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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

VOL. VIII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1874.

No. 11.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Despatches received at the War Office from General Sir Garnet Wolseley says:

No means were left untried to effect a peaceable solution of the campaign. The King's palace was not touched till the last hour, and the troops left Coomassie without one article of plunder. Of the thirty-four officers first sent out from England to organize the expedition, four were killed, three died of fever, and seven were wounded. The rains have begun, and the streams and marshes are swollen, impeding the homeward march of the troops.

Another despatch from General Wolseley, dated Feb. 16, says:—"The King has sent me one thousand ounces of gold as the first instalment of the indemnity, with a request for peace. I received his envoy at Fommanah, and sent the treaty to Coomassie for the King's signature. An officer from Captain Glover's force passed through Coomassie on the 10th inst., unmolested, though his escort consisted of only twenty men. The last detachment of white troops will embark for home on the 22nd inst. The sick and wounded are doing well."

Additional despatches from the Gold Coast report that General Wolseley recrossed the River Prah on Feb. 15. Three of the six kings tributary to King Koffee have given in their submission to the British. The supremacy of the Ashantee Throne is considered at an end, and the Kingdom hopelessly broken up.

The *Daily News* and *Telegraph* announce that the King of Ashantee agrees to pay to Great Britain a war indemnity of 50,000 ounces of gold, renounces all claims to Adansi, Assim, Denker, Akim, and Wassaw, withdraws his forces from the parts of the Coast belonging to or under the protection of Great Britain, undertakes to maintain a good road from Coomassie to the Prah river, and to protect merchandise transported over said road. He will prohibit human sacrifices and swears to perpetual peace with England. Gen. Wolseley does not expect that the entire amount of the indemnity will ever be paid, but regards the other stipulations as of vastly greater importance and more likely to be adhered to.

A garrison will be maintained by the British at Prahsu.

The latest despatches from the Ashantee expedition state that the British loss in the war was 16 killed and 368 wounded.

A despatch from Spain says Marshal Serrano and General Dominquez are at Castro Urdiales, twenty-five miles east of Santander, on the Bay of Biscay. They are daily receiving reinforcements.

Don Carlos has ordered siege operations against Irun and Bidassoa.

Lord Northbrook, Viceroy of India, in a despatch dated Calcutta the 9th, assures the Government that the relief works are set in operation at Patna, and have warded off the danger of distress from famine in that district, all needy inhabitants being supplied with employment and sufficient provisions for themselves and families.

Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia will take a tour around the world next summer. He goes eastward through Russia, Siberia and Japan, lands at San Francisco, traverses the United States and returns to Berlin by way of London.

The arrest of the Bishop of Treves last week caused much excitement among the Catholic population. It was followed to-day by the forcible closing of the seminary attached to the Bishop's See, in accordance with the decrees of the courts and the orders of the Government. Large numbers of people gathered around the institution and tried to prevent the officers from doing their duty. A riot followed, which threatened to become serious. The troops came to the assistance of the authorities and quickly dispersed the mob. The city is now reported quiet.

It is said that the new Parliament immediately after assembling will adjourn for a fortnight or three weeks. The Queen's speech will probably contain a recommendation for a grant of money for the relief of the sufferers by the famine in Bengal. The Treasury Office is preparing an exact account of the expenses of the Ashantee war, to be included in the forthcoming budget.

Dr. Kenealy, counsel for the Tichborne claimant, has published a card protesting against the language of the press and the conduct of the court toward his client. He protests particularly against what he styles "the one-sided use of the power of committal for contempt," which he declares is "unconstitutional and a revival of Star Chamber proceedings." In conclusion Dr. Kenealy says, "the prosecution has succeeded in destroying the claimant and now seeks to ruin his counsel." Charles Cotton has made a confession, which is published in the *Globe*, that the claimant is his own brother.

Dr. Kenealy has written a note apologizing for the violence of his letter of protest, published this morning, and declaring that he had no intention of reflecting on the judicial acts of the Court.

A riot broke out in Pseth, on the 9th, and was not suppressed until the military, which was called out, had fired on the mob, killing four persons and wounding many. Several buildings were burned by the rioters.

A royal banquet was given at Windsor Castle on the evening of the 9th. The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh and bride, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Abercorn, the members of the old and new Governments, and other distinguished persons were present, the total number of guests being 150.

The *Courier de Paris* states when the Prince Imperial was borne, endowment assurances to a large amount were effected on his life, and made payable at the age of eighteen. Consequently, on the 16th of March, 1874, he will receive several millions of francs from the assurance companies.

Gladstone has issued the customary note requesting the presence of his supporters on the re-opening of Parliament. At the same time he has written to Earl Granville, saying "Whilst discharging this duty I feel it necessary that I should explain what a circular could not convey with regard to my individual position. For a variety of personal reasons I could not contemplate an unlimited extension of active political service. I desire my political friends to clearly understand that at my age I must reserve entire freedom to devote myself of the responsibilities of leadership at no distant time. The need of rest will prevent more than my occasional presence in the House during the present session. I should be desirous before the commencement of the 1875 session, and consider whether it would be advantageous to place my service at the disposal of the Liberal party, or whether I should then claim exemption from the duties hitherto discharged. If, however, there be reasonable grounds to believe that instead of the course which I have accepted it would be preferable, in view of the party generally, for me at once to assume the position of an independent member, I should willingly do so, retaining all my desire for the welfare of the party, and if a leader be chosen, or an interim provision be made for the present year, my successor should receive every assistance he might seek or I could render.

A Washington despatch says:—"General Schenck's visit to the United States is connected with negotiations for a new Reciprocity Treaty between Great Britain and this Republic, which is to obviate any further proceedings under those clauses of the Alabama Treaty which provide for a Joint Commission to remunerate the British Colonies for their losses on account of the free admission of our fishermen to their coasts."

The Emperor Frances Joseph has authorized his Government to assume a strong attitude against the Ultramontane opposition to the ecclesiastical laws.

RUSSIAN MILITARY LAW.

The following is a "systematic digest" of the more important clauses of the new military Law of Russia, as extracted from the huge and somewhat intricate Ukase in which the law is promulgated:—

"MILITARY LIABILITY.

"Universal conscription is introduced, the former general exemption of the upper classes as well as the right to engage a substitute being abolished.

"After the attainment of his 15th year no Russian subject is permitted to emigrate before acquitting himself of his military liability.

"Upon the attainment of the 20th year all Russian subjects become liable to serve in the army. A certain number not determined beforehand and variable at pleasure will be freed from the obligation every year. By way of selecting those who are to be benefited by this provision, the young men who have attained their 20th year will draw lots. The drawing of lots and the enrolment of recruits will be held annually in European Russia between the 13th and 27th of Dec. and in Asiatic Russia between October 27 and January 12.

"Certain individuals and classes will be entirely exempt from the obligation to serve in the army. 1. All those below the regulation height of five feet one inch. 2. All those declared physically incapacitated by the recruiting authorities. Persons of this category are, in the first place, rewarded for a year. If upon the expiration of this period they are again pronounced incapacitated, they may be either freed for ever or be placed in the ranks on trial. (The latter provision is evidently intended to prevent collusion between the military surgeons and recruits, but the passage is somewhat darkly worded, and seems to admit of various interpretations). 3. An only son is entirely exempt, as is also a son who, though he may have brothers, is the only member of his family old enough and strong enough to maintain a poor and disabled father or widowed mother. The like privilege extends to the only adult brother of poor infant orphans, and to the only adult grandson of indigent grandparents, with no able-bodied son to maintain them. 4. All Christian clergymen and church choristers, but the latter only if they have been educated in ecclesiastical schools. Should the choristers leave the service of the church at any time prior to six years after their exemption from the military service, they will be liable to serve till their thirty-sixth year. 5. All doctors of medicine, veterinary surgeons, and chemists who have passed their examinations. 6. The pensioners of the Academy of Arts sent to study abroad. 7. All teachers in public schools, from the highest down to the very lowest. If a teacher throws up his office at any time prior to six years after the date at which he would have entered the reserve if he had actually served, he becomes liable.

"TEMPORARY ADJOURNMENT OF THE MILITARY LIABILITY.

"Military service may be put off in the case of certain classes of the population. This privilege is accorded.

"For two years to all landed proprietors, excepting the peasants who, acknowledging Socialistic institutions, possess no personal property in land; to all merchants and tradesmen, excepting retailers of spirituous liquors; to all artisans and millhands.

"For four years to all pupils of grammar and mercantile schools (equivalent to the gymnasia and real schools of Germany, attended by the children of the upper classes); to all pupils of teachers' seminaries, schools of art, and schools of navigations; to all pupils of Russo-Orthodox, Armeno-Græcian, and Roman Catholic Clerical Seminaries; and to all pupils of all educational establishments of the like rank.

"For five years to those pupils of the St. Petersburg and Moscow Schools of Art who before the completion of their 27th year have received a prize medal or passed an examination.

"For seven years to the pupils of the universities, academies, or other learned institutions of the like rank; to those who after leaving the university are with the consent of the Government engaged in qualifying themselves for the higher grades of the teacher's career; to those pupils of the Schools of Art who before the completion of their 22nd year have been rewarded by a special certificate.

"For eight years to the pupils of the Russo-Orthodox and Roman Catholic Clerical Academies, the nurseries of the higher clergy; to those who, after leaving the university, are, with the consent of the Government, engaged in qualifying themselves for university professors; to those pupils of the Moscow and St. Petersburg Schools of Art who before the completion of their 22nd year have been rewarded by the silver medal.

"All those included in the above list may two months before they are called upon to draw lots, declare that they wish to serve as volunteers upon the expiration of the respite allowed them.

"If the pupils of the Russian Orthodox or Roman Catholic clerical academies have just completed their studies when called upon to draw lots, another year is allowed them to obtain ordination. The moment they are ordained they are entirely free.

"SERVICE OF THE ORDINARY RANK AND FILE.

"The military service of the ordinary rank and file extends over fifteen years, six years of which are spent in the army and nine years in the reserve. The men told off for the corps station in Turkestan and the remote regions of Eastern Asia serve seven years in the army and three in the reserve; but whether serving in European or Asiatic Russia a man may be added to the reserve before his time is over, or sent home on furlough not exceeding a year, according to the discretion of the military authorities.

"During his nine years' service in the reserve a man is on permanent furlough, is placed under the civil law, and may pursue any calling or occupation. He is liable, however, to be called out twice for drill during these nine years, each time for six weeks. If belonging to the Civil Service, he is freed from his ordinary duties during the period of drill, and resumes his previous functions on his return.

"The men in the reserve are likewise liable to be called out for the augmentation of the army whenever political necessity requires.

"While called out both for drill and war their families are maintained by the parishes and provinces to which they belong, the Crown undertaking to assist the parishes and provinces in case of need. The amount to be paid to the families, and the assistance to be rendered by the Crown are left undetermined.

"In time of war the period of military service, in the army as well as the reserve

is regulated by the requirements of the country alone.

"REDUCTION OF THE TIME OF SERVICE.

