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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

VOL. VIII.

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No. 51.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

At a meeting of the members of the Agricultural and Arts Association, held in Toronto on the 16th inst., the time for holding the next exhibition at Ottawa was fixed for Monday, the 20th September, 1875, and five following days. After paying over \$15,000 premiums for the year and all other expenses, the Treasurer announced that the balance on hand was \$18,700.

Rev. Lechlin Taylor, who is acting as Immigration agent in Scotland, says, "Canada can receive 100,000,000 more people than it has now."

A company is being formed to build another bridge over the St. Lawrence at Montreal. Mr. Legge is the Engineer. A charter will be secured at the coming session of Parliament.

The Legislature of Manitoba has been dissolved, and the writs for a general election issued. The nominations will take place throughout the Province on the 25th inst., and the polling on the 2nd of January.

Kingston papers say the Agricultural Meeting held in that city on the 16th inst., was very successful in its object. Delegates were present from the various societies between Belleville and Brockville, and it was resolved, with the hearty promise of co-operation of all present to hold a Grand Central Eastern Fair at Kingston next Fall.

A meeting of the directors of the Canada Central and Northern Colonization Railroad companies, will shortly be held in Montreal, for the purpose of effecting arrangements for a junction of the two roads at Ottawa, and possibly for an amalgamation of the two companies. The Canada Central is willing to come to any reasonable arrangement for the running of trains over its line.

It is now ascertained that Dallas, the Toronto Manager of Molson's Bank, took \$40,000 with him. It is said they are all in \$1,000 notes, and it is expected this fact will enable the detectives to catch him when negotiating them.

The French Canadian residents of Boston, have petitioned the Governor General of Canada asking an amnesty for Lapine, Riel and the other Manitoba insurrectionists.

The losses by the recent conflagrations in Boston amount to \$735,000; insurance, \$201,000.

Reports have reached Chicago that a number of men have reached the Black Hills region, where they have fortified themselves against attack. It is said they have found gold in paying quantities.

From Havana we learn that an unsuccessful attempt to capture Fort Casorro was made on Nov. 30th by a force of 1000 insurgents. 800 men were waiting the result in an ambush. By a vigorous repulse the commander was killed and several others were killed or wounded. The whole body of insurgents then came up, and the fight became general, the insurgents being routed with severe loss. The Spanish forces were also victorious in Remedios district on the 2nd and 3rd insts., dispersing the rebel horsemen and a small force of infantry.

Two of the old cannons used in the revolutionary war at the old fort at Cambridge-Abbeville county, S. C., were sold at \$5 each the other day, and were sent to Charleston. The cannons were about three feet long, with a bore large enough to shoot a lemon, and could easily be carried by a man.

The suppression of the religious order of Sisters of charity has been decided by the Mexican Congress by a vote of 113 against fifty seven.

Admiral Warden, of the United States Navy, was before the House Naval Committee on the 15th inst., in the advocacy of a bill to pay him and the officers and crew of the *Monitor*, who participated in the action with the confederate iron clad *Merrimack*, such a sum as shall be duly found to have been the actual value of the *Merrimack* and her armament at the date of the action, the value to be fixed by a commission of three naval officers to be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy.

Gov. Osborne of Kansas estimates the number of people in the western counties, who are in want of aid during the coming winter, 25,000. A large proportion of these are now in want.

The United States Congress has been asked to appropriate \$12,000 for the survey of a canal route from Aspinwall to Panama. The Panama route has many advocates among them, some of the first engineers of the country and Europe. The route is claimed to be shorter than any other, and the elevation less by several hundred feet. The river furnishes abundance of water for all purposes. If a canal should be located on this route, the Panama railroad would be used to facilitate the work of its construction.

The *Journal de St Petersburg* complains of the attacks in the English journals on the proposed re-opening of the International Code Conference, and says their unfavorable comments may lead to the settlement of the questions involved without the assistance or participation of Great Britain.

The *Lecant Herald* publishes distressing accounts of the famine in Asia Minor. The prospect is represented as appalling.

The first levy for the Russian Army, which takes place this month, will raise 150,000 men. The new military system provides Russia with 2,000,000 defenders in case of war.

The horse shambles of Paris supplied the public during the third quarter of the present year with nearly 630,000 pounds of meat, the result of the slaughter of 1,555 horses, mules and asses.

The *Voce della Verita*, the organ of the Jesuits at Rome, says that "the overthrow of Prussia is necessary to strike a fatal blow at the spirit of individuality and rebellion against the Papacy."

Two Irish priests who have left the Catholic Church have written a letter to Archbishop Manning, in which they support Mr. Gladstone's view that those who obey the Papal decrees cannot pay due allegiance to the civil power.

The German remarks that the Thames embankment is gradually becoming the handsomest boulevard in Europe. When its trees, now doing so well, and gardens have had time to develop themselves, the embankment will be finer than anything of the kind in Paris or elsewhere.

Intelligence has just been received by the Royal Geographical Society, announcing that Mr. Foster had completed an extraordinary journey across Northern Australia, starting from Champion Bay, in the west, he has successfully passed through all the unknown district eastward.

The British barque *Lyttleton*, Captain Yormer, has been wrecked in Algoa Bay, on the south east coast of Africa.

The Czar of Russia has sent the order of St. Andrew to President MacMahon, with a very friendly letter. The circumstance is much commented on.

Berlin, 17th.—Prince Bismarck had an interview with the Emperor on the 17th. Rumors of his resignation are still repeated, but in some parliamentary circles it is reported that the difficulty has been completely settled. The opinion is almost unanimously held, that the action of the Reichstag was not a vote of want of confidence, and it is considered certain that even if the Chancellor has tendered his resignation the Emperor will not accept it.

A Berlin despatch says Count Von Arnim has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, deducting from the period which he has already spent in confinement in jail.

THE FRENCH LAW OF RECRUITING.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* has the following on this subject:—

"One of the most remarkable things in the new French law of recruiting, is the power it gives the Minister of War of driving through it, not merely a 'couch and six,' but a whole brigade of cavalry and artillery, with entire divisions of infantry. The law seems in many places contradictory when it is only ambiguous; and the enormous loopholes left in it everywhere are not the result of negligence but of design. It would be incorrect to say the law is unintelligible; but it is certainly obscure. As a matter of fact it is not very generally understood; and it is much easier to get at its meaning by observing the practice of the French authorities in carrying it out than by consulting the text of the law. If any one understands it, General Charetou, the author of the interesting report on the subject which Major Brackenbury has lately translated, ought to be the man. But, like the all but perfect student of the Hegelian system, he 'does not quite understand it.' Thus he lays stress upon the supposed fact that the men of the second portion of the contingent will all, before passing into the reserve, have served one year with the active army; whereas in practice, the military authorities are converting into a general rule the permission accorded to them by the law of sending these men to their homes after six months' service. The satisfaction expressed by commanding officers at the attainments of the promising youths who have only been six months with the colours means, I think, that they are very glad to be able to get rid of them so soon, which they could not legally do if six months' training did not suffice to teach the lads their work. The principle of universal service is formally recognised in the law. But the framers of the law evidently thought very little of it; and the present Minister of War, equally with M. Thiers, showed himself as strongly opposed to universal service as he was in favour of service for a large but limited number of men during a period of at least five years. The clauses which render every Frenchman liable to military service, but at the same time restrict the service of an undefined portion of each annual contingent to a period of from six months to a year, are concessions to the general outcry among legislators and writers for the introduction of universal military service. But these clauses are being observed so as to interfere as little as possible with the principle of long service, in which alone the French Government puts faith; and the youths whom the ballot does not take at the age of twenty for five years' service, will be run through the army in two lots, each being retained for the minimum period of six months.

"Again, it must not be thought because the law speaks of a service of five years that all the men marked by the ballot as belonging to the 'first portion of the contingent' will of necessity remain for that time with the colours. The Minister of War may, if he thinks fit, send them home after three years; and it is not improbable that in the infantry this practice will be adopted. In the cavalry and artillery, however, the men will all be kept for the full period of five years, and no 'men of the second portion of the contingent' will be allowed to have anything to do with these arms, which are reserved exclusively for long service men. Even 'one year volunteers' are not admitted into the cavalry unless they are already good riders, nor into the artillery unless they are at least 'accustomed to horses.'

"We have heard it said—have, indeed, seen it argued in print—that to require Volunteers to be able to ride before admitting them into the cavalry is a serious infraction of the principle of equality, since, as a rule, only rich young men have horses at their disposal. They thus possess advantages as equestrians over poor young men which a just Government ought, it is maintained, to ignore. The military authorities, however, persist in thinking that a horse-soldier ought to be able to ride; and, in default of the 'one year Volunteer' possessing that accomplishment, will not undertake to teach him the whole duty of a cavalry man in six months, which is about the time for which the so-called 'one year Volunteer' will be wanted. Although, then, 'one year Volunteers' will not be absolutely confined, like 'men at disposal,' to the infantry, they will practically find themselves driven very much to that arm.

"Since we are on the subject of one year Volunteers, we may as well say something about the difference in position between those in the French and those in the German Army. 'Principle of equality' required that the French Volunteer should share the soup and the 'rat' (a sort of Irish stew à la Française) of the common soldier; and, such being the case, nothing, it would seem remained for him but to accept it. A well-to-do young man, however—indeed any young man whose parents are able to keep him going for six months during a critical period of his life—can take as little as he pleases of the poor fare to which the French soldier is so unwisely condemned, and as much as he pleases of any other fare within reach. The unhappy French soldier is badly fed, and he receives one sou a day for pocket money. But one year volunteers may often be seen dining at a table d'hôte like everyone else. Which proves once more how difficult it is to establish equality except on the basis of communism."

