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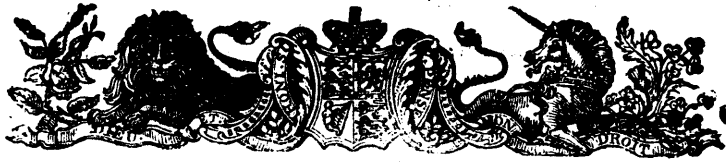
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# The Volunteer Review

## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

VOL. IX.

OTTAWA, (CANADA), TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1875.

No. 12.

### The Volunteer Review

is published EVERY TUESDAY MORNING, at OTTAWA, Dominion of Canada, by DAWSON KERR, Proprietor, to whom all Business Correspondences should be addressed.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum, strictly in advance.

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

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

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

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## AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

VOL. IX.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1875.

No. 12.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Col. Fletcher having been ordered to re-join his regiment, has resigned the positions at the head of the Vice-Regal Staff, which he has held since Lord Dufferin's advent in Canada, and will sail for England on the 10th proximo. The intelligence will be received with a general feeling of regret. He takes command of his Battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards.

It is said that either Mr. Lawrence Oliphant, the English author, or Mr. Herbert, a cousin of Lord Carnarvon, will be appointed as successor to Lieut.-Col. Fletcher.

Mr. R. S. M. Bouchette, late Commissioner of Customs, arrived at Ottawa on the 18th. He will, during his stay in this city, be presented with the memorial from his numerous friends in the Customs, which has been so much spoken of for some weeks past. He is at present the guest of Mr. J. R. Audy, Daly street.

The lower portion of Port Colborne is badly flooded, and in some streets the inhabitants are obliged to move about in boats and rafts.

Col. Shaw, the Agent of the Glasgow Colonization Society, to whom was granted a reserve of twelve townships on the Little Saskatchewan River, in Manitoba, reports that fifty families are already on the way, and 150 more are soon to leave for the Reserve. He expresses the opinion that if the Canada Pacific R. R. was in progress half a million emigrants might be obtained at once from Europe, to work thereon a year and then settle.

The new Province of Saskatchewan will extend from White Mud River on the east to Edmonton, including all the country watered by the North Saskatchewan, and will be admitted to the Confederation as soon as its population numbers 15,000, and will have both Federal and Local representation. This will leave room for a Province to the north and one to the south, Manitoba being extended west to White Mud River.

The *Oswego Palladian* says: "The competition has been so great to supply the Grand Trunk Railway with coal that the company has effected a saving of \$160,000 as compared with last year. The 95,000 tons to be supplied from Pennsylvania and Ohio, have been secured at a reduction of \$1.14 per ton.

In the Nova Scotia Assembly on the 17th, the Provincial Secretary gave notice that he would move a resolution providing for the allotment of 200,000 acres of Crown lands in Cape Breton, and a subsidy of \$7,000 per mile, to be given to any Company who will give security for the construction of a rail-

way from Canso to Louisburg, and a further sum of \$5,000 towards a ferry across the Straits of Canso.

A cable telegram from London, of the 18th inst., gives the following important news from India: "The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that difficulties have arisen between the Indian Government and the King of Burmah regarding boundaries, and the latter's claim to sovereignty over several independent States. In spite of Lord Northbrook's proposal for a mixed commission for the settlement of the questions at issue, the King has occupied the disputed territory, and refuses to withdraw. The British authorities insist on a settlement by the means they have proposed, and troops are going to British Burmah."

The present gold speculation in New York is exciting considerable comment in that city. It is admitted that a strong clique has obtained control of the market, though opinions differ widely as to who compose the pool.

A Nashville dispatch says a water spout which fell at Fayetteville on Sunday, caused an immense overflow at Norria Creek, and a small village was suddenly and completely inundated. The steam saw mills of Bettes were lifted up and carried down the stream; Caridge's distillery has gone, also several smaller establishments. The damage is estimated at \$100,000. Another water spout fell near Lynchburg, carrying away two distilleries and many out-houses. Hail fell so thickly that the surface of the stream looked like a mass of ice. Hundreds of cattle were drowned. The stream is sweeping over the iron bridge at Nashville on the Northwestern Railroad. Johnsonville is completely inundated. The heavy storm of Sunday night did immense damage.

The U. S. Secretary of War says an expedition to the Black Hills must be prevented. The Western States have been visited with another fearful snow storm, which blocks up all the roads.

London, 20th.—The weather was favorable for the boat race, though rather cold. Betting during the morning was three to one on the Oxford crew. The banks of the Thames were, as on former occasions, lined with masses of people all the morning, the different avenues leading to the river were choked with vehicles and pedestrians, and at noon to day London presented a deserted appearance. The crowd that congregated to day two witness that the boat race was unprecedentedly large, many persons of rank and distinction witnessed the contest. The Cambridge boat took the lead at first but Oxford soon overtook it and won the race easily by ten lengths.

The U. S. Attorney-General has announced that goods exhibited at Philadelphia cannot in any event be held liable for the debts of the Centennial Commission.

The Public Prosecutor of the Roman Court of Appeal has received a letter from the Italian Minister of Justice, saying that the care the Government exercises in order not to infringe the liberties of the Church rendered it all the more determined not to allow any violations of the law. With special reference to Rome, he states the manner in which the Government intends to deal with these ecclesiastics who break the law, particularly in cases of the use of violent language in sermons.

The *Daily News* understands that the use of Her Majesty's Opera House in the Haymarket has been granted to Messrs. Moody and Sankey for a series of revival services.

It has been colder in Sweden this winter than in any other civilized country. In Furuudal thermometer marked sixty degrees below zero.

An old stone fence was recently unearthed near Rome, which was found to be almost entirely composed of fragments of Scripture, broken busts, vases, &c.

Mr. Ewing, the sculptor, of Glasgow, is engaged upon the long expected statue of Burns, which is now rapidly nearing completion. The head is said to be magnificently moulded.

We learn by cable despatch that Mr. John Mitchell, the recently elected member for Tipperary, is dead.

The Vienna journals report the death, at the great age of 104 years, of M. Hoel de Saint Gilbert, the last page of Marie Antoinette. He was interred at Baden, near the Austrian capital.

Lord Charles Russell has resigned the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms at the House of Commons. He has held the post since 1848, and is 68 years of age. The office is in the gift of the Lord Chamberlain.

Mr. Muller, a member of the Russian expedition to Northern Siberia, has stated to the St. Petersburg Geographical Society that the North Pole is not an isolated point, but a territory of a certain extent, towards the whole of which the inclination of the needle is the same, and of this territory he hopes to make the tour.

Baltimore, Md., 19th.—The water is from five to fifteen feet deep in the streets of Port Deposit Md, and the destruction of property is very great, but no lives lost. At Havre de Grace the ice has gorged about five miles below the town. The wharves there are all flooded, whole piles of lumber have been swept from them. The streets next to the river are completely blocked with ice. Water is falling now.

### The Coming War in Europe.

In the London *Gentleman's Magazine* for January, the following able paper contributed by H. M. HOSE, Esq., appears. It discusses in an intelligent manner and purely from an English Commercial point of view the fighting capacities of the continental nations of Europe in view of the German war predicted by Mr. D. MARLÉ, as follows:—

Notwithstanding the desire that may exist on the part of the French people to rush into a war with Germany, to gain revenge for the defeat of four years ago, it is doubtful if the French Government would encourage the aspiration. Torn as France is by political dissensions, it is extremely doubtful whether any Ministry would add the cares and the perils of war to the other prominent dangers of its existence. Neither is the French army in condition—no is it likely to be for many years—to undertake a campaign of magnitude. The military organization of the Second Empire was entirely broken up by the disasters of the German war. At the present time no fixed plan can really be said to have been adopted for the organization of the army; the questions as to depots and *cadres* are still unsolved. French military men assert that their artillery is in a powerful state; but it may reasonably be doubted that in the short time that has elapsed since the enormous loss of that arm which occurred in the German war, it can have been replaced by guns judiciously selected and carefully manufactured. Though there is not a great dearth of men in the French army, it cannot be said that the recruits are of a satisfactory kind. The weakness of the commissariat arrangement was one of the potent causes of the failure of the French in the German war. It has not yet been thoroughly changed for the better. The *mitrailleuses*, which were so zealously guarded, and which were expected to strike terror in the German ranks, were found to be a failure in the war, and have now been abandoned for all practical purposes of campaigning; so that at present France is not in a condition to "rush into war." It has taken England twenty years to reorganize from the break down of her military system in the Crimean war, and a vast amount of money has been expended in effecting the changes; and it can hardly be possible that things are so much better managed in France that she can in four or five years put an army in the field with any prospects of winning back the laurels so rudely wrested from her in the last great contest.

Spain may be considered at the present moment out of the military arena of Europe. She is too much engrossed by her internal troubles to be available either as an ally or enemy in case of international disturbances. Italy possesses an army of considerable numerical force—an army which may be in round numbers said to amount to 400,000 men. But in Italy the sinews of war are wanting. The Italian Government is hard pressed by financial difficulties. The Italian army is a new machine, and, like all other new machines, it cannot be expected to work smoothly throughout. Its organization and administration were originally copied from the French; but since the breakdown of the French system the organization of the Italian army has been considerably modified. Still, it cannot be denied that the Italian military forces are a formidable power to be considered in the fighting capacity of Europe, and would cast an enormous weight into the scale on either side.

As to the two neutral countries of Belgium

and Switzerland little need be said. The neutrality of one is guaranteed by the Great Powers, and the other has perhaps a still greater guarantee of neutrality in the shape of public opinion in Europe. The Belgian army may be 80,000 strong. Perhaps they are not the finest troops in the world, but still they are not, as a great statesman is reported to have said of them, "merely all coat and musket and little man." It is certain that Belgium, unaided, could not hold her frontiers against either Germany or France, if either of these powers wished to make the Netherlands its battle field or its line of communications.

"A great and mysterious power looms up in the North." On the 1st of November last a law came into force by which every Russian subject became liable to military service, and the consequence of the decree is an enormous increase in the army. It is estimated that next year Russia will be able to put into the field 1,000,000 men. These men are excellent soldiers in many respects. They may not be acute or intelligent, but they are strong, hardy, capable of bearing fatigue, have an intense loyalty to their sovereign, believe that the Russian Government can do no wrong, and would enter upon any campaign ordered by that Government with all the religious excitement of a crusade. The organization of the army is simple and well conceived. The men are tall, strong, and fine, and if properly led and supplied with good ammunition the Russian army would be most formidable in any war. For defensive purposes Russia holds a peculiarly advantageous position. The terrible example of the First Napoleon still gives a shiver to almost anybody who contemplates the idea of invading her. No doubt an invasion of the present time would be a very different matter from what it was at the beginning of this century. Still it would be attended with enormous difficulties, not the least of which would be the inhospitable climate, the impossibility of feeding an invading army on a wild and sparsely populated country, and the necessity which would fall on the invaders of drawing their supplies almost wholly from their base. A line of communication might become so much extended that the troops requisite to guard the line, and the officers necessary to administer it, would consume more of the provisions than the line itself could bring up. In future wars it is doubtful whether, considering the number of men that would probably be engaged, it will even be possible to rely on the supply of an army from its base of communications. A weighty oppression, however, hangs over the military organization of Russia. The official administration is so corrupt that it is almost certain that in case of war speculation would be rife, and the Russian soldiers—brave, loyal, and hardy as they might be—would find themselves worsted by an internal enemy more deadly than any external foe. All this is well known and talked of openly on the soil of Russia.