"This is a reward held out to culture.

"Whoever has passed his examination at a college or other learned establishment of a like rank, or before a special commission demanding equal proficiency, serves only six months in the ranks and fourteen years six months in the reserve.

"Whoever has passed his examination at a gymnasium, real school or other educational establishment of a superior order, or before a special commission demanding equal proficiency, serves one year six months in the ranks and thirteen years six months in the reserve.

"Whoever has passed his examination at a middle class school, or before a special commission demanding equal proficiency, serves three years in the ranks and twelve years in the reserve.

"Whoever has attended an elementary school, and can read, write, and cipher, has his service in the army shortened by two years, being only obliged to pass four years in the ranks. His time in the reserve is proportionately increased to eleven. The men of this category serving in Turkestan and Eastern Asia remain six years in the ranks and four years in the reserve. Men of non-Russian descent (Poles, Fins, &c.) are allowed this reduction only if they can read, write, and understand Russian.

"VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

"A further reduction of the time service is allowed to those young men of superior culture who intend to qualify themselves for reserve officers. They may enter the army at any time after the completion of their seventeenth year, and are called volunteers.

"To become a volunteer a young man must have passed his examination, either at a university or a gymnasium, real school, school of art, clerical academy, or seminary.

"If a university man, or if he has passed his examination before a special commission demanding university proficiency, he will serve only three months in the army, become a non-commissioned officer after two months, an officer after three months, and remain nine years in the reserve.

"If he has been through a gymnasium, or any of the other superior educational establishments above-mentioned, or passed an examination before a special commission demanding the like proficiency, he will serve in the army six months, become a non-commissioned officer after four months, an officer after six months, and remain nine years in the Reserve.

"If young men, wishing to qualify for Reserve officers, have not come up to any of the above requirements, they may pass an examination of an inferior kind before a special commission appointed for this purpose. Young men thus examined serve two years in the army, are promoted to non-commissioned officers after one year, and to be officers after three years. They remain nine years in the Reserve. Persons of this category lose their ranks as officers unless remaining three years in active service after the appointment.

"In the Guards and the Cavalry, volunteers serve at their own expense; in the infantry, artillery, &c., they are left to choose whether they will serve at their own expense or accept the ordinary regulation pay, and other immunities. Those serving at their own expense may live in private lodgings as long as they behave well.

"Volunteers enjoy special privileges and have a distinctive badge on their uniform, even in the first probationary period of their service, while acting as rank-and-file.

"Volunteers may be allowed furloughs not exceeding four months; but the time of furlough is not counted and delays promotion.

"The pupils in the cadet institutions, page institutions, and military schools serve as first class Volunteers.

"GENERAL LEVY.

"All able bodied men freed from active service, by lot, up to their fortieth year, are included in the general levy. During the continuance of peace the general is never called out for muster or drill, and, in fact, is no more than a list of names to be turned to account in case of need.

"In war, the general levy, or a portion of the general levy, may be called out at discretion. It is then divided into two classes, the first comprising those added to the body within the last four years, and the second containing the rest. The first class is separately organized under Reserve officers.

"While a man is doing duty in the general levy, his family must be maintained by his parish. If he falls, the State takes care of them."

The men of the General Levy are called warriors (*ratnik*), not soldiers (*soldat*).

"GENERAL SURVEY OF THE ARMY.

"The new military Law affects only the standing Army, Reserve, and General Levy. In addition to these, there exist the different Cossack corps and some Native Irregulars. The Cossacks retain their former institutions which make every man a soldier and a colonist at the same time. The native population of the Caucasus and Siberia is expressly exempt from the new law, it being intended to issue special regulations for these various tribes. The total of the natives coming under this category may be estimated at something like 12,000,000, exclusive of Khiva and the Turcomans.

"NAVY.

"In certain districts to be specified by the authorities, young men on attaining their twentieth year will be draughted into the Navy, not the Army. Government, however, reserves the right to place any number of them in the Army, instead of the Navy, should they think fit. In addition to these, men belonging to the following categories are enrolled in the Navy, not in the Army:—1. All sailors, steam-ship engineers, and stokers who have been at sea at least one navigating period, about six months, immediately previous to the conscription. 2. Workmen in steam engine factories who have been there employed at least a year. 3. Ship-carpenters, caulkers, and boiler makers. 4. Professional sailors who join the Navy as a profession.

"The time of service in the Navy is fixed at ten years, seven of which are passed in active service and three in the Reserve. Excepting the pupils of the schools of navigation, young men from the naval recruiting districts who have attended superior or middle-class schools will be draughted into the Navy only if preferring that service to the Army. In this case they remain three years in active service, and seven years in the Reserve. Of other young men draughted into the Navy, those who have passed their examinations as masters or boatswains remain only two years in active service and

and eight in the Reserve; while those who have qualified themselves as boatswains for the coasting service remain three years on active duty and seven years in the Reserve.

"The naval service, too, has its exemptions. Active service in entire remitted and only a ten years' service in the Reserve exacted in the case of all masters, boatswains, engineers, and pilots serving on board Russian vessels. Sailors who have been at sea for two navigating periods, and engineers, if engaged on board Russian vessels, serve only two years in the Imperial Navy, and are added to the Reserve for ten years more. Sailors on coasting service and stokers serve one year in the Imperial Navy and eleven years in the Reserve. All sailors, engineers, and stokers engaged on board Russian vessels may, moreover, demand to have their time of service put off till after the completion of their twenty-fifth year. The time they pass in the Russian merchant fleet between their twentieth year and their entering the navy will be deducted from the time they are obliged to pass in the Reserve, one month in the merchant fleet counting as equal to two in the Reserve."

The last few regulations are evidently intended to contribute towards the increase of the very insignificant, mercantile fleet of the Russian Empire.

"PENSIONERS.

"Men invalided in the army or navy are accorded by the Crown a pension of from three to six roubles a month or are placed in public hospitals. The families of the dead and missing will be assisted under special regulations to be shortly issued."

So far the conscription law. The measures required to adapt the organization of the troops to the immense increase of numbers have not been made public.

FAMINE IN INDIA.

What a famine in India is like, is pictured to the London *Times*, from an old resident of India.

In 1833 a grievous famine prevailed over Southern India, extending nearly from Madras to Cuttack—some 700 miles of coast. Notice had been given of its approach, but the voice of warning was unheeded, so that when the crisis arrived the Government found itself taken by surprise, amounting, it may be fairly said, to panic. In the presence of so terrible an emergency, there was every willingness to do all that could be accomplished to save life. Neither public nor private charity was wanting throughout the length and breadth of the field of suffering; but it was all too late. Wild theories of the most unwise description then made themselves heard—such as forcing the sale of rice at a fixed rate, thus alarming the great grain dealers of India, and tending to check those vast operations upon the increased activity of which, stimulated by gain, the supply of millions depended. As for any government undertaking to feed its whole population, the notion has only to be examined for a moment to be utterly discarded. Still, the idea of coercing the grain dealers is one quite in accordance with the popular feeling in India, as it was at the time I am referring to with too many of our own officers, who surely ought to have been better informed.

The eyes of the authorities at Madras were, however, only open to the disaster before them when made conscious of the arrival of thousands of starving wretches day by

lay, to whom there was but the one alternative of immediate relief or death. But long prior to this, on the Great Northern Road, hundreds of miles from Madras, there might have been noticed, night and day, a stream of pilgrims as it were, of the most sad description, wending their weary way southward—not paupers, but cultivators, artisans, weavers—with their families and some remains of their household goods in covered carts, on bullocks, or on their own backs. Delicate and refined women were there, and children whose classic forms and ways it had been a delight to look upon, until, with skinny limbs and protuberant trunks, they trotted along often to their graves, by the roadside, though, in numerous cases, the parents, in utter despair, and rather than see them die before their eyes, sold the female portion to wretches who conveyed them into Hyderabad, the Moslem capital of the Deccan.

A little later, and that same Northern Road, as it approached Madras, presented a still sadder sight—its surface strewn with dead bodies lying half unburied, arms and legs protruding above the soil, and the forsaking village dogs toying about the torn remnants of those who had become the prey of the jackals. A hideous sight it was to see these creatures dragging by their long tresses the heads of those precious ones who a few days before had been as centres of hope to their households.

Travelling the road it was often hard to distinguish between the dying and the dead—between those who had fallen from sheer exhaustion and might still be recovered, from those who had fallen to rise no more in this life. Strange scenes presented themselves at that time. Famine was made accountable for all deaths, as of a well dressed man lying near the village with his throat cut it was declared that, having fallen asleep, the dogs had seized upon him and made the wound we saw.

Nor was it in small towns and villages only that such extermination was going forward. At Masulipatam, the very capital of the part of the country, carriers for the dead went their rounds every morning, conveying their loads of carcases from the street to large open pits, left in possession of birds and beasts of prey—the former so gorged as to be unable to take wing even at the approach of the living.

But a fate worse than that of the dead was often the portion of the living; for an order has gone forth to relieve none at the public expense who could be put to the coarse and humiliating labour of tank digging. It was a heart-breaking sight to see tenderly nurtured daughters of respectable castes and descent subjected to the authority of gross native overseers, against whom they could have but scanty protection or redress.

Truly, famine under such aspect as these is a sore judgement. Nor was that last sad evidence of extremest suffering to be wanting Human flesh was reported to have satisfied the hunger of some; but of this I cannot personally testify; amid all the other horrors, it might or might not have been witnessed.

To aggravate the miseries of that period, also, it became impossible to transport grain without armed escorts, for villages, on the intelligence of grain merchants being near, would turn out and fight for possession of any means of subsistence, and this, in their simplicity, without any sense of moral guilt in seeking their own preservation at the expense of the rights of others.

The routine of village existence day after day, when the heavens continued as brass

was fearful in the extreme; by day wandering groups trying to pick up grain from defiled sources, and then, as evening approached, men, women and children descending the large village well, or rather reservoir, and there passing the hivelong night, watching their little vessels rise, drop by drop, water trickled into them from the exhausted springs, hoping that they might be able to take safely to their homes in the morning the treasure which now had become more precious than gold. Deeds of violence could not be altogether suppressed; yet, on the whole, it was marvellous with what patience and submission this long period of calamity was endured—such pining want, personal anguish, cattle dying from thirst in the fields, the little heirlooms of jewels and silver and golden ornaments parted with the wail of famishing children, and yet no jacquerie, no fanatical outburst against their rulers, in whose truth they still trusted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the "Volunteer Review."

MITRAILLE.

(LETTER No. 6.)

Pursuing the subject of the manner in which the Press sustains its high calling, here is a specimen taken from a respectable Western Canadian newspaper, of the loosely constructed balderdash, which, for the sake of sensationalism, however unsavory, editors will substitute for careful statements of plain facts, and, in such a case for reprobation also, of offensive scandal.

