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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

OL. VIII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1874.

No. 3.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The missing steamer *Caina*, from Hong Kong, arrived at San Francisco on the 15th. A defective piston was the cause of her delay, being able to use one wheel only.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have arrived at St. Petersburg. A grand *fete* was to be given at the American Legation in honor of the Duke of Edinburgh's marriage on Monday the 19th.

The British steamship *Wallace* has been destroyed by fire in the harbor of Almeora, Spain.

An extensive conflagration is reported going on in the naval dockyards at Portsmouth, (15th inst) and is attended with heavy loss.

Later by the fire in Portsmouth dockyards to-day, thousands of pounds worth of the stores, which had accumulated for the Ashantee expedition, were destroyed.

In the Tichborne case Dr. Keneally on the 14th inst. concluded his closing speech for the defence. He demanded a verdict for Claimant declaring that the preponderance of evidence in his favour was overwhelming. He maintained that the charges against Lady Rudcliffe had been proved to be true.

The Pope will hold another Consistory early next month, when he will appoint several additional Cardinals and seventeen foreign Bishops.

Late advices from Rio report that the termination of the war has officially been declared. General Jordan, the leader of the rebellion has been totally defeated and was a fugitive. His adherents had given in their submission to the Government.

Henry Belknap, a passenger on the steamer *Ville du Havre* writes to the *Times* that the French Transatlantic Steamship Company, relying on the exculpation of their officers by the disaster, and the sufferers propose to seek redress in the New York Courts.

The Insurgents of Barcelona have surrendered, and the authority of the Spanish Government is now fully restored in the city.

Carthagenas has surrendered, and is now occupied by the Government troops under General Dominiquez. The troops on entering the city shot eight insurgents who were trying to escape. The occupation of the city was otherwise bloodless. Five hundred refugees, among them Barceca, a prominent leader, were taken prisoners on

board the captured steamer *Saez*. The Commander of the Fort, Galers, and Gutierrez President of the insurgent Junta, were on board the *Numancia*. A Spanish frigate has arrived at Mersel Keber and demanded the surrender of the *Numancia*. The French authorities refused to deliver her until they had orders from Paris. The vessel is comparatively undamaged. The condition of the forts around Cartagena confirms the suspicions of treachery, and provisions were found to be fairly plentiful in the town.

The Insurgent chiefs, Controis, Ferrez and Galvez, have been sent to the capital of Algeria.

The Government forces on occupying Cartagena found the fortification and build. badly damaged by the bombardment. One of the Insurgent steamers which attempted to escape has been captured with a large number of refugees on board. The *Mendez* with a party of Insurgents in succeed reaching a port of France into which she was pursued by a French man-of-war. Members of the Junta surrendered and the iron clad *Numancia* struck her colors to the French authorities.

On the arrival of the Spanish ironclad *Numancia*, the military Governor sent 1,200 men to guard the coast and prevent any fugitive from landing. A body of the sailors under the Captain of the port, boarded the *Numancia* and removed part of the machinery to prevent her departure. Orders were received from the French Government to disarm all Intransigent vessels arriving, and confine the crews in the harbor forts. The rebel leaders and officers of the *Numancia* refused to surrender themselves to the French authorities unless allowed their swords. Three companies of soldiers were sent on board to guard the crew.

Manual Pastor, who fired at King Victor Emmanuel in 1872, has escaped from prison.

The *Times* correspondent at Cartagena reports that a tumult of the people who were convinced of the treachery of the leaders precipitated the surrender. It is understood that the French Government will deliver to Spain under the Extradition Treaty those of the Cartagena refugees now in Algeria, who are accused of piracy and other civil crimes.

Spanish accounts state that Colonel Espanda with 650 men has had an engagement with the Insurgents near Melons. The

fighting lasted six or seven hours, and at the close Colonel Espanda retreated before superior numbers. The loss was four officers and sixteen privates killed, and fourteen officers and fifty privates wounded. Owing to the length of the combat, the Insurgent loss could not be ascertained.

The ironclad *Numancia* has been delivered over to a Spanish frigate.

At a meeting of the deputies constituting a majority in the late Cortes, a vote of confidence in Senor Castelar was adopted, and he was requested to prepare manifestos to the nation.

On the 8th inst the remains of the late Emperor Napoleon III., were transferred to the sarcophagus presented to Engene by Queen Victoria. A number of leading Bonapartists attended the ceremony, but Prince Napoleon was absent.

Despatches from Cape Coast Castle report that General Sir Garnet Wolseley and staff, with two hundred blue Jackets started for the River Prah, on the 27th ult. His scouts had penetrated several miles beyond the River encountering the enemy.

Special advices to the *Standard* from Cape Coast Castle report that the King of Dahomey has sent heavy reinforcements to Ashantee.

President MacMahon, on the 13th, performed the ceremony of delivering the hats to the newly appointed French Cardinals. In his speech on the occasion he thanked the Pope for conferring these honors on citizens of France and added: "The Holy Father knows our filial attachment and our admiration at the manner in which he supports his trials. His sympathies were with us in our misfortune, and ours are with him."

The Captain General has issued an order to the Republican Volunteers of Madrid, directing them to surrender their arms to-day. All who disobey will be tried by Court Martial. The authorities will search the city for concealed arms to-morrow.

Despatches from Madrid report that Serrano will not convoke the Cortes for twelve months. He will bend all his energies to the suppression of the insurrection and the tranquilization of the country, and not until those tasks are accomplished will he summon the Cortes. General Moriones has command of the operations against the Carlists on the River Ebro.

The detectives have informed the London agent of the Association of Justice that Henry W. Genet, the fugitive from justice from New York, was seen in Dublin, Ireland, on the 6th, and say he was now arrested because his offence did not come under the extradition treaty.

### HOW BAZAINE RECEIVED THE NEWS OF HIS CONDEMNATION

When the Court retired the Marshal withdrew to his apartments, whither he was accompanied by his wife, his brother, his two nephews, and their wives, Capts. Gredin and Mornay Soult, M. Bouillet Madam Asselin, and a few other attached friends. During the four hours whilst the Court was in deliberation the Marshal talked freely, familiarly, almost gaily, as though his life was no longer at stake. In a short time his wife unable to prolong the distressing interview, retired, and, accompanied by M. Lachaud's daughter, went to the chapel to pray. Col. Villette—that perfect personification of devotion—had remained in the gallery connecting the Tribunal with the Tribunal ex-cubois, in order to obtain the earliest intelligence.

At half past eight M. Georges Lachaud, who had just heard the sentence, came to him there and accompanied him to the Marshal, in order to prepare the letter for the visit of General Pourcel. "Well," asked Colonel Villette eagerly, "is he acquitted?" M. Georges Lachaud, without replying verbally, made a gesture of despair, and then ascended the staircase leading to the apartments of the Marshal. The Colonel who staggered like a drunkard. At the sound of the opening door the Marshal, who was engaged in conversation with those about him, advanced toward the young advocate, and, observing his despondent countenance, at once understood what was the nature of his communication. "They have condemned me to death," he said quietly, and grasping the hand of M. Georges Lachaud. Understanding his significant silence the Marshal asked him, "By what majority?" "Unanimous," was the reply. "Ah!" was the sole exclamation of the Marshal, and then he resumed as if nothing had occurred to interrupt the conversation he had been carrying on. Every one was in tears; the condemned Marshal alone preserved a calm aspect.

At the moment Colonel Villette entered the room. He had advanced towards him whom he had so devotedly served during the last eighteen months, but as he was about to grasp the offered hand his strength gave way and he fell heavily to the ground. While those present hastened to the unfortunate officer's assistance the Marshal, to conceal his emotion, passed into the next room, where M. Lachaud was reposing after his labors. He met him, however, on the threshold, and the Marshal, in a calm and almost cheerful tone, himself communicated the fatal news. In the midst of this heartrending scene the Commandant Guioth, aid-de-camp to the Duc d'Aumale, arrived. It is needless to say that his presence caused a painful sensation. M. Guioth, who evinced great emotion, handed to M. Lachaud a letter from the President of the Council of War, requesting his immediate presence in court. M. Lachaud followed the aid-de-camp. He found the Judges assembled; and the Duc d'Aumale, with all the consideration due to the man who had used such powerful but fruitless eloquence, read to him an appeal for mercy signed by all the members of the court. He added that he was about to visit the Minister of War and the President of the Republic personally to support the recommendation of the Court. The distinguished advocate simply replied that he would communicate the fact to the Marshal, and withdrew.—*Paris Gaulois.*

### FLOGGING AS A PUNISHMENT.

It is now some years since the punishment of flogging was abolished in our navy; and even in the merchant service we believe it is no longer permitted. Delaware still keeps up her time-honored custom of whipping those convicted of certain special crimes, but that punishment has been expunged from the statute books of nearly all of the States. The strong feeling at one time prevalent against the infliction of corporal punishment was stimulated by the many instances in which innocent persons were known to have suffered, and also by the brutality with which it had been often administered.

With the growth of a nation and its material progress, people become more humane and averse to the infliction of any punishment, cruel and vindictive in its nature. Only those which are absolutely necessary for the safety of life and property are approved.

To the fact then that some men are so desperate that the prospect of a long term of imprisonment does not deter them from the commission of crime, is to be attributed the revival of flogging as a penalty in England.

In the Sub-urban Crown Court in Liverpool on December 15, Martin Walsh, a young laborer who had knocked a draper's assistant down and robbed him of his watch guard and locket one night last November, upon conviction was sentenced to five years' penal servitude and to twenty lashes. For a similar robbery a man named Neal received a like sentence.

At the Warwick Assizes the other day, Baron Pigott in charging the Grand Jury drew attention to the large increase which had occurred in cases of violence in the county, and said his experience was that no punishment was so efficacious as that of flogging. He had noticed that the most hardened and dangerous criminals, who evinced no emotion when penal servitude was mentioned, showed signs of concern and apprehension at the slightest reference to a flogging. As cases of violence had gone up from two to thirteen, he intended to avail himself of the act which authorizes the infliction of corporal punishment in all proper cases.

A young man named Ingram, who had been convicted of robbery, made a pitiful appeal to the Judge to spare him the flogging. Baron Pigott, however, proceeded to sentence him, in addition to a long term of imprisonment, to undergo the dreaded torture, saying he believed it to be his duty.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Connected with the new citadel at Stasbourg is a pigeon house, with accommodations of the most approved description for 500 carrier pigeons, to be ready in event of war. Are we in England, asks *Broad Arrow*, to rest so well satisfied with the omnipotence and omnipresence of telegraph wires as to neglect entirely the homing pigeon? In Germany, the War Department is wise enough to organize a pigeon loft in its important garrisons, but in England it is evidently to be left to private enterprise to encourage pigeon-flying in Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Chatham. Some time since we endeavored to provide the means of distribution of homing pigeons to the several garrisons, but our offer did not meet with adequate response; we therefore return to the subject, and shall be happy to offer prizes for pigeon-flying in our great military garrisons, provided a committee of officers interested in the subject, will aid us with their assistance of suggestions.

