring the co-ordinate branch of the legislature into contempt by setting it aside, and, therefore, in whatever light it is viewed Her Majesty's Prerogative was set at naught by being made the subject of legislation, (for it must be remembered that purchase existed by virtue of the Royal Warrant alone), and its after use was applied for the purpose and in the manner we have described. It is hardly necessary to point out that any action of either of those branches of the es-

tates of the realm which deprives any one of the power thereto belonging is unconstitutional, notwithstanding Sir Roundell Palmer's opinion; by the by that astute lawyer nowhere intimates that Gladstone's action was constitutional at all, and very cunningly declines to raise the issue.

We cannot agree with the *Broad Arrow* as to forbearance towards men whose professed objects are the overthrow of time honored and proved institutions; it is customary to call a spade by its proper name in these colonies and we would quietly ask our contemporary what designation should be applied to the fellow who insults his sovereign, a lady without a natural protector. We do not pretend to call scurrilous names nor have we come to that pass of political beatitude which tolerates traitors and avowed revolutionists; we know that this angelic state of mind is the very cause why “authority in Europe is sapped to the foundations by revolutionary agencies from the action of which England is by no means so exempt as some may imagine,” and we also know that handling dangerous political questions with kid gloves will not be a very effective mode of treatment, while at the same time plying with edge tools is particularly dangerous. We have not called our contemporary's loyalty in question, but we have protested against a military journal indulging in ecstasies of adulation to a political buffoon who had insulted his sovereign and glorifying a rebel and traitor whose single merit was his success; nor are we admirers of that refined sentimentality that extends its charity to condone the offences of blasphemers and ruffians under the name of political liberality. In England they talk of loyalty, in Canada it is practiced. It was a perfectly constitutional measure for Mr. Gladstone to advise his sovereign to withdraw the Royal Warrant and thereby abolish purchase. While a message to the House recommending compensation could be dealt with in a Parliamentary manner, but it would not tell with the mob of whose aberrations the *Broad Arrow* is so tolerant that it resents the idea of designating them by a well known local name thoroughly descriptive of those sovereign representatives. and, therefore, to please his masters Mr. Gladstone committed a crime which all the logic of our contemporary cannot condone, although he may call it by the gentler appellation of a political mistake. One word now about the “kid-gloved traitors.” Is it not a fact that the class which the *Broad Arrow* is compelled to denounce have become more rabid since Mr. Gladstone showed them that two of the estates of the realm could be overridden by the third, and has not their representative man—Sir C. W. Dilke—gone as an itinerating preacher of red republicanism about England, and might not the glorification of traitors and villains, indulged in by that journal, have had its effect in encouraging those people and their unwashed followers?

COLONEL NEWDIGATE, of the British Army, has lately translated the regulation drill book of the Prussian Army, and from it a more complete insight into their military system is obtained.

A Prussian battalion consists of four companies, each having on a war footing one captain, four subalterns, twenty sergeants, four drummers and buglers and 216 rank and file, in all 245 men. It is further divided into two platoons, and these are again subdivided into four sections, each subdivision has two lieutenants and half a score of sergeants attached thereto and appears to be in reality the tactical unit of the battalion. The Prussian Battalion of nearly a thousand men is commanded by a Major, and one Adjutant forms its whole combatant Staff. In fact all the barrack yard movements are dispensed with as far as possible and the recruit got to “skirmishing” drill as soon as possible, not only to the simple form of it but also he is taught to make the best use of the ground and its facilities for cover. The battalion movements are old fashioned, few and simple, similar to our system of 1860-'61. Changes of front are effected by marching the divisions up to the new alignment. When an open column wheels into line the battalion commander sees that the officers on the front flank are on the proper line and does not busy himself with the small inaccuracies which may exist in the companies. The simplest formation of line from column, or column from line, are all that is attempted. The principle manoeuvre, however, is the formation of double columns of subdivisions on the centre which they call the column of attack, the Captains are all mounted and the Major treats his four columns exactly as a Brigadier would his battalions.

The great feature of the system is, however, the third rank—a formation recommended for the Canadian army by Major Wainwright, of the 40th Battalion, some time ago. It is formed of the best shots in each company and always acts as a skirmishing body except on parade. If a company is acting separately it acts as a subdivision or platoon, and if necessary covers the front with one section holding the others in reserve or as supports. If the whole battalion is engaged together the third ranks form four platoons which, under command of a Captain, cover all the movement; a special use of these marksmen is made in a bayonet charge—a movement extensively practiced; whenever it occurs they are always either on the flanks or in the rear to follow up any forward movement in extended order or to cover a necessary retreat.