FORTHCOMING TORPEDO EXPERIMENTS.

The *Oberon*, War Office experimental vessel, for practice against her double iron bottom with sunken mines of gun cotton, lies moored off the Monckton Fort shoal, outside Portsmouth Harbour, in deep water, where the necessary preparations are being completed for the next attack upon her which will be of a more formidable character than either of the previous attacks made. The starboard side only of the *Oberon* has been operated upon by the four experiments made, at horizontal distances between the mines and the *Oberon's* side of 100ft., 80ft., 60ft., and 50ft. At 100ft. and 80ft. distance the explosion of the mine of 500lb. of the Waltham Abbey disc gun cotton failed to damage the bottom in any way, or the condenser which was placed on the starboard side of the ship's hold, with its valves open to any sudden movement of the sea water upon the explosion of the mine, as would be the case with an ironclad moving past a sunken mine with her engines at work. In the third experiment, at 60ft. distance, there was found, upon the vessel being subsequently examined in dry dock, a partial flattening of some of the plates of the outer skin of the double bottom, and the condenser had evidently been shaken up somewhat roughly. No positively serious damage, however, was discovered in either the double bottom or the condenser, and the inner skin of the former was found to be

as free from injury and as sound in every part as when first put together at Chatham Dockyard. In the partial flattening of some of the plating of the outer skin of the double bottom, and from the disturbance to which the condenser had been subjected, it was evident that the line had been passed with in which an ironclad could pass a mine exploded against her under similar conditions of the strength of the mine, distance, &c., and it was, therefore, determined to lessen the distance between the mine and the ship by only 10ft. The experiments were made on the 20th of September; but after the mine had been fired the *Oberon* still floated, and, although she had received a tremendous shaking, no damage of the most trivial character could be seen as she lay afloat. She was docked the same day, and when the water had been pumped out, a searching examination of the side of the ship operated against for the fourth time disclosed the facts that the outer skin plating at the greatest bulge of the double bottom had been driven in upon the inner skin, with twenty of the vertical bracket frames supporting the outer upon the inner skin crumpled up in fact, and practically destroyed. Upwards of a hundred rivets were started in the plating immediately above the place where the greatest force of the mine had been expended. The inner skin of the double bottom absolutely remained free from the slightest injury, although in several instances the angle iron attaching the frames to the skin was found twisted or broken. There are no doubt other facts and deductions drawn from the experiments by the War Office committee, including the figure obtained from the pressure gauges, &c., which are most important and interesting; but the general public will care very little for such details, and may well be content with a knowledge of the force employed, and the manner of its application, in these experimental attacks upon a representative double bottom of our ironclad ships, and with the principal results attending them. Our *Oberon* experiences, therefore, so far may be accepted as having indicated clearly, in the first place, the distance within which an ironclad can pass a sunken mine charged with 500lb. of gun cotton without serious damage to the outer skin of her double bottom and to her machinery; secondly, they would also appear to establish as a fact, what has for some time been held in theory, that the outer skin of a vessel's double bottom, with its vertical bracket frames and angle iron, may be crumpled up or swept away by a torpedo or by grazing over a rock or shoal without necessarily inflicting serious injury upon the inner skin or hull proper of the ship. We are aware that Mr. Barnaby, the present chief constructor of the navy, has given much thought to the matter, and that in his designs for double bottoms of ships he concentrates the strength upon the inner skin and intentionally weakens, by comparison, the angle iron of the frames supporting the outer skin. Mr. Barnaby is also understood to prefer giving an increased thickness to the metal of the inner skin, and to the loading of the cells of the bottom with ballast. The present condition of the starboard side of the *Oberon* renders any further experiments upon it out of the question, and the attack now coming off will be made upon the port side of the ship. The depth of water in which the *Oberon* is moored, the distance between the mine and the vessel's side, and the power of the mine will be different to the like conditions carried out in the previous experiments. The

Oberon is moored so that she will float in twelve fathoms water when the mine is fired against her. The mine will consist, it is stated—although we have no authority for repeating the statement—of 1000 lb. of the disc gun cotton in a service case, suspended at a depth of 48 ft., and at a horizontal distance of only 30 ft. from the Oberon's port side. Workmen have been on board the Oberon since she has been lying at her present moorings, rigging out a spar by which to suspend the mine.—*Broad Arrow.*

THE MARTINI-HENRY RIFLE.

The decision of the Judicial Committee of Privy Council in favour of the claims of Mr. Henry for a renewal of his patent will give satisfaction to all who are acquainted with the facts. It is needful however, to take note of the sharp distinction which exists in fact between the claims of this inventor and the points on which so much controversy has been raised. The Martini Henry rifle which is now being served out to the troops is a compound weapon, consisting of the Henry barrel and the Martini action. Now, in the first place, there is no doubt in any sane mind that the shooting depends mainly if not entirely on the barrel. If the charge could be lighted by a lucifer match the effect on the shooting would be precisely the same as when the cartridge is ignited by mechanical means. Some allowance must be made for the effect of the pull on the steadiness of the hand, perhaps, but outside this narrow limit, the value of a rifle as a weapon of precision depends on the barrel; and the barrel alone was the subject of contest in the recent action between the Henry Company and the other gun-makers of the United Kingdom.

It has been stated that almost every other nation in Europe has adopted a weapon unlike the Martini-Henry, from which it is inferred that the decision of the Fletcher Committee is worthy of very little respect. This statement, however, ignores the distinction between the action and the barrel. We believe we are correct in stating that the superiority of the Henry barrel is universally acknowledged. Instead of the Martini action, other nations have adopted some form of the bolt system, of which the German needle gun was the first example. There is good reason to believe that the bolt action, as improved and simplified, for example, by Major Pieri, of the French Service, who has invented the "Fusil à Détente-Supérieure," and the "Cartouche Métallo-Craoutchouc," has some, and perhaps no inconsiderable advantages over the Martini action. To begin with, there are five parts instead of twenty five separate pieces in the mechanism. But it is not for a moment pretended by the advocates of this or any other modification of the bolt system, that the weapon makes better shooting than the Martini Henry. The argument is that the Pieri system—if we may take that as the best type of the bolt action—is very much cheaper than the Martini, and that its simple mechanism can be more easily managed by unskilled hands; and from this point of view it might be granted that if our Government had to begin *au fond*, the Henry barrel, and the Pieri action (having the Henry barrel with the improved Henry action), would stand a fair chance of being considered favourably. But the first expense has been incurred. The Army is being supplied with the best shooting weapon in the world; if not with the best in such other respects as have a bearing on its price

and convenience rather than on its efficiency, and it is only reasonable that the inventor to whose ingenuity we are indebted for that aim, should be rewarded for a labour of skill in which he has spent fourteen years of his life while awaiting the success he has now achieved. In the argument urged by the opposing counsel, that the difference between the Henry barrel and its rivals was so slight as to be almost inappreciable, we read the best evidence in favour of its claims: since it proves that it was only by appropriating his principle so nearly as they dared that rival gunsmiths have attempted to compete with him in the markets of the world.

If we may venture an opinion on the general question, we may be allowed to say that the spiral spring of the Martini action is probably not perfect, and the heating of the barrel consequent on the use of metallic cartridges is also a slight drawback. But, then, this drawback is one which it shares in common with all breechloading rifles in which metallic cartridges are used. A remedy for this defect might possibly be found in M. Pieri's "cartouche métallo-craoutchouc," which is metal coated with india rubber. Here, however, the expense faces us; for, in spite of the inventor's assertions, it is hard to see how a metal cartridge coated with indiarubber, and containing the same weight of brass as one without the coating, can be made as cheap as the latter. This is a logical puzzle which it requires all the enthusiasm of the inventor to explain. In the matter of recoil, it is obvious that the shortened cartridge of the Martini-Henry must, *ceteris paribus*, be at a disadvantage as compared with the long cartridge used with the bolt action. There is no room here for a matter of opinion, as the matter resolves itself into a calculation of forces. On the whole, we do not look for a reversal of the decision arrived at by the Small Arms Committee, at least for the next seven years; but what we may reasonably anticipate is an improvement in the details of the mechanism within that period. In the meantime, if any other nation should possess itself of better weapons—cheaper ones, and very efficient ones too, they may have already—we are content to wait till our soldiers can pick them upon the field of battle.—*Broad Arrow, 14th Nov.*

RUSSIA'S DREAD OF VOLUNTEERS.