"England is having its 'Beecher scandal.' It is the divinity that doth hedge about a queen, and not a divinity of a divine which is attacked. A Mr. Laird Robinson has printed, and is privately circulating, a pamphlet which is said to contain charges of a most revolting description against Victoria, with names and dates. The Duke of Athole closed the bridge of Dunkeld, and exacted toll. Robinson resisted, got judgment from arbitrators, tried to have the Government prosecute the Duke for \$150,000 he had obtained wrongfully from tolls, but the Government wouldn't. Robinson says this is because the Duchess of Athole declared that 'if they dare meddle with us about those horrid accounts, I will let the cat out of the bag.' Like the 'John Brown' scandal, however, it will probably die out if let alone. The 'John Brown' scandal was started and kept alive by vain, jealous noblemen of the Queen's suite who did not wish to take orders from her through her confidential servant."

In reference also to the coinage and introduction into current use, with as much complacency as if they were stamped with the usage of good society, (the only law which the English language really obeys) of words only redolent of a crude and vulgar pedantry, permit me to

hold up to discountenance the word "loan," used as a verb, and the detestable verb "donate," of American invention. And if any should think it superfluous to utter a few words of warning to the Canadian Press, against the debasing influences of that of the United States, let them remember, how throughout the war, the accounts of great battles were vulgarised by the perpetual use of the vile terms, "whipped," "badly whipped," in recounting the fate of armies.

There are no chapters in Macaulay more intensely interesting than those in which, descending from the old ideal of historical dignity, he illustrates history by minute analysis of the domestic influences which go farther to mould a nation than its greatest traditions of glory.

So to the student of the temper of the times, who hails with satisfaction, every sign of the growing tendency of the human mind to emancipate itself from the trammels of what is hollow and unsound in conventionalism, few subjects are so trivial as to be of no importance. Straws show which way the wind blows. So that even the "Fashions" may afford a text, and the following extract will repay, not only perusal, but thought:—

"However much I should like to give my readers an insight into the coming spring fashions, it is quite impossible, as yet, to do so. Judging from what happened since the fall of the Imperial ruler of fashion there is no possibility of any radical change. When nothing was in fashion but what the Empress's fancy adopted for the time being, fashions were, as that fancy, extremely variable. It is now quite different; fashions, being the result of collective tastes, have a chance of longer duration, when they are once becoming and convenient. Such is the case for tunics. After their first year of vogue, everybody predicted most regretfully indeed their downfall; but so many people were afflicted with their disgrace, that reprieve after reprieve ensued, and they are still very fashionable, individual caprice being no more capable to prevail against a host. From this state of things results also the extreme variety of fashions, which is far greater than it ever was. Fashion, like France, is now truly a Republic, no more an empire, and will as likely remain so. Let us all, to whom economy is an object, be thankful for this form of Government, which allows us to wear out thoroughly our dresses without looking antiquated and ridiculous for that."

The unreasonable sway permitted to adventitious social position is marvellous to the independent mind and nation, discretion, and high principle, its effect is very mischievous. That the Ex Empress is amiable, and even capable of heroism, few will wish to deny; but that the frivolity and extravagance which have characterized her long autocracy of the empire of fashion

have been very baneful, is still clearer. Believed of the incubus of "individual caprice" in high places, natural individual independence hastens to assert itself, and, we are told that "the variety of fashions is greater than it ever was." This, it may be said, is a very small matter, but it is still one of the many indications of the present day, that the minds of men (and of women) are daily becoming less disposed to yield a blind acquiescence to the arbitrary assumptions of conventional orthodoxy.

Every one will have observed with pleasure the reinstatement of Lt. Col. Geo. Dennison in his rank. Observing further in the *Globe*, the mention of a rumor of his possible appointment to the Adjutant Generalship, I will state that he is another of the three to whom I alluded in a former communication.

Some twelve years ago I lost my baggage for more than a week on the Great Northern Railway, owing to the utter want of system prevailing in the matter of luggage, I took the trouble to write to the authorities of that line describing and recommending the American plan. At last, after this interval, appears the following paragraph in the *Mail*.—

"The Midland Railroad, one of the largest corporations in England, contemplates adopting the American plan of checking baggage."

Very correctly surely did Carlyle describe the inhabitants of the United Kingdom as so many "millions of people, principally fools." However, the old lady, with many yawns and stretches, is waking up by degrees.

The Tichborne scoundrel has at last got his deserts it seems—not quite certainly, because hanging would be far too decent a death for a villain who, in addition to his other infamies, deliberately concocts a lying story to the detriment of a woman's honor.

I see some mention of a threatened application for a new trial. What a farce! If application were made to kick Dr. Kenealy out of the Bar, it would be a satisfaction to right minded men.

FRANK THREUR

THE SURGEONCY OF "A" BATTERY.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR—In remarking on the dismissal of Dr. O. S. Sarango, from the surgeoncy of "A" Battery, I would be distinctly understood as doing so without reference to any political party whatever, and, therefore, will try to enunciate my views on this, and kindred matters, without bringing politics in any way into it. Of course I hold my own views political, and I should consider myself unworthy of holding U.M. commissions could I not exhibit them in their place and at the proper time.

Of course I hold, as every loyal subject should, that the Queen (represented by the Minister of Militia, who advises Her Majesty

in the person of the Governor General) can, of her own free-will and without any cause being given, dismiss in the most summary manner any officer she chooses. Of course I know that this can be done without any recourse against H.M. by the dismissed. The only recourse open to the dismissed is by his representative in the Commons of Canada in this instance, and by one dismissed from the Regular Army the House of Commons of England.

For what offences can H.M. summarily dismiss one officer in the army or volunteers of Canada? For, in fact, not very few, and they are laid down distinctly in the Queen's Regulations, and the Mutiny Act and Articles of War. They may be cashiered, reduced in rank, and suffer other penalties; but to summarily dismiss an officer because he took, even a very active part in an election contest, is something so very extraordinary, and without precedent, that it might, if persisted in in many cases, lead to extraordinary results. It might lead, and I don't say it would, to trouble to those assuming the responsibility.

Now for my own ideas on this subject of officers taking part in elections of any sort; when I say officers I mean, of course, those in receipt of full pay

I hold that it is not right, morally right, for officers of the Force, to take any part in an election contest, even I go so far as to say they ought not to vote. For this reason I say it; because they might be called out to put down a riot; and if they had taken part in that struggle of parties, and then had to put down a riot emanating from what they, by their very vote even, had taken part in (the contest of political parties) before called on in their military capacity, only see what a hard course would be theirs if a man, opposed to them in the election, was killed by the fire of the party they held military command in. Of course I know it is hard for a man, feeling strong about politics, to stand idly by, and see his opponents win perhaps, when, it might be, he has much influence in his hand for his party; yet I know my course would be plain to me, either I must give up my commission or refrain my hand.

I wish the present Government would put their foot down on this political trickery and favoritism in the Volunteer Force; refuse to bring in outsiders and put them in the staff positions; and pick out those whose hearts are in the service and are fit for the staff by knowledge, experience, and good manners. Let those seeking staff appointments first show their fitness for the post by spending their time and money on trying to benefit it by improving it with their knowledge and experience. What good does it do the Force, even have they the experience of old soldiers, bringing in officers retired from the Regulars? None, sir, none at all. It but disgraces the old soldiers already in the Force who have spent their time and money in

bringing it as far as it has got at present.

I know the feelings of the men, even, on this point, is with me. I know what the Non-Commissioned officers and privates think; and say too. But I must apologize for the length of my letter tho' I could discourse much more on this subject.

Yours truly

OLD SOLDIER.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR.—I would suggest to my brother officers of the Active Force the great benefit it would be to themselves, as well as also to the Non-Commissioned Officers who may be aspiring to the Commissioned Rank, if some one would publish, say every three years, an edition in book form of all General Orders that affect the Force at the present time from the year 1860 or 1862. It would, I think, pay well as a speculation even, and I have not the slightest doubt it would be a great boon to most of us. Moreover, I think the Government should take the matter in hand, and either work out themselves or appoint some special clerk, or even some officer of the force to compile it. At the present time none but Canadian officers receive the printed sheets containing the Gazettes. I don't think the book would be very bulky as I would not enter any General Orders but those actually in force up to the moment of going to press; and there are many cancelled orders that would not be entered at all. As it is Company Officers have no such book for reference to in cases of doubt as to how they shall act, whereas if such a book as I suggest were printed they could simply turn up the General Order on the subject if it were not contained in the Rules and Regulations for the Militia issued by the Department.

Truly yours,

OLD SOLDIER.

There is a dead lock in the Newfoundland Legislature. Very little business has been done since the meeting of the House, and another general election seems to be the only solution of the difficulty.

The members of the Governor General's Foot Guards and their band are making preparation for a grand concert to take place in the Rink Music Hall at the opening of Parliament.

New York, 13th.—The organization of the new Reformed Episcopal Church was completed by the acceptance by Bishop Cummins of the rectorship.

There has also been a new Reformed Episcopal Church organized in the City of Ottawa; by the Rev. Mason Gallagher, D.D. They worship for the present in the Court House.

The London Times publishes a laudatory obituary article on the late Charles Sumner. Referring to the dispute between England and the United States, the Times says:—"Sumner was not able to judge us dispassionately, and we possibly have not understood all the influences which made him apparently unjust. It is better to forget those differences, and remember the strong impulses for good which first drew him from private life to urge that great national wrong, slavery, and which in spite of his many weaknesses remained his guiding principle ever to the end."

REVERSES IN THE ASHANTEE COUNTRY.

The reverse to the British Troops in the Ashantee country is not the first that has occurred there, through underrating the numbers, prowess, and determination of the enemy. In 1824, Jan. 21, the Ashantees defeated about 1,000 British troops, under Sir Charles McCarthy, at a place called Accra. And the defeat was a pretty serious one, the majority of the men, including Sir Charles himself, being slain by overpowering numbers. But they did not fall before dealing out terrible death among the warlike blacks. Feats of almost unheard of valor were performed, which the enemy were so impressed with, that they cut up the heart of Sir Charles McCarthy and divided it among the chiefs, each eating a piece in order that it might make him as brave as the fallen man had proved himself to be. His skull was taken and carefully prepared as a drinking cup for the King, and has since been preserved among the royal treasurers with religious care. Previous to a recent engagement, poor McCarthy's skull was pressed into service and a pledge given to the court by the King, from the brim of it, to serve the English in 1874 as their ancestors had fifty years previously. But, though the defeat of 1824 was a serious one, it was avenged in 1826 by an expedition under Col. Purdon, who totally defeated them August 27th of that year, and made the black skins sue for peace. A minor war arose in 1863 at the instance of the Governor of Cape Coast Castle, which continued in a desultory fashion for about a year, when, after much suffering on the part of our troops, the war was discontinued at the instances of the Home Government. The recent losses under Sir Garnet Wolseley do not appear to have crippled him to any great extent, for though three hundred troops were killed, including some valuable officers, the Ashantees were driven off with great loss. Meanwhile, the English held their ground, and were waiting for reinforcements which were on their way up, an attack on Commassie being determined upon for the 4th of February. Of course, the English troops fighting under a blazing sun and in a bush country, are under much disadvantage, as the use of artillery is almost impossible to them. Yet it need not be doubted that the gallant band, that does not number one to a hundred of the enemy, will give a good account of themselves, and make Sambo sue for quarter, and give indemnity for losses incurred.