This system differs from that of our old flank companies as every subdivision or section carries its marksmen with it. Certain corps—Riflemen and Fusiliers—have no third ranks but are all trained as marksmen.

These are the main features of that system of tactical instruction which has made

the Prussian army so formidable and effective, and as far as the picked marksmen are concerned might be copied with advantage by ourselves. We have always looked on the abolition of the flank companies as a mistake, and believe their re-establishment during battalion drill and on service would be advisable.

There are many other points in the drill book of interest but not applicable to our system which is far more manageable.

A communication from a gallant correspondent over the signature of "Subscriber" appears in our issue of day, in which exceptions are taken to our article of the 4th December on the late expedition to Fort Garry, and as the writer appears to have very superficially read the article he attempts to controvert, we have only to say it will not be at all necessary to answer his objections *seriatim*. We have made no unfair comparisons at all, but have simply stated historical facts. "Subscriber," in his idolatry of Gen. Wolseley, forgets that greatly overrated and very egotistical commander monopolized for himself, the officers and men of the regular troops the whole credit and honors of the first expedition, and as he was an adept at "tickling trouts" a little cheap blarney went a long way with some of the officers of the Volunteer force. A worthy of this class under the cognomen of "Miles," has written a similar letter to the *Montreal Gazette*, the distinguishing features of which are a series of rather cool and impertinent assumptions from which we wish the communication of "Subscriber" was free.

The VOLUNTEER REVIEW can tell both that when they have attempted a tithe of the work it has performed for the Volunteer force of the first expedition, they may with good reason boast, and it never has attempted to revenge a personal spite under color of affected zeal for officers and men whose real injuries were inflicted by their own commander. For the rest, both should understand that the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW knows personally what he writes about, has seen as hard service as any other officer or man in either expedition, has been at Fort Garry and is no feather bed soldier, and if it was necessary to continue the comparisons between the two expeditions it could be shown that the last was by far the most desperate as well as fatiguing. That on the first expedition needless and protracted hardships were endured by the men being placed under an officer who had to learn the whole business of transporting them and the material with all appliances for doing so provided; that from the first he had blundered and it was by no skill or foresight of his that a successful issue awaited their efforts. That if a proper use had been made of the Canadian Contingent, about whose welfare "Subscriber" and "Miles" affect such concern, a very different story would have to be told, and this is the whole scope of our arti-

cle of the 4th Dec. Hitherto we have allowed correspondents great latitude in our columns, but when they indulge in needless personalities it is presuming too much on our forbearance, especially when their conclusions are founded on unwarranted, false and wilfully perverted assumptions, and that for purposes of their own they have instituted comparisons which the article in question never contemplated; we think it is high time to decline inserting communications whose tendencies are only to give a false coloring to events which are of national importance and to put the issues thereof on the meanest and most contemptible footing. Our correspondents must recognize the fact that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW is not and never has been influenced by personal aims or objects, will not be the tool of any one nor a partizan in any sense of the term, and it is, therefore, a little too much to have our good nature and courtesy abused by insinuating motives which they should be personally aware did not exist or trying to make use of the REVIEW for their own purposes, therefore, in future, we shall decline inserting any communications involving needless personalities.

The people who believe that Republicanism is making progress in Great Britain must have received a severe shock to their political faith by the events occurring there. The alarming illness of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has awoken the latent loyalty of the people, and those who a week ago swelled the audiences of the preachers of revolution are moved as one man at the danger of the heir of England, and it is with the anxiety of sorrowing relations every intelligence of the varied phases of his illness is received, and will take summary vengeance on any foolhardy preacher of sedition. Melancholy as the occasion of all this display undoubtedly is, it yet shows that the heart of the nation is sound and that whatever the issue of this infliction the grand old monarchy of *one thousand years* is too firmly fixed in the hearts of the people to be uprooted by theorists. The dangerous element in the social politics of England is its commercial class; taught to measure everything by a money standard and that the acquisition of wealth is the end and aim of existence, they are true tyrants whose ideas of economy are bounded by the effort to acquire the greatest profits at the least outlay and in the operation fleecing all other classes of society, but in an especial degree the operative and laborer.