### THE CIRCLE OF FIRE.

It is a fine summer morning in the Caucasus, and the little outpost of Cheverdon is all in a bustle. News has just come in that the Tchetchentzi, Schamyl's own peculiar people—who are to Russia what the Pequod Indians were to the first colonists of New England—are in the field again. Fifteen hundred of them, so says the breathless scout, have made a swoop upon the mountains during the night, "struck up" (as the Australians say) the village of Akbouk kiourt, made a glorious haul of prisoners and plunder, and are off to the hills with their booty confident that no "Moscow dog" can catch up to them. That, however, remains to be seen; for the Cossacks of Tchervon-on have turned out at the first alarm and "boot and saddle" is the word for every man who can mount. The colonel's instructions are precise: he is to pursue at once, and endeavor to recover the booty, with the assurance of being supported by a strong column of infantry from the post of Kourinski, under General Moudell. Away, then, go the handful of brave men—barely one hundred strong, including their officers—gleeful as a schoolboy on a holiday, at the prospect of the "lark" which lies before them.

A glorious summer morning, deliciously cool before the scorching heat of the day; a boundless stretch of level plain under foot—just the place for a hard gallop; a clear blue sky overhead, with the first glow of sunrise just tinting the great white mountain peaks far away to the north; the certainty of a deadly battle a few hours later. What more can a soldier's heart desire? And the hard face of the veteran leader brightens visibly as he turns to his aid-de-camp a bright, fair-haired lad of one or two and twenty, who rides on his left hand.

"Fine morning for a gallop, eh, Pavel Ivnoitch? This is better than being pent up between two walls all day long?"

"A great deal better," answers the young subaltern, with his frank, boyish laugh. "I thought, somehow, that we should have some fun to-day; and so we shall, sure enough."

Little does he guess how the day is to end!

And so the chase sweeps on, over the wide loneliness of the gray, unending steppe, across the little stream of the Bakh, past the burning ruins of Akbouk kiourt, which still blot the clear blue sky with their thick, dingy smoke striking at length upon the trail of the retreating enemy, at sight of which a wild Cossack "Hourra!" goes up into the still air, as some keen-eyed veteran announces that it is still but a few hours old.

"We shall catch them yet!" cries young Fediouskin, waves his hand joyously; and Major Kampkoff, the second in command—a big, bold, taciturn fellow from Central Russia—responds with a grunt of satisfaction too deep for words.

But it is with cavalry in pursuit as with infantry on a forced march: the less seasoned begin to fall away in the rear after a time. Before reaching Akbouk kiourt, Colonel Soussloff has left forty-four of his men on the road; but, about an hour after leaving the burned village, he recruits his little band with a picket of forty Cossacks, who have been put on the alert by the passage of the retiring Circassians. Forward again, faster than ever! For now comes a dull, booming sound, thrice repeated, for away to the right—a sound familiar to every man of the squadron.

"Cannon firing at Kourinski! Then General Moudell must be astir—perhaps already

engaged. Forward all!" So thinks Colonel Soussloff, little expecting, what becomes fitly clear a little later, that these guns are but signals of alarm, that the infantry supports are not even on the march yet, and what he is actually doing is rushing headlong, with ninety six men, against fifteen hundred! Not till many weary hours are past, not till the hardest fight has been fought which the peaks of the Caucasus have looked down upon, will the promised succor arrive; and when it does come, it will come to late for many of us. Forward all!

Meanwhile the Circassians, encumbered with their booty, are slowly retiring toward the mountains, confident in their safety from pursuit. And now, as the sun peers above the horizon, the outermost spurs of the Caucasus rise before them, stark and grim against the lustrous sky; while upon the great plain behind, as far as the eye can reach, there is no living thing in sight. But, as the proverb says, "the Circassian's ear hears grass sprout and wool grow;" and the hindmost of the marauders can already distinguish a dull rumble far in the rear, not to be confounded with the trampling of their own horse hoofs. Louder and nearer comes the sound, and at length, in the far distance, rises a dark spot, with an ominous glitter of bright sparks running through it, shooting towards them swift and unswerving. One of the rearward Circassians spurs his horse up a little mould to the right, and from thence reconnoitres the approaching enemy.

"They are but a handful!" he shouts scornfully, shaking his hand as it flings away a pinch of dust. "No *soina* (squadron) of Cossacks, and no support in sight!"

"Good," growls a stalwart khan, laughing grimly, as he loosens his sabre in its sheath. "If it please Allah, these dogs shall get their due. Face about, my children, and let us swallow up unbelievers!"

And, spreading out into a far extending line, the whole fifteen hundred sweep down at once upon the handful of pursuers;

At a glance Colonel Soussloff takes in the whole situation. No supports coming; no chance of escape with these spent horses, the enemy upon us, fifteen to one—there is nothing left but to die hard and dearly. Quick as lightning the Cossacks dismount, range their horses in a circle, with the bridles knotted together, and, leveling their pieces over this living rampart, stand grimly at bay.

"Fire!" roars the colonel, as the charging line comes rolling upon them like a wave, and the whole volley rings out like one shot.

When the smoke clears away, many a stalwart man lies rolling on the earth outside that circle of fire; but the trap has fairly closed at last. All around the ring is a sea of fierce faces, and horses' heads, and gleaming sabres, and leveled carbines. And now the battle begins in earnest—fifteen against one. All the air is filled with hot, sulphury smoke, and the roll of musketry from either side is like one continued peal of thunder; while patter, patter, come the bullets, thick as hail, hissing through the grass, or plunging with a dull thud into the body of horse or man. Ever and anon, as the stifling cloud lifts itself for a moment, the doomed man within the ring see the face of some comrade suddenly stiffen in death or writhe with mortal agony as he falls helplessly to the earth. Load and fire, load and fire, regularly as if on parade. Outside the

circle are fierce yells and cries, groans of pain, shouts of triumph; within, neither shout nor groan, but the dead, grim, silence of men who know how to die. The living wall begins to yield, as horses after horse falls dead; but the devoted band pile the slain men upon beasts, and over the corpses of their comrades, as if from behind a parapet. Load and fire, load and fire again! How long has this lasted? Five minutes? an hour? days? There is no count of time in such work as this. And how long can it last? Already nine of the Cossacks lie dead; twenty more are severely wounded and have torn their shirts to staunch the blood that flows from them. Ammunition is beginning to run short. But the colonel, with his own hand, empties the pouches of the dead, distributes their cartridges to the survivors, and the battle begins anew.

And now the Circassians, furious at being withstood so long, come close up to the impenetrable circle, and aim beneath the horses' bodies at the exposed limbs of the defender; but their glittering accoutrements make them a fair mark for the Cossacks, who mow them down again and again as they come on. At a little distance, the whole face of the prairie around the fatal circle is like a great flower-garden, with the gay dresses of the slaughtered enemy; while within the ring the earth is black with fallen Cossacks. At this close range every shot tells; and the three Russian officers, as the leading agents of this desperate resistance are specially marked for destruction. Colonel Soussloff, firing his last pistol shot among his swarming assailants, hears a sharp cry beside him, and turns just in time to catch in his arms young Fediouskin, whose bright face is white and shrunken with pain.

"Are you hurt, my boy?" asked the stout colonel, tenderly.

"My thigh's broken," answered the subaltern, biting his lips to keep down a rising groan.

"For God's sake, then," whispers the colonel, "catch hold of something—cling to my shoulder, if you like; but don't fall, whatever you do! If the men see you go down, they'll lose heart at once. It all depends upon us officers now!"

"Never fear!" replied the gallant boy, writhing his blue lips into a smile; "I'll keep my feet as long as I'm wanted."

And, clutching the name of his horse; he remains up right; while the colonel, flinging his now useless pistols at the advancing enemy, draws his sword for the hand-to-hand struggle.

But all this while, what is doing at Kourinski? The infantry supports were ready long ago, but the column has unluckily taken the wrong direction at starting, and is still pursuing it, when the uproar of the battle breaking like a thunderstorm upon the dead stillness of early morning, shows where the real work lies. In an instant the order is given to wheel to the left, and Grenadiers hasten at their utmost speed toward the scene of action, guided by the din of sixteen hundred carbines all firing at once.

But, hasten as they may, the chances are sorely against their arriving in time; for the besieged handful is already at its last grasp. The Circassians, frantic at the long resistance and the fearful slaughter which it has wrought, have flung themselves pell mell upon the impregnable circle, as if to overwhelm it by sheer weight of numbers. All round the ring it is one welter of slashing sabres and pounding gunstocks, blood spurt-

ing on every side like the jet of a syringe, and death coming blindly no one knows how. Cossacks throttle Circassians, Circassians fasten their teeth upon Cossacks; even the wounded and dying grapple on the ground, and are found, after the battle is over dead in each other's gripe. Colonel Soussloff, with one foot on the body of his horse, hews right and left, like a woodman felling timber; Sergeant Fioulkoff, beside him, cuts off at one blow the hand and arm of a Circassian, as one would slice cucumber; Major Kampkoff, having broken his sword, snatches up a carbine, and pounds away with the butt end, as if thrashing corn. But on comes the enemy, like waves of the sea. Man on man fall the Cossacks, fighting to the last. A moment more, and the Circassians are within the circle; and then—

Suddenly there comes a light upon the colonel's grim face, never seen there before or after. He waves his hand toward the west, and his voice rises above all the infernal din—"Courage, lads! here is help coming at last!"

It is even so. Far in the distance appear a troop of horsemen at full gallop—the Cossacks who were left behind on the road hastening to join in the fray. At the same moment a distant cheer is heard in the opposite direction, and the sun flashing upon a long row of points—the bayonets of Moudell's infantry, coming swiftly to the rescue. Then rises on high a shout of triumph from the baffled enemy. Nearer and nearer come the horsemen; plainier and plainier appears the dark column of infantry. The Circassians fire one last volley, and, abandoning their booty, vanish among the hills like a flight of vultures.

And now, the great work being done, wounded and unwounded alike sink exhausted among the bodies of the dead; and the gallant Fediouskin, who has remained erect for nearly an hour with his thigh broken, gives way at last. Moudell's Grenadiers make trestles of the Circassian lances, and bear back the wounded to Kourinski. Five of them died on the following morning, many a few days later; but all who survive are marked for reward. The three officers are promoted, and a substantial largess is distributed among the men. Colonel Soussloff himself receives the Cross of St. George, (the highest of Russian military decorations,) and survives many years to express his wonder at the admiration lavished upon "such a simple thing as that which he had done."

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says: A good story was going the round of the camp at Cannock Chase the other day, with reference to the Dumfries Militia, or the Scottish Borderers, as they delight to call themselves.

During last Friday's march out some of the regiments were an unusually long time in cooking their dinners. This did not fail to attract the notice of the chief, who spoke to the officer in command of the engineers, whose cooks were preparing dinner on a new system. The chief then roared up to Mr. Moriarty, the quartermaster of the Borderers, and observing that there was no sign of cooking going on, inquired why it was that so great a delay had taken place. "I ken they have had their dinner, sir," replied the quartermaster. "Had it," exclaimed the general, "why, what do you mean? There are the engineers close by, who have not had theirs yet. How is it you have been so quick over it?" "Weel, sir," replied the Scotchman, dryly, "do you see our men don't cook on scientific principles."