Later intelligence supports the above view, and gives assurance that the troops did all that was expected of them. The King has skulked out of Coomassie, which was taken, and Wolseley may have the gratification of bringing back the skull of Sir Charles McCarthy.

The city of Portsmouth will give a public banquet to the troops returning from the Ashantee expedition.

The Governor of Bilbo has informed Marshal Serrano that he has received provisions sufficient to last until April, and that he will continue to vigorously defend the city.

The Carlists, report that their forces have entered Juan, and have begun operations against Olot.

Halfpenny, who has been missing since the early part of the winter, and of whom so much has been said, was found in the water at the head of the slide, by some of Mr. Bronson's men, who were engaged in taking out logs. The body was greatly disfigured, but was recognized.

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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 17, 1874.

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

Mortar artillery appears to be the great object of Prussian solicitude at present, those used are principally what are known as "Krupp Guns," and are generally constructed of steel. The following notice refers to the latest improvements:—

"The *Borsenzeitung* of Berlin, says that besides the new rifled 21 centimetre mortar, which has been furnished to the German siege train, two other monster guns are now in course of construction for siege purposes. One is a 21 centimetre rifled coil gun, with a projectile of 350lb., and the other a 23 centimetre mortar, with a projectile of 450 lb. weight. Each of the two divisions of the siege train is to have forty of the 23 centimetre mortars, besides 360 guns of other kinds. The 21 centimetre coil guns used on board ship and on the forts on the coast are 200-pounders, and will also be available for the siege train when required. The heaviest gun hitherto used in a siege on land was the rifled 21-centimetre mortar with 180lb. shot. Two only of these were used before Strasburg, and four before Paris. The German army now has at its disposal for

siege operations from 100 to 120 monster guns of much greater calibre than even the 21-centimetre mortar. The new 21 centimetre siege gun was exhibited this year at Vienna by the firm of Krupp, together with a 23 centimetre howitzer.

The following particulars, furnished by Commercial Councillor Krupp to the Imperial Admiralty recently respecting the three new classes of guns for navy and coast defences, with which he proposes to supply the national armaments, namely 35-centimetre guns, 28-centimetre guns, and 16-centimetre, have reached the *London Standard* from trustworthy sources. The heaviest gun hitherto constructed has been the 36-centimetre gun, or so called thousand-pounder, which, when exhibited at the Paris Exhibition, aroused so much astonishment. It is at present standing in a coast battery at Kiel. In last year's International Exhibition (Vienna) the strongest gun exhibited was the 30½ centimetre, which is destined to serve exclusively as a coast battery gun. Up to the present time the heaviest gun used in arming the ironclads has been the 24 centimetre; and the Kaiser Wilhelm, whose seaworthiness is doubtful, is provided with guns of that calibre. It is intended to arm the new iron-clad frigates, now building at Samuda's in London, with 30½ centimetre guns weighing about 72,000 pounds, and taking a charge of 120 pounds powder with a 600 pound shell. This 20½ centimetre gun, at short ranges, will pierce the 14 inch plates, and at 3,000 yards the 6 inch plates; while the 24-centimetre gun will only penetrate the 10-inch plates at short range. The newly projected 46 centimetre gun, however, will, according to calculations the accuracy of which are indisputable, when loaded with a charge of five cwt. prismatic powder, and a shell weighing about a ton, pierce a 20 inch plate at about 300 yards'—or metres'—range. The only difficulty at present standing in the way of constructing this gigantic engine of war is the setting up of a steam hammer sufficiently powerful to weld together into a solid mass the jolts of molten steel poured together from the various melting pots in quantities of about 100 pounds. The heaviest hammer hitherto employed by Krupp weighs over 100,000 pounds, and to make the new gun a hammer will be required weighing at least 220,000 pounds. As Krupp's workshops and foundries, which are built upon hollow ground, might be seriously damaged by the working of such a hammer, it has been resolved to set the new practising range at Dulmen. The weight of the new gun will be between 260,000 and 270,000 pounds.

We are indebted to the United States *Army and Navy Journal* of the 14th February, for the following article. The writer or projector is certainly modest enough, but he does not intend to hide his lights under a bushel. Our contemporary's caption is "Torpedoes a Century Old." They are over two centuries older than the inventor, from whom Captain Warnock about thirty-three years ago, appears to have taken at least a hint:

"Hon. B. Moran, U. S. Secretary of Legation in London, has kindly forwarded to Captain Jeffers, of the Naval Bureau of Ordnance, the following interesting scrap which deserves preservation. He says: "I enclose herewith a very curious sketch of certain inventions which Mr. James Mc-

Henry found in an English Magazine of more than a century ago. It confirms the Biblical saying that there is nothing new under the sun. He must have known all we know on the subject at this day."

Authentic Copy of an extraordinary Proposal privately delivered at the houses of Persons of distinction, in and about London; by a Gentleman who wishes to put an end to the American war.

To all foreign AMBASSADORS, NOBLESMEN, &c.

Lovers of their respective Kings and Countries, may now have an opportunity to introduce a most useful warlike invention, therein to keep off all troublesome enemies, who dare presume to disturb their peace.

The art of War, discovered by me Jony Cross, for the benefit of that King who will give me employment.

The particulars are as follows.

First, To fix gunpowder in the water, if a ship or vessel should touch the same, it will instantly be blown up.—*2d*, To convey a cannon along the bottom of the sea, and fire the same at the distance of one mile and half from the land, under a ships bottom. *3d*, To convey a floating battery the same distance from the land, along side of a ship, and fire balls into her under the surface of water.—*4th*, To convey the fixtures the same distance, along the bottom of the sea which will catch ships mooring and drag them on shore.

N. B. These inventions are to be made use of, when an enemy's shipping comes to cannonade or bombard a town.

Fifth.—To fix gunpowder and bombshells under the earth, so that when an enemy treads on the same it will instantly blow up. *6th*, To fix the same materials under the earth, so that when an enemy comes thereon, I will stand two miles from them, and blow them up without using either match or train.—*7th*, To fix the same materials under a gate, and by opening the same, a whole army may be destroyed.—*8th*, To fix the same materials under the Earth, and when enemies lifts up anything that I may lay thereon, will be blown up.

These inventions may be made use of when an enemy is on their march.

Ninth, I have also brought to perfection a moving battery, which is to be drawn by horses, and it may reasonably be expected fifty men can withstand one thousand men firing cannons, small arms, hand grenades, &c. &c.

This invention is extremely useful against an enemy when landing or in the field of battle.

Tenth, I will fix a cannon upon a level with the earth, against the walls of a town or shipping that the greatest force of an enemy cannot dismount it or hurt any of the people belonging to it, and is as handy to be worked as a swivel.

For this cannon I will take upon me to account for it to be the most masterly and warlike invention yet discovered.

For warlike ingenuity, I bid defiance to all the gentlemen in the service of his Britannick Majesty. I do not presume to boast of my own merit, only so far I do acknowledge I put my inventions together, but God is my instructor, and to him only I owe my talents who is the giver of excellent gift; therefore I am resolved they never shall be hid in the earth; but shall with filialty be extended to the utmost of my power to destroy the enemies of that King who gives me bread. Should my inventions fall into the hands of cruel enemies, it would be better

for the subjects of England in general, if my inventions had proved a false conception in the womb of nature, and never quickened into birth. I hope Providence has so wisely ordered it, for me soon to fall into the hands of a wise and good King, who truly loves his people. It is cruel injustice done me, makes me take this public method of addressing the enemies of England to encourage me, who possibly at the end may prove my best friends.

N.B.—My inventions are ready for the inspection of any gentleman who will be pleased to see them. To be heard of at Mr. CREWE'S Rider's Court, Leicester Fields.

It has been generally assumed that the disaster to French Military prestige and national honour, was to be attributed to the mismanagement of the late Emperor, and the venality of his government, but if the following is correct, the so called committee of National Defence are chargeable of corruption and villany of a far worse description, because they took the very means to prevent the possibility of retrieving the disasters their countrymen had met with :

"The way matters were managed in the French Department of the North during the war with Germany, suggests one cause of the calamities that befell the French. Our information is obtained from M. Louis de Segur, as quoted by the London *Army and Navy Gazette*: Tenders for shoes were accepted from a shawl dealer, a carpet maker, a piano seller, a bagman, and from a gentleman whose normal trade consisted in coloring pipes! One contractor examined before the Committee stated that he bribed the Divisional Chief Lober with 3 per cent., but Lober demanded 5 per cent. which he said he received from other contractors. This frightened M. Mennier away; he declared his preference for dealing with the *Intendance Militaire*, where he reaped greater profit, though he had to bribe every one, from the chief workman to the principal officer of the Administration. But to corrupt all these men was less costly than to satisfy the demands of M. Lober. In a neighboring Department, where there was an honest functionary, the cost of a uniform amounted to 25 francs, but in that of the North the exigencies of M. Lober and others raised the price to 41 francs 50 centimes. All the contractors rushed to the Department of the North, where everything was purchased; pantaloons refused in the Pas-de-Calais were brought up at 9 francs by one enterprising gentleman, and were sold to the Prefecture at Lille for over 13 francs the pair. And so on with other articles. The Prefecture contracted for 60,000 pairs of shoes, but 113,000 were furnished and paid for, and such shoes! An inspection was held after the war, and they were divided into seven categories. There was the *Remplin* shoe, where a slip of osier gave the sole an apparent elasticity; the *empaied* shoe, where a stiff bit of wood replaced the osier; the *pinama*, where the sole was filled with bark, etc. etc. And amongst this strange collection the best were boots which had been refused for the English Army. Knapsacks called *Americans*, were bought at 7 francs 50 centimes; they were covered with rotten canvas and a sticky substance which exhaled a fearful smell. They adhered to one another in such a way that a pickaxe was almost necessary to separate them; they were resold by the Tours Government

at about 2d. a piece. As for muskets, 15,000 stand of arms intended for the negroes of Senegal, were purchased in spite of all remonstrances and of the declaration that they were not good enough even for the National Guard. The operation of buying cannon was confided to an oil merchant. A requisition of 1,243 horses was made and 70 disappeared the next morning, nor has anything been heard of the runaways since. The artillery of the department never fired a shot, but still harness had to be provided; it was, of course soon forthcoming, but the leather was either like tinder or india rubber; the buckles broke like glass, and the collars would have been too small for a full sized donkey. The reports of several officers are appended to the report of M. de Segur, and they are heartrending to read. At Pont Nonello we learn that the troops had arms of all sorts and cartridges of the Army calibre. There were men whose muskets could not go off, and when ordered to charge they had to tie the bayonet on to the musket."

We republish from a contemporary a very interesting article on "Bridge Practice in the Austrian Army." Our readers will recollect that their attention has been drawn to the subject of "Military Bridges" and the principle of their construction, by a series of articles in a recent volume of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the professional soldier, this must always be a subject of surpassing interest, for on a thorough knowledge of the art and an enlightened appreciation of the principles which govern the construction of Military Bridges, the success of any given operation absolutely depends; therefore the details of practice are extremely valuable, for it is not probable, the conditions will be always the same, and therefore the experience will be likely as varied as in actual service.