Perhaps our readers are hardly aware of the recent attempt of Russia and Germany to institute a code for regulating warfare which would render Volunteering and all patriotic effort against a foreign foe impossible. The late Conference held at Brussels had laid before it the grand scheme to which we allude, prepared by Russia and acquiesced in by Germany. A higher tribute to our Volunteer organization, perhaps, was never more unwittingly paid, nor a higher evidence of the untold value of that organization in having prevented machinations against our shores. The reader, perhaps, will hardly believe us, and it is astonishing that that wonderfully pulled up newspaper press, which everybody boasts and talks so much about should have had the facts before their eyes and under their noses for months, and yet never even discovered their significance, or cared ought of their plain teachings, because they think it a far higher game to bewilder their intellects with great striving after sage oracular prophecies over inter-European politics, and mighty struggles with sensational discoveries, to stir up the wonder-loving populace into buying their

infallible teachings at the low charge of a penny. Of course the country can never be invaded—such is the cry. Ask them the reason why, and they regard the questioner as a fool, and tell him, "The navy is our defence, and what have we to do with Volunteering?" Money—worship has added the brains of our people, and it almost seems as if it threatened to lick up the last embers of enthusiasm which descended to us through many generations of heroic fathers, who in their days made invasion and defeat impossible, because they waited not for invasion, nor trusted their protection of their vile bodies to ships and sailors merely, but went forth and stayed the would-be invader on his own soil. We shall not doory our navy—though our commercial humanitarians have pulled its teeth by giving up the right of search and capture of an enemy's goods in what they call neutral bottoms—and Russia and Germany may care less for its inert omnipotence than for the omnipresent energy of an armed and trained people of auxiliary—not regular—soldiers. It is never the design of the invader and the tyrant to bind or break down opposition to the carrying out of their will by force of arms. True economy holds standing armies—regular soldiers—as very unnecessary evils, if there were not more damnable wickedness in their wake. Despots not only trust their own regular soldiers, on whom, as the price of blood, they lavish the splendours of a court, and offer niches in the history of their achievements, but they try to institute among their allies and neighbours similar ideas. It may be said that in modern times there is no such thing as setting up the soldiery against the people—the man of war against the man of peace—the military hireling against the producers and maintainers of wealth. It is said that these are things of the past—and now the people have their rights, and are recognised in their liberties—that Magna Charta and Reform Bills, revolutions and plebiscites, free trade and a free press, social congresses and peace congresses, and a host of inactive but muddled creatures, short sighted and bespectacled, puffy, and lazy, and fat, have rendered such things now barely possible—in fact, all but impossible. We fear it is just the action of these men of folly who fear the sight of a sword and deprecate the pulling of a rifle trigger, that push the very hideous thing into being which their wretched inhumanitarianism dreads. Our peace dreamers may prove too truly the harbingers of war. No peace that rests on weakness is secure; and all lasting peace that rests on resistance as the harmony of nature is upheld by the resistance of gravity, or that the foundations of a building rest on the resistance of the solid earth. Society is held together by power, and built up by energy. All energy is strength, and must rest on material out-puttings. The peace of nations is secured by exactly the same means as stability elsewhere—strength; the strength, energy, and resolution of their people to be free and proud. The Czar of Russia knows this well, and many potentates; whose hereditary policy is to increase the boundaries of their empire—to himself yont, like a well known Scotch laird, who stayed not from small beginnings till his land reached from sea to sea, and till the proverb recognised the greed of the Campbells, and the prayer for the Lord's deliverance therefrom—know it too. The recent International Congress (as it was called) at Brussels was simply a conclave convened by crowned buglers and would-be invaders for furthering the ends of their fraternity. Its aim was to induce the

porters and housekeepers of surrounding nations to dispense with watch dogs and to abolish bolts and bars, and, above all, to lay down the law that any household offering resistance to the spoiling of their goods after an entrance was effected into the premises, should be summarily knocked on the head, and that the law that interposed the prohibition of these as evil deeds should not be modified, but abrogated for ever. It surprises us—and yet it does not surprise us—that the wickedness proposed in the code of warfare laid down by Russia; and accepted by Germany, has not been discovered by the blind and toothless watch dogs of the Press, while the land is being burdened—without the faculty, apparently, of being disgusted—with the ravings of such a thing from Farnival's Inn as that entitled "Universal Peace." The French, more keenly alive to subjects of the kind, from recent sufferings, are sounding the alarm over the country. M. Brunet, so far back as July last, drew the attention of the French Assembly to the monstrous proposals of Russia to the Congress of Brussels. Lord Derby deserves credit for the jealousy with which he regarded and treated the whole affair, and the British nation owes him thanks that they are in no way implicated in anything the Congress may think they have devised. It is difficult to go over in a single article the details of the nefarious proposals of the despotic Powers—Powers despotic, under whatever guise—whether of serf franchise, as Russia seeks credit for, or universal education, which is the boast of Prussia—as ever existed in any period of the world's history. We mistake much, if the worst period of the world's history in the aggrandisement by arms of ambitious nations, has not its counterpart in the actualities of the present. The determination of Russia is to have it enacted by all nations that regular armies alone shall be recognised as entitled to the amenities of the laws of war. That is to say, all Volunteers, *Francs Tireurs*, *Gardes Mobiles*, and patriots generally resisting invasion of their hearths and homes, shall be esteemed as thieves and outlaws, and shall be shot down under the new code of devilry they seek to introduce. It is to be held that when a regular army—that is, a body of men whose trade is war—shall set foot within an alien territory, they shall be opposed by regular troops only—all others not having cockades and clothing of the regular pattern being held to be brigands—that when the regular troops are forced to give way, the population must succumb to the foreigner, and none dare, under the pain of military execution, endeavour to free his country of the foreign yoke. With a great stretch of condescension, indeed, the Russian framer of this 'bloody code'—which is drawn up in the interest of humanity—refrains from compelling the conquered inhabitants to take up arms against their brethren and kindred who have not been subdued though insulted by the invader's presence. It is quite clear how much Russia and Germany, with true despotic instincts, hate the formation of armed nations of free men—of citizens and patriots who resolve that the laws evolved out of the wants and conditions of generations and centuries shall not be overturned with their consent; and that the traditions and wealth which have grown up under their fathers, and which they have administered under free and congenial institutions, should not be wrested from them by an alien race whose ways are obnoxious, and whose presence is insult and pollution. Rather than be the

poltroons to consent to the enactment of such laws, if it were possible Government could submit to such a thing, we are certain our countrymen—our Volunteers, at least, almost to a man—would die the patriot's death; but sure we are, as the Volunteer spirit exists at this moment, it would be with arms in their hands. Germany knows what the *Francs Tireurs* and *Gardes Mobiles* of France did to harass their conquering march, and her astute rulers wish to save themselves much trouble, and much blood and treasure, if they can, with impunity, in the face of Europe, in the coming struggle between the two nations, treat all but the regular army of France as assassins and scoundrels, unworthy of human consideration, because they have in them those God-like instincts of patriotism that have nerved men to the noblest deeds in the world's history. Let the invasions of Russia and Germany come—within the pale of Europe they dare not, at this date, put the dictate they would like to enforce into operation. Germany is often pointed out as being an armed nation, but it must be remembered that Germany is an empire of soldiers. There are no civilians in Germany but the halt, maimed, and the blind, who are worthless in the ranks; and thus the people of that country might evade the fate of the patriot by being forced to fight to death as regular soldiers.

One thing, we think, is clear, the Volunteer or citizen army system is the matter aimed at in the protocols of Brussels, and surely we may be pardoned for having suspicions against their fair dealing towards ourselves of the propounder of a system which must make us outlaws and traitors if we use the arms we have been trained to wield; or we must convert our nation into a huge military camp like Germany and other despotic States. Having no ambitious designs in view, we deprecate standing armies as an evil, and only necessary in this country because of our vast colonial and foreign possessions. Having nothing to gain by arms but to keep what we have got by our laborious industry, we bid defiance to none, but our defence shall be effective, and, if need be, to the death. And—call the resistance by whatever euphemism we may—it shall most assuredly rise into the dignity of defiance the moment we are called upon to use in earnest the weapons we now use in training.

We hold that in warfare there can be no limit to resistance save the avoidance of those acts that are cruel and repulsive to humanity, but on the aggressor left the blame alone fall for the severity which may be necessary to purge the land from the mercenary and cruel invader.

The main aspect of this question may arise out of the abolition of the right of search and seizure of an enemy's goods at sea, brought about by the declaration of Paris, in order that the humanitarian follies of such money-making speculators as Cobden, and those of the peace at any price Manchester schools who acted with him, might be carried out in prospect of private gain at national expense. The right of search and capture of an enemy's goods at sea, Sir John Macneil, the accomplished diplomatist, declared to be that which constituted "the maritime power of England." The right of search without which our Navy would be crippled in a war with any of the Great Powers, gone, Russia and Germany find that a new power has sprung up in Great Britain and in France, and may arise in every free country—the power of a patriotic and trained people. They seek to

declare that war, for defence even, can alone be participated in by regular professional soldiers, and that all citizen soldiers shall be regarded as freebooters and outlaws, to be shot down and massacred without mercy, whenever they draw their swords or present their rifles against the invaders of their country. This, too, is professed to be in favour of humanity, to save the blood of the irregular and invading soldiers. The British Government has, we are proud to say, refused the terms—they could not possibly have done, or wise without having insulted their hundreds of thousands of trained civilians who during the past sixteen years have passed through, or now remain in, the Volunteer ranks. Even had the Government compromised every Briton's birthright to defend his fatherland, the nation would have repelled the insulting obligation at the first call to duty to defend their shores or drive back an invader into the sea. What is the meaning of these machinations? Does Russia mean merely to aid Germany in her coming struggle with France, in order that French Volunteers may be massacred by some shadow of conventional international law? France repudiates the doctrine, and, though we have no wish to interfere in other men's or nations' quarrels, we trust to see the patriotic spirit in every land rise superior to the edicts of ambitious despots or aggrandising invaders. We can hardly believe the attempt is made to muzzle and gag Great Britain, because, invasion of her shores, though possible, and even the attempt, under certain complications, probable, would still be a hazardous proceeding—for our navy would remain a hard nut for an invader to crack. If, however, designs upon our Eastern possessions are developed into actual hostilities, on our Volunteers and auxiliary forces would be thrown the main burden of home military duty. These, thrown outside the pale of war, would be considered as nonentities, and the nation invitingly open for a pleasure and plundering excursion for the regular soldiers of hostile States. The proposition is preposterous. The people of these realms, at least, will hold the country as their own against all forcible invasion. The advancement of civilization must tend to the abolition of regular armies, because, when mankind become wiser, there will be less disposition to go to war, or to spend the nation's strength on the upkeep of standing armies; but we fear it will be a long time yet ere nations can afford to dispense with the strength which military training and armaments afford.