The united northern power of Sweden and Norway possesses certainly a small but excellent army, but probably would be too wise to enter upon any European war, even of great dimensions. It would have little to gain by descending into the theatre of contest, and possibly might lose some provinces to Russia. Denmark might, indeed, be anxious to join an alliance against Germany, for the sore of the Schleswig-Holstein campaign is not yet healed over. But she has been so hampered by the war of 1864, and her population has been so reduced, that her tiny army of 40,000 men would rank as comparatively insignificant in the consideration of the military capacities of the Continent,

Turkey is always a source of danger in European policy, and must be "almost a nightmare in every foreign office." The men of the army are good, but the administration of Turkey is much more corrupt and venal even than that of her northern neighbour, Russia. The small principalities which form the kingdom of Roumania have an army which is not to be despised. They could put in the field about eighty thousand men, and these not all bad troops.

It is Germany, which is universally considered at the present time to be the first rate military power of Europe, and towards it all eyes are directed. The German army has proved itself to be a most admirable military machine. Most armies after such successes as those which have attended the German army would have got idle and claimed the right to rest on their laurels and enjoy luxury and ease, but it is a notorious fact that the German officers, high and low, have been working harder perhaps than they worked before the late war in order to keep their army from retrograding and to bring it steadily forwards. The opinion of those who witnessed the late German manoeuvres is, that at no time has the German army ever been in such first rate condition as it is at the present moment. Not content with the needle gun, which showed an inferiority to the Chassepot during the French war, experiments have been instituted, and a new arm has been adopted, which, it is confidently asserted, will be much more superior to the Chassepot than ever the Chassepot was to the needle gun. It is believed by the best judges that the German army now is the best armed force in Europe. As to the organization of the army there cannot be two opinions; it has passed through the fire of three wars, and has proved its capacity. The Empire could, at the present time, put 1,200,000 fighting men in the field in case of actual necessity; and the reorganization of the Landsturm will increase that force to perhaps 1,600,000 men. As to the policy of Germany towards other powers, it is a great mistake to attribute blood thirstiness to the Emperor William or his heir, the Prince Imperial. It is known by everybody who has a knowledge of the character of the Emperor that he is peculiarly kind and just, and rather soft hearted; he is loved by those who are brought in connection with him, and his household, and it is only been after the strongest representations from his Ministers, severe mental struggles, self torture, and deep and anxious prayer, that he consented to enter upon hostilities with neighbouring powers. As long as the Emperor of Germany can exert his individual will there can be no doubt that, although Germany will be strictly fenced and guarded against any attack from without, and will be held in a state of the highest military preparation for every contingency, she herself will not willingly commence a war, or without very grave and serious cause draw the sword from the scabbard. Yet, though the princes and people of Germany alike combine in an honest desire for peace, circumstances may arise which may render them powerless to avert bloodshed. There can be no doubt that dislike exists between the people of Russia and Germany, but at the same time there is a strong personal affection between the head of the House of Hohenzollern and the Emperor of Russia springing from family connection and matured by reciprocal respect; and as long as the present Emperor of Russia lives, hostilities between the two powers are not imminent. According to all human calculations the life of Alexander may continue for some time.

It has been said that the danger of war be-



tween Germany and France does not appear considerable, because of the impotence of the latter at this time. It may be regarded as almost certain that unless France should provoke Germany to the utmost she would be content with guarding her recently acquired acquisitions and not again cross the Moselle as an invader nor attempt to dictate a new peace at the gates of Paris. On the south matters hardly appear to be so entirely satisfactory. The inhabitants of Austria at large have almost forgotten the war of 1866. The benefits which accrued to their country from the results of that crushingly rapid campaign have been so great that they have blotted out the sense of soreness that sprang from the defeats which the Austrian army suffered. But though antagonism against Germany has ceased among the peoples composing the Austro-Hungarian empire, it still lurks between the cabinets and governments of the two countries, and on the Austrian side not only does there appear to be a feeling of personal resentment against the Cabinet of Berlin among some of the advisers of the Crown, but it is almost universally believed that the head of the State has a deep personal and individual grudge against his northern neighbour, and refuses to meet even half way or perhaps in any way, the advances which have often been made to him from Berlin. This fact, if not clearly ascertained, is at least thoroughly believed north of the Giant Mountains, and the belief leads to a feeling of distrust on the part of Northern Germany towards Austria. It is the attitude of the Austrian Court which is one of the prime reasons why Germany keeps up her great and expensive armament. But this state of things cannot always endure. Throughout the Fatherland there is a feeling that it must come to an end, and that the only way to reduce these enormous armaments to a footing proportionate to the capabilities of the people is to force on events, and somehow or other disarm those on account of whom these military preparations are necessary.

What role would England take in case of a great European contest? The general answer will doubtless be—that of neutrality. But is it possible that neutrality can always be maintained? If the British realm were confined to the two small islands which constitute its heart, it might be true that it could keep out of war, but with widespread colonies and foreign entanglements it would be almost impossible for England to avoid taking part, sooner or later, in the struggle. How, then, is she prepared for emergency that is almost sure to arise? The navy is apparently in good order. The numerical strength of the British fleet is larger than that of any other power, and English sailors have not deteriorated. But a large part of the navy is composed of vessels built since England was engaged in a great naval war. Their construction, to a certain extent, has been experimental. Suppose on going to war it should be discovered that the navy had been built on faulty principles? The result might be to nullify that arm of the national defence, and uncover the coast of England to any powerful nation intent upon invading the country and laying it under tribute. The enormous wealth accumulated in London is a bait to avarice which must not be ignored in considering the possibilities of hostile invasion. Suppose the coast should be defenceless, what kind of an army could England oppose to the magnificent troops of the Continent? The militia and volunteers would be useless. The regular army would be effective as far as it goes, but at most it would be but 60,000 strong. What could this handful do against

the tremendous hosts of Germany, Russia, or France. If England will save herself she must be willing to spend her money freely to maintain a large and efficient regular army. If Englishmen will not serve their country in person, they must be prepared to pay the price for that immunity as for any other luxury. That price is not so great as that which might be assessed by a committee of Continental bankers, in session in captured London.

### General Wimpffen at Sedan.

The action brought by General de Wimpffen against M. Paul de Cassagnac for libel, has had the effect of throwing fresh light on the incidents of the battle of Sedan. The proceedings were occasioned by an article written by the defendant in the *Pays*, in which General Wimpffen was accused of ignorance and incapacity, and with having been the immediate cause of the capitulation. As the witnesses called on either side were the generals and other officers engaged in the action, and as the defendant pleaded a justification in the facts, the remarkable spectacle was witnessed of a strictly military issue being tried by a body of civilians. The battle of Sedan was thus fought over again, for even the political element which influenced the catastrophe was not wanting in the court. M. Jules Favre, as a Republican, was retained by General Wimpffen, who had grossly attacked the late Emperor, and at one moment, when he expressed an opinion as the plans of General Ducrot, the presiding judge sharply interrupted him by asking, "What could he know about it?" This was paying the advocate pretty well for his forgetfulness of the Army of the East in the negotiations with Prince Bismark at Ferrières. In fact, all the bitterness of the controversy at Sedan was revived in court, with a result that all who have sufficient knowledge of the history of the war, and of the steady set of opinion in France in favour of the late Emperor must have foreseen.

The facts that mainly concern us, however, are those which were given in evidence relative to the conduct of General Wimpffen in the field. It will be remembered that when Marshal MacMahon was struck down at Sedan, General Ducrot succeeded of right to the command of the first corps, and with a perfect mastery of the military situation he commenced his preparations for a retreat eastward, by way of Mézières. At the same time an action was going on beyond the Balan Gate, and Gen. Wimpffen, who had allowed Ducrot to act when a disaster appeared inevitable, saw (in his ignorance of the enemy's movements) a chance of success, and suddenly claimed the command in virtue of an appointment which he secretly carried in his pocket, by the Council of War at Paris. The retreat was countermanded, and while the German forces were moving up to envelop both wings of the French Army, Wimpffen made a vain attempt to persuade the Emperor to cut his way through, and a little later, when the enemy's shells were actually falling in the town, he proved the futility of the proposition by reeling back into Sedan with the shattered force of about 3000 men whom he had led out to court destruction, and who were all he could muster even by declaring that the guns they heard were those of Bazaine in the rear. The delay was fatal. The German guns were got into position on the heights around Sedan, the shells were already falling in the streets, and the old fortress town, with its streets full of a disorderly mob of soldiers and civilians, would in a few hours have been pounded as

in a mortar, into a mass of bloody rags and broken masonry and shivering human flesh. To save his soldiers from this horrible fate the Emperor ordered the white flag to be suspended from the walls, and the capitulation followed, both as a matter of military necessity and of pure humanity.

These substantial facts were previously known, but the historical details which have been brought out by the trial are extremely interesting, as they tend to show the hopeless state of division among the French generals, and the chaos in which the poor Emperor was compelled to act an independent part, as the *deus ex machina* of the situation, and which he afterwards justified by the true and pathetic observation that at least he was still sovereign. After the failure of Gallifet's splendid charge at the head of his Cuirassiers, the fate of the French Army was sealed, and the rival Generals met, crestfallen, in the presence of the Emperor. "If I have been beaten," said Wimpffen, addressing himself immediately to the Emperor, "it is the fault of your generals, who refused to obey me." "No!" thundered Ducrot, flinging round upon him, "you have been too well obeyed, and it is your senseless presumption which has destroyed the Army!" The vital fact is—and this is what the trial has brought out into clear light—that Wimpffen forbore to take over his command when the battle appeared lost, and the retreat inevitable, and, some two or three hours later, when he wrongly imagined there was a favourable turn in events, suddenly produced his authority, and countermanded the orders of his colleague.

The French court, before whom the facts were proved, have justified M. Cassagnac's denunciation by their verdict for the defendant. Of Wimpffen's splendid courage there is no doubt whatever, and it may be admitted as barely possible that he would have borne the Emperor bravely through the German lines, in the midst of his proposed force of a few thousand men, with the loss, perhaps, of half their number, and the certain destruction of those who remained behind by the German guns. That the Emperor, after a moment's hesitation, refused his consent to such a butchery in the name of false honour, will for ever redound to his credit in history. That General de Wimpffen should afterwards condescend to blacken his memory, and invite his countrymen to endorse what may be called his own act of moral delinquency, is a circumstance which we will only characterise by saying that it has deserved the stigma which has been fixed upon it by the verdict of the court.

**THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.**—On Saturday, February 13, the casting of the statue of the late Prince Consort, to be placed under the dome of the Albert Memorial, in Hyde Park, was completed at the foundry of Messrs. Prince & Co., Ewer street, Southwark. The figure is seated in a chair of State and is of colossal size, being fifteen feet in height—from the base to the crown of the head. The artist, the late Mr. J. H. Foley, R. A., fortunately completed the model before his death. It will form an enduring monument of his great artistic skill. The statue would have been completed some months since but for an unfortunate accident. The workmen were removing a portion of the mould, weighing some twenty tons, from one part to another of the foundry when a chain broke and the vast mass fell down to the ground, thus destroying the labour of months. The statue now only requires the final chiselling before being fixed in its final resting place.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

OTTAWA, March 16, 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR—You state, in your editorial in this day's issue of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, that the organization of the militia under the law of 1868 is entirely and solely the work of Colonel Robertson Ross, late Adjutant General of Militia in Canada; and as such statement is not in accordance with the facts as shown by the records; I feel sure Colonel Ross would not desire credit for the work there attributed to him; I therefore feel justified in acquainting you that the organization of the militia under the law of 1868 had been completed in every respect before Colonel Ross assumed the duties of Adjutant General.

The country had been divided into Districts; the quota of active militia had been raised, armed, equipped, and drilled, the staff appointed, camp equipment provided, and the whole organization so completed, was handed over to Colonel Ross in July 1869, in as good and efficient condition as has prevailed at any time since that date.