## CARTHAGENA.

## A DAY'S BOMBARDMENT.

This is the seventh day of the bombardment, and yet there is no sign of surrender. About half-past two yesterday afternoon I did think there was prospect of the beginning of the end. The Spanish flags were withdrawn from Moros and Despeneparros (which for some time have ceased to flaunt the black flag), and the black flags disappeared from the castles. The batteries on this side delivered their fire with cruel steadiness and effect all the same; this lowering of banners meant nothing that was known, and could not be taken notice of; still Carthage did not reply with a shadow of her former spirit. There was a silence, striking by contrast with the recent uproar, and only made more audible by the rare discharge of a gun. We ask ourselves, what can they be doing? Rumours of the most contradictory kind had their course—"The Junta is escaping"—"the long-expected revolution within has broken out"—"they are burying the dead"—they are deliberating as to the conditions they will ask before giving in." This morning there is a change; the cannonade on our side has intensified, and there are moments when it is as fierce as on the terrible opening morning, and the answering shots from the Plaza send their echoes rumbling through the hills just as often and noisily (talaz) occasionally thunders, but I do not apprehend that orders have been given to the castles to preserve their projectiles for the fleet. That fleet is idle, except for its activity in going to Alicante for coal. One report yesterday said the Numancia, attended by a swarm of little steamers had gone out; the little steamers, came back, but the Numancia never returned; therefore, the Numancia must have been captured. At this moment I don't know what basis there is for the story, whether it is pure fiction, or fiction founded upon fact. That it is not simple truth I am satisfied. General Ceballos (by the bye, he is indisposed) does not know much more. I have a strong suspicion there is a want of combination between the land and naval forces. The general on *terra firma* is not in constant communication with the general at sea. The engineer officers of this army of operations know their business, and do it, so do the artillery, and their men are behaving well; but the intelligence department of the army is very badly managed.

In the house where I am billeted a couple of woe-begone women, who have escaped from Carthage, have sought refuge. They are pale with mortal terror still, and shudder at every cannon shot they hear. These women tell me the food in the town is tolerably abundant, but very bad. Water, salt and oil are scarce. The defenders of the different positions are mixed, composed of soldiers, volunteers, and convicts, in order, presumably, to pay off one against the other. When the firing becomes heavy, the women and children go to the arsenal for refuge; when it relaxes they return to their houses. But all the women are not thus faint-hearted; some march to the ramparts, rifle in hand, and one notably, the wife of a conspicuous Cantonal, endeavours to emulate the example of the Mail of Saragossa, by standing by her husband's side in the battery and firing the guns. There is no use in controverting it, there is a fund of mid-direct heroism in the smoke-bergit city yonder. The Spanish Government troops (constructed by that eloquent apostle of democracy, Emilio Castelar), have hailed hot ruin upon it for now nearly a week; ever

house in the town is damaged more or less, the streets are impassable for fallen bricks balconies, smashed cornices and chimney-tops; pieces of iron are wrenched forcibly from their holds and sent hissing through the air, the Devil is playing nine-pins in the public squares, the hospitals are crammed with bleeding and disfigured victims; and yet—in angles of masonry here and there—knots of four or five men, their teeth clenched and their faces and naked arms black with gunpowder, the smell of strong brandy in their mouths I dare say, are acting the heroic part, are doing all that Nelson's stout fellows, Drake's and Collingwood's ever did—are standing to their guns. And when a shell bursts and a limb is jagged by the merciless iron splinter, the stern, grimy, half-drunken insurgent cries, as he falls, "Viva la Republica Federal!" This is the story, and if this is not heroism of a kind, as the dogged determination with which Tom Sayers, with broken right arm, stood before Heenan was, I fear my hero worship's tainted with heathenish idolatry. I own I admire those blackguards—I cannot help but admire them. In a sense the right arm of Carthage is broken; her munitions as many circumstances indicate, are failing. Round shot are fired too often and the red smoke fluttering sky-high as some shell with too short a time fuse bursts innocuously, is too frequent. But still she holds out, and when, to all outward tokens, she is smitten heavily and sent to earth, she plucks herself together for the next round and "comes up smiling." What can be the objects of these men in holding out with such obstinacy. There is no army outside to relieve them: the attempts to kindly cantonal insurrections elsewhere by way of diversion have all failed ignobly; they are not for concessions, for they know perfectly well the Madrid Provisional Government would be only too happy to give them any. They must have an object; and this is what is said here, but that dare not be published in Spain under the present Liberal Administration. Hopes have been held out to those Cantonals that if they can hold their ground till January—one short-month more, and they have now held it for nine five—there will be a movement—a Parliamentary movement, if you please—in Madrid in their favour. It is quite possible they may be able to hold out till January—apparently they can get food supplies when they please; the bombardment has failed, as bombardments always do if the assailed party can get over the first few days panic; there are enough military men in the place to know that a siege is a tedious undertaking, and that the existing so called "investing" force must be at least doubled before it can be attempted. Well, if the Federal Republic be proclaimed in Madrid, as is possible, the consequence is easily foreseen. Such of the officers of the army as are still faithful to this Government—though they are quite as conscious as their enemies of Carthage that it is a mere pasteboard Government—will throw up their commands, the army will be more disorganized than ever, and the one hope for Spain will be in a return to Bourbon absolutism, and the proclamation of Charles the Seventh. The country will have but a choice of evils—the Prince of the Asturias is young, is not in the field, and the projects of his friends are not ripe; besides, Spain will hardly tolerate a regency. The choice, I repeat, is between the evil of a clerically inspired autocracy on one side, and a rampant radicalism on the other, and of the two the former, in my opinion, is the lesser.

Notwithstanding, I cling to the hope that Carthage will fall within the next fortnight. We have now five powerful fixed batteries in front of it, all of which are doing their work efficiently—to wit, Ferrol and Lower Roche on the left, commanding Moros and Despeneparros, Subillaga and the Railway Battery more to the centre, and the Piquetta or the Windmill Battery, as it is indifferently called, to the right. In addition to these there are the provisional batteries, one of which, of four Krupp guns, was impudently planted under the nose of the Molinos work, one of the enemy's advances, early yesterday morning. On Sunday afternoon I visited the staff headquarters, close to the artillery reserve park in the middle of the line. I saw two prisoners in civilian's clothes brought in with their arms bound with cords; one was old and was seated on a donkey; he looked like a dervish in the conical fur cap he wore; the other, young and slim, was on foot. Both frankly admitted they were convicts and were trying to escape from Carthage. These worthies professed to feel very indignant at being made a public exhibition of to the gipping, staring soldiers. They were taken to prison, but nothing very wicked will be done to them. In my opinion they would be rejoiced at the chance of changing bombarded Carthage for the deepest, darkest dungeon of the Peninsula. While the prisoners were the centre of attraction, tidings came that there was a sortie towards Alumbres, and there was quick galloping to and fro. But the sortie is passed, and this did not mean anything. It might have been a feint to draw off attention while provisions were being got in elsewhere. One incident occurred while I was at headquarters which is not so unusual as to extort comment here, but which is worth mentioning as a sample of the fortitude of the faithful, sober Spanish soldiers. A wounded artilleryman was being conveyed to the field hospital on a stretcher. As he passed the groups or staff officers and others, his eyes brightened, and a smile lit up the wan face. "Adios, Jose!" said the boy with an attempt at cheerfulness, as he raised his bandaged head and moved the blankets in salute to a companion he had recognized in the bystanders. "Have you a cigarette to spare?" The brave lad's thigh was ripped open, but he was a hero in his fashion, although only one of the rank and file, and calculated that Jose would tell the tale of his conduct in the village they came from. The respect of the village—his world—for him was fame.—From the Standard Dec. 9.

A special despatch from Berlin to the London Hour says the commander of one of the German vessels seized by a Spanish man-of-war in the Sooloo Archipelago and carried to Manila writes home that himself and crew were sent to prison and kept there two months, during which time they received very harsh treatment at the hands of the Spanish officials. The Hour's despatch says:—"Public feeling in Germany is much excited over the seizure of the vessels, and the fullest satisfaction for the insult to the German flag is demanded."

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 17th inst.

Bowmanville, Ont.—Capt. C. R. Loscombe to \$2.00  
 Brockville, Ont.—Lt. Col. W. H. Jackson, D. A. G. [Sep. 1873] 2.00  
 [Dec. 1873] 2.00  
 Lt. Col. Cole, [Dec. 1873] 2.00  
 Capt. G. E. McClean, " 2.00  
 Bourg-Louis, Que.—Maj. E. Puellet, to July 72 4.00  
 Quebec, Que.—Lt. Col. L. P. Vohl, to Feb. 1871 2.00

## IMPENDING FAMINE IN BENGAL.

GOVERNMENT WORKS TO BE CONSTRUCTED AS A MEASURE OF RELIEF.

By the arrival of the India mail we have advices from Bombay to Nov. 3. The *Gazette* of that date says that the all-absorbing topic of the day is the impending famine in Bengal, of the expected severity of which it continues to receive reports. "We have previously published (it adds) a few melancholy notes from Tirhoot showing that the want of rain had interfered with the prospects of the crops, and disheartened the ryots from sowing, in consequence of the hardness of the ground; but further accounts from various parts of Bengal serve to show that there is more and more fear of a direful calamity in store. Not merely has the rain-fall of the past season been inefficient, but during the previous year also the supply was considerably below the average, and the crops consequently small, so that the surplus in hand at the commencement of the season was inconsiderable. It is therefore to be feared that the scarcity will be far greater than during the famine of 1865-66, when the preceding year's crop had been bountiful. The drought moreover, on the present occasion has been more extended, and Orissa is almost the sole district of Lower Bengal which has escaped the scourge. To the honor of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir George Campbell, be it spoken, that he has not hesitated to grapple with the difficulty, and he is straining every nerve to meet the occasion. On Saturday last he started from Hazareebagh for Patna, where he arrived almost without halting, there to concert measures or relief with the Commissioner, and at Luckee Sorai he has to await the arrival of the Viceroy, who, alarmed at the state of affairs, started suddenly from Simla, on Friday, to consult with Sir George. From Patna the two dignitaries will proceed to Calcutta. A telegram received on Thursday informs us that it is rumored that the Government has authorized the commencement of the Darjeeling Railway and the further extension of the Soane Canal, as relief works. Rice has risen in Bengal some 30 per cent. in value, and even in Bombay the price has been enhanced."