THE IMPERIAL HOUSE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

In connection with this topic, we may refer to an incident which has caused considerable discussion in the Press. The Empress of Russia has for sometime been in this country in attendance upon her daughter on the birth of a Prince. The Queen, the other grandmother, has been in Scotland during the visit. These events gave great point and significance to a remark made by that veteran denouncer of Russian guile, Mr. David Urquhart, in a speech he made to the Yorkshire Foreign Affairs' Committee, at Keighley, in June last, on the topic of the approaching Congress. Mr. Urquhart, referring to the visit last spring, of the Emperor of Russia to this country, said:—"I say with assurance, that up to this hour the English Government has not been committed; and that the Emperor of Russia has left England *re infecta*. There is another proof of defeat. I suppose you are

aware that there remains a daughter of the House of England to be married, and the son of the House of Russia to get a wife. The most awful catastrophe that can happen to countries in these days is to have a marriageable Prince or Princess. If the marriage had been arranged that was on the cards, the Princess Beatrice would have become the wife of the Grand Duke Alexis. The Emperor brings with him his Benjamin of a son, and, after some days, notwithstanding the great love that he has displayed and the labour that he has undergone to displace him from his regions in the North, to come down to more congenial ones, the Queen leaves her capital and goes away to Scotland, carrying with her her youngest daughter. This," adds Mr. Urquhart, "is a very significant thing, and it took me by surprise. It was a most ingenious slap on the face, and such as I know not ever to have been delivered or received." A home in the Highlands is sometimes convenient to get rid of uncongenial visitors, and the absence at Balmoral of the Queen on two Imperial visits may have had no connection with congresses or courtship, but the incidents are noteworthy.—*Volunteer News.*

The last letter ever written by Stonewall Jackson is in the possession of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Historical Society. The original is in pencil, but it has been well preserved. He wrote:

NEAR 3 P.M., May 3, 1863.

GENERAL: The enemy has made a stand at Chancellor's, which is about two miles from Chancellorville. I hope as soon as practicable to attack. I trust that an ever kind Providence will bless us with great success.

Respectfully, T. J. JACKSON,
Lt.-General.

General R. E. Lee:

The leading division is up, and the next two appear to be well closed.

T. J. J.

On the back of this bulletin is the following indorsement:

Received by General Lee on the evening of May 2, on the field of battle, near Chancellorville.

(Signed,) CHARLES S. VENABLE.

The loss of H. B. M. S. *Captain*, experimental vessel, carried trouble to many a household, and amongst others to the house of Baring, the noble head of which lost his second son. The memory of this young officer and his vessel's fate has been perpetuated at Stratton, England, by the erection of a clock-tower by sympathising friends and neighbors, from a design by Mr. Colson, of Winchester. The subscribers have had a memorial scroll sent out to the Viceroy of India, which he will prize dearly as a written memento of a more substantial one. It has been splendidly engrossed and illuminated by Mr. Pamplin, of Winchester, and bears the following inscription: "This tower and spire clock were erected in the year 1872, and presented to Thomas George, second Baron Northbrook, in the county of Southampton, by a few sympathising friends, in memory of his lordship's second son, Arthur Napier Thomas Baring, midshipman, R. N., who was serving on board H. M. S. *Captain* when she foundered off the coast of Spain, September 7th, 1870. 'The hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and come forth'—St. John, 5th chapter, 28th and 29th verses. 'And the sea gave up the dead which were in it,'—Revelation, 20th chap. 13th verse."

REVIEWS.

Our morning contemporary—*The Times*—has put on a new dress, and, in consequence, looks very smart.—The improvement is creditable to the Publishers, and shows that their labours have been appreciated by the party now supporting it.

We have received a copy of a newspaper just started in Milton, county of Halton, entitled the *Weekly News Conservative in politics*, neatly got up, ably edited, and of respectable dimension. We wish it a long and pecuniary prosperous career.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of No. LXXVIII. Vol. XVIII of the "Journal of the Royal United Service Institution." The contents are: "Suggested Improvements in Sanitary arrangements for Hospitals, Barracks, Camps and Shipping"; "The Volta Expedition during the Ashantee Campaign"; "The Ashantee Expedition of 1873-4"; "Three Years with the Royal Naval Reserve"; "H.M.S. Victor Emmanuel as an hospital ship during the Ashantee Campaign"; "Breech loading and Muzzle loading for Guns"; "Note on the Battle of Shrasymann"; "A Review of the Improvements in Military Tactics and formations in Germany during the last year (1873) being the 'pieces' of an article from the *Militair Wochenblatt*"; Artillery fire in Peace Manoeuvres.

We have also to thank the Assistant Secretary for a pamphlet, the second part of "The Relative power of Nations," relating to the "proposed change in the system of providing recruits for the Army," by T. St. L. Alcock, late Major 25th Regt., Honorary Colonel 1st Royal East Middlesex Militia.

We have received *Vick's Floral Guide* for 1875. It is published quarterly at the nominal price to subscribers of twenty five cents a year. It is a neat and artistically got up publication; and has got for its front piece a beautiful colored double Petunia Engraving, besides over 500 other engravings as well as descriptions of more than 500 of his best of Flowers and Vegetables, with descriptions for culture, &c. Mr. Vick has kindly offered his services to the charitably disposed who are willing to aid in relieving the suffering of the hungry thousands of the North Western States whose crops were destroyed by the Grasshopper plague last summer. All moneys sent to him for this laudible purpose will be thankfully acknowledged, giving an account of its disposal, and will add \$500 as his own subscription to the amount forwarded. He also offers premiums, to amateurs only, for the best collection of flowers exhibited at agricultural and floral shows. This offer extends to Canada as well as the United States. Orders for Catalogues of seeds and subscriptions to the relief fund to be forwarded to JAMES VICK, Rochester, N.Y.

The Science of Health for December closes the fifth volume of that most useful magazine, and is an excellent number, as may be seen from the following table of contents: Diseases of Childhood; Transmission of Moral Tendencies; Hereditary Suppers—their Effects; Infant Mortality, A Plea for Hygiene; What shall we drink? Ventilation; Health and Disease—illustrated; Popular Physiology, with illustrations; Hygiene in the Pulpit and in the Press; The Skin and the Blood; Edible Nuts; Regulating Vice; Faith as a Remedial Agent; Faking Cold; Little Folks; and a variety of rich health paragraphs: only 20 cents, or \$2.00 a year.

Now is the time to subscribe; three months free to those who subscribe at once for 1875. Address S. R. WILLS' Publisher, 389 Broadway, New York.

The October number of the *London Quarterly Review*, republished by The Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41 Barclay Street, New York, treats of many subjects at present occupying public attention.

I. Dr. Huber's "History of the Jesuit Order," published in Berlin, in 1873, is the text of this article, but the book is only referred to occasionally, in common with many other authorities, the chief purpose of the reviewer being to describe the characteristic features of that organization. The details here given of the constitution and practical working of that remarkable society will help somewhat to elucidate the contest now going on between it and the government, in Germany. In the next number we are promised an outline of the Jesuit doctrines.

III. "The Hope of English Architecture" is the heading of a description of the failures of modern English architects. Justifying his position with numerous examples culled from the records of Greek, Roman, and Mediaeval architecture, the writer maintains that theoretical knowledge is not sufficient, unless accompanied by practical skill; that the man who designs should also execute. Then, and then only, can we expect to have perfect work, for no one can perfectly master the thoughts of another.

IV. "Modern Culture" is here portrayed in its religious, political, and social aspects, with a particular examination of the doctrines of Matthew Arnold.

X. Under the title, "The Ritual of the English Church," we have, first, a summary of the struggle, which began in England in 1833, concerning the interpretation of the Articles of the Church; and second, in greater detail, the attempt made, within the last twenty years, to introduce Catholic usages into the Service of the Church. Then follows a minute account of the interpretation of the Rubrics, particularly those prescribing the position of the priest at the communion table. The article closes with a history of the bill recently passed for the regulation of public worship.

We regret that limited space will not permit us to do more than speak briefly of the other articles in this number, all of them being deserving of special mention. "Provincial Turkey," by exposing the neglected state of that country, shows how the Ottoman Empire has failed to keep its part of the Treaty of Paris, of 1856. "The Republic of Venice: Its Rise, Decline, and Fall," and the "Life of Bishop Patterson," are interesting reading; East Anglia: Its Strikes and Lock Outs," treats of the ever-recurring labor question; Burrows' "Worthies of All Souls" is a history of the College of All Souls, at Oxford; "Criminal Statistics," and a note on the article in the July number on "Primitive Man," fill up the quota of the last number for this year.