As Colonel Ross had nothing to do with the arrangements for the drill of the force in 1869, his report presented to Parliament in 1870 shows his appreciation of the system then in existence, and of the efficiency of the force inspected immediately after his arrival.

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant,  
WALKER POWELL.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—The very able report of Major General Smyth recommends a reduction in the numbers called out for our annual trainings; as no more money can be voted and he must effect his reforms out of the present expenditure.

Now, I see by Major General Taylor's recent report on recruiting for the British Army that between 80 and 90 per cent of the recruits can read and write, while the remainder are obliged to attend the regimental Schools. In Russia too it is well known that every man in the army also possesses this amount of education;—while here in Canada with our boasted system of education, and large grants for School purposes, we have whole companies of the Active Militia in which not over three or four men can sign their names. Might I therefore respectfully suggest that in making a reduction in the numbers for next year's training, that no pay be allowed for any man who cannot at least write his own name.

This will conduce always a little to raise the character of the force, and also meet the required emergency in so impartial a manner as to silence complaint.

"INTELLIGENCE BRANCH."

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MONTREAL, 17th March, 1875.

Dr. amongst the three arms of our volunteer force in the city is now being carried on briskly. The B. Battery detachment at St. Helen's island commenced gun practice on the ice last week. A slight fracas took place lately at the City Hall concert room, during the drill of a company of the 6th Batt. by Lieut. Colonel Labrancho, owing to the behaviour of a body of ruffians who had congregated there for the evident purpose of annoyance; whilst being summarily ejected from the premises, a young Officer of the 6th was struck by one of the ruffians rather severely across the face, with the buckle of a belt. Measures have been taken to prevent future occurrences of this nature.

The great feature of the past week was the Military Snow Race at Decker's park, on Saturday afternoon; a large number of members of the force were present in uniform, and quite a body of our Montreal belles occupied the stand set apart for them. On the Judge's stand were His Worship Mayor Hingston (formerly Surgeon of the Montreal Cavalry); Colonel Fletcher, C. M. G. Dept. Adj. General; Col. Bacon, Brigade Major; Col. McKay, G. Artillery; Col. Bethune, Victorias; Col. Bond, Prince of Wales; Major Gardner, 6th Batt.; Capt. Tees, Cavalry; Capt. Short and Captain Larue, B. Battery; Lieut. Col. Lovelace, V. Cavalry; Lieut. Devine, Engineers; Capt. White, High School Cadets, &c., &c.

Space will not admit of giving an account of the races in detail. I will however briefly mention the names of those Volunteers who succeeded in carrying off prizes:

*One Mile Race.*—Winners—1st, Howe, Vics.; 2nd, Scott, Vics.; 3rd, Shepherd, 6th Batt. Prizes—1st Silver Cup; 2nd Silver Medal; 3rd, \$3.00. Time, 6.47.

*Quarter Mile Race.*—Open only to members of the B. Battery—1st, Costello; 2nd, McCulloch; 3rd, Demaine. Prizes—1st, \$5.00; 2nd, \$3.00; 3rd, \$2.00. Time, 2.30.

*Cadets Race.*—Open only to High School Cadets—1st, Cole; 2nd, Bisset; 3rd, Kemp. Prize—Gold Medal.

*Two Mile Race.*—1st, Lamotte, 6th Batt.; 2nd, Cullen, Cavalry; 3rd, Scott, Vics., (a protest was entered against Lamotte, as it was said he did not belong to the 6th Battalion).

*One Mile Race.*—Open to members of clubs who belonged to the Volunteers—1st, Bowden, Tecumseh Club; 2nd, Scott, Montreal Club. Prizes—1st, Silver Cup; 2nd, \$3.00. Time, 7.45.

*Half Mile Race.*—Open only to members of the Victorias—1st, Corporal R. Scott, who beat Walker and D. Scott. Prize—Gold Medal.

The prizes were distributed by Colonel Fletcher, C. M. G.

The Vics., who made so successful a debut as amateurs at The Theatre Royal, are, it is said, again coming before the foot-

lights at the end of the month. The proceeds of these performances are given invariably to public charities. A so called *Assault at Arms* was given on Monday night by a Professor Richardson—boxing, fencing and gymnastics were introduced which is quite incompatible with an assault at arms, as practiced amongst military men. The foils, Bayonet versus Sword; Lance versus Bayonet, single stick, &c., should alone be used—Boxing and Gymnastics are quite out of place. The French term *Assaut d'Armes* clearly points out that, these meetings are only intended where foils, swords and military arms for attack and defence are brought into plays. X.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—Not having of late stained the courtesy of the REVIEW, perhaps a few fossilized ideas may be permitted to deploy on its space:—

It is the very gall of bitterness to an old professional, to observe England's military literature so prolific in plan, projects, and schemes—all too imperative—for the reconstruction *Debris d'une Armée*, which a civil administrative in military economy has been permitted to foist upon the nation.

Permit brevity to extenuate abruptness. I fear it must be conceded that Sir Henry Havelock's scheme—*Malgre* the advanced incongruity of its transforming military institutions into *Alma Mater* for all and sundry embryo industries—is quite in accord with the morbid philanthropy of the age. Who e.g. durst sneer, or cavil at the benevolent curriculum of a military establishment whose graduates are at once artistic tailors and heroic cobblers.

No doubt a very limited service will suffice to make a smart infantry soldier, but men subject to so short an ordeal, necessarily lack that *Esprit de Corps* which long service more or less imparts. A slight glance at the social and political aspects of Europe should, one would imagine, induce England to adopt a system calculated to make her forces not only perfect in drill and discipline, but what is quite as essential, soldiers in sentiment and spirit. These moral attributes of the thorough soldier, to which I refer, are instinctively imbibed by men who unhesitatingly—for good or evil—throw their lives into the service. The older the soldiers the more frequent the exclamation: Well, after all, there is nothing like the Army!

Under the simple easily understood regime of the old Army (twenty one years service with retiring pension) few can doubt England's ability to raise an army that would, in its perfect efficiency, be a boon to its country, invincible in the field, and as of yore, the admiration of Europe.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to point out that the Old Army record is neither so remote, obscure, nor inglorious, as to involve aught derogatory to modern legislation, even, in a retrogressive policy of

emulating, if not adopting, the provisions of the old *regime* in their entirety; such policy could at least complacently point to the severity of the ordeal through which its model had passed so triumphantly.

Your's Obediently,  
SABREUR.

MARCH 15, 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR.—Would you, or any of your subscribers, be kind enough to elucidate for me the following points in "Infantry Drill"? Perhaps some of your correspondents in Halifax might know what is the practice amongst the Regulars in Garrison there. When I attended the military school the authorities there were in doubt as to some of the points, and at variance in their opinions on others.

I. The old Drill Book of 1870 said that soldiers were invariably to salute all persons whom they knew to be officers, whether they were in uniform or not. The new Drill Book of 1874 omits this paragraph (see page 17). Is this omission accidental, or on purpose? Are soldiers really now not required to salute their officers when in Mufti?

II. Page 64, Drill Book 1874—officers on duty under arms to have their swords drawn: How about the Sergt-Major? I know he is not an officer, only a Non Commissioned Officer; but he too wears a sword—Is he ever expected to draw his sword, or always to keep it sheathed?

III. Page 101. Inspecting a Company—After fixing bayonets do the men shoulder before taking open order, or do the rear-rank men step back two paces with their rifles at the short trail? At page 61 and again at page 116 it says expressly that arms are to be shouldered before taking open order, but this is omitted at page 101. Is this an accidental omission?

IV. What officers are to carry the colours? In old times it was the Junior Ensigns. By the Drill Book of 1870 it was the Senior Ensigns. The Drill book of 1874, page 304, says the two Junior Lieutenants—but this is only for "Marching Past" at a Review. Does this rule hold good on other occasions, such as ordinary Parades, route marchings, and the like?

V. Page 111, says the post of the Sergeant Major is one pace in rear of the centre of the colour party. But how about these occasions on which the colours are not out; or in a Rifle Regiment which carries no colours? In such cases what is the Sergt-Major's proper place when the Regiment is in Line, in Column of Companies, in Column of Double Companies, and in Column of Fours? Is it possible that the Sergt-Major is not expected to parade except when the colours are taken out?

VI. "The Regimental colours will be lowered to persons entitled to that honour." (See Page 302)—Who are these persons?

Any information on the above points will be most thankfully received by one who,

although only an Amateur soldier, yet wishes to be well posted in his self-imposed duties.

Your obedt. Servant,  
FIXED BAYONETS.

P.S.—VII. Rifle Exercises; Page 65, Drill Book 1870; Toronto Edition. The distance between ranks with trailed arms—"When ordered to trail on the march the rear rank will step about two paces." Are those the ordinary "step short" paces of twenty one inches each? If so, then the distance between the ranks will become forty eight inches. The next paragraph says, "When the squad is halted, the rear rank will regain its distance by taking a long pace as it comes to the halt"—Surely this cannot mean one long pace of forty eight inches; but it can hardly be read otherwise. What is the practice in the Regular Army? Do the rear rank men take one ordinary "step out" pace of thirty-three inches, and shuffle up the remaining fifteen inches?

F. B.

HALIFAX, March 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW:

DEAR SIR,—In a former communication I referred to changes made in Field Exercise with respect to Battalion drill, mentioning a column formation and suggesting an improvement thereon, which I hope may lead to correspondence on the subject.

I will now with your permission call attention to another alteration in formation of Columns, in Part III, Sec. 23, No. 4. viz., *Advancing in column of double companies*. The Book for 1870 says, "the left centre captain of the leading double company, and the remaining captains of the left half-battalion will give the words of command when the companies are in column. The 1874 edition makes the senior captain of each double company the commander. Can any of your reader shew any just reason why the change is made? I cannot, unless it be in accordance with Sect. 2, Part. 1. Queen's Regulations 1873. Still at the same time it may be perplexing, for one captain may not know who is to be the captain of the other company which turns to the front into column, with his own company, in time to give the words—Double Company by the left, after giving the words Front—turn to his own company. Whereas in forming column of Double companies, Sec. 25, No. 3, the words, Halt, Front, Dress, will be given by the captain nearest the directing flank. Nothing about seniority there. Again, a change is made in formation of column of Half Battalions, in which the colour party is divided, the Queens colour with two sergeants going with the right half battalion, the remainder of the colour party with the left, and in rear of the half-battalions, which will march by their right or left, according as the advance is from the right or left of half-battalions, although we are told in Gen. Rules IV (column movements) that the proper left flank directs.

Before closing I must refer to one thing more which has not been improved in the new Book; and that is a Battalion in line at open order, taking close order, in which the officers turn outwards. This has a very awkward appearance, and is not an improvement on the system in vogue previous to 1870. when all the officers turned, (or in those days, faced,) to the right. If that method were at present in fashion, it would be a simple matter for the left guides to turn about on the word march, and take post.

Yours truly, Q. F.

Our Halifax correspondent sends us the following for publication in the Review.—

HALIFAX, 9th March, 1875.

To the Editor of the Express.

DEAR SIR,—I notice in a despatch to your paper last evening that Lt. Col MacKinlay has been appointed to command the Wimbledon squad. Although this appointment is more popular than would have been that of the officer the Council first thought of recommending, yet it can only be looked upon as a slur, not only on the Active Militia force of the Dominion, but of this Province in particular. Lt. Col. MacKinlay has been a good enough officer in his day, but when he found that military duties interfered with his mercantile affairs, he relinquished his command in the Active force; and I much mistake the character of that gentleman if he allows himself to accept this appointment. It does not speak well for the Active force, that not one of its officers can be found to command a squad of twenty men, and still less of their *esprit du corps* if the men of the Active force are willing to be commanded by an officer of the Reserve. However, the appointment as yet is only made by the President of the Dominion Rifle Association, and the force will look with some curiosity to see if the authorities will confirm the same, which I trust will not be done, when proper representations are made to them on the subject.