The *Calcutta Englishman* writes as follows:

Whatever may be the probable or possible extent of the calamity that appears to be threatening Bengal in the partial failure of its food supplies, there can be no doubt that the promptitude and energy displayed by Sir George Campbell in preparing to meet and provide for the worst are deserving of all praise. He has already visited that part of the country about which the worst apprehensions are entertained, and personally enquired into the present condition of affairs and the best means of providing for the future; and at the present moment the elaboration of remedial measures is engaging his anxious attention. We hope, and believe, that the situation is on the whole not so gloomy as some of our contemporaries would have it to be; but it is beyond all question sufficiently critical to demand the most careful consideration, and to warrant very large and liberal schemes of relief on the part of the Government. Sir George Campbell's movements show that he feels and duly appreciates the responsibility that is thrown upon him; and we believe that we only express the general feeling of the public when we congratulate the country upon hav-

ing such a ruler at such a time. Many minor faults of pseudo vigorous government will be atoned for by the true vigour which we all believe the Lieutenant-Governor to be capable of displaying in seasons of real emergency. His Honor doubtless feels that such an occasion will afford him the best possible opportunity of vindicating the general character of his Administration; and without discussing the value of such a vindication as such, all Bengal will certainly sympathize with him most heartily in his attempts, and will be ready as heartily to applaud him on their success. But vigor without discretion is very apt to defeat itself; and inasmuch as we believe that Sir George Campbell's public acts have savored oftener of vigor than of discretion, it is on the latter point that we wish to take up our pen this morning. We come to caution Cæsar, not to praise him. One of our contemporaries, who takes the gloomiest view of the state of the food supplies, allows his imagination to run riot in devising all manner of relief-works for the districts that are most likely to be famine stricken. Irrigation, local railways, tramways, and we know not what other castles in the air, are immediately to be set on foot in Behar to mitigate the severity of the famine which is certain to press hard on that part of the province; and all those suggestions—which might fire the enthusiasm of less enthusiastic statesmen than the Lieutenant-Governor—are made apparently with very little deference to the actual effects extensive relief works undertaken in districts cut off from all possibility of obtaining an adequate food supply. Public money will be distributed among the famishing peasantry; and this is apparently all that is thought necessary by our contemporary. Now, such a measure is obviously highly effectual in a district where food, though at a very high price, and attracts further supplies of grain, even at a higher price, what are the effects of extensive relief works? The increased aggregate of wages only has the effect of raising the price of the hoards of grain actually available in the country, generally to more than the full extent of the increase; that portion of the peasantry that can benefit from the relief works is hardly better off than before, because of the rise of prices; the rest of the peasantry are far worse off, and by their efforts to avoid starvation (for starving men will pay any price they can for food), aggravate the famine by raising still further; and not only all the money expended on the relief works, but also much of the original scanty store of peasantry will be swallowed up in the famine profits of the holders of grain. Of course there is no part of either Behar or Bengal so utterly cut off from external supplies as that we have pictured; but the demand for these supplies is likely to be so enormous in the most afflicted districts that all ordinary sources will be drained dry, and all ordinary means of transport are likely to be found insufficient; in which case the condition of those districts will be not very unlike that which we have supposed above, a condition that was almost fully realized for a time in Orissa in 1866. The obvious moral of all this is that the first thing to which Government should look is the provision of as ample means of transporting rice into the afflicted districts as can possibly be obtained; the second is the establishment of Government granaries at accessible places, stocked with all the rice that can be obtained at a reasonable rate in more fortunate Provinces; and it is only after these points have been attended to, that relief works can be set on foot with any but

disastrous results. It is true that the management of Government granaries as competitors with the bunnias during the time of famine is a subject of the greatest difficulty and delicacy—on which we may have something to say hereafter, but experience has proved that the difficulties may be successfully coped with. But, as we have attempted to show above, the most important point of all is the amount of cheap transport available; if this be provided to a large extent at the public cost, private enterprise will do much to mitigate the horrors of any but the most wide spread famine.

The latest official reports represent the state of the crops in Bengal as rather worse than the previous week. In many districts the crops on high ground were believed to be past remedy. Prices were generally rising. —*London Daily News*, Nov. 24.

The new edition of the *Encyclopædi Britannica*, now in course of preparation, will it is said, cost the publishers \$1,000,000.

Her Majesty the Queen has, upon recommendation of Mr. Gladstone, granted to Lady McClure, the widow of the discoverer of the North-west passage, a pension of £100 per annum from the civil list. The late Vice Admiral, Sir R. McClure, died intestate consequently his widow only became entitled to one third of the property, which was sworn under £5,000.

The *Vuse Publica*, of Matamoros, states that claims exceeding one hundred millions of dollars have been presented before the Frontier Commissioners, as indemnification for depredations and injuries inflicted on American citizens on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande.

A special from Paris to a London morning journal says the defeat of the Government on the vote in relation to the appointment of Mayors, is not to be considered important. A vote of confidence in the Government was to be asked for yesterday, which, it was said, was certain to be carried.

In the French assembly on Monday evening, after a long and violent debate on the Ministry on their monarchical tendencies, a vote of confidence in the Government was adopted by a majority of fifty eight. They have in consequence withdrawn their resignations.

A board of Enquiry to ascertain the cause of the sinking of *Virginius* is in session at the Navy Department, at Washington.

Five pieces of captured French bronze cannon have arrived in Baltimore as a present from the Emperor William of Germany to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. They are to be melted for a church bell.

Southern people are trying to raise for subscription the sum of \$20,000, which remains unpaid upon the statue of "Stonewall" Jackson, now completed at Nuremberg, Bavaria.

The exhibition building at Vienna is not to be destroyed, but is to be converted into a permanent museum and a place of industry.

General Sir John Fitzgerald, of the British army, recently celebrated the eightieth anniversary of the date of his first commission.

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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

“Unribbed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law.”

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JAN. 20, 1874.

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

The following article from the United States Army and Navy Journal merits the serious attention of all men desirous of securing the perfect military organization of an armed nation, as distinguished from the exploded system of a National Army. In order to accomplish this great work, the individual citizens of a State must be compelled for the common good to surrender their individual volition and the outward appreciation of the thoughts and senses, so far as they are necessarily concerned, to one direction; in other words, they must come under the yoke of discipline—that is to submit without hesitation or question to the control of one will—and it is absurd to suppose that as soldiers they cannot have any rights or privileges apart from the rest of the community whom it is their duty to defend. As the whole fighting force of a State is usually only one-sixth of its population, it

follows, that in no case while acting as soldiers should they be allowed to claim any privilege endangering the liberties or properties of the other five-sixths, and this they will always do where the soldier dictates to his superior.

Our military organization is not free from the faults of the laxity of discipline; the militia law is hardly stringent enough in enforcing attendance at drill and in awarding punishment; but still it is far superior to that under which the militia of the various States of the neighbouring Union is organized. Their great mistake in a social, political, and military point of view is, that the test of ability is based on that most fallacious of all standards—popular election. We thought the experience of the last war was quite sufficient to drive it out of military organization at least, but to our surprise we find it as a recognized institution in the officering of the National Guard, and when it is possible for the lance corporal of to-day to be first lieutenant to-morrow by the popular vote of his fellows, we can hardly perceive how the “hail fellow” style could be well dispensed with, or how *Mose* the drummer should not challenge *Sydney* the Captain, to a game of euchre or seven up after parade was dismissed. If our contemporary wishes to enforce discipline he must advocate the destruction of democracy—both cannot possibly exist in contact—and the mischievous as well as false doctrines of personal equality must be eradicated if a military organization is to be maintained.

Our Canadian Army is democratic enough but we have all the machinery for enforcing discipline in its strictest sense and we permit no election of officers; in times of war our troops would be at once brought under the stringent provision of military law, and our neighbour’s must inaugurate a similar system if they mean to have an efficient militia.

**DISCIPLINE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.**—In treating this question we are met at the very start by a point blank question, the answer to which involves a very grave further inquiry as regards the interests of American militia in our own and other States. That question is—What is discipline? The answers are numerous from all military writers and officers of eminence—all agreeing as to the essential qualities of this thing.

“Discipline is the life of an army.” . . . .  
 “The difference between a mob and an army is discipline.” . . . . “The difference between a good army and a poor one is good & bad discipline.” . . . . “The emerging of many wills in one.” . . . . “The habit of implicit obedience to order under any and all circumstances.” . . . . “Discipline turned a blunder into an act of heroism at Balaklava.” . . . . “Without discipline there can be no army,” etc. These answers suggest the further inquiry—Have we any such thing as discipline in our militia? The answer, we fear, is inevitable to a military observer looking at the question from a “regular” standpoint—none at all. An ex-volunteer, recognizing that there may be real discipline without the slavish manners of English,

Prussian, and American Regular service, would qualify the answer by saying—a little. That there is a very little is proven by the fact that within a year past there have been three serious disturbances in militia regiments, in all of which a perfect contempt of authority has been shown, either by enlisted men or by company officers, and that in no case have the offenders been punished, while practically they have in all cases secured a victory over their superiors. We refer, first, to the late Third Infantry; next, to the Eleventh Infantry; next, to Company G, of the Thirteenth. In the first case the company officers, or a few of them, secured the disbandment of their regiment and its reconstruction, as the Twenty-seventh throwing a slur by implication on their colonel, whom they had disobeyed wantonly, without a word of official censure from the Commander-in-Chief, or other powers. In the second, a whole regiment engaged in repeated acts of mutiny, and the consequent court-martials have ended in smoke, thus again casting the blame on their colonel by implication. In the third, a company has deliberately defied restraint, and mutinied because the authorities neglected to transfer it to another regiment. The result has been simply disbandment, without further punishment. That these are only straws, indicating the course of the wind, will appear to any practical observer who goes through our militia armories at any time when the men are not actually on drill. He will see in all, or nearly all, the same “hail fellow” style among men and officers; the same reluctance to bend to the will of others, if the act involves any sacrifice of personal comfort. That the best of our organizations are not free from this defect is evinced by the experience of the Seventh Infantry at the Saratoga encampment, where a few riotous spirits, intent on what they called “fun,” disregarded the A B C of Regulations, and raised disturbances almost every night after taps.

“It has become time for the gentlemen of the National Guard to answer one last question seriously—Are you soldiers, or only playing at soldiers?”

“If the first, you are, you must be, all wrong, for you cannot get on without discipline. If the last, is it not time, in view of possible warlike contingencies, to turn over a new leaf and be either soldiers or civilians? Play soldiers, kid glove warriors, are objects of deserved satire all over the civilized world. Are you content to become objects of contempt to real soldiers, spite of any amount of fuss and feathers? If not, it is time to do something towards raising the standard of discipline in the National Guard. What they may be, we may speak about in the future. Meantime we invite discussion of the undoubted evil in its possible remedies.”

In another column will be found an article on the “National Defence” of France, from the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, which strikes any one who may have studied the condition of the fortresses of that country before the late war, as being exactly what is wanted to meet the altered conditions of warfare. The girdle of impregnable fortresses on the best development of the systems of Vauban and Comontaigne which covered the Franco-German frontier, were burst through like a paper screen by the German invaders; with the exception of

Strasburg alone, they made no resistance, and even in its case the siege could only save the national honor, it had no effect on the national defence. We have recently given a synopsis of a paper read by Lieut. ENGLISH, R.E., on the Moncrieff System of Mounting Guns, but which should have been more properly called a defence of the ancient or late system of fortification, and in the discussion which arose thereon we have the testimony of some of the first naval officers of the day, to prove that mode of defence obsolete, inefficient, and sure to entail far greater loss on the defenders than on the assailants.