The periodicals reprinted by THE LEONARD SCOTT PUBLISHING Co. are as follows: *The London Quarterly*, Edinburgh, Westminster, and *British Quarterly Review*, and *Blackwood's Magazine*. Price, \$4 a year for any one, or only \$15 for all.

It is positively asserted that Prince Bismarck tendered his resignation, which was refused. He afterwards conferred with the leaders of the national party regarding the future conduct of affairs in Parliament, and an understanding was secured.

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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, DEC. 22, 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.

LEWIS J. B. VINTAS, of Victoria, is our authorized Agent for Vancouver Island, British Columbia. As is also Captain H. V. EDMONDS for New Westminster and adjacent country.

THE Franco-Prussian War of 1870 may justly be styled the culmination of military science with regard to its practical application—where success invariably attended systematic training, organization and educated intelligence. As a system—theory and practice—it was invented over a hundred years ago by a German Prince, Count William of Lippe, whose first military training was acquired in the English service, and it was adopted by Prussia after her humiliating defeat at Jena in 1806; at the instance and by the advice and under the management of Major General SCHARNHORST, the most distinguished and best known pupil of that great

master in the art of war—the Count of LIPPE.

The *Edinburgh Review* for October contains an article *Das Leben des Generals Von Scharnhorst* from the pen of G. H. KLIPPEL of Leipzig, which puts this matter beyond any doubt; and as our readers may be desirous to know what the origin of the so-called Prussian theory really was, we shall republish so much of the article as relates to the history of the system devised by a greater man than either MOLTKE or BISMARCK, not deeming it at all necessary to follow the course of historical events which forced Prussia to adopt it as a last desperate resource to preserve a national life placed in extremes by the system of FREDERICK the Great and clung to with a tenacity characteristic of the Teutonic race; and although we do not agree with the *Review* in its estimate of SCHARNHORST'S abilities, yet for the lesson inculcated we shall publish the opening paragraphs of its article.

"Prussia, as all the world admits, exhibits the strongest types of statesmanship and strategy our age has produced; and statesman and strategist have combined their powers to raise her from a second class kingdom to be the foremost military power in Europe.

"But BISMARCK'S sagacity and VON MOLTKE'S science might have been in vain had they not possessed in the national organization for war the mightiest engine the world has ever seen framed; and Prussia does not forget the obligation she owes to the great man—a Prussian only by adoption, a German above all—who founded her military system, and who in doing so prepared those victories of the War of Independence in 1813-14 which he was not spared to share, yet which but for him would hardly have been won.

"HERR KLIPPEL'S great work has not the less been read because it appeared at a new crisis of the world's history when his hero's country was seen to rise again as one man under arms against the hereditary foe for whose first overthrow the weapon was forged by SCHARNHORST sixty years before. Yet SCHARNHORST himself who came from Hanover to be the tutor of the Prussian nation was but a pupil of an earlier teacher in a principality yet smaller than the Electorate which gave him birth. No fact is brought out more clearly than this in HERR KLIPPEL'S volumes; and before passing to his own career it is but just to dwell on the memory of the instructor to whom the regenerator of the Prussian service owed so much. Those too who imagine that the military science is but the fancy of a day and owes its study rather to men's immediate needs than to one of the deeper instincts of the race, may study profitably the history of Count WILLIAM of LIPPE and the school which he founded. For then SCHARNHORST, in a time of settled peace imbibed the knowledge which was long after

to fructify in the days when Prussia under his sage teaching drew strength out of disaster and honour out of humiliation."

Count WILLIAM of LIPPE was the second son of the Sovereign Count of SCHAUENBURG LIPPE, a small principality lying south of and adjoining Hanover. The young Count's father was a friend of GEORGE II. of England and found no difficulty in procuring an ensign's commission in the Guards, he had been educated in England. The sudden death of his brother recalled him to the principality, and as his father commanded a Dutch contingent, the young strategist saw service for the first time at the opening of the *seven years' war* (1755-63) under the Sovereign whose uniform he had put off. He was present at the battle of Dettingen, the last action in which a British King commanded in person, for GEORGE II. enjoyed the title of *Le Petit Caporal* long before NAPOLEON LE GRAND was born. This battle which was won more by the steadiness and discipline of the British soldiers than by the strategy and tactics of their leaders taught the young soldier a lesson which he never forgot, he afterwards served under Count SCHUMBERG in Italy, and was finally sent by the King of Great Britain to Lisbon to organize the Portuguese forces, a work similar to that performed by Marshal Lord BERSFORD two generations later. At the close of the war the King of Portugal wished to retain him as Commander-in-Chief, but he had now succeeded to his father's sovereignty and returned to Germany to devote himself to its duties with as much energy as though his few thousands of subjects had been as many millions. Although he saw war no more he counted among the chief duties of a ruler the keeping his people thoroughly prepared for its events. The maxim he himself was never weary of teaching was that since man has a natural inclination for war, this should be taken as the basis of national education and properly directed. The study of military science, so ran his favorite canon, is not the melancholy trade of discovering more skilful means of murder, but is the rendering a true service to humanity. For the more perfectly military science is studied the more dangerous will it be found to commence a war, and the more rare consequently war will be, and when it does occur the more removed from useless murder. The misuse of this higher art would carry us down to the level from whence it had raised us. No war but a defensive one is profitable, as the wantonly offensive is utterly beneath the dignity of the just man. The preparations of means of defence will tend to limit war inasmuch as they will constantly increase the obstacles that are put in the way of the invader."

In an era of standing armies and military pedantry with more than ordinary ignorance of theory or principle this great soldier found the means with a battalion of foot, a single squadron of cavalry, and a battery of

guns, not only to train the whole population of his native State to arms, but to create a military academy in a barren waste for the purpose of teaching what has been falsely called the Prussian system, without adding to the fiscal burthens of his people.

"The method taken for this end was that by which alone it has been any where accomplished. He insisted on each adult fit for arms serving long enough in the ranks to acquire a thorough knowledge of the arm to which he was assigned, and this attained dismissed him from the colors, but under liability to rejoin in case of war."

So thoroughly had he established the system founded on the theory that "the army of a State should be the people of the State in arms," that GNEIENAU, the "brains" of the victorious army of BLOEGER says of him:—

"You have praised the Count of LIPPE highly (he wrote to VARNHAGEN VON ENSE) yet not as befits his merit. He was far greater than you represent him. I formerly stayed some time at his capital of Buckeburg and read his manuscripts in the archives there.

"All our system of national armament with its *Landwehr* and *Landsturm*, the whole modern method of making war, this man had thoroughly marked out—in its greatest and least particulars he had known and practically taught it. Just think what sort of a man that must have been whose spirit could conceive thus far beforehand, the vastest ideas of war so that their realization in later days actually shattered the whole power of NAPOLEON himself."

This was written of a prince of whom SCHARNHORST says:—

"Seldom have there been united such entire goodness of heart with so many great qualities of spirit. He never left the distressed without succour, nor the widow and orphan without care for their need. Every expense of his small court was cut down that he might enjoy the one happiness of making others happy. Towards those about him he was ever pleasant and courteous. In his school he was at once organizer, inspector, benefactor and friend. He made many a young man happy and his lessons are already being fruit."

In his academy Wilhelmstein on the shores of the Steinhude Lake he organized sections devoted to infantry, cavalry, artillery and engineering tactics before either of the latter arms had become an arm, and to this day the Prussian Engineer Corps in all its divisions and ramifications is a mere copy of the model he has left. In fact in neither strategy nor tactics have any improvement been made on his original organization except where modern mechanical science has introduced modifications. This great and good man, whose work after a lapse of time is recognized and felt, died in 1776 of grief for the loss of a beloved and childless wife. His successor allowed his academy to

be dissolved and SCHARNHORST, the son of a Hanoverian yeoman, whom the Court selected as a cadet was the only one left to turn the great lessons in the art of war to account. The article in the *Edinburgh Review* under the title of "Scharnhorst" is well worthy perusal.

Our readers will recollect that the political economists of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government had ordered the *Victory*, Nelson's flagship, to be sold by public auction, and were only restrained by the universal cry of indignation from having her actually broken up. A better spirit seems to pervade their successors in the Admiralty, the following notice from the *Volunteer News* will testify:

"H.M.S. *Victory*.—Orders have been received at Woolwich Arsenal to search out among the thousands of old guns there those which formerly belonged to Lord Nelson's ship, the old line-of-battle three-decker *Victory*. These guns, or as many of them as can be found, are to be sent to Portsmouth and replaced on board the *Victory*, which, after being laid up for several years past, is to be refitted as far as possible, with her old guns and equipment, and exhibited as formerly to visitors, with the well known plate upon her deck marking the spot where Nelson fell. The *Victory* was used when last in commission as a receiving ship for seamen, and she has been inserted in the Navy List as a tender to the Duke of Wellington, the flagship at Portsmouth."

Apart from the fact that the *Victory* herself is the last existing type of those *old wooden walls* which both guarded Britain and made "Britannia rule the waves," these are historical and political reminiscences of great interest attached to the old ship. In her NELSON fought for, conquered and laid down his life in the cause of the National Independence of Great Britain and of freedom all over the world, while from her mast-head fluttered on that memorable morning of the 21st October, 1805 the signal which crystallizes the political creed of British subjects "England expects every man to do his duty."