I am yours,

SKIRMISHER.

HALIFAX, 10th March, 1875.

To the Editor of the Express:—

DEAR SIR,—In last evening's issue I notice a letter signed "Skirmisher" in the matter of the selection of Lieut. Col. MacKinlay to the command of the Wimbledon team. I am glad that this act of injustice (and it is an act of injustice) to the "Active Militia" is meeting with attention at the hands of our local force, and I trust the agitation will be continued until justice is dispensed. The privileges of our Rifle Associations, and more especially any posts of honor, should only be extended to the Active force. It is not right that those who sacrifice time, make the furtherance of the Militia cause their study be placed on no better footing than those that simply have titles and no work. There are plenty of officers in the "Active" fully competent for the present duty, and I trust to one of the many of them the command of the Squad to Wimbledon will yet be given.

Truly Yours,

ACTIVE MILITIAMAN.

The Canada Car Company have determined to wind up their affairs and close up the works.



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## The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1875.

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We have to acknowledge the receipt of the report of "Proceedings of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association" for 1874, from Lieut.-Colonel MACPHERSON. The details are already familiar to our readers and show the energy with which the affairs of this great National Institution is administered in a striking light. The pamphlet contains the report of the President, Lieut.-Colonel GZOVSKI; the Secretary, Lieut.-Colonel STUART—a "memorandum on the new form" of Target used at the meeting of the "Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa in 1874," by Lieut.-Colonel SAUSSEL—a most comprehensive and interesting report on the "Wimbledon Team," by the Commanding Officer Lieut.-Colonel GILLMOR—the very satisfactory statement of the Treasurer, Lieut.-Colonel MACPHERSON—the rules and regulations governing the Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Volunteer force selected to represent Canada at Wimbledon—an inventory of property belonging to the Association with the rules and by-laws, comprise a very interesting and well got up pamphlet of 51 pages—of which it may truly be said that every man connected with the Association appears to have done his duty.

The London *Gentleman's Magazine* for January contains an able paper from the pen of H. M. HOSEAN, Esq., on the fighting capacity of the nations of *Continental Europe* which will be found in another page under the caption of "the coming war in Europe"—in which the power of aggression, in a military point of view, of the European powers is put forth with great calmness and precision—that of England as being the least and most unimportant being the last considered—while it is intimated that her position would be one of neutrality, which would be to our thinking tantamount to unconditional surrender. We have in a recent paper shown that a very decided and prominent part in "the coming war" must be assumed by Great Britain, on the simple principle of self-preservation; because the eventual conquerors in such a strife will not only give the law to Europe, but to the whole civilized world; and it would not be for the interests of mankind that it should be dictated by a military despotism. But the great danger to British supremacy and national independence will not be evaded by a secure defensive attitude as far as the British Isles are concerned—those sacred shores may be secured from invasion, but can by the same series of operations be secured from starvation, which would be quite as effective as a Prussian army of 300,000 men in London. In a recent article we showed that Great Britain especially has depended for her bread stuffs on every country in the world that produced a surplus. Now, since *exceptional vessels* will determine Naval Supremacy, and since such countries as China, Japan, Peru, Mexico, Chili and Brazil have become in the widest sense as Naval powers—that supposing an alliance of the Northern European powers with Austria and Italy, would the British fleet be able to do more than guard the British Coasts, and what would be the consequence if through cupidity, pressure, or any other cause any or all of those smaller powers should be induced to take part against her. In that case, what would her neutrality be worth? On the other hand, if throwing her sword into the scale with France she could reckon on Turkey as an ally, the united fleets would be more than a match for their opponents; and it is here precisely that the imbecility of allowing the Treaty of Paris to be cast aside, at once displays its ugly proportions. Russia in the Black Sea can always compel Turkey to be *en garde* and will neutralize a large proportion of her Naval force; while England will be compelled to largely increase her armaments in all her great lines of Naval communication, and to adopt such measures in connection with the lesser powers as will effectually prevent their interference, and at the same time protect her own commerce. We have purposely left the United States out of the consideration; first, because her Naval strength would hardly count in such a contest if it is

at all imminent; and secondly, because we believe she would be the ally of England if she did take a part therein. It is quite evident that she could not be allowed in such an universal imbroglio to play the roll of *ante* 1812; and it would be manifestly for her interest to follow the lead of her best customer. We do not share Mr. HOSEAN's doubt as to the inefficiency of the Navy, owing to faulty principles of construction; there can be no doubt that a great deal has yet to be learned on the subject of sea going armor-clad vessels, and that all construction on the *Monitor* type are altogether faulty in principle for that purpose—but in this case the evil is merely comparative—as nearly all foreign iron-clads are built on the same principle, so that the question of final issue will be one of Strategy and seamanship. Moreover by a very simple process England can improvise an auxiliary fleet which would make it a matter of extreme difficulty if not actual impossibility for any enemy to destroy her commerce, and it simply consists in arming all her Merchant vessels—putting those officers of the Royal Navy who are now idling ashore spending the best part of their lives in miserable inaction on board—introducing discipline and training into the Merchant service—weeding out the miserable foreign element of which its seamen are composed, and by a judicious application of the means at her disposal preparing for contingencies which her great reserves of wealth render imminent at any time.

But how does the idea of "the Committee of continental bankers sitting in captured London," assessing the expenses of conquered England, agree with friend John Bright and his disciples of the peace at any price school? We believe the *Reverend* agitator is more lavish of his neighbor's money than his own. The picture, however, is not a pleasant one, and its realization will be secured by following out the *ignus fatuus* of military defence—if ever the enemy can seize or paralyze the lines of Naval communication—capitulation would follow if every individual in the British Isles were under arms to defend their shores. Papers like this are calculated to do great service as they tend to awaken public opinion from the dreams of false security into which it has been led by stupid and fanatical theorists.

In a former article we stated that to make the British Navy formidable in men and material it would be necessary to take in the Mercantile Marine as the natural basis of organization. Our contemporary *Broad Arrow* of 23rd January, in an article on "The Navy and Mercantile Marine," which will be found in another page, shows that the preliminary steps have already been taken, and that under the cover of a Naval Reserve English ship-builders and owners are endeavoring to secure aid from the

Government to perform their own duty to their own interests. A great outcry has arisen within the last two years on the subject of the sacrifice of life at sea owing to the greed and dishonesty of ship owners and others engaged in mercantile transactions connected with the foreign commerce of Great Britain, and an energetic Mr. P. W. PLIMSOL has had to sustain an action at law for libel, because he was honest and philanthropic enough to denounce the nefarious and murderous traffic those people so careful of niggers carried on in the blood of the best and bravest of their countrymen. In order to restore the deteriorated character of British seamanship, not only will it be necessary for the British Government to take the crews under its own regulations and into its own service, but the building of vessels must not be left to private supervision or even design. The only remedy is for the Government surveyor at every dockyard, public or private, to be held strictly accountable for the character of the vessel, but also for her proper adaptation to the service in which she is to be engaged. This with other regulations will not only remedy the evils complained of, but it will remove from our national life a great crime and scandal—add to our naval strength, and ultimately profit ship-owners far more than any cheating of Insurance Companies or Underwriters can do. A revolution in the peculiar philanthropy of the Stock Exchange and of the Free Trade disciples is imminent as well as absolutely necessary.

OUR contemporary *Broad Arrow* in its issue of 16th January has an article on "Naval Education," which we republish because it appears to embody what we believe to be at the bottom of all the mistakes in naval and military equipment and organization which have distinguished the "reign of the political economists" in England. The article referred to quotes with approval the French system of Naval training as being better adapted than our own to produce *scientific Officers*, and condemns the practice of receiving naval cadets at the early age (twelve years) at which they are admitted into the British service—referring to an article in *Naval Science* (the writer of which must be considerable of a theorist) in support of the view taken. In the French Naval service the period of admission is from fourteen to seventeen years of age—the result, without any imputation on the gallantry of a sister service, being that *good harbour Officers* are produced. It will not be necessary to go far to illustrate this peculiar treat of *superior scientific education*. Not more than a year ago two large ocean mail steamers commanded by officers of the French Navy were abandoned by their crews in a most unaccountable manner—except it will be accepted as one of the results of superior education that the Officers

produced under its influence are too wise to risk their lives in the performance of their duties. Modern Mechanical Science has added another element to the practical application of seamanship—our fore-fathers found it necessary to have a fighting Captain and Sailing Master on board those wooden walls that made England, with all the alleged defects of its naval system, the first and greatest Naval power the world has yet seen. The introduction of steam has simply added the necessity for a Master Mechanic—as it is obviously impossible for one man to be a good practical artillery man, a good practical seaman, and a good engine builder. The idea of training youths to the theory of all those departments is on a par with Mrs. GRADGIND'S idea of the *'ologies*, and about as practical.

The principal necessity of the Navy is to secure good practical seamanship and a thorough knowledge of the theory as well as practice of *Naval Gunnery*. We make the distinction between the art as practiced on shipboard and ashore, because it is essentially different. Now to become a thorough seaman a lad must know to "hand, reef and steer"—accomplishments he is not likely to learn at the hobble-de-hoy age—fresh from a Naval College on shore, and like SOL GILES, chock full of science. The *monkey* age in the usual average of boyhood ranges from ten to sixteen. In fixing on twelve as the medium the old sea dogs that had the trouble of licking the young cubs into shape, knew far better than the philosophers of the present enlightened age at what period of life individuals could be best trained to specialities—and accordingly (without any knowledge probably of Mr. DARWIN'S theory) when the prehensile power was best developed, taught the young idea how to balance itself on the weather end of a fore yard without the aid of scientific philosophy, and the best way to of taking in or reefing a foretopsail without a thorough mechanical training. The results of all this may be said to have culminated at Trafalgar seventy years ago, and it is beyond our ken to discern what the new ideas—scientific, philosophical or mechanical have achieved since. History happens to teach us that seven years after we got into a little row with our cousins—in which we did not shine pre eminently as the philosophers and political economists had been very busy during the intervening period; and that "long shore man" Clark of Eldon, with the vast amount of practical seamanship a Scotch Attorney in an inland town could acquire, had forced his tactics on "My Lords of the Admiralty"—influencing the sailing orders, rules and regulations of that sapient Committee.

It is not at all the intention of the writer of this article to decry the value of scientific training or education, but this can be pushed to an absurd extent, and it has been in

the case of both Army and Navy—the younger officers of both are crammed for the purpose of figuring at debating clubs or writing essays on the *Pons asinorum* for the purpose of advertising the capacity of their crammers—the fruits of such a course of instruction and the value of such knowledge must be measured seamanship that would not be sufficient to navigate a Thames hoy, and blunders that would disgrace the mate of a Newcastle collier.

To make a Naval Officer—it is necessary that he should be trained from his earliest childhood in all the practical parts of his profession—his scientific education should commence and finish on shipboard, and his mechanical knowledge should be acquired in the dockyard and forge before he get his promotion as Lieutenant. After all the division of labour in the command of a war vessel must be as of old—Captain, Sailing Master, and now (Master Mechanic) Chief Engineer. It is the natural and proper division, the one easiest imagined, and that commends itself to common sense.