It is to be regretted that the Cavalry Military Service does not possess a Staff Corps, and technical knowledge therefore must be confined to individuals who have acquired it for pure love of the profession. There is, however, abundant material in the country for an efficient Engineer Corps if it was only utilized.

We have from time to time published the laws and regulations governing the organization of the armies of various countries, in this issue we present our readers with a digest of "Russian Military Law,"—in which the principle of rigid conscription forms the basis of organization. As the question of Reorganization has been introduced in connection with our own military system, and a mere modification of conscription with its worst features advocated. We invite the attention of our readers to the Russian system which is at least as logical as the Prussian, and less open to objection; how far either can be made applicable to our social condition here, is a problem yet to be solved. But it would seem as if the great principle underlying all successful organizations—personal adaptability—was altogether left out,

Our readers will weigh well the lesson taught by the following article, bearing as it does on the great question of discipline. Its full value will be readily recognised by every true soldier; it is undoubtedly the best plan to keep the soldier constantly employed, not at harrassing or useless work, but at that really necessary:—

"Some remarks lately published by a Russian officer who was much among the Germans during the latter part of the war in France go to show that there was a striking advance made in discipline and interior economy in the Prussian army from the standard of 1866. That being the first great campaign made by it since Waterloo, it was the fashion to assume that any sort of dress would do for the field, and the men was left very much to their own devices as to how far they should care for their personal appearance, provided only that the arms and accoutrements were kept in serviceable order. Thus it is notorious that a large part of the 1st Division of the Guards got rid of their helmets as an encumbrance before the battle of Konnigratz, and marched into Berlin in triumph at the close of the war without them. All this was completely reformed in 1870. The short former experience in Bohemia had convinced the heads of the army that the system of small punishments for petty irregularities then attempted was inapplicable to war, and that officers should, instead of it, be taught to rely for the necessary discipline on the plan of keeping their men constantly occupied and in all respects well in hand. Hence at every long halt during the late war there came into use detailed inspections, musketry practice, and even squad drill by subdivisions. Whenever detachments were brought in from outpost duty, it was the almost invariable custom to give them fair time to polish up, and then to make a close inspection of their arms, dress, and kits, including in the mounted corps all that belonged to the horses or guns or carriages. As soon as the armistice was concluded, a royal order directed that the regular drill and inspection hours should at once be reverted to, one-third being utilized specially by the superior officer for inspections of their respective commands. The infantry are thoroughly worked according to the drill book, the cavalry, artillery, and engineers being each exercised separately at the proper manoeuvres or practice of their special service. The stores were verified and deficiencies noted, the gun carriage repainted, and the men's clothes repaired. It happened that this armistice coincided fortunately with the date when the clothing—which is renewed for nine months of war instead of two years of peace—was due to the troops. But it was no doubt owing to the previous care of the authorities, as well as to this circumstance that many of the troops first sent off to Germany, almost as soon as peace was signed, returned to their homes with scarcely a stain upon them to show the terrible work they had gone through. As to the discipline this critic declares it to have been excellent, though severe in its dealings with the country people whenever franc tireurs were in the neighbourhood, when a system of taking hostages from among the residents was in regular use."

The following synopsis of a lecture before "The Royal United Service Institute," on the 2nd February, is taken from *Broad Arrow* of 14th of that month, and affords

matter of serious reflection. It is well known that Mr. or we should now say Viscount CARDWELL, was lauded as being the man who could "deal heroically with antiquated nuisances," such as the former organization of the British army was said to be. That in consequence some two years ago he brought his great scheme for reorganization before parliament, and in order to force on the people of Great Britain his now fangled idea with the aid of his colleagues he was obliged to violate constitutional usage, and the Viscount deliberately insulted his Sovereign. Well, the upshot of the whole has been that a Royal commission has been sitting for over a year investigating the grievances inflicted in the offices of the army by the Reorganization Scheme, and it has developed such cases of crying injustice, turpitude, and favoritism, as to fully warrant the assertion made in this Journal at the time, that army reorganization measure was before the House of Commons, that the whole measure was framed in the individual interests of of the Administration that it would be a "failure, was a delusion, a mockery, and a snare." The collapse of the administration, was followed by the downfall of the great basis of the system control, while the very mode of promotion is open to the objection that favoritism, or the caprice nepotism, or perhaps, more unworthy motives of the civil element in the Secretary at War's Office will have more to do than real merit in bringing to the front the future leaders of the army. Amid all this confusion the interests of the rank and file, the poor man for whose benefit Messrs. GLADSTONE and colleagues were supposed to be particularly engaged and intrusted, has been systematically ignored; although the cost of the army has been increased 60 per cent. to the country, the pay of the private soldier has not advanced in a corresponding ratio, or at all, and as a consequence the difficulty of recruiting has been enhanced, so that the statements of the lecturer points out that the only men who can be got to guard the honour and interests of Great Britain are from the class that ancient philanthropist JOHN BRINT elegantly styled the residuum of the population.

Apart from all this, the lecture is instructive as showing how a military organization in a wealthy and mighty nation can be mismanaged by ignorant calculations.

"On Monday the 2nd inst., an interesting and valuable discussion was brought about on our present military strength by the reading of a paper by Dr. A. Leith Adams, F.R.S., surgeon-major of the London recruiting district, on "The recruiting Question, from a Military and Medical Point of View." The chair was taken by Colonel Stevenson, and after the usual business of the society had been carried out, the lecture was delivered to an audience of about a hundred officers, who listened with great interest and attention throughout.

"Dr. Adams commenced by stating his reluctance in bring the subject before them in a detailed manner, but said he was obliged to do so if he could expect to treat his sub-

ject with success. A most fearful aspect was presented to him in viewing the unmistakable falling off in the stamina of the army, which he thought was much connected with doing away with pension and the establishment of the short-service system. They had been unable to obtain recruits of sufficient numbers, height, or efficiency since the Crimean war. He compared this falling off with the great increase of the population, and added that at one time excellent recruits were actually turned away because they were not wanted, and this especially applied to Ireland, as was evident from the following table—

Recruits Inspected per 1000.

	1860	1872.
England	566	820
Ireland	321	724
Scotland	107	100.8
Colonies	6	6.8

And he was convinced it would always be so under the existing arrangements. The minimum height and age of the undermentioned armies he had reckoned as follows:—

	Height.	Age.
British Army	61.5	18
German Army ..	61.8	20
French Army	60.3	20

which he thought was an important medical subject; as also that the recruits were taken in the English Army between the age of 18 and 25, while in the Swedish they were taken between the age of 17 and 30. He particularly mentioned that the height of the English, which, with the Germans, might be considered the tallest of the European nations, should always be borne in mind in recruiting, as it was found that the stamina of men in the shorter races was more frequently greater than that of men of corresponding height in our own country. He could not help thinking that the reduction in the stamina of the army was greatly owing to a like change taking place in the English race, owing to the great increase of our manufacturing pursuits, growth of large towns, and emigration, especially from Ireland, a question which might become, sooner or later, of national importance. He advocated great attention being paid to the maintenance of an effective body of men during peace, as during wartime inferior recruits were enlisted, which would by itself sufficiently impair the stamina of the army without being aided by past effects. Dr. Adams then drew attention to the following table, which he thought very well showed the decrease in the stamina of the troops of the Line regiments during the last twenty eight years per 1000:—

Height.	1845.	1873.
Under 5ft. 6in.....	105	361
From 5ft. 6in. to 5ft. 7in ..	473	433
From 5ft. 7in. to 5ft. 8in. ..	204	111
From 5ft. 8in. to 5ft. 9in. ..	111	62
From 5ft. 9in. to 5ft. 10in. ..	74	15
From 5ft. 10in. to 5ft. 11in. ..	16	12
From 5ft. 11in. to 6ft. 0in. ..	17	3
	1000	1000

The age of enlistment, he thought, ought to be not under twenty, but in our voluntary system we had to go down to eighteen, which in many respects was an advantage, as tending to keep out men of more mature age who too frequently in ranks after being thrown into unfortunate circumstances of their own making, and the younger they were the easier it was to train them to their work. He was convinced that the British soldiers were much in advance of other armies in comfort, which was a cause of congratulation. The general feeling of men in

the army was, and he thought should be, "Once a soldier always a soldier," but sometimes they enlisted because of the pay or the future, both of which had been now interfered with, the net pay being about 7d. per day in the Regulars, and only 4d. in the Reserve, while the pensions had been taken away altogether. He suggested that 2l. a day should be granted to them and be placed compulsorily in the savings bank, so that on their completion of service a little sum would be accessible to start them in business. The mode of popularising the army it is evident has yet to be found, and the reserve could not be depended on when it is greatly composed of men who have been discontented while serving under the colours, and who on being drafted to their localities have not even a coat to their back. The Act of 1871 had fallen short of its good object, as no plan could be considered successful which did not provide an efficient reserve; and he asked why should not the soldier who goes abroad to sickly climates, who risks his life and parts with friends, be rewarded more in comparison than he is with the artisan who remains at home and receives his four or five shillings a day; no wonder recruiting was so slack. The Militia, he thought, should be brought closer to the army, the men being drilled more in company with the Regulars; that they should be quartered in barracks instead of tents, and that a little more inducement should be given for soldiers to serve on who having been trained would prove of great benefit to the army. The lecturer concluded by saying that England should ever preserve the position she has obtained by her voluntary army, and that the only mode of doing so was to keep up the numbers and stamina of the men, and the valour would take care of itself. Dr. Cameron expressed his regret that the management of the army was entrusted to a person unacquainted with army routine, who crowned warrants with counter warrants, and altered the pay of the soldiers by pennies and halfpennies. There was no encouragement for good men to enlist under the present arrangement while they could obtain such better terms elsewhere, and while the is invariably looked upon as the dregs of society. When he went to India his pay was increased from under £400 to £1000, but that of his hospital sergeant had no increase whatever, which naturally was discovered, and caused discontent; and another cause of ill-success was, that while the officers entered the army as a profession for life, the soldier only served for a sufficient period to unfit him for any other work.

Sir Percy Douglas was of opinion that the short-service system had failed, and that therefore an inefficient result would naturally be the result. There was some very clever men at the War Office, but let them twist and twist the regulations as much as they might, they would never be able to get a good man for less than he his worth. The Commander in Chief was actually paying the bounty to the Militia and not to the Regulars, which caused the men who should be enlisted in the army to go to the Militia. He suggested that if an efficient Reserve could not be obtained in the Militia regiments, and the regular army should be fed from those ranks, which had a better choice of men than could be obtained by the present mode of recruiting, and he felt confident, though against his wish, that the present Reserve scheme would not succeed. Colonel Evelyn thought that to popularise the army a system of deferred pay should be introduced. He referred to the utter failure

of the plan of not paying the bounty to Militia regiments, stating that immediately it was so the number enlisted became nil, and that therefore a counter order soon followed to continue its payment, which showed the need of consultation with proper authorities on such matters.