The Reform Bill of 1832 placed power in the hands of this class and they have used it to the detriment of the interests of the British Empire; while their profits have largely increased, the laboring class are becoming each year more impoverished, and the practical impersonification of Communism—the poor house—has enlarged its boundaries in an alarming degree, while its support has been almost altogether thrown

on the landed interest. The mass of the lower classes are taught to believe that a re-distribution of the landed property of Great Britain would obliterate all those evils. Abroad they have managed to alienate all the old allies of England, to weaken the interests of the dependencies of the crown and to deprive them of the means of defence which their importance demands; they have disorganized the army, thrown the affairs of the Navy into confusion, and under the plea of economy squandered uselessly more money than would have maintained British prestige in any possible contest.

Indications point out the course of events as the necessary consequence of all this—an inevitable conflict between Labour and Capital, in which victory will remain with the former, but its fruits must be secured by having the labour which produces capital as fully and fairly represented in the councils of the nation. An amalgamation of the agricultural and operative classes would place the commercial class in a minority, and by making capital subservient to national interests compel it to fulfill its proper functions. The true upholders of British constitutionalism are the agriculturist and operative.

Modern science, by placing in the hands of the soldier weapons of precision, has rendered the construction of field fortifications a necessary portion of his training, whether developed in the temporary shelter trench, rifle pit, abatis or stockade improvised from the rail fence, and it is of as much importance to the success of any operation that officers and men should thoroughly understand the value of the facilities of the ground for natural or artificial cover, as that the force engaged should be under control and have a complete knowledge of the use and value of their weapons.

The principal conditions under which troops in action can be successfully handled are, that they should be under cover, and so far under control as to deliver their fire only after taking deliberate aim. The principal losses sustained will be by whichever force is obliged to uncover. As in any case artillery will bear a prominent part in the decision, and as it must be covered as well as supported by infantry the value of an intelligent knowledge of the capabilities of ground and approach is indispensable and in our case with our army drawn from the mass of the population, without any of the practical experience of warfare, a training in the principles and practice of field fortifications is as necessary as target shooting. Modern practice in action is to cover the front of the line with a heavy force of skirmishers in advance of a powerful artillery, and as that force should be composed of the best marksmen and most intelligent soldiers, taught to fight independently as well as collectively, natural cover will be rendered extensively available. As each man's safety in a great measure will depend on his own acuteness,

there need be no apprehension that it will be risked by useless exposure, the mass of the force engaged cannot generally be covered by the undulations of the ground and, therefore, it will be necessary to improvise such shelter as circumstances may dictate. The shelter trench is a simple excavation with the earth thrown outwards so as to form a mound of the same height above the surface that the trench or excavation is below it, both forming a cover breast high, the parapet placed on the edge of the trench which should be four feet wide and about two feet deep, ample room will be afforded for both ranks of a company, either leaning against the parapet or kneeling, and if judiciously placed will afford security from everything except a vertical fire. General rules for the construction of such temporary works demand that they should follow the contour of the ground placed in such positions that they could not be commanded from opposite heights, and salient angles should in all cases be avoided; the reason is that rifle fire will, in nearly every case, be perpendicular to the alignment, and salient angles would interfere therewith. The question affecting Batteries of position in combination with this system will be hereafter considered; Horse Artillery will always be worked in combination with the skirmish line.

The rifle pit is merely a detached portion of the shelter trench and is generally held in front of a fortified position; the abatis is made by felling trees with the top outwards in front of a position clearing off the leaves and pointing the branches. To active marksmen this would afford a shelter from which they could not be driven without artillery. A rail fence can be turned into a very efficient stockade in a few minutes by simply removing all the lower rails and placing them in a sloping position against the upper rail which is left in situ: the slope is outward and the men crouch behind the rails which form a far more efficient cover than one would imagine.

Each member of this system of defence is distinguished by its simplicity and the ease as well as rapidity with which they can be constructed. In ordinary ground to excavate a cubic yard per hour would be easy work for one man; he will thus excavate three and one-half feet in length of a trench four feet wide and two feet deep in that time affording ample shelter for himself and coverer.

Rifle pits depending on individual exertion and in a great measure on the idea of convenience, will be complete according to the personal feelings of the occupiers and may safely be left to the discretion of the intelligent men detached on this important outpost duty.