THE French system of throwing open all the offices of its army, to the efforts of its rank and file, does not appear to have borne very satisfactory fruits. It is no doubt a fine thing, for a recruiting Sergeant to tell his dupe, that "the private carried a Marshal's baton in his knapsack;" but in practice, it appears to have been out of all proportion to the ends obtained—it seems to have led to that *indiscipline* from the lowest to the highest, which paralyzed all exertion and made every individual believe that his own interest and not that of his country was the ultimate object for which he was fighting. It furnishes us with one of the most striking of those awful historical examples, which appear designed by a wise Providence to teach mankind that national laws cannot be outraged with impunity, and as a warning to others as to how they should consider before they deprived the people of their natural leaders and substituted adventitious attributes for practical objects. Soldiers of fortune have no country and no patriotism, and France for the last eighty years has been training men of that class to lead her armies—with the results so prominent to the world. In *Broad Arrow* of 20th February there is an article which we have copied in another page entitled—"General WIMPFEN at Sedan," which forcibly illustrates the position we have assumed, and is an interesting historical document besides.

LET our readers should think we are moved by any spirit of hostility, in our description of the disorganization of the British Army, we give the following extract to show that in no case have we overstepped the bounds of firm and friendly criticism, and that we have not stated any thing unwar-

ranted by facts. The *Pall Mall Gazette* has the following:

"The War Office has within the last few days received a memorandum voluntarily delivered to the Secretary of State by a British officer of high rank, representing the present condition of the army as tolerably bad, and Lord Cardwell's system of short service as a hopeless failure under existing circumstances. The main grounds for this assertion are statistics carefully drawn from the returns to show that the deaths, discharges, and above all the desertions, will, at their present rates, equal in six years the average number of recruits enlisted, and that therefore any hope of founding on this system a permanent reserve is and must be an utter delusion. It is pointed out, moreover, that, although the total numbers of enlistments are kept up by the supineness with which undergrown boys and worthless characters are accepted, the Guards are 400 under their strength and the Royal Artillery 2,000, owing doubtless to their fixing a reasonable standard before accepting recruits. Under these circumstances, the writer points out, the army must at present be looked on as simply a police force for home use and nothing more. All this may be gleaned, with appropriate comments on the facts, from the letters of German correspondents dating from London to journals in their own country; but we are able to correct their reports in one important particular, and to state that the writer of this startling paper is not, as they suppose, the Commander-in-Chief. It is understood to proceed from the pen of a well known general officer distinguished both for military service and for scientific knowledge."

Our readers will recollect, how exhaustively the subject of "Modern Artillery," has been treated in the pages of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*, and how emphatically the faults of existing systems were pointed out. It would appear that this question is about to be reopened, in as far as the system of rifling, and, as a consequence, the mode of construction are concerned. The proposed improvement was tried during the Crimean war on cast iron ordnance, with the practical result of blowing off about a yard in length of the muzzle of the gun; but at that time no improvement in construction warranting the slightest approach to rifling had appeared. As far as we understand the Lancaster system, it is a *two grooved* rifle—formed by the abscissa of the oval which defines the shape of the bore of the gun. The alloyed iron in construction was said to be the too rapid twist of the oval; and it is quite possible that this difficulty has been provided against. It has the advantage of presenting no arrises to the motion of the projectile or the action of the studs if used.

At the eleventh ordinary meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers for the session 1874-75, held on the 16th of February, the paper read was on "The Erosion of the Bore in Heavy Guns, and the means for its prevention, with suggestions for the improvement of muzzle loading projectiles," by Mr. C. W. Lancaster, Assoc. Inst. C.E.

One of the greatest difficulties in the practical working of the muzzle-loading guns of the British Service had been the rapid

and injurious erosive action on the bore, due to the heated gases, generated by the ignition and explosion of the powder, finding vent on the upper side of the projectile, by the windage or difference of diameter between the calibre of the piece and the projectile, an allowance absolutely necessary to render muzzle loading feasible. The magnitude of this evil was demonstrated by the fact, that the gun was disabled after a comparatively small number of rounds, and consequently had to be inverted, in order that what was previously the lowest part of the periphery of the bore should be turned uppermost, the eroded part assuming the lowest position; and subsequently, after the new portion had in its turn undergone erosion, the gun could only be rendered available for further service by being retubed, with a new A-tube or steel lining. From official returns relative to the endurance of eleven 10 inch 400 pounder 18-ton guns, it appeared that after having been fired a certain number of rounds the whole of them were disabled, and required relining with new A tubes. The average or mean effective endurance of ten of these guns was equivalent to firing 177 rounds per gun, viz, 65 with full charges, and 112 with battering charges. Discouraging as this state of things was, it did not represent the full extent of the evil; inasmuch as, long before the necessity arose for turning the gun, or relining it with a new steel tube, its shooting power and accuracy had been materially deteriorated, by the erosion of the bore and the concomitant wearing away of the arrises of the grooves or angles of the rifling, which were the first parts attacked by the heated gas, and by the friction of the studs in centring the projectile, and in imparting the spin or rotation on its polar axis. The nature and extent of this prejudicial effect by erosion had excited the serious consideration of the British authorities. The remedial devices and appliances hitherto proposed had assumed, in the main, two distinct forms:—(1.) The coating of the projectile, wholly or partially, with a soft metal envelope, such as lead, which would, when subjected to the explosive action of the powder, be squeezed out, so as to fill the bore and take the rifling; and (2.) The application of certain accessories, attached to, or separate from, the projectile, such as discs, gas-check rings, or wads of metal or other suitable material. Experience had demonstrated that, with muzzle-loading lead coated projectiles, the powder must be limited to 1-10th the weight of the projectile. Since 1851, various devices, which were described in order of date of invention, had been tried, with more or less success, by the author, Capt. Blakely, Major Bolton, Major Lyon, the Elswick Ordnance Company, Major Maitland, and again by the author, with the view of preventing the escape of gas over the projectile by metallic wads or other material. Trials at Shoeburyness in 1873 gave promising results, as was subsequently testified by Sir William Armstrong, C.B., M. Inst. C.E. Still, whatever appliances might be employed at the base of the projectile only, the head remained at a tangent to the axis of the bore; not thoroughly concentric as in the breech loader, though, by the plans proposed, it was thought this difficulty might be met.

But however efficacious these various contrivances might be, the primary and radical defects of grooved guns and studded projectiles would always remain. Accepting such ordnance as being for the present established in the British Service, the author had sought to provide the means of diminishing, as far as might be practicable, their

attendant defects. All reasoning on the known premises led however to the inference, that the fundamental requirement was a simpler system of rifling the bore of the gun, whereby the smoothness and continuity of the interior surface might be preserved, while at the same time the necessary spin or rotary motion might be effectually imparted to the projectile. This, the author submitted, had been attained only by his own invention, known as the oval-bore gun and projectile; and his belief was that, when fully developed and fairly tried, this system would completely satisfy and fulfil all the conditions of the problem, combining a perfect gas-check and efficient centring with unsurpassed accuracy, high initial velocity, low trajectory, long range, and satisfactory powers of endurance. A careful examination and comparison of the official photographs sufficed to show that, from whatsoever cause, the erosive action of the powder on the oval bore was trifling; whereas, under precisely similar conditions, it entirely disabled the ordinary Woolwich rifled gun. If, then, the principle of muzzle-loaded projectiles, which had been persistently approved by the authorities in this country, was to hold its own, and if muzzle-loading guns were to retain their place as the equals of breech loading guns, the existing faulty and unmechanical system of rifling, with a grooved bore and studded projectiles, on which in the end the whole question turned, must be discarded in favour of a simpler and better system of rifling for gun and projectile, such as the oval bore, a conclusion which could be established on grounds both of economy and efficiency.

We are glad to see that attention is again being directed to Mr Charles Lancaster's most valuable system of the oval bore, which is certainly in theory the nearest to perfection of any system of rifling, and in the future, with probably some very slightly varied appliance, may take the position which its talented inventor has so assiduously worked for.

We publish (by request) two articles this week on Major General SMYTH's report—one copied from the *Toronto Nation*, the other from the *Fredericton N. B. Reporter*. We propose commencing the publication of the Report next week, with some remarks of our own thereon.

On Tuesday last, the annual meeting of the Ontario Rifle Association was held in Room 11, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; the President, Mr. JOHN GORDON, in the chair. The following members were present:—

Lieut. Colonel Durie, D. A. G.; Lieut. Col. Denson, Brigade Major; Lieut. Col. Gilmor; Lieut. Col. Otter, Secretary; Major W. N. Alger, Treasurer; Major Arthurs; Sergt. Major Cruik, and Corporal Stanley.

The Secretary submitted the annual report, which, after considerable discussion, was amended, and adopted as follows:—

After alluding to the annual match on the Association ranges, Garrison Common, Toronto, on the 1st September, the report said that the actual receipts for 1874 have been about \$400 in excess of 1873, while the expenses have been some \$800 less, but as the balance brought forward in 1873 was \$2,238, that of 1874 was only \$512, leaving \$1,700 less of a margin to work upon. The number of Affiliating Associations was increased by

four, but the ordinary membership has fallen off from 42 to 29.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$30.54. The value of the stores belonging to the Association is \$2,517.64.

Lieut. Col. Gilmor said he had been requested to announce that Lieut.-Col. Gzowski had not been able to attend, but that he would renew his subscription of \$100. Also that the man going to Wimbledon would receive Martini-Henri rifles as soon as possible to practice with in Canada, the Dominion Rifle Club being held responsible for them and for the amount of the ammunition; that 100,000 rounds had been ordered for 1875, for practice and competition; and that in consequence of a motion with regard to the introduction of steel barrels they would be sold at cost price.

It was moved by Lieut.-Col. Scoble and seconded by Capt. Mason, and was carried:—

"That the Secretary be instructed to endeavour to effect an arrangement with the several corps and clubs of Toronto, whereby the actual expenses of practice may be defrayed; and failing this, that the affiliation fee of city corps and clubs be raised to \$10 per battalion, \$30 per club, and \$25 per independent company."

It was arranged that the match for the present year should commence on the 22nd June. Lieut. Cols. Gilmor and Scoble, Sergt. Major Cruik, and the Secretary were appointed to arrange the details.

Militia and Defence.