Under these circumstances the question has naturally arisen as to what shall be the shape of those works of national defence behind which an army inferior in numbers can hold a superior force at bay till a concentration of troops in its own rear would enable it to assume the offensive, and the movements now contemplated by the French authorities point to a solution of that problem in the science of modern war. Entrenched camps communicating with one another, undoubtedly offer the most serious obstacle to the advance of an invader; if the defences of those camps are judiciously chosen, the assailant labours under serious disadvantage in taking up position for attack; if one is forced, his difficulties only commence as he has to mark or carry those on his flanks; while the defenders falling back will be steadily increasing in force in front. It would appear then that here is to be found the true solution of a problem in military science which has passed the best strategists and military engineers the world has yet seen, added enormously to the cost of national defence, while in reality affording no national aid. The new system can be worked out by the troops, consisting as it must do of earthworks of the simplest possible construction armed with guns of large calibre and great range; in fact the skill of the engineer will be directed more to exhibit no profile, and to connect his gun pits, for that is the form his batteries must take by railway lines under cover and always to the rear. A series of field works of the description required could be constructed at very slight expense, and would be permanent because they should present no particular distinctive features from the surrounding country, being merely a series of sunken fences with a glacis, but no parapet, and sodded over they would require no repair, the thicker and greener the sward the better; the only structures necessary would be expose magazines, and those would be of the most simple construction.

A regular fortification on the old system involved the expense of a permanent garrison—repairs constantly receiving the care of a costly armament and modifications to suit the progress of mechanical science. Under the new system none of those conditions are requisite—whenever the exigencies oc-

curs troops are marched into to occupy the works; there are no repairs needed, the armament is drawn from the nearest military store on its own wheels by the four horses of the neighbourhood or by rail moved into position, a simple platform of sleepers and planks is laid down in the gunpit, the express magazine covered in, and the fortress is at once manned and armed. To the eye of the invader nothing is to be seen except perhaps the white tents of the troops in sheltered or picturesque positions and open hill sides dotted here and there with a farm house—he advances to reconnoitre within range, a flash, a puff of smoke the whistle of a round shot from what part of the train before him he cannot tell, proves that deadly danger lies in his path, and before he can get at his enemy he must encounter the terrible fire of those "snakes in the grass" whose whereabouts position or numbers he knows nothing about. Marked behind plantations on bleak hill sides on the flanks of deep ravines and sweeping the level meadows the guns of the entrenched camps capable of incalculable mischief, will only awake the echoes when the invader develops his plan of attack, and thus they present no mark to fire at. A gun muzzle two feet in diameter popping up out of a hole is not a visible object at two thousand yards to fire at, the supposed site of its flash, or at the puff of smoke, would be about as futile as to fire at the flash of lightning to find the point of the cloud from which it sprang. Whatever advantage the assailant possessed "Moncrieff System of Mounting Ordnance" has not only deprived him of, but it has revolutionized the whole science of fortification.

The following article from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* of 13th December will be interesting to our readers, especially as it contains a challenge of National importance—and from Ireland too.

Our riflemen will have to look well to their laurels or *Creedmoor* will be quietly absorbing some of the honors exclusively belonging to them—the spirit of emulation is evoked and it will doubtless tend to much good.

**THE AMATEUR RIFLE CLUB.**—This club, affiliating with the National Rifle Association, was organized during the past year, and now numbers over fifty members. One of the prominent objects of the club has been to introduce the practice of long range firing with rifles of the most approved pattern, the club being substantially modelled on the pattern of the small bore clubs of England and Canada, which have been so successful in developing fine shooting. The average shooting of the club in seven shots, in the first match held by it, was 14 points per man. In latter matches it exceeded 19. An average 3½ out of a possible 4 has been made by several at 500 yards, in the recorded matches of the year, and the average of the entire shooting of all the members was 2.5, which can compare very favorably with any shooting known.

The first annual business meeting of the club was held at Company G room Svent's armory, on Friday evening, December 5 the president, Captain (George) W. Wingate, presiding. There was a good attendance. After the secretary's report was read and some routine business transacted, an election of officers for the ensuing year took place, with the following result: President, George W. Wingate, re-elected; Vice President, Colonel H. A. Gildersleeve, Twelfth regiment, New York; Secretary and Treasurer, Fred. P. Fairbanks re-elected; Executive Committee, Henry Fulton, J.S.B. Collins, A. Alford, L.C. Bruce (George S. Sehermerhorn, Jr.).

On motion of Mr J. P. M. Richards the following resolution was proposed and adopted in regard to the challenge from Irish riflemen:

*Resolved*, That the executive committee of this club be hereby requested to correspond with Mr. Leech, and, if satisfactory terms can be arranged, to accept the challenge in the name of the Amateur Rifle Club of the city of New York, and of the riflemen of America. And it is hereby suggested to the executive committee that, in the event of the proposed match being arranged, an opportunity be offered to the riflemen of the United States, at the earliest possible date, to compete with our own practice squad for places in the team, but without expense to the club.

The following is the challenge of the "Irish eight" referred to:

*Challenge to the Riflemen of America from the Riflemen of Ireland, represented by the members of the Irish Rifle Association.*

Mr. A. Blennerhassett Leech, founder in 1867 of the Irish Rifle Association, will select from the members a team which he will match against an equal number of the representative American rifle shots, to shoot in the United States, in the autumn of 1874 on the following conditions:—

Targets, scoring, etc.—Same as adopted by the National Rifle Association of Great Britain at Wimbledon, 1873 (when the Irish eight won the international match for the Elcho shield, beating England and Scotland).

Ranges—800, 900, 1,000, and 1,100 yards. Rifles—Any not exceeding ten pounds weight, but without telescope sights or hair-triggers.

Position—Any, but no artificial rest permitted either for the rifle or person of the shooter.

The American team to be composed exclusively of riflemen born in the United States, and to shoot with rifles of American manufacture.

The Irish team will shoot with rifles by Rigby, of Dublin.

As this challenge is given to decide the title to the rifle championship of the world, Mr. Leech will require a sufficient stake to be put down, not for the sake of a trifling pecuniary gain, but as a guarantee that the Irish team will meet the representatives of America.

Mr. Leech desires to draw the attention of the American people to the fact that the laws of Great Britain forbid the formation in Ireland of rifle corps similar to those which exist in great numbers in England and Scotland, and that any skill acquired by Irishmen in rifle shooting is the result of individual exertion under difficulties arising from discouraging legislation.

ARTHUR B. LEECH.

DUBLIN, October 31, 1873.



It will be seen that the club do not propose to accept the challenge so much for themselves as on behalf of the American riflemen. It is hoped that those who consider themselves qualified to compete in such a contest will in case a definite arrangement is made, place themselves in communications with the officers of the club. Those intending to do so, however, must bear in mind that they will be restricted to the use of a rifle weighing less than ten pounds, with a trigger pull of three pounds at least, and without telescopic sights.

The National Rifle Association, in consequence of the un-official character of this challenge have taken no action in regard to this matter. The challenge, however, has awakened considerable discussion among its members, the majority of whom favor an international contest on the association's grounds at Creedmoor. This movement on the part of the Amateur Club is commendable, and we trust will have the effect of bringing about the desired competition. Without intending to appear boastful, it is our opinion this country can put forth a team of riflemen which with little practical training will give our friends across the water a pretty good fight at the targets. Organized systematic target practice is but in its infancy in the United States, and Great Britain has at least fifteen years the start of us in this matter. We, however, feel confident that, even if the Amateur Club cannot organize a team, the country has the riflemen, and the National Rifle Association could soon bring them to the surface. It will be observed the challengers propose to use the muzzle-loading Rigby rifle, the acceptors, however, are not confined to the muzzle-loaders, and it is thought we have breech loaders which will exhibit practice at long ranges fully equal to the famous Rigby. This, however, will be a matter of great consideration and infinite importance in the contest and its results. The Amateur Club meeting was attended by the most prominent of its riflemen, and the members were strongly in favour of accepting the challenge of the Irish team. The members of the club have entered, since its organization, every match thus far held at Creedmoor, at ranges from 200 to 1,000 yards, and in every instance have come off victorious. The following are the scores made by competitors in the matches of 1873:

	Total.	No. of Shots.	Average.
J. P. M. Richards.....	100	28	3.57
Robert Omand.....	25	7	3.67
John Bodine.....	97	28	3.46
G. W. Wingate.....	72	21	3.42
S. S. Heburn.....	23	7	3.28
Andrew S. Fowle.....	68	21	3.23
J. S. Conlin.....	45	14	3.21
G. W. Hamilton.....	44	14	3.01
Bethel Burton.....	65	21	3.09
G. W. Yale.....	65	21	3.09
S. J. Kellogg, Jr.....	43	14	3.07
A. V. Canfield, Jr.....	42	14	3.00
Andrew Anderson.....	19	7	2.858
A. Pyle.....	80	28	2.857
Henry Fulton.....	75	28	2.60
H. A. Gildersleeve.....	36	14	2.57
W. H. Richards.....	18	7	2.57
S. C. Bruce.....	53	21	2.52
J. Ross.....	17	7	2.40
S. W. Ballard.....	17	7	2.40
J. T. B. Collins.....	28	14	2.00
Other competitors.....	255	203	1.20

Total points.....1,388  
Shots.....546  
Average shoot'g club 2,534

The closing scenes of the BAZAINE trial are described by the correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph*. They certainly give the readers no exalted ideas of the common sense of the action in this historical drama, especially the members of the court-martial, or the Government that organized it to try an innocent man. The question should naturally drive us to the real authors of the French disasters and the answer would be TROCHU in the first place, and in the second place GAMBETTA, not the trio of rascally pettifoggers that proclaimed themselves the *Provisional Government*; these are the people that should have been tried and hanged, for they deserved that fate; BAZAINE's only fault appears to have been one of indecision if on the receipt of the news he had concluded a truce with the Germans marched a portion of his army on Paris, seized and hung TROCHU, GAMBETTA, and half a dozen other traitors, restored the Empire, France would not have been humiliated, would not have lost so much territory, and the Marshal's name would have gone down to posterity as the saviour of his country, his first duty was to France, to the traitors at Paris he owed neither duty nor allegiance and it does not excuse his judges from the guilt of a false verdict if their veracity confused the actual relations existing between the mob at Paris and the people of France. The following are the scenes as described, the time being the close of the official prosecutor's address:—

Bazaine had during the delivery of these speeches exhibited much more interest in what was said than he had hitherto as a general rule displayed, and while the official prosecutor was delivering the terrible string of accusations his fixed paleness gave way several times to a change of color. He made frequent notes, and at various critical points of Gen. Pourcet's indictment sent messenger for books and other documents. Different passages bearing on the points in question marked for the use of his counsel, and then handed them to Maitre Lachaud. Immediately behind the Marshal sat Madame Bazaine, her handsome features not disguised even by the terrible ordeal of anxiety through which she had passed and was at that moment passing.

The speeches were now over, and in the midst of an impressive silence which followed after Maitre Lachaud had resumed his seat, the Duc d'Aumale turned to Bazaine and inquired if he had anything to add to his defence.

The Marshal rose hurriedly, but with dignity, and said: "I bear two words on my breast (striking, as he spoke, the decoration of the Legion of Honor), '*honneur et patrie*.' I have never wavered in my 42 years of service in devotion to my country. I have never, either at Metz or elsewhere, forfeited my honor. I swear it in presence of that Christ" (pointing to the picture of "Christ on the Cross" which was hanging opposite on the wall, above the head of the Duc d'Aumale). Then, collecting his papers, the marshal, in his habitual hurried manner, walked out of the court for the last time, so far as this trial is concerned, for the sentence was to be pronounced in his absence.