Abatis and Rail Stockades will take very little time to construct. The preliminary steps to an intelligent appreciation of the value of field fortifications are, first, skirmishing drill; secondly, a correct knowledge

of the topographical resources of the area operated on, and lastly, the persuasion that the success of the movements depends in a great measure on a sparing expenditure of men and a judicious use of ammunition.

Those are lessons in the science of warfare which should be taught during the autumnal manoeuvres of the Canadian troops, and are as much an essential part of minor tactics as the manual and platoon exercise.

An article has been going the rounds of the local press entitled "War Office Blunders," referring to brevet promotions in the 40th Battalion. It is only necessary to state that our contemporaries overstep the bounds of courtesy and common sense when they attribute personal feelings to the commanding officer of the Volunteer force, where a matter of duty is concerned. Officers should learn to wait the proper action of the War Office; it would be utterly impossible to gazette every man the day his brevet falls due, and their applications are invariably attended to as soon as possible. The question that called forth such needless manifestations of newspaper energy, has been settled by the *Gazette* of the 7th, and we hope in future officers will have the virtue of patiently awaiting the action of their superiors which is an indisputable point of discipline.

UNDER the caption of "Who Owns the Gold" we invite the attention of our readers to an able financial article from the *New York Spectator*. It is sufficient to make any Canadian proud of the mercantile ability and commercial enterprise of his countrymen, qualities in which they have been said to be deficient, but experience proves that it is not those who talk most of their good qualities who really possess any. Our enterprise is placed on such solid foundations that we have no fear of failure.

REVIEWS.

The *London Quarterly Review*, for October, contains the following articles:—Spiritualism and its Recent Converts; Byron and Tennyson; Beer, Brewing and Public Houses; Guicciardini's Personal and Political Records; Continued Mismanagement of the Navy; Industrial Monopolies; Jowett's Plato; Army Administration and Government Policy; The Commune and the Internationale. This is the closing number of the *Quarterlies* for the past year and is a most important addition to its literature. We earnestly recommend to our readers the series of Reviews issued by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company which consists of the *London Quarterly*, *Edinburgh*, *Westminster*, and *British Quarterly Reviews* and *Blackwood's Magazine*, which are furnished either separately or together at prices which are to be found in our advertising columns, to which we request their attention, and advise those who are anxious to acquire a knowledge of the leading questions of the day in

Politics, Franco, Commerce, Historical Criticisms and all the varied information those publications contain, to become subscribers; the publishers address is 140 Fulton Street, New York, and they have rendered inestimable service to the literature of the American continent by the republication of the standard literature of Great Britain. As a specimen number the *London Quarterly*, with the varied articles it contains, is a fair example of the intellectual treat to be found in the periodicals published by this enterprising company.

London Engineering says:—The vagaries played by the 35 ton gun when on its proof, as regards pressures and velocities obliged the committee on explosives to reopen their investigations as to the powder best suited for this piece. They have since been experimenting with gunpowder grained in various ways and made into pellets of various forms and sizes. The most recent results of their investigations, as far as we are at present informed, tend to show that they are approaching, if they have not absolutely reached, the object of their desires, namely, low pressures and high initial velocities. In the early stages of the experiments solid cylindrical powder pellets, three-fourths of an inch in diameter and three-eighths thick were used. With these it was found that pressures of forty seven tons per square inch were obtained with initial velocities of 1,430 feet per second. It will be remembered that the 35 ton gun gave with one hundred and twenty-pounds of pebble powder, a similar pressure with a velocity of 1,370 feet. With one hundred and thirty pounds of powder the velocities fell to 1,348 feet. Hence with the solid pellets a slight improvement in the velocity was obtained. Cylindrical pellets three fourths of an inch in diameter, one half inch thick, and having an indent formed on one face three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter and one-fourth of an inch deep, were then used. The pressure obtained with these pellets ranged from twenty-three to twenty-four tons per square inch, the velocities remaining good. The next step was to split these indented pellets in halves and to glaze the halves in the ordinary way. The results of firing heavy charges with the divided pellets has, we hear, been a reduction of the pressures to fourteen tons per square inch, while at the same time initial velocities of 1,430 feet per second are obtained. It is difficult to account for this extraordinary reduction of pressure without a knowledge of all the details of the experiments of which we are not at present in possession. It appears singular that these broken pellets, which closely approach the nature of pebble powder—except that the grains are slightly more uniform in size and shape—should give pressures so very much below those of the pebble powder with equal velocities. These results are certainly very remarkable, and if repeated trials establish them as indisputable facts and do not prove them to have been so far the result of accident, derangement of the pressure gages, or miscalculation, a most important advance will have been made toward the settlement of the powder difficulty."