There is probably no one subject before the House and the country, on which exists such wide divergency of opinion, as that which relates to the military organization and defence of the country. From total disarmament to a standing army, each theory finds staunch advocates, who are prepared to support their theories by incontrovertible argument. Perhaps, in no case can the rule, *in medio tutissimus*, be more safely adopted. Between the advocates of the millennial doctrines enunciated by Mr. M. Cameron, and the extreme alarmists who breathe fire and smoke and see indications of war in every passing cloud, lies a safe middle course, perhaps not acceptable to either, but certainly calculated for the welfare of the country. We cannot afford to be defenceless, lest our position should invite attack; and we certainly cannot afford a standing army that would be adequate to the defence of the country. The only solution of the problem is, therefore, a citizen soldiery, an armed nationality. For the proper education of this force, many schemes have been tried, and each proved in a certain degree valueless; not because of the intrinsic demerits of the scheme, but because no Government has been willing to make the question a national one, and to dissociate its interests from party politics. Truth to tell, the patronage, direct and indirect, is so considerable, the lever is so powerful that it moves some 40 000 electors—or at least politicians—that no Government has cared to relinquish it. Therefore, Adjutants-General have been sacrificed who trod on the toes of political majors; discipline has been subverted to save political friendships, and military titles have been the cheap reward of political services. Hence numerous breaches of recognized military rule, disheartening to men of military tastes and habits, who have made the subject their study; many of whom have left the service in consequence. Hence the demoralization of the force, which cannot be kept up to a proper standard, when its vital interests are sacrificed to political exigencies. It is

ovident, therefore, that a radical change is necessary, and it was consequently with some hope of relief that we hailed the appointment of a Major-General to command the militia and act as military adviser of the Government, in the belief that his high position and large experience would place him above the reach of petty politics. It is too soon to hazard an opinion whether such is the case or not; but a perusal of the report on the State of the Militia indicates an amount of bluff soldierly independence that leads us to hope for the best. True, his report contains nothing new, his suggestions have been forestalled by others; his ideas are crude, and to a certain extent, erroneous. But the steps he advocates are in a right direction; and were he to inform himself more thoroughly before committing himself to any direct recommendation, his appointment will be likely to prove a great boon to our militia. The errors that he has fallen into are principally induced by class prejudices, of which it would be absurd to expect him to divest himself at once. That of recommending a further introduction of officers from the regular service, as Staff Officers, Adjutants, etc., is probably the most serious. A regular officer, accustomed to the monotony of the service, comes to regard a soldier as a mere instrument of his will; as an unreasoning machine. He cannot divest himself of this opinion when placed in command of volunteers. His contempt of amateur soldiers, his class prejudices, and *de haut en bas* manner of treating his men, renders him unpopular, and consequently unfit to command. As a subordinate officer, he is apt to decry the capabilities of his superiors who are not "to the manor born," and with his inferiors he is haughty and exacting. Consequently, he is a failure. It is not intended to argue that an officer should popularize himself at the expense of discipline; nor that he should know nothing of his duties, in order that he might suit the ignorance of both superiors and inferiors; on the contrary, it is often the case that volunteer officers are more severe disciplinarians than their comrades who have been of the regular service, and yet they are better obeyed and better liked. To those who have been on service, there is a subtle distinction, more appreciated than explicable, between the *ex militaire* and the volunteer pure and simple, which renders us predisposed against the rule of the former, and for the regime of the latter. And it must be taken into consideration, that our volunteers, ready as they have always been to render a reasoning obedience, are not fitted by education and social position to act as mere machines; and that the introduction of martinotism is more likely to destroy their *morale* than to improve their discipline. Let us have no more importations from the regular service who have no heart in their work, and regard residence in this country as an exile only to be borne for the sake of their pay; rather let us seek out for the service those officers whose interests are identified with Canada, and who know the constituents of the force. There are many who have distinguished themselves, many who have qualified themselves to take some part in our military organization. It is to be hoped their interests will not be lost sight of in making new appointments.

As regards the system, the Report is not sufficiently radical. A common interest should unite all classes of the Dominion in preparing its means of defence, and deference to Quebec should not be made an excuse to prevent the perfecting of a suitable system. It is, no doubt, a matter of

difficulty to arrange all conflicting interests, and to determine upon a correct and equitable basis. But why not arrive at such a settlement by calling into the councils, those volunteer officers from each part of the Dominion, whose experience in the past, and knowledge of local requirements, would be some guarantee for a proper solution of the difficulty? It is unfair to assume that a regular officer, however great his experience in the service, should be able at first sight, to prepare a scheme which shall meet all demands, and render the militia question a vexed question no longer.—*The Nation*.

Militia Report.

The Report on the state of the Militia of Canada for the year 1874, with an introduction by Major General E. Selby Smyth, is received. A synopsis of the report will be found in the following paragraph:—

He gives credit to Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher for his pamphlet on the defence of Canada. Since the departure of the regular forces and the abolition of Military Schools, he recommends that a company of engineers and three companies of infantry be forthwith embodied—one company of the infantry to be stationed at Toronto, one at Ottawa and one in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Each of them should have a highly proficient instructor from the Royal Army, but otherwise be officered from the Militia. The effect of these infantry schools would be to secure a rapid supply of trained officers and sergeants throughout the Dominion, and those who passed through the schools would be qualified to form a permanent regimental staff. He also recommends that the adjutant of every battalion should be a regular army officer. Were such a course adopted, army and clothing would be carefully preserved where at present loss and waste occur, and the pay of caretakers would be saved. A responsible officer would have to be permanently at the head quarters of the battalion Company exercise would then become of real and substantial value. The heavy cloth tunic has been found too hot for summer drills, a serge frock, to last for three years, made of excellent material manufactured in Canada, will be substituted. In his late tour of inspection he came to the conclusion that the arms in many cases are badly cared for. He recommends that in future the captains of rural battalions be not allowed to keep the accoutrements of their companies, but that they be stored at headquarters of battalions. He had found the military store depots at London, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and Quebec in good order. There are at present 60,000 rifles in the country, and he recommends that 80,000 more be purchased as soon as the funds of the country will permit. The price of these rifles is £2 10s. each. The amount of powder in store is 200,000 pounds. The clothing in many cases has not been well taken care of. The active militia numbers 45,138; and the reserve militia 700 000. There are sixteen field batteries, six of which are already armed with the most approved new rifled field guns. The Gunnery Schools at Kingston and Quebec are praised for their efficiency. He recommends that the district staffs should only be appointed for five years, and objects to the large number of persons with military titles throughout the Dominion. The Kingston Military College, he is of opinion, will prove of great use, and will produce a scientific class of officers.

The Major General has embodied in his remarks many excellent suggestions, showing clearly that he has given the subject (For continuation see page 144.)

## THE TIDE.

BY MARY W. MCLAIN.

The tide is out!  
Low lie the dank sea woods. The life is gone  
That gave them strength to rise, and now forlorn,  
Low from the rocks the ill,  
Waiting in patience for the morrow morn,  
When strong with life and high,  
The tide will then come in.

The tide is out.  
Far out at sea I watched the dancing waves  
Rising to meet the sea-gull, as she laves  
In them her weary breast,  
Fearless of all, the elements she braves,  
Seeking like me her rest,  
Her tide is never in.

The tide is out.  
Low, lifeless like the sea weed, now I lie,  
Wishing that like the gull, I swift could fly,  
From 'neath the burning sun  
And scorching sands, then, make me long to die,  
Fearing that I am one  
Whose tide will never come in.

The tide is out.  
Sinking upon the sand, with bended knee;  
The cruel sands that soon will bury me  
Unless the tide will soon come in;  
With humble heart. Father, I pray to Thee,  
Cleanse me from grief and sin,  
And make my tide come in.

The tide is in!  
Swift, surging o'er the sand. And now no more  
Beside the barren, desolate sea-shore  
I watch the sun-dried rocks,  
And think my life like theirs is thirsting, sore,  
While cooling waters mock—  
For now the tide is in.

The tide is in.  
My happy life seems to me in its prime,  
Full of sweet hope, whose fruit will come in time,  
Bringing glad rest and peace  
But it was not always so; there was a time  
When sorrows would not cease;  
But now—the tide is in.

The tide is in.  
With grateful heart I lift mine eyes above,  
To him who sent the tide, whose name is Love,  
Who saw me tired lie  
In a strange land, like Noah's weary dove,  
Not knowing he was nigh  
Who makes the tide come in.

The tide is in.  
And lifting my drooped head, I now in haste  
Go forth to meet my work, across the waste;  
Eager to live my life  
As Thou hast made it, who gave me a taste  
Of weary care and strife,  
Before my tide came in.

The tide is in.  
But ah! the time will come, I know full well,  
That it will leave me; when, I cannot tell;  
But when that time shall come,  
I pray that thou my strong thoughts will quell  
And take me to that home,  
Where tides are always in.

## The Navy and the Mercantile Marine.

The fact that an influential deputation of ship owners and gentlemen connected with the mercantile marine had an interview with the First Lord of the Admiralty respecting the training of seamen for the merchant service and Royal Naval Reserve, is one of great significance. For it is not too much to say that the policy now being inaugurated, which has for its object not simply the improved technical education of our merchant seamen, but also the drawing together for the defence of the country of the Royal Navy and the mercantile marine, is one which, if judiciously carried out, promises to mark a new era in the maritime power of England, to confirm her in the undisputed sovereignty of the seas, and thus to render her insular position more impregnable than ever. In order rightly to appreciate the importance of the movement in question, it is necessary to glance back through the pages of our national history, and doing so, we observe that in the times of the Tudors, when the Royal Navy, as a standing force, was in its infancy, the Service was largely dependent on the mercantile marine for reinforcements, both of men and ships.

Merchant-vessels formed a large proportion of those squadrons wherewith Howard, Drake, Hawkins, and Frobisher curbed the power of Spain, and repulsed the so-called Invincible Armada.

Thus the resources of the Royal Navy, in its early days, may be said to have been to some extent measured by those of the mercantile marine. As the former service, however, progressively assumed a more independent character, its connection with the latter was gradually dissolved, the last link severed being the iniquitous system of the press-gang. After this was abolished, and until the organization of the Royal Naval Reserve there was a gulf between the Services which, looking to the defence of the country, was a deplorable point of national weakness. And although the Royal Naval Reserve has been in existence for some years, its arrangements and regulations were, until recently, of a nature which failed to give the Admiralty any satisfactory grasp of the great mass of our merchant seamen. But now it has happened so far fortunately, that the recent agitation respecting the deterioration of merchant seamen, has supplied a ground of meeting between the Admiralty and the mercantile marine interest, from which highly satisfactory and important results appear likely to follow. Viewing the matter from a moment from the standpoint of national defence, it may be observed that, although we doubtless require a more extensive military system, our real reply to the present organization of vast armies on the continent must, after all, in the first instance, be given in the form of a considerable development of our naval power, which, we apprehend, is to be done most effectually and most economically by once more constituting the mercantile marine one vast naval reserve, not merely of men, but also, to some extent, of ships. If Mr. Ward Hunt can elaborate and carry out successfully a grand scheme of this kind, he will rank as one of the greatest naval administrators whom the country has ever produced.

The views of the recent deputation, as explained by Mr. Bushell, chairman of the Liverpool Committee of Inquiry, were to the effect that the committee being satisfied that there was a great and grievous depreciation in the skill and character of sailors in the mercantile marine, felt that there were only two alternatives, namely (1), a recurrence to the old system of compulsory apprenticeship, or (2) the organization of some practical scheme of voluntary apprenticeship in connection with a system of training-ships under Government supervision, the boys to be available for the Royal Navy as well as the mercantile marine. The latter plan was the one supported by the committee, and it obtained the general concurrence of the shipping interest; the only difference of opinion being as to the ages of the boys, the mode of raising funds, and other details. Mr. Ward Hunt observed that the Admiralty would, of course, have to fix a limit to the age at which boys could be entered in the Royal Naval Service, and doubted whether it would be possible to take the whole of the boys into the Reserve from these ships, "as the numbers would probably become excessive in course of time." Now nothing can demonstrate more clearly than this remark the importance, as regards resources, of that closer connection between the Navy and the mercantile marine which we have advocated. From time immemorial the question of manning the Navy has puzzled the brains of successive Governments, and ever since the establishment of the Royal

Naval Reserve it has been a continual cause of complaint that the Service failed to attract a sufficient proportion of our merchant seamen. But now no sooner is a judicious scheme of co-operation between the Admiralty and the shipping interest for training seamen proposed, than we find the First Lord remarking in effect that the system would probably give the Admiralty more young seamen than they want. Accordingly he bargains "to have the pick of the boys with regard to character and efficiency of drill," and intimates it as his opinion that boys of a certain age should be drilled during the last few months of their stay at these training ships in arms of all kinds, and then enlisted into a new third class of Naval Reserve boys, wearing a special uniform as a good conduct badge to distinguish them in mercantile ships." There can be no doubt that this introduction on board merchant vessels of steady, well-trained lads having a certain connection with the Naval Service would be in every way beneficial, and, indeed, it was stated by one member of the deputation—Mr. Williamson—that shipowners were of opinion that a "connection with the Navy would ensure them a better class of seamen." As the shipping interest generally are tolerably unanimous on the subject, and as Mr. Ward Hunt intimated that the Admiralty would "enter into the subject with the full desire to carry out in the main the object of the deputation," we may well expect to see an extension of the training-ship system which will secure a constant supply of able seamed both for the Royal Naval Services and for the mercantile marine.