Around the scene where such vital interests were won defended, it is right and fitting the sentiment of a great people should concentrate, and it is to be hoped that the Lords of the Admiralty will not only restore the old guns to the old ship, but that she will be fitted and maintained as nearly as possible in the condition of the flagship of the greatest seaman the world has ever seen—the man who lived not for himself but for his country, and who evidenced his devotion by dying when his work was done at Trafalgar—purchasing with his blood that victory which made her a great nation.

That England has progressed in wealth, power, and national resources owing to the security she has since enjoyed does not admit of doubt, as an evidence, we have the following paragraph showing the progress made in practical and mechanical science:

"A feeling of interest has been aroused universally among naval and military antiquarians by a paragraph which recently appeared in the daily papers, announcing that instructions had been given from the War Office to search amongst the old ordnance at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, for any of the guns which formerly composed the armament of the *Victory*, and to despatch the same to Portsmouth; as these relics of a past age were to be replaced upon Admiral Lord Nelson's famous old flagship, with a view to restoring it as far as possible to its condition in the year 1805. These instructions have been carried into execution. Nine 32-pounders and five 24-pounders have been produced, after considerable efforts for their identification amongst the moth-eaten naval armament ledgers of 1803, such having been the period when the *Victory* was re-equipped, owing to a war being imminent with France after the peace of Amiens in 1802. Many of the guns at present on board the *Victory* formed part of her equipment in 1805, but amongst them several had been accidentally introduced which were of a subsequent date. Hence the object of the present search. The allusion to naval armaments in 1805 cannot do otherwise than induce a series of reflections in our minds as to a comparison of the ordnance of that age with the "Woolwich Infants" of our own. Only seventy years ago the heaviest naval gun was a 32-pdr. of some two and a half tons, with a 10 lbs. charge. The guns just despatched to Portsmouth for the armament of H.M.S. *Thunderer* weigh 38 tons, and fire a charge of 120 lbs. of pebble powder, the projectiles weighing 700 lbs. But these figures sink into utter insignificance besides those which appertain to the infant Terrible. To be turned out by the Royal Gun Factories in June next! A monster, twenty-six feet nine inches in length, or twenty-seven feet, including the cascable button,—not twenty-four feet as stated in the *Times*—and weighing rather more than eighty-one tons, throwing a projectile of 1250 lbs. weight, and firing a charge of some 210 lbs. of powder! When we consider that we have arrived at, in a period of seventy years, a weapon throwing 39 times the weight of metal that was employed in the construction of the heaviest projectiles at its commencement, we obtain some insight into the extraordinary advancement that has taken place in manufacture of war material.

We are not Russia-phobists, do not believe in political nightmare when the northern wolf is the chief fiend, and think at the worst Great Britain need care little for either the hostility or friendship of an empire whose strength was fully measured by a war of less than ten years duration. If the folly of her own politicians and the fanaticism of her sects had not created a real "Frankenstein" in the power which German pedagogues and Prussian Junkers have created by fraud and violence before her eyes, and which the wily diplomatists of the North with a settled policy to accomplish will be sure to work for their own advantage. It is quite clear that the philanthropy of the Russian seeks to accomplish the same end as the religious and constitutional liberality of the Prussian; and south Germany has been treated to so much of the latter as an earnest of what is to follow.

What both despotisms hope to accomplish is the paramount influence of Russia in Asia; and if Germany, or rather Prussia, in Europe both powers have no need to appeal to their subjects for aid they can force it, and between them have withdrawn over three millions of men from peaceful and industrial pursuits to follow what is to the great mass of mankind the wasteful and profitless career of soldiers. The burdens of sustaining the outlay necessary being borne by their remaining subjects will get to be so intolerable that either a revolution will occur or employment must be sought for the armed masses in plundering their more peaceful and worse prepared neighbors; but this operation is attended with the danger that a prolonged resistance might totally destroy the machinery brought to bear for purposes of conquest, and hence we have the Emperor of Russia in the interests of humanity trying to tie the hands of Great Britain by another edition of the "Treaty of Washington"—the Brussels Conference—at which it was coolly proposed in the interests of humanity that she should divest herself of her naval advantages and consent to the rule that none but *regular soldiers* should fight in defence of hearts and homes. The peremptory refusal of the Earl of Derby to allow Great Britain to be a party to any such arrangement must command the admiration of any British subject, and none more so than the people of Canada, whose whole defensive force must consist of citizen soldiers; and we think our Government ought to watch their proceedings closely as any arrangement which would prevent every man in Canada, whether he wore an uniform or not, handling his rifle in the face of the enemy would be a disgrace to the manhood of the people and a lasting injury, as it would deliver the whole country bound hand and foot into the power of any party whose interests could be served by placing their feet on the neck of the people. *The laws of war* with us must be to fight by all or any means in our power, and if our enemies should lay down arbitrary rules, as the Prussians did in France, to make resistance *à la entrance* without quarter. If amongst the people of that important country there had been any leader worthy the name who would have retaliated when the first Franco-tireurs were shot contrary to all law, we believe that the contest would have assumed a different shape and we should not now be hearing such trash about the humanity of the modern Attila's and their plundering Huns. In another column will be found an article on this subject from our contemporary the *Volunteer News* in which the subject is treated with truth and prudence. We should be truly thankful that there is now in the Foreign Office a nobleman who believes in the idea that Britain has something more to do than wave or spin for the benefit of others, and who will not allow her powers to be neutralized by the superior cunning of her enemies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Halifax, N.S., 9th December, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—Some time ago a notice appeared in your valued paper according to Colonel Stuart thanks, for informing the militia of the Dominion, that the scarlet patrol jacket was discontinued to be worn by the officers of the Imperial Service. A few weeks afterwards "Ixion" rather ridicules the information furnished by Colonel Stuart, and thinks the military portion of the inhabitants should tender him thanks for his information, viz. That Infantry mounted officers now wear sabbatiches. Now, I contend that the Militia Force was organized for a very different purpose, than to be swayed by the vagaries of a few Army London Tailors. If Colonel Stuart (or "Ixion") really desires a vote of thanks, why does not he inform the Militia Department that there is such a book as the "Field Exercise and Evolutions of Infantry" authorized by General Order dated Horse Guards 30th June, 1874. The Department must be entirely ignorant of the fact that such a work is in existence, or it would never have perpetrated the folly of furnishing a very indifferent copy (published I believe in Toronto) of the Field Exercise for 1870, now obsolete, to the cadets of the Military School now open in this city, and I suppose the schools in other Provinces are suffering under the same disadvantages. Surely if it is worth while to supply the cadets with the Queen's Regulations for 1873, it is of more importance that they should be instructed in the latest drill contained in the new book, and especially in this District where our local forces are often brigaded with H.M. Army. Our City Brigade underwent its annual inspection by Colonel Laurie, D.A.G., during the evenings of last week by corps. On Monday, the 30th November the Field Battery and 2nd Halifax Garrison Artillery; Tuesday, the 1st December, the 65th Batt.; Thursday, the 3rd, 1st Brigade, H.G. Artillery, who presented a clean and soldierly appearance in their new uniforms (and busbies provided by its own officers); and on Friday, 4th, the 63rd Battalion who have a similar uniform to that worn by H.M. 66th Royal Rifles. Each corps paraded with full ranks, there being very few absentees reported. It was hoped that Major General Smyth would have paid us a visit, but that pleasure is deferred until next year; when I hope he will be able to report that he inspected the most efficient body of militia in the Dominion.

There is some little difficulty experienced in keeping corps up to full strength, owing to the fact that Halifax and its vicinity have a larger proportion of militia than any other city to enrol, viz. 27 companies.

Apologizing for the length of this epistle, I remain yours, &c.

A CAPTAIN OF THE FORCE.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 18th December, 1874.

GENERAL ORDERS (34).

No. 1.

Tenders for Militia Service.

Deputy Adjutants General of Military Districts are directed, to call through the *Public Press* for competitive Tenders for such work as may be required from time to time, or for the supply of any articles required for Militia Service. Tenders so called for shall be addressed to such Deputy Adjutant General; and none shall be received after the day prescribed in the advertisement.

The Tenders shall be numbered consecutively, by the Officer receiving, in the order of their receipt; and on the day following at fixed for their reception, they shall be opened by the Deputy Adjutant General in the presence of the Paymaster of the District, and one of the Brigade Majors, each of whom will attach his signature to every such Tender. The Deputy Adjutant General will then prepare a schedule of them, and submit it together with the Tenders and his report thereon to Head Quarters at Ottawa.

No. 2.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

Provisional Force on Service in Manitoba.

Adverting to G. O. (23) 11th December, 1874; the name of "Ensign William George Gow" is to be added in second paragraph immediately after the name of Lieutenant "John Allan."

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

2nd Regiment of Cavalry.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William Button, is hereby permitted to retire retaining his Brevet rank.

19th "Lincoln" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 2 Company, St. Catharines.

ERRATUM.—In No. 1 of G. O. (30) 20th

November, 1874, read "No. 2 Company" instead of "No. 3 Company."

36th "Peel" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 8 Company, Tullamore.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant Peter Hamilton McCollum, M.S., vice John Orr, whose resignation is hereby accepted.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Late Beauce Field Battery of Artillery.

Adverting to No. 1 of G. O. (13) 2nd June, 1874, in which the Beauce Field Battery of Artillery is removed from the List of Active Militia Corps, Captain Maurice E. J. Duchesnay, of that corps is placed on retired list, from date of said General Order, retaining rank.

"B" Battery, of Artillery and School of Gunnery, Quebec.