Before the Judge withdrew—it was now

half-past four o'clock—the president begged the supplementary judges to hold themselves at the disposition of the council. Its members, the Duc d'Aumale, President; General de la Motterouge, General Chaud-Latour, General Trippier, General le Martimprey, General Princeteau and General Martinez Deschesnez, then retired. The dais was cleared of visitors by the gendarmes, who formed a cordon round it, so as to preclude the possibility of communication with the members of the court-martial, the audience being in the meantime warned that they must make no sign of approbation or of disapprobation when the verdict was pronounced.

After a long deliberation the judges returned into court and pronounced their decision, which took the following form:

In the name of the French people, this 10th day of December, 1873, the Council of War of the First Military Division, after deliberating privately, with closed doors, on the following questions:

*First*—Is Marshal Bazaine guilty of having, on the 23th of October, 1870, capitulated to the enemy and surrendered the stronghold of Metz, of which he held superior command in chief, without having exhausted all the means of defence of which he disposed, and without having done everything which honor and duty prescribed?

*Second*—Is Marshal Bazaine guilty of having signed on the same day (October 28, 1870), at the head of his army, in the open field, this capitulation?

*Third*—Did this capitulation result in his army laying down their arms?

*Fourth*—Did Marshal Bazaine, before signing this capitulation, fail to do everything which honor and duty prescribed?

After the votes have been taken one after the other, beginning with that of the officer holding the lowest rank, and after the President has given his last of all, the Council declares unanimously that all the four questions have been answered "Yes."

Upon which, after having considered the conclusion formulated by the Special Commissioner of the government in his *Requisitoire*, the President, after having carefully read the text of the law, and, having again taken the votes in the manner above described, on the application of the penalty, the Council consequently condemns Francois Achille Bazaine to the penalty of death with degradation, and expels him from the Legion of Honor.

In conformity with the law the Council condemns him besides to the coast which he owes to the State.

In accordance with article 139 of the Code of Justice, the Council enjoins the Special Commissioner of the government to cause the present judgment to be read immediately before him in the presence of the guard assembled under arms.

The last formality is necessary on account of the provision of the French law which enacts that the prisoner, in such circumstances, shall not be present at the reading of the verdict.

I have said that the Council was a long time in deliberation; in point of fact it was four hours, and during that period everybody remained in court anxiously awaiting the result. It was half-past eight when the captain in command of the guard drew his sword and ordered the gendarmes to present arms, which was the signal for the return of the judges. A few seconds afterwards the Duc d'Aumale entered, followed by his colleagues, the captain exclaiming at the same moment, "Stand up before the Council."

With almost military precision the crowd rose, while something like a thrill of expectation ran through the whole court. The scene was very impressive. When, in the midst of a solemn and almost awful silence, broken once only by a stifled murmur—the Duc d'Aumale and the Generals having raised their cocked hats—the President pronounced the first words of the solemn utterance, "In the name of the French people," the emotion and suspense were overpowering.

The sentence pronounced, the crowd gradually and quietly ebbed away.

In Paris there was not really the most intense excitement. The Versailles train which brought the first intelligence was besieged at the St. Lazare station by an immense concourse of people who had waited for hours to learn the issue. The first passenger to alight became immediately the centre of a large throng, who broke loose from the sergents de ville, and, as soon as the word "death" had been pronounced, a loud, prolonged shout echoed and re-echoed from end to end of the long waiting hall. The crowd clapped hands exultingly, as if some great victory had been gained, and the cry was enthusiastically raised, a *mort*, taken up by the crowd outside, and promulgated from street to street—calling forth everywhere a general, long, and savage applause.

The *Journal Officiel* publishes the following:

"By the terms of articles 141 and 143 of the Code of Military Justice, Marshal Bazaine having allowed twenty four hours to elapse without appearing, the sentence passed on him has become irrevocable."

The same journal also states that immediately after the judgment had been pronounced, the President and members of the court martial addressed to the Minister of War an application for mercy, the text of which is as follows:

*Monsieur le Ministre :*

The court martial has just given its judgment against Marshal Bazaine.

As jurymen we have decided the questions which were submitted to us, listening only to the voice of our consciences. We need not recapitulate the long proceedings which enlightened us. To God alone do we owe an account of the motives which influenced our verdict.

As judges, we had to apply on inflexible law which does not admit that any circumstances can extenuate a crime against military duty.

But those circumstances which the existing legislation forbids us to take into consideration in giving our sentence we have the right to point out to you.

We remind you that Marshal Bazaine took and exercised the command of the Army of the Rhine in the midst of unheard of difficulties; that he is not responsible for the disastrous opening of the campaign, nor for the choice of the lines of operation.

We recall to your memory the fact, that under fire, he was always himself; that at Borny, Gravelotte, Noisseville, no one surpassed him in bravery, and that on the 16th of August, by the firmness of his attitude, he maintained the centre of his line of battle.

Consider the records of the services performed by the volunteer of 1831; count the campaigns, the wounds, and the brilliant actions which have won for him the baton of Marshal of France.

Think of the long confinement he has undergone, and of that punishment of two

months, during which he has heard every day his honor discussed in his own presence, and you will join with us in praying the President of the Republic not to allow the sentence we have just passed to be carried into execution.

Accept, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurance of our respect.

Signed by all the judges.

Lastly, the official journal publishes the subjoined all-important decision:

"The President of the Republic, on the recommendation of the Minister of War, has commuted the penalty of death pronounced on Marshal Bazaine, to twenty years' imprisonment, commencing from the present date (Dec. 11), with the military degradation set aside, but with all its effects maintained."

To his eloquent defender, M. Lachaud, Marshal Bazaine wrote the following letter:

"MR DEAR AND VALOROUS DEFENDER: Before the supreme hour I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the heroic efforts you have made to sustain my cause. If the accents, of the highest eloquence which you have drawn from the sentiment of truth, and from the devotion of your noble heart, could not convince my judges, it was because they could not be convinced at all. For in your admirable speech you have surpassed human effort. I shall not appeal. I do not desire to prolong before the entire world the spectacle of so painful a struggle, and I beg you to take no steps whatever in my favour. I no longer demand to be judged by men; it is from time and the calming of public passions that I hope for my justification. I await firmly and resolutely, strong in my own conscience, which reproaches me for nothing, the execution of the sentence."

MARSHAL BAZAINE.

THIRNON-SOUS-BOIS, Dec. 11, 1873."

When the Marshal says that the speech of his defender surpassed human effort, he alludes to the fact that Lachaud's strength gave way before the end, his voice was scarcely audible, and when he finished he had to retire to his bed at once.

The following is the text of the two letters from Prince Frederick Charles which Maitre Lachaud read at the Bazaine court-martial:

I declare that during the whole period of the siege of Metz I had no interview with Marshal Bazaine, and that I saw him for the first time on the morrow of the capitulation, July, 1870.

FREDERICK CHARLES.

I declare that I profess the most complete esteem for Marshal Bazaine and for the energy with which he prolonged, as long as possible, the resistance of Metz, which was inevitably obliged to succumb.

FREDERICK CHARLES.

We have received from the *Free Press* of New York a neatly got up and well printed illustrated Almanack for 1874, containing a large amount of interesting and profitable reading matter.

We have also to acknowledge similar Almanacks from the Sherbrooke and St. John's *News* offices.

Louis Kossuth is teaching the German, English and the Hungarian languages. His hair is white, his form bent, and his habitation the fourth story of a dingy old dwelling.

On Friday night last Ottawa was again visited with one of the most disastrous fires that has yet occurred within its precincts. The loss is computed at not less than \$1,500,000. The fire occurred in an old stone building situated on the west point of Parliament Hill, and occupied as a Railway office by Mr. SANFORD FLEMING, Chief Engineer of the Intercolonial and Pacific Railways. We regret to say that all the documents belonging to these two great national undertakings have been destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown. Mr. FLEMING describes the loss as follows:—The loss of the papers cannot be estimated at less than one and a half millions of dollars. It would take fully that amount to replace everything, besides the trouble, inconvenience, and delay which will be occasioned in the construction of the Pacific Railway. Every report or letter, official or private, which I have received for fifteen years has been destroyed, and every record of the Intercolonial Railway connected with the engineering, as well as all reports of surveys and plans of the Pacific Railway, which amount alone to over a million of dollars. The field papers and details of all surveys have been lost, but the results are known. The only ones which have been saved are the records of surveys made in British Columbia during the past year. There are two safes in the building, but whether their contents are preserved or not I cannot say. The papers in them are not the most valuable, the principal documents being in the upper flat, from which nothing at all was taken. It is probable, however, that the papers will be charred and useless."

We have not learned whether there was any insurance on the building or papers.

A British steamship line is about to trade between San Francisco and New South Wales and New Zealand. The vessels are to go alternately direct to New South Wales and New Zealand and *vice versa*, the mails to and from the other colony (as the case may be) being transhipped at Khandavau, in the Fiji Islands, into another mail vessel. The temporary service between San Francisco and Auckland is to be performed in about 27 days, and at a similar rate of speed to and from Port Chalmers. The permanent service is to be performed between San Francisco and Auckland within 32 days, and to and from Port Chalmers at a similar rate of speed. The vessels will, en route, deliver and receive mails at Hawke's Bay (for Napier), Wellington, and Lyttleton.

The schooner *J. Albert* reports on the 15th instant, off Cape Navy, being west 100 miles, she came in collision with the schooner *Isaac Rich*, from Sileno. The *Isaac Rich* was cut down below her planks. The crew jumped aboard of the *J. Albert* and were brought to this port.

Seven of the principal provinces of Spain have been declared in a state of siege.

Two miles of a tunnel on the Great Western Railway, England, caved in yesterday.

## THE DIFFERENCE.

A maiden who spent the weary hours  
In going from house to house with flowers,  
Stopp'd at a gorgeous mansion, where  
She spread to view her bouquets rare.  
Wan was her look and dim her eye,  
And, as she marked the passers-by,  
Her youthful bosom seem'd to be  
The dwelling place of misery.

A lady from out the mansion came—  
A richly-costumed, pompous dame—  
Whose look of vain and haughty pride  
The flower vendor terrified.  
She view'd the poor girl's bright-hued store,  
And turned the bouquets o'er and o'er—  
And asked their price, demurred, and then—  
She in the mansion went again.

The maiden, foot-sore, sad, and weak,  
Wiped off the tear that gemm'd her cheek,  
And then again she passed along  
Amid the city's busy throng.  
At length a bright-eyed working girl,  
Approach'd her, and in merry sport,  
A bunch of her sweet flowers bought.

But as the girl the money took,  
The buyer mark'd her wretched look,  
And kindly sought the cause to know  
Why her young heart was touch'd with woe?  
The girl replied, with tearful eyes,  
"At home my aged mother lies;  
She's ill, alone, and must be nurse I,  
And I must sell my flowers first!"

The shop-girl paused and heaved a sigh—  
A tear was in her clear blue eye;  
She'd saved a sum to buy a shawl,  
But—"Here," she said, "I'll take them all!  
My mother's dead, and doubtless she  
Is looking now from heaven at me;  
And she will smile—I know she will—  
To see me love her precepts still!"