## Naval Education.

If there is one thing which vexes the souls of naval officers in the present day more than another it is education. We do not mean to hint, even, that they dislike it or despise it, or would, as a body, fail to give it due honour and proper consideration, but that it has in the last few years, cropped up so persistently and in such unexpected quarters that no class feels itself safe from molestation. In the good old days, not so very long ago, this uncertainty and enthusiasm about naval education did not exist. Its limits were well defined, and its requirements properly limited. Boys from school crawled in through the easily opened door of the entry examination, scraped through the *Britannia*; flung their books to the wind; or gave them to aspiring younger brothers and sisters, while they were at sea, and came back to pass at the college, where, it need hardly be said, the wind was admirably tempered to the scrubbiest of shorn lambs, and then they had done with education. Unless, indeed, while on half pay, a zealous or book-loving "half-pay" took a turn at the College, and occupied a share of its limited accommodation. Now, however, all this is changed; nothing is heard but theories of education, which shall not interfere with an officer's professional work, but shall make him learned enough in "1 y" to become senior wrangler on the shortest notice or be able to write learned articles in *Naval Science* on the oscillation of ships, or the inner lives of chronometers, in a manner which would confound even Dr. Woolley and Mr. Froude themselves.

In *Naval Science*, however, there is an article on Naval Education worth perusal, and likely, we should imagine, to attract some notice, not wanting, indeed, a delicate flavour of sub-acidity, which the estimable magazine seems bent on cultivating



but bearing throughout the evidence of a mastery of the subject, and such an intimate knowledge of it, as would almost warrant us in fathering it upon the Naval College itself.

The action which the Government has taken in regard to the *Britannia* and the proposals to make certain alterations in the entry of cadets into the Service, give a special value to the information contained in this article. Starting from the fact that the revolution effected in naval warfare and naval construction has altered proportionally the attainments requisite in naval officers, the writer brings in the question, How shall we best enter lads for the navy, and then, how shall we train them? Now that the power of enforcing obedience, the cultivation of the habits of a gentleman, and a resolute capacity for self reliance, are not the sum total of the requirements of naval officers, it is evident, their selection in the first instance must depend on the altered conditions which exist at the present time. The mere fact of going on board an iron-clad and noting the ever-present mechanism or mechanical contrivances which assist in the smallest operations, is sufficiently convincing without the necessity of adding argument to sight.

What, then, do we do at present to secure at the very outset men capable of grappling with the knowledge requisite to deal with this altered state of things? Nothing, or almost nothing. The same old-fashioned, barbarous ideas about entry exist as they existed in the time of Midshipman Easy. All that has been done has been to exclude short cuts into the Navy by having an examination of the most elementary character, better adapted to the qualifications of national school children than young officers, and to curb patronage. But the age of entry remains the same; and twelve years of age is considered the proper age to tear boys away from school and place them under naval training, as it was a quarter of a century ago. This vicious habit, which *Naval Science* justly denounces, is due simply to professional ideas and habits—to the notion that a smart officer must, in order to fully appreciate the beauties of a sailor's life, understand naval discipline, and learn, possibly, to submit to many cruelties "Service" ways, be dragged from his cradle, and be imbued with Service ideas and habits before school has corrupted him. So long as the Service was rough and ready in character, and required little else from a youngster but a capacity for unlimited obedience afloat and swagger ashore, no fault could possibly be found with such a state of things. So long as professional qualifications were paramount and educational capacity was of secondary importance, it was far better that boys should enter the Service at the earliest practical age. But now, when professional considerations are gradually sinking into secondary significance, or rather when educational requirements are advancing themselves to a position of paramount importance; when, indeed, it may possibly come to pass that to be well equipped scientifically, will be of far more importance than being an out-and-out "tant hand;" then, we are justified in asking whether it is any longer desirable that boys should be dragged away from school at an age when their brains are just beginning to make themselves, and when educational discipline is just beginning to bear some fruit. In regard to this point, the writer in *Naval Science* states that most of the countries which borrowed their own systems of entry and training from us, have long ago abandoned it as antique and dan-

gerous. In France the limits of age on entry are fourteen and seventeen years of age, and anybody is allowed to present himself for education who is free from bodily defect and has shared in the general education of the country. As is presumably the case with our competitive examinations, all who fail to reach a certain standard on the first day of examination, are shut out from further trial. As the competitors have already had a sound training, and mathematics is a principal subject of competition, it stands to reason that those who are selected and successful will have a fair knowledge of this subject, and start at once on a par with our cadets on leaving the *Britannia*.

In Russia it appears that the cadet is sent to sea before his preliminary examination. This is more daring than the French system; but we doubt whether its practical value is great. The last Foreign State which is noticed is the United States. Here, originally, the age and system of entry were the same as our own. But, in spite of many obstacles and difficulties, they varied the limit of age to between fourteen and eighteen years, the nominations being chiefly in the hands of members of the House of Representatives. The examination is not competition, and the standard is low; but the young officers have to undergo a course of study far more difficult than that at Greenwich, about which we have been willing, to open our columns for discussion.

Still we are content to go on in the same groove and enter children with the vague idea that the Service reaps a benefit in consequence. We have already expressed the belief that the abolition of the *Britannia* for cadets and the establishment of a college on shore, will end in proving that it is just as desirable to let lads stay at their own schools for the extra two years and get rid of the College altogether. And we are further of opinion that the time has come for considering seriously whether the entry of cadets is not pitched far too low, and is not altogether out of date in comparison with the navies of other countries.

But on these points the writer of the article enters into great detail, and cannot, with advantage, be quoted piecemeal. But the information respecting training is very valuable, and the discussion on the *Britannia* system proceeds, evidently, from no novice or outsider. We could have wished there had been more about the College; but, with the exception of a few remarks to show that time is required before its value can be fully appreciated, and that the difficulties which exist might properly be dealt with by a Parliamentary Committee, there is not much either of value or interest. But we commend the paper to all who are interested, as so many are, in naval education, as it contains information which could hardly be obtained elsewhere so readily and accurately in so small a compass.

#### The Late Captain Thos. G. Anderson.

Captain Thomas Gummersall Anderson, who died at Port Hope on the 16th of February, at the advanced age of 96 years, was one of the first white settlers in this vicinity, and intimately associated with Orillia, having selected our flourishing town in 1829 as one of the places on which to build an establishment for the civilization of the Indians. Captain Anderson was born at Sorel, in Lower Canada, on the 12th of November, 1779. His father, Samuel Anderson, at that time a Captain in the "Continental Army," and possessing a good deal of in-

fluence, obtained a Commission for Thomas when he was but a few weeks old, as Cadet in the "King's Royal Regiment of New York." He was consequently a veteran of the Revolutionary War. A few years after this, Samuel Anderson removed with his family to Cornwall, where he was subsequently appointed the first Judge, and died in 1832, at the age of 97.

The subject of this notice, when fourteen years of age, left his father's house, as he often expressed himself, "to battle with the world," and for some time was a clerk in the late Thomas Markland's store at Kingston. While there, hearing from a Mr. Mackenzie something of the independent life of Indian Traders, he determined to accompany him to the Far West, and left Mr. Markland in November, 1797 to spend Christmas with his parents. There were neither railroads, steamers, nor stages in those days, and as he had made up his mind to visit Cornwall before proceeding to the Indian country, he purchased a small bark canoe, and early on the morning of his birthday started from Kingston alone. He literally "paddled his own canoe" in this instance, which he did figuratively through the remainder of his long, eventful life, and had it not been for his natural diffidence he would have occupied a more prominent place in the history of Canada. After wending his way through the Thousand Islands on that glorious "Indian summer" day, he reached Brockville at dusk, and having pulled up his frail bark, he soon found out some friends of his father's the Jones, where he spent several days very pleasantly. The navigation closing in the mean time, he pursued the remainder of his journey on foot.

After spending the winter at home, he started in the spring with Mr. McKenzie to the Indian country, where he remained several years enduring many hardships, and having a number of hair breadth escapes owing to the treachery of the Sioux tribes, with whom he was principally associated. The localities on which are now situated Chicago, Milwaukee, Green Bay, and other large cities and towns of the West, Captain Anderson knew when they were the hunting grounds of the Red man. In 1814 he commanded the Western Indians, and rendered efficient service to his country in its struggle with the Americans. His only surviving son—the Rev. J. G. Anderson, of Penetanguishene—has now in his possession the wampum worn by the captain whilst leading the Indian tribes in battle. In 1815, Captain Anderson was appointed to the Indian Department at Drummond Island, at that time a military station. In 1820 he married Elizabeth Ann, eldest daughter of the late Captain James Matthew Hamilton, of H. M. 5th Regiment, a Dublin man, whose ancestors were prominent men either in the Church or in the army. In 1823 the garrison was removed to Penetanguishene, and Captain Anderson took charge of the Indians who were wandering about Gloucester Bay and Lake Couchiching. He proposed the plan of building houses for them, and teaching them habits of industry. Comfortable log houses were erected by the Government along the portage between this and Coldwater for the warriors, and a frame one at Orillia and another at Coldwater for the Chiefs. Large school houses where the children were to be educated. However, the wandering habits of the Indians prevailed. They could not remain in one place. Subsequently the lands were ceded to the Government, the Orillia Indians going to Rama, where the remnant of the Band still live. The School House built

Church of England place of worship, and Chief Yellowhead's residence was until lately occupied as a Parsonage. The Indians settled at Coldwater also dispersed. In 1836 the plan of settling all the Indian Tribes on the Great Manitoulin Island was proposed, and Captain Anderson took charge of that establishment, where he remained until 1845, when he was appointed Visiting Superintendent of Indian Affairs. While he held this important position, which he did until the 30th of June, 1855, the plan of the future town of Orillia was laid out, and the original purchasers of village lots are indebted to Captain Anderson for his kindness and courtesy in dealing with them.

Captain Anderson was a member of the Church of England, but in the discharge of his duty as Superintendent he respected the opinion of either Romanist or Methodist, and treated the Missionaries of all denominations with uniform respect. The welfare, spiritually and temporally, of the Red man appeared to be his one desire up to the time of his death. Frequently has he been known to complain of what he considered an injustice done to the Indians by the Government; and the neglect of them spiritually by the Church of his fathers, which he believed to be the natural fold of the Indian, was to him a source of great anxiety. Captain Anderson was universally respected by the Indians under his control, and on his retirement from the Department, he was presented by the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte with a handsome silver tomahawk pipe, made by J. G. Joseph & Co., of Toronto, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Captain T. G. Anderson by the Mohawk Chiefs, Tyendinaga, 1858." On the one side of the Tomahawk face is an Indian camping scene, and on the other the "totems" of the three Mohawk Tribes viz., the wolf, the bear, and the turtle. Captain Anderson was in every sense a good man, and literally "fell asleep in Jesus" on the 16th ult., leaving a son and two daughters.—*Orillia Packet*.