Henry Collings Sheppard, G.S., formerly 2nd Lieutenant in No. 1 Battery, late Quebec Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery, to have the rank of Lieutenant in the Militia of the Dominion during the time he may be permitted to remain attached to the School of Gunnery, Quebec. Such rank to date from the Provisional Brigade of Garrison Artillery, on the Corps being disbanded.

3rd Battalion "Victoria Rifles," Montreal.

Captain and Adjutant George William Hatton, V.B., is hereby permitted to retire retaining his rank as Captain.

Adverting to No. 1 of General Orders (28) 23rd October, 1874, Lieutenant James Kidd Oswald, V.B., is permitted, as a special case, to retire retaining rank.

8th Battalion "Stadacona Rifles."

No. 2 Company, Quebec.

Lieutenant Frederick Christian Whurtele, is hereby permitted to retire retaining rank.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

2nd Lieutenant St. George J. Boswell, G.S., Montreal Company of Engineers, from 13th November, 1874.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Non-effective Corps.

The following Corps having become non-effective are hereby removed from the List of Corps of the Active Militia:—

No. 1 Company, (Fredericton) 71st Battalion.
No. 1 do (Kingston, King's Co'y,) 71th Battalion.
No. 2 do (Elgin, Albert County,) 71th Battalion, and the Gaagetown Infantry Company.

And the Officers of these Corps are also removed from the List of Officers of the Active Militia.

Captain Robert Davies, Lieutenant Isaac Simmons and Ensign Charles W. Hart, No. 1 Coy., 71st Battn.;

Ensign Robert McAlary, No. 1 Coy., 74th Battalion.;

Captain Charles Simpson, Lieutenant John W. Dickie and Ensign Benjamin S. Babbitt, Gaagetown Infantry Company.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

2nd Halifax Brigade of Garrison Artillery,

Captain and Adjutant George T. Smithers is hereby permitted to retire retaining his rank of Captain.

No. 2 Battery, Dartmouth.

To be 1st Lieutenants, provisionally:

Sergeant Major William Lathgood, vice John Roue Glendinning, who is hereby permitted to retire retaining rank.

2nd Lieutenant James Godfrey Smith, is hereby permitted to retire retaining rank. His rank dating from date of qualification: 11th May, 1872.

63rd Halifax Battalion of Rifles.

Adverting to G. O. (22) 14th August, 1874, the promotion to be Major, of Captain and Brevet Major Joseph Norman Ritchie is here by cancelled at his own request.—Brevet Major Ritchie reverts to his former position of captain in the Battalion.

BREVET.

Captain M. B. Harrison, M.S., No. 3 Coy., Cumberland Provisional Battalion, from 5th November, 1874.

CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

SCHOOLS OF GUNNERY.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

FIRST CLASS "LONG COURSE" CERTIFICATE.

2nd Lieutenant Charles Edmond J. Duchesnay, Beauce Field Battery. (Passed 17th April, 1874.)

FIRST CLASS "SHORT COURSE" CERTIFICATE.

2nd Lieutenant St. George J. Boswell, Montreal Company of Engineers.

By Command of his Excellency the Governor General.

WALKER POWELL, Lieut. Col.

Deputy Adjutant General of Militia, Canada.

The *Full Mall Gazette* says:—"It seems a strange complaint, to hear from so military minded a nation as the French have been long esteemed, yet according to the *Journal des Sciences Militaires* there is not to be found in the language a single trustworthy work on modern tactics. The French essayist we are following expressly excludes the various translations lately made at Paris of German books as too heavy to be natural and proper reading for his countrymen. There are plenty of French volumes nominally on tactics, but they are either controversial or, like Favé's work, devoted manly to a single arm. Okounef's, Dufour's and Giustiniani's books are all written in French, and well known in France; but being composed for Russian, Swiss and Piedmontese officers respectively, they have their national specialities to deal with, and are therefore not suitable handbooks for the thousands of French military students who want a guide. Rustow, the voluminous Swiss military writer, has of course a book on the subject; but, though published nominally in 1872, it deals with no experience so late as that of the last war, and is therefore thoroughly unsatisfactory. The essayist can find nothing out of Germany really so suitable for present wants as Major Ottolenghi's new Italian work in two volumes, which however, needs translation before it can be made available. That this complaint is well founded is just now curiously illustrated at the French autumn manoeuvres. The existing skirmishing practice, for instance, is conducted on regulations so incomplete that General Ducrot has found it necessary to supplement them for his own corps by a pamphlet of over a hundred pages long. This deficiency, now first acknowledged publicly in France, may surprise many persons; but it is certain that the practice carried on at Chalons just before the war was conducted on certain "secret instructions" which were known to the few foreigners who had read them to be not merely completely out of date for troops carrying breech loaders, but to have been prepared and kept unaltered from the smooth bore musket period of the Grand Army of Napoleon I., which was the model for all things military under the Second Empire."

The *Rover*, a corvette for the British navy, was recently launched at Blackwall. The *Rover* is 280 ft. long between perpendiculars, her extreme breadth being 43 ft. 6 in., her breadth moulded 42 ft. 10 in., her depth of hold 16 ft. 3 in., and her burden 2,555 51/94 tons B.M. Her armament is to consist of 16 64 pounder guns and two 90 cwt revolving guns. She is built with a straight stem, and embrasures are cut into her poop and fore-castle to allow of fore and aft fire from her revolving guns. Her engines will be of 4,750 horse power indicated.

THE LONE WIDDY MAN.

Och, Biddy, Malone, if you know half my sufferin'
You'd pity the case of a lone widdy man,
Who's a burnin' disgrace to the face of the Distric-
ferin'.
Thy'n't to keep house on the bachelor plan
Like the bear in the chany-shoo, look at me
athin' in' round.
Botherin' the widd and slamin' the dure;
Mo parlor turned into a crockery campin'
ground—
Taycups and dishes all over the dure.

'Tis meself that can face any rals'nable dhrud-
gorry,
But pullin' plates and dhravin' out tay
isn't work for a man who's been used to the
luxury
Iv havin' things done in the 'ould-fash'oned
way.
Thin I sht be the pots that won't bho till me face
becomes
Red as the mate which I clap on the fire.
While the 'nore I wash up, sure the dirtier the
place becomes—
So come and relave me, for love or for hire.

When I look in the glass, sure, 'tis hardly I know
meself,
A beard like a stubble all over my face;
A poor wifeless basie, it's ashamed I'm to show
meself,
Wandherin' about like a ghost in the place;
A lone widdy man turnin' thitty and childher-
less!
Ponder and think 'of it, Biddy Malone.
Cryin' out in despair from his womansless wild-
h-rnse,
"Take me and make me a man of your own."

Mo shirts and mo shuall clothes are rippin' and
tearin' too;
Buttons, mavrone, are the 'plague o' my life;
Thin jabbin' me thumb's sets me yellin' and
swearin' too—
I'm goin' to the dogs for the want of a wife.
The dhrin' that's gone was a girril from the
city, dear—
Her illigant dhriss now lies on the shelf
Growin' mouldy for air, and I think what a pity,
dear—
She was just the same solze, Bidd, agrs, as
yourself.

So, pay off your missis and finish my sufferin',
Nobdy's kitchen's his mate as one's own;
Sure the wurruld will tell you that Mrs. Mike
Dufferin
Sounds prouder and grander than Biddy
Malone.
So I'll tackle my team and I'll dhrive in so
grand to you—
I've mourned and wore craps for the most ly a
year;
And this bhoiv a note, faith I'll post it by hand
to you,
And bring back the answer yourself, Biddy,
dear. M.S.

THE CONTEST OF PRINCIPLES OR OF NATIONALITIES.

(From Broad Arrow).

A very few years ago the contest presented to the eyes of the world was apparently one of principles. Speaking broadly, the politics of the civilized world were divided into the two great classes represented by autocracy on the one hand and democracy on the other. When Spain threw off the yoke of Christiano absolutism, or quasi absolutism, and French agitators had the opportunity of supplanting the Empire, for the moment the prospects of Republicanism seemed to brighten. The sky of European Liberalism has, however, since been overshadowed. The excesses of the Commune first, and since then the timidity of Frenchmen who would probably like to see a solid Republic founded if they did not dread the cost, in unrest and perhaps blood and treasure, of its establishment, together with the extreme in consequence and instability of the Spanish character, which is apparently incapable of any sustained effort in any direction of substantial democratic government as unreal and problematical as ever. The only real democracy of Europe is to be found in England, but we are *hors la ligne*, both geographically and politically. Moreover, the tremendous step taken by this

country in the direction of a democratic form of Government by the establishment of house-hold suffrage with its consequent placing of political power in the hands of the working classes, has been, for the time, deprived of its results by the slowness of the present depositories of political power in apprehending their position, and by the disgust which has been caused in every class by the excesses of the extreme party in France. Looking to Germany we are at a loss to say whether the progression of that country is in the direction of democracy or autocracy. That there are intense movements and power in German life is an incontrovertible fact; but the vitality comes, for the present, almost wholly from above. The movement which is going on—a movement which journalism in this country hedges far too little—takes its origin in the brain of one man—Prince Bismarck. If the workings of that mighty brain could be accurately apprehended and described, we should know what the future of Germany for many a long year would be; but the inherent vice of an autocracy is evident here also: a fit of gout, a plurality, may alter the policy of a whole nation of even strong men. We do not know, no one knows, what the German people are striving for in their home politics. We can only say, with some moderate certainty, what are some of the things which Bismarck is aiming at. And these appear to us to be connected rather with the attitude of Germany to the outer world than with her internal progress. Even the great contest between Bismarck and the Pope is, before it is anything else, a determined expression of a strong Prussia not to allow any interference on the part of an outside power with her internal homogeneity, even when nothing more than a sentiment is concerned.