Major Wethered, R.A., stated that in the Royal Artillery during the same period that 3179 men were passed into the Service; 1744 left the Service, of which 1353 were deserters. He thought it was a great mistake to have given us long service, which, besides compulsory service, would be the only way to maintain an efficient army in this country. How could a man be expected to lay by a sufficient sum to start him in a trade when he only received 7d. or 8d. a day, and instead of improving a man's condition, he is rendered much worse by his military service, being drafted into the reserve unfit for any employment, and without a sufficient allowance to keep himself. The class of recruits could be estimated from the fact that the recruiting sergeant was invariably only found at the door of public-houses.

Colonel Lyons stated that he considered the question of popularising the army was wholly one of pounds, shillings, and pence, and Captain Colomb and Mr. Hill also confirmed the statements and opinions that had already been expressed.

As many other officers had also requested to take part in the discussion, owing to the lateness of the hour the meeting was adjourned to Monday evening last, when Colonel Stevenson took the chair, and called upon Colonel Ewart, R.E., who thought that the short service system had not been in operation long enough for an opinion to be formed in respect to the Reserve. He also suggested that the Militia would, when the Regular troops were embarked, be able to replace them, and be soon ready to be drafted after them if necessary. Captain Rogers spoke very highly in favour of Irishmen as soldiers, but said that the allurements held out by the Americans would go far to prevent enlistment; in order to check which he recommended the Militia training depots for men too young to be properly enlisted should be established, from which they could, if afterwards found to be fit, be drafted into the Regular army. He also suggested that instead of money being paid to the recruiting sergeant for obtaining men, payment should be made to recruits themselves after they had been partially trained and found advantageous for service with the colours; and that there was no stronger power of persuasion for enlistment than the receipt of a pension on discharge.

Colonel Aikman, V.C., commanding the East London Militia, expressed his belief that the failure attending the present army regulations was owing to the abolition of pension, by which means also soldiers would be satisfied with a lower rate of pay. He pointed out that by the short-service system the soldier would leave the ranks at the very time he would prove most useful to his country, and by becoming a civilian the expense of his careful education and training would be utterly thrown away. On one day no less than forty eight men who had been enlisted into his corps, after having been provided at the Government expense with a kit worth £5, decamped, and although the police were immediately informed, only a few were caught; but as these men are usually able to obtain about £2 5s., for the stolen property, and become the gainer by more than £1. Although the Act was not a good one, he thought that competent officers might be able to make it into a better form. General Schomberg, C. B., strongly

advised that deserters should be branded, and saw no reason why so much delicacy should be considered in the matter when the detriment of the army was at stake. The military force, he advocated, should only consist of two divisions—the Line and the Militia; and these two should recruit each other. Colonel St. Leger Alcock suggested that what could not be effected by pecuniary means might be by social influence, that is, by strictly carrying out the county and depot system. Captain Hoseason referred to a statement which had been made that each soldier cost £100, but as this included transport, barrack accommodation, and other items, he was afraid it had caused some misapprehension, whereas each individual soldier on the average only cost £30. In order to get good men they must give good pay, and he added that although boys might be entered into the army, they should not be sent out of the country before their constitution was formed. Dr. Cameron drew attention to the great increase of the soldier's expence for his kit in the time of peace in comparison to former times, owing to the autumn and field manoeuvres, and stated that the non-commissioned officers were under paid. As an equivalent for the loss of pensions, he suggested that old soldier's should be ensured appointments as postmen, railway servants, and other positions. General Sir W. Codrington said that so long as we did not pay up to the labour market we could not get men of good physique, or so long as we withheld even the pension of 1s., which was able to keep a man from starvation. He was convinced there were plenty of excellent material in the country. Major Wethered said he looked on the man who had been eleven years with the colours as a real good soldier, and therefore raised a question about dismissing him, especially with a lump sum, when, being able to get no employment in England he would be off to America, and his services would be lost to the country. He also recommended that they should not be liable to pay a man twice, and that therefore it would be advisable to brand him. Dr. Adams, in answering a few questions, thought that the stamina of the people had not been reduced, but that some immediate steps for improvement should be taken in our army system, and

Colonel Stevenson, having expressed his opinion that the chief bearing of the arguments urged proved that the most successful reform consisted in re-establishing a system of pension, the meeting closed with the usual thanks to the lecturer and the chairman.

CORRECTION.—On page 115, in the article on the Frontier Rifle Association, the word *Battalion* is used instead of *Brigade*. The error is an important one, hence the necessity for correcting it.

REVIEWS

We have received from Messrs. Duttie and Son of this city, the reprints of the *Edinburgh Review* for January; and of *Blackwood* for February, from the Leonard Scott Publishing Company, 140 Fulton St., New York.

The following is a summary of the contents of the *Edinburgh Review*: Literature, Ancient and Modern; Memoir and Letters of Sara Coleridge; The Diplomatic Service; Autobiography of John Stuart Mill; Ninth Census of the United States; Heer's Primeval Lake in Switzerland; Life and Correspondence of the First Earl of Minto; Results of the Education Act; The Doctrine of the Sacred Heart; and Dis-

rael's Glasgow Speeches. The articles are all written in a vigorous and pleasing style.

Blackwood contains a greater proportion of story and narrative than usual, an order of literature in which the magazine has earned well deserved distinction. The story of "Valentino and his Brother" is continued; so also is the series of papers, "International Vanities," under which hitherto we are presented with a survey of those gilded toys, *Tittes*, from the time of Menes to our own day. "There is not a King in Christianity, not a Pacha in Africa or Asia, not a naked Chief of Negroes, who does not call himself by an accumulated variety of ornamental denominations." We shall be glad to be better acquainted with "The Two Speransky." The whole article is pleasant reading, and the letters from Siberia give an interesting picture of manners little known to Europeans. In "Scepticism and Modern Poetry," the writer endeavors to show the effects of scepticism on predicted genius, illustrating the writings of Shelley, Goethe, and Arthur Hugh Clough.

The other articles are "The Book of Calaverock;" "The Philosopher's Baby," "The Minor King of Mysore," an interesting sketch of how the young sovereign is being educated; and a review of "Fables in Song," by Lord Lytton, with some charming quotations, especially those from "The Thistle."

New Dominion Monthly for March contains the second instalment of the "Review of the Times" which more than fulfills the expectations arising from the February instalment. An article entitled "Canada's Early Marine," contributed by Mr. J. B. A. Kingston contains much information not generally known concerning the rise and progress of shipbuilding and shipping in the Dominion, and must contribute towards the strengthening of that love of country so necessary for the welfare of any nation. Among other things in this number worthy of note is a hymn entitled, "Come I to Thee," the music by Rev. R. A. Temple, and the words by Bonar. The illustration for the month is a well executed engraving of Edward Jenkins, M. P. for Rundle, Scotland, author of "Gin's Baby," and other works.

The *Phrenological Journal and Life Illustrated* for March is also received. It is devoted to Science, Literature, and general Intelligence especially to Phrenology, Ethnology, Physiology, Physiognomy, Psychology, Health, Education, and to all those progressive measures calculated to reform, elevate, and improve mankind. Subscription price, \$3.00 per year. Samuel R. Wells, 359 Broadway New York.

We have also received from the same publisher *The Illustrated Annual Phrenology Physiognomy* for 1874. It contains eighty large octavo pages, with more than fifty engravings, representing Heads, Faces, Mouths, Noses, good and bad with signs of character, &c. &c.—On the whole it is the best annual ever issued.

Wid's Household Magazine for March is a capital number. Contents: The Guilding Hand; Experience in the City; Waiting; My Prayer; Louis Agassiz; The Fortuno Teller; To Yourself; My First Mystery; The Weekly Diabolical; The Capture of Andre; Where we Are; The Kaiser Frederick; Misery Jippeau; True Blessedness; Old Growler; Chirpy's Bough; Design for School House. The Magazine contains six illustrations, including a fine design for a Country School House. Terms only one dollar a year—with chromo Yosemite \$14.

DAILY DUTY.

Each day its duty brings. The undone task
Of yesterday cannot now be fulfilled
Without some current work's displacement.

"Time
And tide will wait for none." Then let us act
So that they need not wait, and keep abreast
With them by the discharge of each day's
claims—

For each new dawn, like a prolific tree,
Blossoms with blessing; and with duties, which
So interwoven grow that he who shuns
The latter falls the first. Ye cannot pick
The dainty and refuse the task. To win
The smile of Him who did his Father's will
In the great work assigned Him, while 'twas day
With love self-sacrificing, His high course
We must with prayerful footsteps imitate;
And, knowing not what one day may bring forth,
Give so that Death, come when he may, shall find
Us not defaulters in arms with Time—
Morning the Titus, "I have lost a day!"
But busily engaged in something which
Shall cast a blessing on the world, rebound
With one to our own breast, and lend to give
To man some benefit, to God some praise.

BRIDGE PRACTICE IN THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.

A recent number (November) of *Streffleur's Oesterreichische Militaerische Zeitschrift* gives an account of the bridge practice of the two battalions of Austrian pioneers, during the autumn manœuvres, in the neighbourhood of Lintz, in the month of September last. The particulars have a certain interest inasmuch as they furnish means of comparison with the pontoon practice of other armies. The troops engaged in the Lintz manœuvres were a portion of the Third Truppen Division of the Austro-Hungarian Army, and consisted of one regiment of Dragoons, nine battalions of infantry, three battalions of Jagers, four batteries of Artillery, two battalions of Pioneers—one from Lintz and one from Prague—and a due proportion of staff, administrative troops, &c., &c. It was arranged that the bridge practice of the Pioneer battalion—the two working together as a single battalion—should extend over sixteen days, and be carried out at the pontoon hard of the Pioneer battalions quartered at Lintz, but in combination with the field operations of the rest of the troops. This hard is situated about a couple of English miles below Lintz, on the left bank of the branch of the Danube. The stream at this spot is 854 Vienna feet across, and has an average velocity of seven feet per second with an average depth of 4.9 feet in the fairway. Moreover, the current has a strong set in the direction of the left bank, so that to place the pontoons in a suitable position in regard of the stream it is necessary to run the bridges obliquely across thereby increasing the length to be bridged over to an average of 156 klafter or 946 feet. It should be stated the pontoons used in the Austrian service are iron boats divided transversely into separate sections, and generally provided with half-decks at each extremity. Also, that unless otherwise stated, the measurements are given in Vienna feet, each of which is equivalent to 12½ English inches nearly. We give a few of the principle results obtained, which were held to be, on the whole, very satisfactory. Those who desire fuller technical details we must refer to the paper itself, which is written by Captain Ringer, of the Austrian Pioneer Regiment. The practice began on Tuesday, 9th September, 1873.