### Scripture Giants.

Various estimates have been made of the probable height of Goliath and Og. The uncertain element is the cubit used. Goliath's height, six cubits and a span (1 Sam. xvii. 4), has generally been concluded to be from nine feet six inches to 12 feet. Og is commonly supposed to have been rather taller, but the estimate is based on the length of his headstead, nine cubits (Duet, iii. 11). On this it is quite hazardous to depend. A giant king might pride himself on his stature, and wish to keep up the idea of it by a specially large bedstead of iron. It seems probable that Goliath was more gigantic than the warriors mentioned as of "the sons of the giants," of "great stature," and the like. Supposing the shekel of brass to be the same as the shekel of iron, Goliath's spear was twice the weight of that of Ishbi-benob. In modern days soldiers of ten feet in height would not be specially valued. Frederic William's army of giants was a matter of ridicule rather than of awe. Let us see how far the giants of old differed from them. We now lay no great stress on a few inches in height. Frederic William had some enormous men found for him by the Czar, but we may safely fix his limit at ten feet, a height of which we have few men recorded during the two thousand years. His guards, however, were individual specimens, in most cases men who from some exceptional cause grew wonderfully; in short, they were over-

grown men. The giants in Scripture were a race, and the difference is very great. It is uncommon to find a man with a stock of vital energy differing greatly from his fellows; that is those of his race. Consequently, a very tall man is generally rather feeble. In some cases a very well made tall man may have his arteries and limbs so firm that the work of the heart in pumping the blood to the extremities is less felt than might be supposed. Tall men that have shown extraordinary energy (we are not now speaking of single efforts of strength), very active leaders in wars, for example, have, on the whole, been remarkable rather as being short than tall. Napoleon was very short, perhaps five feet four inches. Nelson was very small. Wellington, we believe, hardly five feet eight inches. Peter the Great was short rather than tall. As far as we can learn Gustavus Adolphus is almost the only great leader that was decidedly tall. Marlborough was a handsome man, but there seems no record of his being actually tall. It may well have been with him as with Louis XIV., of whom we hear, that when stripped of his high heels and wig, and laid in his coffin, his attendants could hardly believe that they saw in the little human frame before them the body of "Le Grande Monarque." And William III. was undersized, and his extraordinary opponent, Luxemburg, was a dwarf. Claverhouse was small; so, we believe, was Cromwell. As, however, there is considerable difficulty in obtaining reliable evidence on such points we pass at once to what we believe to be the fair conclusion. To judge if a man is overgrown or not—and on this depends his real fitness for severe work—we must know not only his own height, but that of his race generally. An Englishman of the upper classes of five feet ten inches in height need by no means be an overgrown man, but we should suspect a Frenchman of the same stature. To English ears the incident sounds strange of General Bonaparte walking up to a knot of discontented French officers in Egypt, and informing one that his "five feet ten inches," would not prevent his being hanged for mutiny. A race of giants, then, men who naturally grew to a height of ten feet with vital powers in proportion, would be indeed terrible in the species of war waged between Israel and the Philistines. No wonder if the spies crept past them, feeling they were grasshoppers in their own sight, and in that of the giants also. Hence we cannot wonder that God chose individual men to show that under the greatest disadvantages the battle was still the Lords.

Mr. R. S. M. BOUCHETTE, late Commissioner of Customs, was on Saturday last presented with a testimonial by the employes of the Customs Department. The presentation took place in the Minister of Custom's office, which took the shape of a certificate for \$1,000, Dominion 5 per cent. stock and a most handsome and valuable gold watch and chain. The watch bears on one side of the case the armorial bearing of Mr. BOUCHETTE with his motto "*fortunatus laborum*" and on the other side the following inscription, (the engraving having been done by Mr. George Cox of Wellington street,) "Presented to R. S. M. BOUCHETTE, Esq., by the Customs Service of the Dominion of Canada, on his retirement from the office of Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa, March 20th, 1875."

The *Times* says the Prince of Wales will go to India during the next cold season.

(Continued from page 141.)

much careful thought and consideration. There are points, however, upon which he will be found at variance with a large majority of the volunteer force in Canada, originating no doubt from a lack of experience with the associations and requirements of the country. It is in fact impossible for a gentleman to pronounce intelligently upon the best mode of procedure in regard to this important branch of the service, having an experience of only six brief months in the country, and we doubt not that before many weeks, and certainly so soon as he shall have personally visited and inspected our Camps of Instruction, he will see the obvious necessity of changing or remodelling the propositions or plans suggested in the Report now before us. What suits a compact, conservative, wealthy and populous country like England, will not always be found adapted to a young country like Canada, where, notwithstanding our numerical inferiority, we are very tenacious of our own rights and opinions. Neither is the discipline or internal economy applicable to Aldershot or the Curragh, advisable or practicable in the various military districts of Canada, and especially in reference to a force that is emphatically a Volunteer force.

Concerning our Camps of Instruction and the results attainable therefrom the General has evidently a very indifferent opinion. He says:—

"Certainly there are camps of exercise; and very pleasant holiday gatherings no doubt they must have been; but, with some few exceptions, who among them can be qualified to give the necessary and desirable instruction?"

"Now, it is evident that, since with the withdrawal of the Royal Troops, military example, emulation in discipline and instruction, with all that is inseparable from making men into soldiers, are no longer reality. The buccaneering raids of Fenians, which roused the anger and the military ardour of the people, have passed away into oblivion; peace, commercial prosperity and contentment prevail.

"In a ratio, therefore, with the annual diminution of the instructed element, the military spirit languishes in a measure throughout the country, and unless some means of attraction or incentive are produced may decline into a blank."

So far as the Province of New Brunswick is concerned this opinion is entirely based in error. We are not aware, certainly, that because the men enjoy themselves in "holiday" fashion during their hours of recreation, they are any the less attentive or studious during the hours of drill, and at no Camp of Instruction in the old country is military discipline more readily complied with than throughout the Province of New Brunswick. As regards the withdrawal of the Regular troops, we might say confidently that the Volunteer force of the country has been more efficient and complete since that period than ever before, nor is the military spirit "languishing" by any means.

These are mistakes, however, to which any stranger is liable, and which, as already intimated, the lapse of time and personal inspection will eradicate.

As this is a question in which many of our readers are interested, we shall refer more particularly to the Report in a subsequent issue.—*N. B. Reporter*, 10th March,

The *Birmingham Gazette* says the rebuilding of Warwick castle is completed and that the cost is estimated at between £15,000 and £20,000.

**True Heroism.**

**WILLIAM MARKS' DECENT INTO A BURNING PIT—  
THIRTY TWO LIVES SAVED.**

The fire broke out about midday, and when first discovered the main shaft in the mine was in a blaze, with thirty two men and boys at work beyond and beneath the flames, nearly forty feet below the level of the earth. In a few minutes the whole population of the place rushed to the scene, and a thousand or more men, women and children—the relatives, friends, and neighbors of the entombed miners—were gathered at the mouth of the burning shaft, steeped with fear and anguish. All the wells in the town had run nearly dry weeks before, and scarcely enough water could be secured to subdue the heat above ground, much less to arrest the conflagration inside the mine. Thus matters stood for two awful hours, when a railroad engine arrived with a full tank, which was hurriedly emptied into the shaft, and a great shout of hope went from the people.

At this juncture a man emerged like a spectre from the blaze and smoke, and fell in a swoon at the very edge of the shaft. An hour later two more men cried up through the flames for help, and a ladder was lowered to them, on which they made their way to the top, and were dragged forth alive, but burned and blackened beyond recognition. Three were now saved, but twenty-nine others were still below and the fire was not yet under control. The terrified crowd stood aghast for a few minutes, and then suddenly a panic of despair seemed to seize them, the stifled moans of the women and children breaking out afresh, and the men drawing back from the mine with blanched and averted faces. The supreme moment of the emergency had come, and the man to meet it was there. His name was William Marks, and he stepped to the front with the promptness and the modesty of a true hero. "Fasten a rope around me, and let me down into the shaft," he said. The proposition was appalling, but down he went into the horrible cavern, without another word, and reaching the bottom freed himself for his search in the entries diverging from the main shaft. At almost the first step into the stifling darkness he stumbled upon the inanimate form of one of the miners in a coal car, which he pushed to the entrance, secured the rope around the body, called to those above to hoist away, and in a moment the man was safe. Further search soon revealed the whereabouts of the remaining twenty-eight, and slowly but surely Marks piloted them to the mouth of the mine and delivered them, one by one—many insensible, but all alive—out of the jaws of death into the hand of their wives and children. Then, when the last one had been rescued, he came himself to the surface, scorched and blinded, and nearly suffocated, and stood there silently among the cheering townspeople, the master of the situation.

Thus the peril was surmounted without any sacrifice of life; but the heroism was there all the same. The rescue of the helpless miners, and the escape of the man who gave death scorn to save them, spoiled the perfection of a tragedy; but the destruction of all concerned could not have added to the radiance which belongs to the unselfish bravery of William Marks. He was a common workingman.

The Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway is again open for traffic. The late thaw enabled the company to clear the line.

The Martini-Henry offers, it would seem, a corrective, not intended by the inventors, to that wastefulness of ammunition in rapid firing which was regarded with apprehension as the result of the use of breech-loading small arms. Surgeon Major Henry, in a letter which will be found under the head "60th Rifles" in our regimental column, states that he gave it as his opinion, after examining the effects of the discharge of 100 rounds in "five" volley, and skemistling firing as fast as the heating of the rifle would admit of twenty men selected for the purpose, that a repetition of the same practice next day "would inflict most serious bodily pain and injury on the men;" and he specifies, among the effects, extensive marks and contusion on nineteen out of the twenty—one km. by 7in.—though he does not specify the place. The trials at Aldershot have not developed such extensive mischief; but, then, there has been no test of such severity as the discharge of 100 rounds as fast as they can be fired. This check on extravagant firing may, however, be attended with disadvantages.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

**EARTHQUAKE.**—A letter from Guadalajara, Mexico, says earthquakes occurred in that section, on the 11th of February, in San Cibistebel. Nearly the whole town was destroyed, and seventy dead bodies were taken from the ruins. Many of the injured people are now living in the open air at Leon Calchahuite and Zacateco. The shock was felt severely.

**RIO JANEIRO, March 16.**—An extraordinary session of the Brazilian Legislative Assembly, called for the purpose of considering the budget and the disorder in the country, was convened to day. The speech from the throne was delivered by the Emperor in person.

**PARIS, March 16.**—*L'Univers* publishes the text of an address which it says General Cabrera has issued to the Carlists, and which he will immediately despatch from Paris. In this paper General Cabrera announces his recognition of Alfonso as King of Spain. He points to the country's need of peace, and appeals to the patriotism of the Carlists to discontinue a struggle, hopeless from a cause which he refrains from revealing.

A convention between the Cabrera and the Alfonsists is also being published. By its terms the Carlist towns, districts and provinces submitting within a month may retain the special and loyal privileges they enjoyed before the war; and any appointment of a Carlist to a civil or military office which has been approved by or may emanate from Cabrera, will be accepted and confirmed by the Alfonsists. To these reports is added that a Carlist proclamation has appeared denouncing General Cabrera as a traitor.

The scene at Germantown on the river banks, beggars description. The ice on the shore in many places is 30 feet high. About twenty small houses and some shanties have been torn to pieces, and about 200 are filled with water to the second story. One man is reported killed. Four or five spans of the Delaware Railway bridge are broken to pieces. The bridge cost \$200,000.

New York, March 18.—Port Jervis despatches sum the losses by yesterday's flood, as follows:—Erie Railroad Bridge, \$75,000; Barrett Bridge, \$45,000; Individual loss in Port Jervis, \$60,000; Basket Bridge, \$15,000; Loss in lumber, \$75,000; Damage to property, above \$20,000. Total \$288,000. The probable losses down the river will no doubt swell the above amount by \$100,000.

---\$20---

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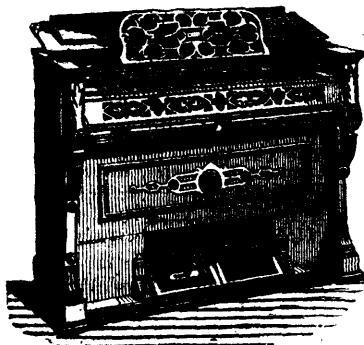
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