## FRANCE'S NEW DEFENCES.

Writing from Berlin under date of Nov. 12, the correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* says: "From an official source I learn the following facts in reference to military matters in France. The new system of national defences (*Landesvertheidigung*) recently adopted in Germany, one of the chief objects of which is to do away with a large number of small fortresses of no importance, considering the present method of conducting war, and to strengthen the larger fortresses by means of large detached camps, has made it necessary for France to reorganize her home defences. The necessity of protecting France from German attacks by a strong line of fortresses, as well as of remedying the shortcomings discovered during the last war in the defences of Paris, occupies most earnestly at the present moment French military circles. These questions have entered a new phase. The triple fortress-girdle constructed upon Vauban's plan on the eastern frontier, and which chiefly consisted of small forts much exposed to bombardment, was possessed of but an insignificant offensive force, and speedily fell to pieces under the German blows. Metz and Strasbourg were the only strongholds that held out for any time. Warned by these experiences, the French have resolved to relegate the smaller fortresses to a position of altogether secondary moment, and to constitute the frontier defences in a series of entrenched camps, connected with and supporting one another. The central point of this entirely new system of defence will be Paris, which will also be a reserve and store depot for the fortresses nearer the frontier. As far as the plans for this complex of fortresses are hitherto settled, a strategical barrier of the first class will be set up over against the very strongly fortified western frontier of Germany. To achieve this the central Meuse fortresses—Sedan, Metz, Verdun, and Toul—will be greatly strengthened and surrounded with detached forts so as to form one huge entrenched camp. Southward Langres, Belfort, and probably Dijon will prolong this long line of defence, and

will be formed into another gigantic entrenched camp. The space between Toul and Langres is only about fifty miles broad, and is throughout so much cut up by water and the western heights of the Vosges as to be most unfavourable ground for the operations of a hostile army; it, therefore, requires no special fortress-defences. Behind this first line of defence will be constructed two great entrenched camps at Soissons and Chalons designed to hinder the advance of an enemy upon the Aine and Marne. Paris will serve as depot for all these defensive works, and will itself be protected upon an entirely new system. Two projects are under consideration for the Paris defences, neither of which have been definitely adopted. The first proposes to erect fifty strong forts around Paris, at considerable distances from the capital. Three of the forts comprehended in this scheme are already traced out (N.) at Moulin Saumon another (S) at Montretout, and the third (N. E. at Mont Avron). The second project, derived from an old scheme of Napoleon I. has been worked out by Engineer General Tripiet, and proposes to construct two fortress girdles round Paris, one of which shall take in the already existing fortress, and the other constitute a distant belt of works, of which the links should be Corbeil, Chartres, Lagny, Creil, Daumartin, Beaumont-sur-Oise, Meulan and Rambouillet. The project is not likely to be realized, as it would be enormously expensive. The construction of the line of defences on the Maas is, however, absolutely adopted, and it may be looked upon as a certainty that the entrenched camps at Soissons and Chalons will also be constructed with all possible dispatch.

## SLAVERY IN ASHANTEE.

It can scarcely be known in England that in the English settlements on the Gold Coast slavery exists in a most hideous and revolting form and is not only tolerated, but formally recognized and sanctioned by law. It is generally believed that where English rule prevails slavery cannot exist. Yet all the force and authority of English law is exerted to assist the slave-owner in his claim to his human chattles. The slavery which exists here is termed "domestic slavery." The real meaning of this term simply is that the slave owner cannot export his slave. This is the one practical limitation placed upon his power. A slave can be bought and sold within the limits of this settlement almost as freely as a sheep or an ox. Even the deck of an English vessel does not afford protection or safety to the fugitive slave. Elsewhere an English vessel is regarded as an inviolable asylum for the oppressed. Slaves are constantly dragged from English vessels under warrant of an English judge, to be consigned to hopeless slavery. On the 1st of this month a wretched female slave was carried through the streets of Cape Coast bound hand and foot. Her piteous shrieks and cries attracted the attention of a high military official, who interfered to ascertain what offence the woman had committed and why she received such treatment. He found that there was no charge against her save that she endeavoured to escape from slavery, and that she was then being, under due legal process, carried back to her master. He had to stand back out of respect to the law, and a group of English officers who were near had to look on in silent shame while the unhappy woman was carried off, vainly entreating their assistance. It is difficult to

understand why such a state of things should be tolerated here. Slavery has been abolished in Sierra Leone, Lagos, and Gambia, and no good reason can be assigned for different rule prevailing in other places. The Fantees are about the most debased and cowardly on the coast. Why for such a people should the very fundamental principles and doctrines of English law be set at naught? It should not be tolerated that such a people should dictate to us. If we are to retain our possessions on the Gold Coast we ought at least to insist that English law shall prevail there, and none other. It is to be hoped that Sir Garnet Wolseley during his administration will add to his laurels by putting an end to slavery in the last spot where it has found refuge under English rule. It will be well worthy of his high reputation that he should give practical effect to that sentiment which is proclaimed in the memorable words, "Liberty is commensurate with and inseparable from English rule."

A NOVEL RAILROAD.—The Philadelphia *Ledger* says there has just been completed at the machine shop of Lafferty & Brothers, Gloucester City, N. J., a four ton locomotive, designed to run on one rail. It is built for a street railroad company in Georgia. This engine can with propriety be called a steam velocipede, as it rests upon two wheels, one following the other. The rail or track upon which it is to run, a sample of which is laid in the yard of the builders, is styled a "Prismoid, or one track railway," and is composed of several thicknesses of plank, built up in the style of an inverted keel of a vessel, with a flat rail on the apex. Upon trial a speed of about twelve miles an hour was attained, and the inventor and patentee claims that the speed can be almost doubled on a lengthened track. Mr. Crew of Opelika, Ga., is the inventor and patentee of both tracks and engines, and he claims that his inventions demonstrate a tractive power superior to anything in the locomotive line of equal weight. The capacity for running curves is much greater than the two rail system. The track upon which the trial was made contained 33 feet of lumber, and 18 pounds of iron to the lineal foot, proving itself equal to a span of 20 feet remaining firm and unyielding under the pressure of the engine as it traversed the road. The revolving flanges attached to the engine, and which run on the outsides of each wheel, Mr. Crew claims, absolutely lock the rolling stock to the prim, and obviate the necessity of so much heavy rolling stock in light traffic at a high rate of speed. It is also claimed that a prismoidal railway built with a base of fourteen inches, angles forty-five degrees, can be built at a cost of \$3,000 per mile. The inventor is of opinion that his engine and track is particularly adapted to the propelling of canal-boats, and will compete successfully with horse power on canals without necessarily interfering with the use of the latter, but he does not state in what way. The engine will shortly be shipped to its destination (Athens, Ga.) where it goes into operation on a street railroad built at an elevation of twelve feet above the side walk.

The renowned Dappier, Schanzon (re-doubts) have received the name of Wrangler Schanzon, which fact was communicated to the old General Wrangle, in a very gracious letter by the German Emperor.

OFFICERS LONG COURSE--GUNNERY SCHOOL QUEBEC.

November 1873.

"OPERATIONS OF WAR."

(Continued from page 23.)

**Question 4.**—What are generally the objects of military operations? What would be the objective of the United States against Canada, and why? What would be the probable base of operation, the roads, rails and rivers forming the main lines of communication from that base?

**Answer to Question 4.**—The objects of military operations are generally the securing of disputed territory, or the reduction of the military power of a nation—it may also be dynastic aggrandizement—this was the object of nearly all Napoleon's campaigns. The two first objects necessarily blend into one though the second may exist without the first; an example of the second is found in the Crimean war, Sebastopol was destroyed thus reducing the military preponderance of Russia on the Black Sea, by depriving her of arsenals and military station, from which she could prepare the invasion of Turkey. The conquest of Alsace and Lorraine is an example of the first—the Germans claiming them in virtue of the theory of similar nationalities being united under the same government; that conquest reduces the military power of France considerably, making her frontier much more vulnerable and the contingent of the Provincial armies no more available for her defence. But for her invasion these two Provinces were claimed as having belonged to the old German Empire; but these reasons were put forward after the war, which, when successful, can generally be justified for all practical purposes. The occupation of an enemy's capital would belong to a second class of objects, as by occupying the capital of a country its trade and commerce is paralyzed and its main lines of communications are closed, thus paralyzing also its power of defence; but this occupation to be most fruitful must be accompanied by the ruin of that country's defending armies. The occupation of Madrid by Napoleon paralyzed the defence of Spain so completely that it would have fallen an easy prey to the conqueror had it not been for the timely interference of a British contingent under Wellington, but that contingent nullified the effect of the French occupation to such an extent, as to finally compel the French king Joseph, to retire from the country though he had occupied the capital for several years. In case of war with the States, Montreal would be the objective point, because it is easy of access, and because it is the strategical capital of Canada as well as its commercial metropolis.

An American army might be collected at a point in rear of Rouses Point under cover of fortified positions, and move on Canadian territory, which at that point offers no favorable features for defence, being flat, and then the distance of the object from the frontier is quite short being about two days' march—forty miles—the roads are also favorable for an advance towards Montreal. Montreal by its position forms a very desirable object to the enemy it is the head of navigation and the main point where all arteries of traffic converge either from the States or from one end of the Dominion to the other. By its occupation the navigation of the St. Lawrence is interrupted and the railways & canals are in the hands of the invading army. Canada is cut in two and all succour from England or the eastern parts of

Canada is effectually prevented from reaching the West in part of the Dominion—consequently communication between the armies in the different parts of the Dominion is precluded, and consequently the defence is paralyzed. The occupation of Montreal stops all trade and traffic; commerce stopped, the supplies can no more be transferred from one end of the Dominion to the other and the only practical way of intercourse between the West and East and the outside world is closed. The political influence of Montreal would be considerable as also its moral effect on the defence. The probable base of operations of the invading force would be Albany, its situation renders it desirable as such, and it could be made a vast arsenal and magazine to which converge numerous lines of rails and navigation from all parts of the United States, replenishing it with supplies, which could from thence be forwarded by lines of communication radiating from it towards the Canadian frontier. By water—the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, and Richelieu River; by rail—the Vermont Central and the Ogdensburg Railways are the main arteries through which troops and provisions could be forwarded in. The objection to Quebec as an objective is its fortifications and its position, for even if the invader managed to reduce it he would have to meet stronger obstacles, as he advanced towards the west. Then to reduce Quebec the enemy would have to direct an invading force against Montreal at the same time, or maintain strong armies of observation to prevent his siege operations being interfered with, a thing not easily done unless he is in possession of the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and he cannot hold it securely unless Montreal falls into his hands; for he would have as a perpetual menace all the strength of the Dominion, or well nigh, threatening his communications and harassing him in every way—apart from such succor as the naval power of Great Britain would afford being in possession of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and supreme on the sea.

**Question 5.**—Supposing sufficient force and supply, could this line of action be reversed on the United States, and, if so, what advantage would Great Britain have in changing her base, and in what direction?