ENGLAND.

Where is the slave, who of England despairing,
Aids not her cause, when she calls on her sons?
Where is the knave, who when foemen are dar-
ing,

Farleys for safety, or crouches and runs?
England ne'er knew them,
The soil never grew them,
Wholesome's the land in our Isle of the Sea,
Our maidens would flout them,
Our children would scout them,
We'd hoot them with scorn from the land of the free.

England, dear England, our fathers before us
Bled for thy freedom and left us thy fame.
England, our darling, the mother who bore us
Gave us her blessing, entwined with thy name.

Ours be the glory
To better thy story,
Lofty and proud, be thy banners unfurled,
If great we receive thee,
Still greater we'll leave thee,
England, dear England, the gem of the world!
R. L.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for
individual expressions of opinion in communica-
tions addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

VOLUNTEER vs. MILITIA.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir:—In the outcry that has been raised against the introduction of the ballot into the organization of "our Canadian army," constant reference has been made to the "Prussian system," alleging that such an innovation would inaugurate military despotism unsuited to the free institutions of this country and dangerous to the liberties of its people. That such an infringement upon the rights of the subject would precipitate us into all the horrors of conscription, enforced servitude, and military tyranny; and in fact would be incompatible with a free and independent state. Now I am prepared to prove that such statements are groundless, devoid of fact. The military system of Prussia as observed in the Empire of Germany, is as follows:—

At the age of twenty, conscripts at the rate of one to every 300 of the population are drawn for the regular army. No exemptions are made except in case of physical disability. Young men of family are, however, allowed to enrol themselves in special corps. The period of service for the ordinary conscript is 12 years, three of which are spent with the colours of the Regiment; four years in the service, remaining at home but ready to join the ranks in time of war, and five years in the Landwehr or Militia. The system of localization is strictly carried out, each district furnishes its regiment, and from each company division the fresh supplies are obtained. A soldier rejoining his regiment after serving his first period, will therefore go, not only to his old regiment, but to the very company in which he was first enlisted.

The Militia system is as follows:—

The Landwehr of the first call are liable for home or foreign service although only called out for necessary drill in time of

peace. It consists of all young men between 20 and 25 years of age, not actually serving in the regular army; of the volunteers, or cadets of family; and of all men under 32 years of age who have not fulfilled their period of twelve years service.

The Landwehr of the second call are liable for garrison duty, or in special need, for corps of occupation, or reinforcements to the regular army. It drills for one day in the year, and consists of all who have left the army, and the first call, and of all other men who are under 40 years of age.

The Landstrum is not to be called out except in case of invasion, and for home duties only; and consists of all men under 50 who are not to be allotted to the army or Landwehr,—of all who have completed their Landwehr service; and of all youths over 17 years of age capable of carrying arms.

This system is oppressive;—first, the conscription, which enforces three years continuous service on a certain number drawn at hazard from the population, willing or unwilling:—next, owing to its adverse effect upon the industry of the nation from the indiscriminating drain upon its population in time of peace—and lastly owing to the long period of military service required. That such a system, in its entirety, would be unsuited to the constitution of this country is undoubted; but why the Ballot should be avoided as tending towards "Prussianization" I fail to see. We may fairly raise a militia by ballot in time of peace, and for home service during a war; because it is just and right that every able bodied man should be liable to service for the defence of his country when needed; but to go farther, and force a citizen to adopt a profession unsuited to, and distasteful to him, for a continuous service, is a decided violation of the right of the subject under our laws. Should we require a "Regular Army," therefore, the proper principle for its construction would be the voluntary basis; but where the principle sought to be observed is that of "equal rights to all, exclusive privileges to none," the burden of military service must be equalized to all classes of the community, and the "Ballot" is an adjunct to voluntary enlistment and in preference to "conscription" or "selection," is the fairest way to distribute that burden.