September 9.—Rainy; fine later in the day. Repeated laying of a light field bridge formed of two-section pontoons, from left to right bank. Breaking up ditto from middle. Length of bridge, 957 feet, with 2 fixed and 45 floating piers; 42 anchors up and 13 down stream. Strength of bridge party: 6 officers, non-commissioned officers, 282 pioneers

—being 18 pioneers in excess of the number laid down by the Austrian regulations for a bridge of the above description. Average time occupied in laying bridge, 3 hours; in breaking up ditto, 1h. 16m.; in opening and closing the middle portion, to allow of the passage of the daily fast steamer from Lintz to Vienna, 11m. and 32m. respectively.

September 10.—Very foggy day. Repeated formations of a light field bridge of two and three section pontoons from both banks at once. Breaking up ditto from middle. Length of bridge, 946 feet, with 2 standing and 44 floating piers; 33 anchors up and 12 down stream. Bridge party: 7 officers, 45 non-commissioned officers, and 4 pioneers over regulation. Average time occupied in laying bridge, 2h. 15½m.; in breaking up ditto, 1h. 22m.; in opening and closing middle, 13m. and 14m. respectively.

September 11.—Fine day. Laid a field bridge as on 10th instant, over which 9 battalions of infantry with 2 heavy batteries, also general, signal and sanitary staff of the division, passed in the space of 33 minutes. Bridge party: 7 officers, 47 non-commissioned officers, and 348 pioneers—being 12 non-commissioned officers and 54 pioneers over regulation. Time occupied in laying bridge, 1h. 27m.; in breaking up ditto, 1h. 12m.; in opening and closing middle portion, 8m. and 14m. Depth and velocity of stream on two last mentioned days, 4.9 feet and 7.3 feet respectively.

September 12.—Foggy morning; fine day. A party of 6 officers, 16 non-commissioned officers, and 246 pioneers engaged in throwing over the troops on rafts. For this purpose there were supplied: for the infantry, horses and guns, 8 five-section pontoon boats with half-decks, 2 three-section ditto, ditto; and for infantry alone: 4 rafts formed of pairs of three-section pontoons, 1 raft formed of a pair of four-section pontoons, 1 raft formed of a pair of two-section pontoons; also 3 two-section pontoon boats to carry the landing stages—one in each. The rafts, formed of coupled pontoons carrying infantry, touched the opposite bank four minutes after starting. The half-decked pontoon boats with guns and horses took twelve minutes to cross. In all, 515 officers and men, 63 horses, and two guns, were put across. Two five-section pontoons and one three-section ditto were not used; and it was estimated that about 180 more men could have been carried on those employed.

September 13.—Fine day. A party of 11 officers, 65 non-commissioned officers, 400 pioneers, engaged in throwing over more troops on rafts, and afterwards laying a light field bridge as on 10th. Length of bridge, 946 feet, with 2 fixed and 44 floating piers, 41 anchors up, and 14 down stream. Time occupied in laying the bridge, 1h. 27m.; in breaking up ditto, 42½m.; in opening and closing middle portion 9½m. and 12m. Depth of water, 44 feet. Velocity, 7 feet.

September 15.—Wet day—very heavy rain. Depth of water this day, 3.6 feet only; velocity, 6 feet. Grand field day and review of the whole of the troops before the Emperor King, in the course of which the following operations were performed. The arrival of His Imperial Majesty at 6.28 a.m. was the signal for the battalion forming the advanced guard of the division to cross on rafts from the left to the right bank, under cover of a battery posted on the former. The first raft reached the opposite bank in 4m., and the last in 11m. Immediately afterwards, a party of 13 officers, 77 non-commissioned officers, and 549 pioneers, commenced laying

a bridge as on the 19th instant. The bridge in 1h. 17m. At 7.45 a.m., the troops began to cross on it. Six battalions of infantry, one regiment of cavalry (936 horses) four 8-pounder guns, two ambulances, and 105 horses, with their riders (artillerymen, staff, &c.), crossed in 45m. After a brief interval, six more 8-pounder guns and twelve mounted men crossed. Then the bridge had to be opened for the passage of the Vienna steamer, which was done in 9½m. The operation of closing took 12m. Four more guns then crossed, and lastly, the Emperor and the Imperial suite. The bridge was broken up in 42½m.

September 17.—Fine day. Laid a heavy field bridge from both sides at once. Broke up the same from middle. Length of bridge, 946 feet, with 2 fixed and 43 floating piers, 36 anchors up and 16 down stream. Bridge party—10 officers, 49 non-commissioned officers, and 349 pioneers, being 5 non-commissioned officers and 35 pioneers less than the number prescribed by regulation. Time occupied in laying the bridge, 1h. 35½m.; in breaking up ditto, 52½m.; in opening and closing middle, 13m. and 10s. Depth of water, 4 feet. Velocity, 6.1 feet.

September 20.—Fine dark night. Laid a light field bridge from the right to the left bank. Depth and velocity of water as on preceding day. A trestle bridge had been carried out into the stream for some distance from the right bank; the total distance to be bridged over was therefore 553 feet. A party of 5 officers, 30 non-commissioned officers, and 276 pioneers laid the bridge in 2h. 35m., commencing at 7 p.m. The bridge was broken up the same night in 57m.

September 22.—Fine day. Depth of water, 4.4 feet, velocity, 7 feet. Laid and broke up a light field bridge from both bank at once. Length, 946 feet, with 2 fixed and 43 floating piers, 36 anchors up and 13 down stream. Party, 8 officers, 45 non-commissioned officers, 356 pioneers. Time occupied in laying bridge, 1h. 19m.; time in breaking up ditto, 1h. 3m.; in opening and closing middle portion 13m. each.

September 23.—Cold, foggy day. Thermometer, 43° Fahr. A party of 10 officers, 41 non-commissioned officers, and 350 pioneers, laid a bridge as on 17th inst., in 1h. 2½m., and broke it up again in 33m.

September 25.—Cold day with thick fog. Thermometer 41° Fahr. Depth of water, 3.9 feet. Velocity, 6.8 feet. A party of 10 officers, 57 non-commissioned officers, and 376 pioneers laid 618 feet of light field bridge with double way in 1h. 51½m., and broke it up again in 34½m.

September 26.—Thick fog, clearing off into a fine day. Depth of water, 3.4 feet. Velocity, 6 feet. Laid a light field bridge from both banks at once. Broke up the same from the left bank. Length, 946 feet, with 2 standing and 43 floating piers, 31 anchors up and 15 down stream. Strength of bridge party: 8 officers, 50 non-commissioned officers, 312 pioneers, being 2 officers, 18 non-commissioned officers, and 48 pioneers in excess of the regulation number. Time occupied in laying the bridge, 12. 12m.; in breaking up ditto, 1h. 10m.; in opening and closing middle portion, 7½m. and 8½m.

The light bridges were made of the regulation width, sufficient to admit of the passage of infantry four deep. The heavy bridge was designed to allow of the passage of infantry in column of route with a front of six men.

From a report recently sent in by Col. Smith of Fort Laramie, it appears that the Indian depredations on stock in the Niobrara valley were perpetrated by white men.

COUNT MOLKE ON THE PROSPECTS OF EUROPE.

Count Molke, speaking in the German Reichstag on the new military law, and especially alluding to clause 1 in the bill, which places the effective force of the army at 401,659 men in the time of peace, after pointing out how necessary the army is for the maintenance of order at home, went on to say:—"What are our prospects abroad? The succeeding generation, perhaps, more fortunate than ours, may hope to be rid of the armed peace which has long been inflicted on Europe. I can see no chance of such good fortune befalling us. A great historical event, such as the restoration of the German Empire, is not accomplished in a trice. What we achieved by force of arms we may have to sustain by force of arms from attack for half a century. It is impossible to avoid seeing that we have acquired since the happy issue of our last war the respect of all but the sympathy of none. Everywhere we are met by the same distrust, the apprehension that Germany, with her increase of power is to become a dangerous neighbor. In Belgium you will find plenty of sympathizers with France, but few with Germany. Holland has begun the reconstruction of her line of forts and arsenals, against whom I will not pretend to say. No German dreams of annexing Holland; for, though we conquered that country at the beginning of the century, it was not for ourselves, but for the Dutch. A pamphlet widely read in England describes an invasion not of the French but of the Germans. Denmark, too, has deemed it necessary to augment her fleet and fortify the Island of Soeborg, fearing an attack from us. At one time we are credited with the intention of annexing the Baltic Provinces, at another of seizing the German Provinces of the Austrian Empire. France, the neighbor with whom we are most concerned, is reforming the whole organism of her army, copying our military institutions, and passing them off as hers. She has introduced universal compulsory service, lasting in all twenty years, instead of twelve, as in Germany. The French Government is now in a position to embody 1,200,000 men into the active and 1,000,000 into the territorial army. The National Assembly, without distinction of party or regard for economical considerations, is willing making the greatest sacrifices in order to restore and extend the power of the army. More warlike than the War Minister, that body has compelled him to accept an additional sum of 17,000,000*fr.* in order to call up the second portion of the contingent, and its action is supported by the whole country. I believe that the great majority of Frenchmen are animated by a sincere desire for peace, but we have seen how a party may drag Government and people into the most unexpected resolutions. The cry which comes to us from the Vosges is the frantic desire for revenge. We do not wish to follow our neighbors in their scheme for extending the army, but, on the other hand, we must take care that it does not decline. Two pieces effective must be settled for a long period. Remember that every diminution of the effective makes itself felt over a term of twelve years, and we cannot tell what twelve years may bring forth. The mildest of men may be dragged into a quarrel if he has a troublesome neighbor. I believe that we shall show to the world that we are a powerful but yet a peaceful nation, that we do not wish to make war through love of glory or conquest. Indeed, I don't know that we should do

with a morsel taken from Russia or France. I hope that we shall not merely keep the peace for a number of years, but impose it, as a moral necessity, upon other nations. Then, perhaps, people will come to see that a powerful Germany in the centre of Europe is the best guarantee for the peace of the old world. But, gentlemen, if you wish for peace, be ready for war, and I believe that it is our duty, in the present condition of Europe, to declare either that we have no need of a strong army, or else to accord all that is necessary for maintaining it in full force."

MARVELLOUS ESCAPE OF 300 MEN.—A HORSE JUMPING FOR HIS LIFE.

BAY CITY, Feb. 24, 1874.—The drifting ice affair has turned out not so disastrous as was at one time reported. The ice field drifted in to the east shore Monday night, and all the men who had not previously escaped did so during the night and yesterday morning. All who were on the ice at the time it went out are now reported safe. This is the third time this winter that the ice has floated out into open water, the first time carrying Smith and McEwan, and the second time six or eight men, who escaped the next day.

Some very remarkable escapes were made over the broken ice. Among these we may mention that of Arthur Stevenson and seven comrades. Stevenson had a horse and sleigh, and with the party attempted to come ashore. The ice was so badly broken however, that it was deemed safer to take the horse from the sleigh and lead him, leaving the men to draw the vehicle. It was necessary to make the animal jump from one ice cake to another in a journey of five miles over the broken ice.

It seems almost incredible, but the trip was made without serious mishap, and horse, sleigh, and men came safely ashore at last. Mr. Stevenson says that all the men who were within sight of the point where he landed got ashore.