**Answer to Question 5.**—Undoubtedly. Gunboats could be directed on Lake Champlain through canal and river Richelieu. An invading force might advance, concentrating from east and west near Montreal, and be directed over the United States frontier, ruining its magazines and occupying its towns, while a powerful diversion could be organized on the lakes with gunboats and troops of disembarkation, (a) and at the same time by the whole strength of the British navy and contingent in New York, or some other important city of the Union, disembarking troops at some favorable point to operate in junction with armies directed from Canada, and occupying the political capital of the United States. The disaffected South could probably be made to rise up and claim its independence if England guaranteed its recognition and thus creating another diversion in favor of Canada, thus the States would be attacked east and north west and south and obliged to divide its armies to meet the invaders whilst the Pacific coast might become the theatre of another maritime enterprise on

the part of Great Britain (a). The naval power of the State is null, and its coasts are as many vulnerable points which a strong naval power might attack with certainty of success. A navy is not improvised, especially when an enemy's men of war are bombarding and destroying the navy yards where the ships are to be constructed. By taking the sea as her base Great Britain would no longer fear flank attacks for her communication would be perpendicular to her base—*sic ut contingents from Nova Scotia along the Maine frontier they are exposed to flank attacks on their line of advance.*

**Question 6.**—Give a short historical sketch of the growth of the present military system of organization and supply, from the feudal period to the introduction of standing armies, the subsequent growth of fortresses as magazines, and the final elaboration of the system of supply? What was the ancient Scottish method mentioned by Froissart?

**Answer to Question 6.**—During the feudal period armies were composed of noblemen with their retainers, semi independent in their actions; these fractions were partly under the king or the commander named by him. The king then had only the resources of his private domain—no right of levying taxes, and could not afford the expense of providing for the food of his army which was obliged to subsist on territories it occupied alike ruinous for friend or foe; an armed rabble more than an army they were obliged in order to subsist to divide and live wide apart and could not be brought together for lengthened operations, for when joining they ruined the country, they had then to disperse again.

But as the power of the kings increased the independence of nobility diminished and taxation before an impossibility was resorted to in order to obtain the necessary funds for supplying armies more regularly. These troops were also paid by the sovereign and in his permanent employ; and the progress of military organization would have been more rapid had it not been for the roads and means of communication which passing through barren and thickly inhabited countries of small traffic were not sufficient for the transport of cumbersome trains and artillery, but as countries became more prosperous roads improved, and fortresses which had up to then sufficed to protect populations at the first sign of invasion could no longer resist artillery. Vauban, and before him other engineers perfected these fortresses which became strongholds which an invader was obliged to force if he wanted to advance in an enemy's country; as these fortresses were situated on great commercial arteries, &c., they became also places of refuge for repulsed armies and magazines into which provisions, arms, and recruits were armed and formed previous to their being sent forward into the theatre of war. The fall of such a place constituted the object of a whole campaign, and battles were fought to maintain the siege or to have it raised. Frederick the Great recognizing the dissolving influence of famine and want of supplies upon the discipline of an army was very particular in that respect and the result was that troops became of such importance that the securing of one deserved, it was thought, worth the altering of the plan of a whole campaign. The armies became cumbersome unwieldy machines totally inadequate to cope with an active enemy, as the

(a) It is forbidden by treaty to build gunboats on the lakes, but if a canal was made from the Coteau Landing on the North Shore, British gunboats could run up to the lakes—the Beauharnois Canal would be probably seized by the United States.

(a) 70,000 British and Sikhs could, perhaps, be landed at San Francisco from India. If allowed to loot California, the Sikhs troops would be ugly customers; but it would be necessary to hang Mr. Bright and Gladstone before commencing operations. Also Mr. C. Dilke.

French Republican soldier was, who, bad-  
clad and bevoucing never thinking of  
camping, lived on the country he  
passed through, obliged to disperse to find  
food, but prompt to agglomerate at the first  
signal of attack, requisitioning the country  
as he advanced. Napoleon fell in with that  
element, and instead of leaving aside the  
system of requisition improved it and made  
it serve to replenish intermediate magazines  
established on his lines of communication,  
regularizing that method of supply. The  
Prussians using that system also have per-  
fected the transport, by organizing trains;  
thus they have the Proviant column, com-  
posed of 30 waggons and four horses carry-  
ing four days' provision and following in  
rear of the division they belong to; from  
these troops are supplied a second line of  
transport called the Flour Park column,  
consisting of 80 waggons, 2-horsed,  
carrying eight days' provision, and trans-  
porting provisions from line of transport;  
and if the magazines are still too far a third  
line of hired transport is established to fur-  
nish the second line. Each soldier carries  
a part of three days' rations for use as re-  
quired; two other days' packed up in tin  
knapsack not to be opened except by spe-  
cial order. (a)

*Question 7.*—Compare Sherman's march  
through Georgia with an expedition of the  
English Black Prince in the 14th century.

*Answer to Question 7.*—Sherman's march  
through Georgia offers many differences with  
that of the Prince of Wales in France in 1356.  
The Black Prince passed through the territory  
with no other object than destroying and  
ruining an enemy's country, and possibly  
fighting his army if it seemed to him advan-  
tageous. Sherman besides ravaging the  
country had a strategical object in view  
which was to change his base to the sea.  
The Prince of Wales subsisting on the coun-  
try he crossed made no provision, so on the  
battle field of Poitiers, the English host  
was starving because they were obliged to  
remain in a temporarily fortified position  
which they could not leave to forage. Sher-  
man though he subsisted on and devastated  
the country he crossed, had also a large  
train of provisions and supplies to fall back  
on in case he was obliged to concentrate,  
and was stopped by unforeseen obstacles, and  
then his movement was to be of short dura-  
tion; and as soon as he reached the sea shore  
he had a secure base from which he could  
draw all supplies necessary. Whilst in the  
case of the Black Prince, if strategy had not  
been in its infancy, he would have had cause,  
in case of defeat, to regret his improvident  
and imprudent advance in the centre of an  
enemy's country with no base nor line of re-  
treat—but being victorious he could supply  
himself.

*Question 8.*—Why do armies generally op-  
erate on several lines? and state General  
McClellan's comments on operating by a  
single road, when censured for using several.

*Answer to Question 8.*—If Napoleon, advan-  
cing towards Fleures with 70,000 men, had  
not directed his army towards Fleures by  
different roads the head of his column could  
have been engaged and defeated by the  
allies before being properly supported, as  
the rear of the column would have been at  
least two days from the battle field when the  
engagement would have taken place. Then  
the transport and artillery of an army are so  
cumbersome that no road could sustain such  
traffic, whilst if the trains pass on different  
roads the wear and tare are considerably re-

duced. That disposition facilitates the sup-  
plying of provisions—the distance between  
intermediate magazines and the troops to be  
supplied being considerably reduced. And  
another reason is the facility with which an  
army can deploy.

The rapidity of march of troops is inverse-  
ly proportional to their length of columns—  
thus infantry marching by battalions may  
march  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles per hour, 2 miles per hour  
if in divisions &c.; artillery marches  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles,  
and cavalry 5 miles in small columns, and  
rate decreases in same proportion as other  
arms. General McClellan being censured  
for using several roads instead of one, gave  
as his reasons, that the head of his column  
(100,000) would be defeated before the rear  
could support it, if it was attacked by an ac-  
tive enemy—whilst advancing along a single  
road it would have extended to 50 miles.

A. PREVOST, Lieut. B.B.

An excellent Paper.

F. B. STRANGE Lieut.-Col.  
Commandant S. G., Quebec.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for  
individual expressions of opinion in communi-  
cations addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.*

*To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.*

SIR,—As a general rule your paper tries to  
put the best face on militia matters, I con-  
sider that is not a wise course: How can  
faults be corrected if they are not pointed  
out? It is said the Canadian Force has  
degenerated of late years; some add because  
it has been made to serve political end: be  
that opinion correct or not, what is its real  
condition?

Give us facts, point out faults, don't be  
afraid of giving offence; the active working  
man won't object and if those over them  
fear criticism, they'll deserve all they can  
get.

Take one specimen, look at your state-  
ments about the Dominion Rifle Association,  
is it a perfect model?

I have been examining their reports (as  
you advised) and find that in their chief  
match—"The Dominion Match"—at the  
first meeting there were 424 entries, each  
year since the number has dwindled, till  
this year there were barely 100 competitors.  
Why has the number of competitors fallen  
off, there is surely more interest taken in  
rifle shooting to-day than there was half-a-  
dozen years ago?

Look at your own report of that meeting  
in Ottawa, was everything satisfactory and  
in proper order; were the competitors  
pleased with the arrangements?

Were there no protests; what about the  
London Merchants' Cup; what about Dr.  
Vail of the New Brunswick Team? You  
have been hard on my "flippancy and igno-  
rance," look to your own facts; at present  
it is really not worth while discussing your  
replies to my queries.

Yours &c.

*To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.*

DEAR SIR,—I have read with much plea-  
sure the able pamphlet by Lieut. Colonel  
Fletcher on the Militia Organization and  
perhaps with the exception of Major Gen-  
eral MacDougall's scheme nothing better  
could be attempted with the limited means  
at the disposal of our Canadian Government.  
The Brigade School at Halifax I think  
might be considerably modified; as of  
course the Imperial Troops there, perform  
all the duties which devolve upon the garri-  
sons of Kingston and Quebec; so that an  
amount of \$50,000 would more than suffice,  
for the instruction of the permanent staff of  
the local militia.

Some new standard of efficiency, besides the  
present 16 days; should be adopted before  
any corps or individual, could claim pay for  
after all, it must be remembered we are  
nothing more than volunteers.

I would suggest a standard height and  
chest measurement—a certificate of efficien-  
cy in drill and physical training besides an  
occasional hit at his annual target practice  
of forty rounds.

An extra inducement too, might be offer-  
ed to 1st class militiamen, after three years'  
service, say a free grant of land, &c. upon  
condition of settlement.

A CONSTANT READER.

Quebec, 12th January, 1874.

A FEMALE SOLDIER.—The military annals  
of most European countries, says the Lon-  
don *Echo*, record a few instances of women,  
who, having succeeded in entering the ranks  
of the army, having highly distinguished  
themselves in the apparently incongruous  
profession of arms. Such a fact has, however,  
according to the *Opinione*, been hitherto  
unprecedented in the Italian Army. It was  
discovered however, the other day, that a  
young soldier named Marcotti, who was to  
receive his discharge on the 1st of next  
month, having enlisted in 1866, is one of  
those heroines. Julia Marcotti, the Amazon  
in question, belonged to a numerous and  
poor family, living at San Ambrazio, near  
Turin, and worked in the mines of Upper  
Piedmont, to which latter circumstances her  
extraordinary physical strength may, proba-  
bly be attributed. She enlisted in 1866, at  
the time when Italy was about to engage in  
the struggles with Austria, her motive being  
to save her brother, who was married and  
had six children, from being obliged to  
serve. Not only did Julia perform all a  
soldier's duties as well as her comrades;  
but she fought in the first rank at the bat-  
tle of Custoza, and obtained the medal of  
military valor. On hearing of the case, King  
Victor Emmanuel sent for the woman, be-  
stowed upon her the the Cross of the Order  
of the Crown, and desired that she should be  
sent home with a pension of 300 lire.

A decree has been issued at Madrid, call-  
ing out for active service the entire reserve  
force of 1873.

(a) The ancient Scotch seizing the cattle of the  
enemy's country drove it along and cooked in the  
skin of the animal, used as a boiler. They also  
each carried a small bag of oatmeal.