The short period of service contemplated for the "Balloted" man (3 years) would prove a very slight drawback in the pursuit of his ordinary avocations, while the advantages gained would be very great. The three years period of service would familiarize him with drill, and enable him to receive the elements of discipline; during that time his attendance at drill could be counted upon (or his absence punished) his course of rifle practice prescribed, and regulations for the care of his clothing and arms observed. With the volunteers these conditions are impossible. Any regulations or orders must be in-operative in a Force, the members of which if punished for an infraction

of orders, or breach of discipline, can resign in resentment to-morrow, and no officer however zealous can obtain efficiency in a corps, the members of which are constantly shifting and changing. The greatest drawback of the present system, is, however, that it provides for no organized Reserve. The individual volunteer, retiring from the Force even if he completes his term of service is lost to the military organization of the country; whereas, were 40,000 men to retire triennially into the Reserve, complete in organization and interior economy—they would, even after their legal period of service was past, be easily reassembled should necessity call for their services. *Esprit de corps* would also assist to keep them together, and a veteran Reserve of hundreds of thousands would in a few years exist, without expense to the government, and needing only that arms should be put into their hands to render them available for the defence of the country.

That these matters have long secured the attention of the officers of the volunteer Force of Canada, is proved by the following extract from a memorial presented to the Minister of Militia in June 1869, and which was signed by fifty-nine Field officers belonging to the Force in Ontario.

That the efficiency of the Force, taking into consideration the elements given by the present volunteer organization, would be but promoted by constituting the volunteers, the "Regular Militia," retaining all effective Corps as representing the militia of their respective counties, and applying to them the provisions of the existing Militia Law, respecting the contemplated regular and reserve militia subject to such modifications, as the circumstances of each case, local or otherwise, might require.

Your memorialists respectfully submit, that by these means would be gained:

First.—The element of stability contemplated by the organization of the regular militia.

Second.—That of simplicity, in having only one organization to deal with; and which would be capable of being extended so as to embrace the whole military resources of the country.

Third.—That with the existence of the power of drafting (or balloting) in case of necessity; there would not be much difficulty in maintaining the Force on almost a purely voluntary basis.

The latter clause though somewhat obscurely worded, implies that once the duty of bearing arms is recognised by the community as one in which there can be no avoidance; there would be no lack of volunteers. The objections of employers of labor could no longer impose a check on the military ardor of our young men; and the knowledge of impending ballot would lead those reluctant to serve, to act as recruiting sergeants to keep companies and regiments full, in order that they themselves might avoid compulsory service.

The memorialists in order to provide for the increased expenditure necessary for the support of an efficient force, recommend that an annual tax for militia purposes shall be levied from each man "liable for duty but not actually serving in the militia."

Upon these principles, based on the expressed opinions of statesmen and of practical men who have long made the subject their study, I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction, that in the establishment of the militia alone rests our opportunity for securing a sufficient, efficient, and satisfactory military organization in Canada.

CENTURION.

December 1st.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—In a former letter I suggested the idea of raising troops in England for service in the small army which Canada will be obliged to maintain owing to the withdrawal by the Imperial Government of the last of the regulars, and I gave it as my opinion that we would find it very difficult to get the men here even at three times the pay of the regular soldier. I think the extreme difficulty which has so far been experienced in recruiting A and B Batteries of Artillery will bear out what I have said, and it is to be hoped that the Government will see fit to find some more effective and economical way of raising men.

The Imperial Government while taking away their troops, the material evidence of their protectorate of this country, profess to do so only as a matter of policy and expediency, and in a vague sort of way promises to help us with all the force of the empire should we ever require it. Now, might not our Government, by way of getting a slight pledge of this from a political party whom, as colonists, we cannot help distrusting, ask that the Canadian troops be gazetted and placed in the army list in the same manner as are the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, the Cape Mounted Rifles, the late Royal Canadian Rifles and the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery? This would keep the Canadian army before the eyes of the English public, and in the event of any trouble would necessitate its support by Imperial troops. Not that we can doubt the good faith and sympathy of the English people, but a Government which would evacuate Quebec and propose to surrender Gibraltar would in its timidity do almost anything to purchase peace unless bound by something tangible, which I think the presence of our troops in the Imperial army list would be.