We learn of two men who had no horse, but was provided with a hand sled. When the ice broke they wanted to go eastward and northward in quest of some point of escape, and rigged up their hand sled to take a ride at the rate of forty miles an hour in the gale which was sweeping over the ice from the southwest. They sped along at lightning express speed for mile after mile. To choose their course was impossible: on went the sled, straight as an arrow from a bow and about as fast, dead to leeward, skimming and singing along over the ice. Suddenly the men saw right ahead of them a channel of open water. On they rushed towards it, and what at first looked like a narrow strip of water opened out wider and wider as they approached it on the wings of the wind. There was no such thing as stopping or turning the sled, and the strip of water was opening out the wider every second. There was nothing else to be done; the two men rolled off the sled, one on each side, and went spinning along the ice for a rod or two, while the sled the next instant plunged into the open channel and disappeared. The men picked themselves up, and finally made their way ashore on foot, content to go slower but safer than on a sled before the gale.

We have heard numerous other narratives of the extreme hazard all going to increase, the wonder that thus far not a single life is reported lost. The belief last night was that the ice would be closed up by the wind before morning, so that the men remaining

near the west shore would all come off. As they have shelter, food and fire, they will not suffer in the mean time.—*Detroit Post.*

STRONG SPEECH OF MACMAHON.—From France the most important piece of news is a speech made on Wednesday by Marshal MacMahon at the Paris Tribunal of Commerce, in reply to an address from the President of the Chamber. The Marshal said:—"A large number of workmen will be employed this year in the reconstruction of forts and works around Paris, rendered necessary by the misfortunes of the war. Among the reasons you give for the falling off in the trade, you mention the anxiety felt on political grounds, and the persistent doubt in the public mind respecting the stability of the Government. I should have understood these apprehensions a few months ago, but now they no longer appear to me to have any foundation. On the 19th November the Assembly entrusted the Government to me for seven years, and my first duty is to secure the execution of that discussion. Have no uneasiness therefore. During the seven years I shall be able to make respected by all the order of things legally established. We shall, I hope, also see calm restored to the public mind and confidence revive. Confidence is not to be created by degrees, but my acts will be of a nature to command it." This speech (the *Times* correspondent says) produced a strong impression. In the Assembly, one of the most influential members of the Right said, in speaking of it:—"Hitherto we have had to do with the Septennat theorique, we have now to deal with the Septennat militant." It, in fact, appears that the Government have resolved to propose the measures necessary to convert the septennial term into a reality. The *Presse* stated a few days ago that the Cabinet had determined to institute legal proceedings against any paper which attacks Marshal MacMahon's term of office, or denies its legality; and all the newspapers with the exception of those giving decided support to the Right, have approved this semi-official article.

THE SUGAR CROP.—A Kingston, J., letter, under 21st February, states that the reaping of the sugar crop had at that date commenced pretty generally all over the island of Barbadoes, the canes yielding a strong, good sugar, though not quite ripe. On a great many estates a full crop was expected; on others better crops than last year. But the failure of the December rains had shortened the production by at least 5,000 hogsheads,—although the young crop was thought to be improving vigorously.

An expedition of one hundred and fifty men and two hundred wagons left Bozoman, Montana, on the 12th day of February, provisioned for six months, and prepared to explore the country between Bozoman and the Yellowstone. Carpenters, blacksmiths, a surveyor, and saw mill went with the expedition, and the purpose is to lay the foundation of a town at the head of Yellowstone navigation.

Some uneasiness is felt in Paris relative to an anticipated movement, on the 16th inst., in favour of Napoleon IV., who on that date becomes of age to govern. It is stated that the ex-Empress Eugenie is in Paris plotting a Bonapartist manifestation. A son of Colonel Jerm, and a son of Sir John Beverley Robinson, Canadians, are said to be at the front with the British army in Ashantee.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 13th March, 1874.

GENERAL ORDERS (6).

No. 1.

MILITIA STAFF.

To be Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 5:

Lieutenant Colonel John Fletcher, C.M.G., Brigade Major 2nd Brigade Division, Province of Quebec, vice Lieutenant Colonel W. Osborne Smith, C.M.G., transferred to Military District No. 10.

To be Brigade Major 2nd Brigade Division, Province of Quebec, with the rank of Major in the Militia:

Honorary Captain the Honorable Matthew Aylmer, Paymaster Military District No. 5, vice Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher appointed Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 5.

MEMO.—The Headquarters of Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher will be at Montreal and Major Aylmer at St. John's.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

13th Battalion of Infantry, Hamilton.

To be Ensign, provisionally:

Quarter-Master Sergeant John Honeman, vice Griffin, promoted.

32nd "Bruce" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 1 Company, Southampton.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant John Biggar, M.S., vice Alexander Sinclair whose resignation is hereby accepted.

49th "Hastings" Battalion of Rifles.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Mackenzie Bowell, V.B. is hereby permitted to retire retaining his Brevet rank.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

65th "Battalion" or "Mount Royal Rifles"

No. 1 Company, Montreal.

Captain Alphonse T. S. Chagnon, M.S., is

hereby permitted to retire retaining rank.

8th Battalion "Stadacona Rifles."

No. 2 Company, Quebec.

Ensign Thomas Henry Mahony, is hereby permitted to retire retaining rank.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE.

1st Brigade Garrison Artillery.

To be Paymaster:

Quartermaster Thomas Bottomley Hawson, vice Francis Pierre Pominville, deceased.

2nd Battalion Rifles.

To be Major provisionally:

Walter Wily, Esquire, (formerly Major 3rd Battalion Rifles) vice McKechnie retired.

By Command of his Excellency the Governor General.

WALKER POWELL, Lieut. Col.,
Acting Adjt. General of Militia
Canada.

AN AIR SHIP AT LAST.

A VESSEL WITH WINGS WORKED BY STEAM ONE HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR.

For many years Mr. L. B. Hunt, a talented mechanic of Auburn N.Y., has been constructing a vessel with which to navigate the air, and is convinced that he has at length solved the problem of aerial navigation. The vessel is now on exhibition at the fair grounds near Auburn. The car, which is destined to carry passengers, is of wood, 30 feet long, 8 feet high and 8 feet wide. Four wire cables connect it with the engine room, 20 feet above. The car will be fitted up in attractive style, and afford accommodation to 50 persons.

The motive power of the ship is steam, one of Selsby's rotary 50 horse power engines being used. It is so constructed as to turn upright shafts, one within the other, and revolving in opposite directions. To the outer shaft are attached four wings nine feet wide next the shaft, six feet at the extreme end, and twelve long. To the inner shaft are fastened four similar wings ten feet above the other. They are made of sheet iron, slightly concave, and incline at an angle of 20 degrees. When the machinery is set in motion these wings revolve at the rate of 150 times a minute, and it is claimed by the inventor will lift the vessel, weighing about six tons, and laden with six tons more.

The desired direction is given the machine by four wings, ten feet long, acting on a horizontal shaft and revolving at a greater velocity than the lifting wings, and manipulated at the will of the operator or engineer. The whole apparatus is steered by a sheet iron rudder, parallel to the shaft of the engine, at the right of the machine, and sixteen feet long by five wide. From the car to the top of the shaft the vessel measures fifty eight feet. It has cost \$12,000.

Mr Hunt does not entertain the slightest doubt of the success of his air ship. He says he will be able to propel it safely to any point at the rate of 100 miles an hour. He is constructing a vessel of miniature dimensions for the initial trial, which will be made at an early day.

THE AUSTRIAN NAVY.—The Navy of Austria consists of the following vessels, her iron clads with two exceptions being of the broad-side type:—Ironclads: Kaiser, 5,440 tons, 800 horse power, plated with 4½ to 6 inch plates, carrying 10 9 inch Armstrong guns, and a crew of 471 men; Lissa, 6,000 tons, 1,000 horse power, 4½ to six inch plates, 12 9-inch Krupp guns, 478 men; Custoza, 7,040 tons, 1,000 horse power, 6 to 9 inch plates, 8 12-inch Armstrong guns; Erzherzog Albrecht, 5,944 tons, 800 horse power, 6 to 8 inch plates, 8 11 inch Armstrong guns; Ferdinand Max, 5,322 tons, 800 horse power, 4 to 4½ inch plates, 14 8-inch Krupp guns; Hapsburg (sister ship), Juan de Austria, Kaiser Max, and Prinz Eugen, all of 3,559 tons, 650 horse power, 4 inch plates, and twelve 7-inch Krupp guns; Drache and Salamander, each of 3,058 tons, 500 horse power, 4 inch plates, and ten 7-inch Krupp guns. Not Ironclad: Three corvettes of 500 horse power, mounting a total of 71 guns of from 10 to 7-inch calibre; 5 corvettes of from 200 to 400 horse power, mounting a total of 62 guns of from 10 to 7 inch calibre; 4 gunboats of 230 horse power, mounting four 8 inch guns each; 4 gunboats of 90 horse power and 2 gunboats of 50 horse power, mounting four 8 inch guns each; 6 paddle-wheel corvettes, mounting 26 guns in all, of heavy calibre; 4 transports (steam), averaging over twelve hundred tons each; the Lechund, 7840 tons, 230 horse power, torpedo vessel, two 8-inch guns; 2 screw yachts; 5 tugs: and 2 monitors, the Maros and Luttra (steel clad), each of 310 tons, 80 horse power, and two guns. Besides these there are still building, or recently launched, the Laudon, of 14 guns and 600 horse power, and two or three smaller corvettes.

THE WOOLWICH INFANT.—The original "Woolwich Infant," or 35 ton gun, which cracked internally at proof trial two years ago, has now been re-tubed, covered with a heavier breech coil or jacket, and lengthened to the extent of 3ft. in the chase, in the Gun Factories of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich. In its present condition it weighs 33 tons, and is identical in contour and external dimensions with the 17 land service 35 ton guns now in course of manufacture in the Arsenal, the greater part of which are destined to be mounted on the sea-faces of Breakwater Fort, at Plymouth, to protect the entrances to the Sound. It will, however, be employed only as an experimental weapon, to determine the proportion of powder to be made use of for the cartridge of the new guns and the exact weight of projectile to be thrown, and upon the result of experiments about to be executed with it will depend many points of difference proposed to be introduced in the nature of these land service Woolwich Infants that are at present in abeyance. The increase of 3ft. to the chase of the gun, gives it a far lighter appearance than that of the sea service gun, and by no means takes away from the grandeur of its proportions. Only three grooves for rifling had been cut in the tube, as it is intended simply as an experimental gun, and moreover that number is sufficient to give rotation to the projectiles employed in experiments. The new 38 ton gun is now undergoing the process of being sighted, and having the cascabel screwed in, in the sighting room of the Royal Gun Factories. The coils, tubes, and various parts of the remainder of the 38 ton guns are in an unfinished condition, but completed as far as they can be pending the result of the experiments alluded to.

It is stated that the Brooklyn Navy Yard will probably be closed April 1st, as Congress does not favor the Naval Appropriation Bill.