In conclusion, I cannot help noticing with regret the remarks of your correspondent "G.W." (whose letters and Notes and Queries have always been such an interesting feature in the REVIEW, and who has rendered good service to the country) as to the disposition and conduct of H.M. troops who have just left us. I am sure every one who has been brought in contact with them will

admit that their departure will cause a blank in many a social circle, and by none will they be more missed than by the Canadian Militia whose instructors they have been, and whose pride has always been to show that their lessons, taught both in the field and in camp, have found willing and apt pupils and who will ever remember with friendship and admiration the British soldier.

Yours truly,
VOLUNTEER.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—I see in your issue of the 4th Dec. an article which I cannot allow to pass without notice.

You refer to Capt. Scott's force of 200 men making the journey to Fort Garry from Collingwood in twenty eight days, and you proceed to draw most unfair comparisons with reference to the expedition commanded by Sir Garnet Wolseley. You seem to forget that there is no analogy between the two cases—in one case 200 men went up, in the other nearly 1200, who, anticipating opposition as they did, had to carry with them three months provisions and have a large reserve at Prince Arthur's Landing. The first expedition left Collingwood on the 21st May instead of the 14th as you mention—they were delayed by the U. S. authorities at the Sault St. Marie, so that the last detachment did not leave there until the 21st June, as late as the 18th June a portion of Dawson's road was still untouched and nearly two months delay was occasioned by the trouble of getting all the boats and provisions up to Iak-Shebandowan. Colonel Wolseley's men had to cut out and prepare every portage except the first two, they went by the Winnipeg river, a route 150 miles longer, making 47 portages in all going up, and the men had to pull almost every foot of the 650 miles.

On the other hand Capt. Scott's men took little or no provisions, were not delayed at the Sault, had Dawson's road completed for them, and the boats already at Shebandowan, so that two days took them over what required six or seven weeks for the first expedition. Every portage was cut off and prepared, the route was 150 miles shorter, seven steamers were on the stretches to tug the boats instead of them having to row themselves, and they had only 16 portages instead of 47.

A fairer way to look at it is by taking the return of the 60th and the volunteers they travelled about as slightly as did Capt. Scott's men, came up the Winnipeg river with the current against them all the way, the 60th had no steamers to assist them, the Volunteers only two. They had 52 portages to go over, and with no necessity for speed the Volunteers only took 27 days to Thunder Bay, as to marching from Shebandowan they both did the distance in two days.

Comparisons are odious and it is out of place in referring to the services of another body of men, especially when there is no

fair ground of comparison, and when both services were well and thoroughly performed, I have no desire to detract from the services of Capt. Scott and his men for they suffered great hardships, but I do not like to see the opportunity taken to cast a slur upon that gallant officer Colonel Wolseley without any ground except to please Sir George Cartier, who cannot respect any man that will not allow him to dictate to him, and I can assure you that Capt. Scott's men themselves will be the last to accept praise to them at the expense of Sir Garnet Wolseley, who is highly respected by the whole Volunteer Force and by all the British people of the Dominion.

With regard to the staff the following is said "The promptitude with which this detachment was organized speaks more fully to the value of our Militia system than the most laboured exposition, and it shows what energy, power of concentration and discipline is contained in our Militia Department and Military staff, the whole working machinery of which is confined to our Military chief with three or four subordinates." This is a good joke; why I could name twelve or fifteen Majors and Colonels who were up at Toronto and Collingwood looking after these 200 men, it was the talk of every body about the number of Brigade Majors and Colonels rushing all over the country with half a dozen men, and every body laughed when they heard of a Lieutenant and two Colonels leaving Quebec with six men as was duly chronicled by telegraph in the public press.

Yours &c.

SUBSCRIBER.

We have the full figures of American commerce for the year ending June 30th, 1871. Foreign goods marketed \$402,000,000, customs received thereon \$207,500,000 domestic produce sent abroad \$412,000,000, net outgo of gold and silver \$80,000,000.

A "Lombard" telegram from Amsterdam states that very successful experiments have been made in Nieuwediep with torpedoes. One torpedo, having been under water two years, when ignited by an electric spark destroyed a gunboat entirely. "The Engineer" learns that the Admiralty have given directions for the captains of Her Majesty's ships at Portsmouth and Devonport to make themselves practically acquainted with the working of Harvey's sea torpedoes, facilities being afforded them for this purpose. The Italian Government have ordered a number of these torpedoes, both large and small. Captain Harvey has been requested to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Holland for the purpose of giving instructions in the use of his invention.

Lieut.-General M. S. Korsackoff, Governor General of Eastern Siberia for the past ten years, died recently in St. Petersburg, at the age of forty four years. His family was one of the most noted in Russia, and enjoyed the favor of the Emperor Nicholas to such an extent that the subject of this memoir was envied for the rapidity of his promotion, which was due to the studious interest of the Czar in his behalf. He was a warm friend of America and the Americans, and never omitted an opportunity to show his appreciation of the Great Republic.

REDUCTION OF THE AMERICAN ARMY.—In accordance with law, the United States army is now being reduced as rapidly as circumstances will allow to the minimum total of 30,000 enlisted men. In order to come down to this point, discharges will be made of enlisted men until the average remaining number reaches the standard. Recruiting will be in a measure suspended, and hereafter it is intended that the new material admitted to the ranks shall be of the very best physical character, so that none will be enlisted except good tall fellows with plenty of muscle, excellent health, and firm in sinews.

VOYAGE OF "THE CITY OF REGUSA"—EXTRAORDINARY SPEED.—The tiny craft the City of Ragusa, registered tonnage 1 ton 17 cwt., after having crossed the Atlantic in 36 days, and having gallantly braved the perils of the most tempestuous weather, has arrived in safety and anchored in Queenston harbor. At 5 o'clock on Wednesday the 23rd of May, the City of Ragusa left New York harbor for Liverpool. When the shore of the Empire State had sunk from view, and open waters lay around these adventurous navigators, Captain Primorez turned his little vessel northward, regarding that as the best course to take at this time of the year, and for three days she went in excellent trim. Her speed was extraordinary, and on the third day she made 160 miles. That was her greatest speed during one day of the voyage, but frequently for portions of days she ran seven knots an hour, the average speed during the voyage being four and a half knots an hour. Bad weather set in off Banks of Newfoundland, and for ten days a series of gales tossed them about in a terrific sea. The gale subsiding the captain was able to get his vessel's head to the eastward. Icebergs were frequently seen in that latitude at that time, and a sharp look-out had to be kept. The ice was avoided, and the ship continued her course. The weather remained exceedingly heavy, and there were rare periods of calm. A succession of heavy gales came on, and as it was impossible to take observations, the course was taken by dead reckoning throughout. From the beginning to the end of the passage the captain saw the sun rise and set but once, and during the remaining days the weather was too thick to permit him to make observations. During all the trials Heyter (the "crew"), behaved in a most patient and manly spirit, never complaining, and the bravery of the two men seemed to be emulated by the extraordinary endurance of a splendid brindled bull-terrier, who bore all the suffering of the long journey with as much fortitude as his fellow-voyagers. On the 29th ult. the vessel sailed one hundred and twenty miles. On the 1st inst. she was off the Fastnet, and then as Primorez and his "crew" felt themselves in comparative safety they amused themselves by catching a young shark. While following a piece of beef a noose was slipped round his tail, and he was pulled on board. His tail was hung at the bowsprit, where it is still to be observed. The speed with which the passage was accomplished was not the least extraordinary feature in the voyage, for the little vessel actually beat large ships, many of them having taken 35 days from New York to Queenstown.—*Manchester Examiner.*

REMITTANCES

Received on Subscription up to Saturday, the 16th inst.

BELLEVILLE.—Lieut. Alex. Robertson, \$4.00
COBOURG.—Major J. Vance Graveley, . . . 2.00
SHEWATER.—Lt. Col. J. Murray, . . . 1.00
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LONDON.—(Per Agt.)—Maj. W. Dempster, 2.00.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which in y save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 1lb., 1/2 lb., and 1/4 lb. tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London England.

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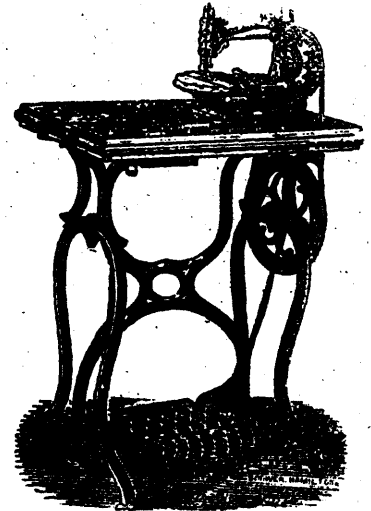
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