Thus, then, we are inclined to contend that the principle of internal government—that is, whether liberal progress is being made or not, has no very strong hold on the European mind at the present moment. Of course the thinkers the men of theories, are as active as ever; but they have, just now, lost their audience. Europe will not listen to them. They had their chance four years ago, but they lost it. On the other hand, there is another contest which had its roots in the Franco-Prussian war, and which is gaining in importance every day.

It is a somewhat humiliating confession to have to make, at this period of the nineteenth century, that nations hate and love one another, as nations, just as much as ever they did. Perhaps the advantages, of intercommunication, of the civilizing influences of railroads and telegraphs, of the blessings of the interchange of culture, have been discounted too soon. It may be that several centuries, instead of little more than a generation of these influences, will be required to make them universally or even generally felt. Certainly the old animosity which once made Frenchmen and Englishmen "natural" enemies, because they lived next door to one another, appears to have worn away to a very great extent. May we not hope that, when the facilities of communication are as great between the other nations of Europe as between France and ourselves, a similar result may ensue? In the meantime, it must be allowed that the contest of European nationalities, is every day giving indications of what its ultimate form will be. It is no longer a question, whether that contest will take place, or it was already begun. No declaration of war has been, nor, in our opinion, is likely

to be made between contending nations, but, not the less for that is a great conflict at hand. The battles of diplomacy are, in spite of all that is said to the contrary, quite as important in their results as victories and defeats which are sealed with blood.

Germany is so strongly in the ascendant that she naturally rouses the jealousy of neighbouring nations. France of course, hates her; but it is by no means certain to our minds that the dislike at present existing between the two countries is greater than it was five, fifteen, or fifty years ago. The direction of the force—to use a mathematical term—has only changed. The result of the present state of affairs upon other countries is curious. France recognizes Spain because she thinks that Prussia will not approve the step, or at least that she may take independent action on an important point, without reference to Prussia. Yet this recognition of Spain is a matter of great inconvenience to France, and is not unlikely to result in far from pleasant consequences. It is said that the Duke Decezes endures the most intolerable demands on the part of Marshal Serrano and the Spanish Government. The frontier has never been well guarded between the two countries; but as Spain cannot put down the Carlist insurrection, she is demanding from France what no other Government but Metcalhon's would be likely to concede. Then it is said that Bismarck is behind Serrano, urging him to ask always more; but there is a perfect mania just now about the influence which the great German prince is supposed to exert in every direction, so that we only allude to the subject of his supposed Spanish influence to show how widely spread is the result of the contest of nationalities now raging between France and Germany. If we turn to another side of Europe, we shall find fresh, and scarcely less exciting, subject matter for thought. Eight years have now elapsed since Austria was compelled to admit herself to have been, not only beaten, but crushed. Her part in the game of European politics is now but a slight one; nor do we anticipate that she will ever again, as the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, compete with the German Empire for supremacy or even for considerable influence in Europe. It is gratifying to observe that she is accepting with equanimity the position which Providence and Prussia have assigned to her. But a very different state of feeling is to be detected when we turn to Russia. She is giving unmistakable signs of her determination not to allow her own career to be interfered with by Germany. We do not lay any great stress on the position of the German provinces of Russia, although there can be little doubt that these may eventually become the debateable ground between the two countries. Prussia has absorbed so much within the last few years that she is hardly likely to move again until the progress of assimilation has made some progress. A great deal of German territory, pure and simple, lies on the Austrian side of the present boundary line, but for a generation or two it is probably safe, and yet it would almost certainly be grasped by Berlin before the Baltic provinces of Russia. Nevertheless, there is a most distinct political feeling between Russia and Germany at the present moment. It is as the atmosphere were heavily charged with electricity, which might, indeed, be drawn off by the bursting of a thunder cloud; or, on the other hand, might continue to oppress the whole neighborhood for a considerable

time. Russia seems to be gradually rousing herself to a full sense of her position. She has only just begun to understand what it means to have a vigorous nation of the first class as a neighbour, and standing between herself and the rest of Europe. It would be exceedingly interesting to know what the real history was of the recent negotiations concerning Denmark. The question had scarcely come upon the tapis when it was hustled off again. England and Russia, it was said, had agreed to urge Germany to yield Schleswig to Denmark, and thus afford a solution of the difficulties which are felt by the Berlin Government with regard to the inhabitants of that province. What the *quid pro quo* was to be was not clearly stated, but the threatening attitude which the question at one time seemed to be likely to assume was quickly put an end to by the cessation—if indeed they had ever begun—of the negotiations. Even supposing the whole matter to have been of the nature of a mere *canard*—and it was certainly more than that—we learn from it what the public idea of Europe is with regard to the attitude of Russia towards Prussia.

We do not think that the public idea is at all an incorrect one on this head. In the relation between the two countries we see what we now call the contest of nationalities—a few years ago the same thing would have been called the “balance of power.” We do not look with feelings of regret upon this state of affairs. The last few years have found a great deal of charlatanism mixed up with the new ideas in politics, both domestic and international. If we find ourselves coming back to the old lines, and working round the same pivot as in former years, we need not be surprised. The balance of power was an old and exploded idea. The new generation knew something worth a great deal more than that, and yet, in the end, we find two great nationalities standing opposite to one another, each eager to prevent the other from growing too strong. Is this altogether an evil thing? May we not rather fairly congratulate ourselves and one another on the fact that Germany is not to have it quite all her own way? We deprecate, both, for ourselves or for Russia, the idea that there is and safety to be found in what would be called in private life mere fussiness. We, on the whole, sympathise with German objects, especially in relation to her contest with Rome, but for all that we should be sorry to see England following the lead of Russia, either if she shuts her eyes on the one hand to the preponderating influence which Germany is aiming at in Europe, or if she should exhibit a tendency on the other to fidget and worry without giving due effect to her opinions.

NORTHERN COLONIZATION RAILWAY.—The survey of an extension of the Northern Colonization Railway, from Aylmer to the mouth of the river Mattawan, through the Province of Quebec have just been completed. A line has been obtained which is held to be very favourable, the course of the line general being very direct with easy curves and grades. The total estimated cost of this extension, including rolling stock telegraph and all the appurtenances necessary for a first class railway, does not exceed \$28,000 per mile, and if steel rails and iron bridges are employed the cost will not exceed \$33,000 per mile.

THE MACOMBIE GUN.

In February last a non-official trial, necessarily very brief in detail, was made in the proof room of the *Nettle*—a vessel attached to the *Excellent* at Portsmouth for proving the quality of armor plates—in the *Excellent* gunnery establishment, and at the present time filling the onerous post of Director of Naval Ordnance at the Admiralty, of a breech loading cannon, constructed in England upon the patent of Mr. Macombie, who is an American, and so far as the trial was carried the results were considered highly favourable in their relation to the primary objects sought by the inventor—i.e., the production of a breech loading gun that should burn larger powder charges with freedom from any escape of gas at the breech than any English or Continental gun breech or muzzle loader, and a gun that could not be burst by gun powder. After this trial the gun was taken to London with the intention of having the velocity of its shot proved at Shoeburyness, but for some reason as yet unexplained this has not been done, and thus one of the most important points connected with any measurement of the power of the gun remains unsettled. This (says the *Times*) is to be regretted, for everything relating to breech loading arrangements for heavy ordnance is of the greatest importance to us just at the present time, when we are compelled to admit that foreign breech loading guns, and especially the German guns, give their shot a greater initial velocity and penetrating force than the best English muzzle loading guns. We have certainly for a long time past had the question of breech loading in its possible application to the heaviest ordnance under consideration, and there the question appears to remain. It is understood that Sir Joseph Whitworth has long been prepared to produce a breech loading gun of large calibre and of exceptional penetrating power, to order of the Government, and that Mr. Fraser of Woolwich Arsenal, has also prepared drawings of breech loading arrangements for heavy ordnance. Official instructions, however, appear to stop the way, for neither the Whitworth nor Fraser breech loader has yet put in an appearance and under these circumstances we may, even with some chance of profit to ourselves, give a little attention to the American Macombie, although as yet ignorant of the initial velocity of its shot, excepting by approximate calculation from their penetration into iron, and an opportunity for this occurred in a trial made with the gun at the land firing range of the Royal Marine Artillery at Fort Cumberland, near Portsmouth, on Friday last week. Before entering further into the particulars of the trial, it is necessary to say something here relative to the gun, the powder-charge, and the shot. The gun weighs 1200 lb., the rifled tube having a diameter of 1.275 in., and a length of 24 in. The powder chamber has a diameter of 2.5 in., and a length of 7.25 in. The quickest burning powder procurable, Curtis's fine grain sporting, is used for the charge. The shot weighs 3 lb., and 1 1/2 lb., one-half the weight of the shot, forms the firing charge. Whatever the size of the gun, these proportions between its shot and powder charge would be observed. The breech of the gun is built up of rings of three different kinds of wrought iron, which increase in density from the centre to the circumference. Heavy steel rings are driven over the forged iron rings by a powerful hydraulic press. The breech is closed after loading by two and a half turns of a three thread

screw. The inner end of this screw is fitted with projecting steel blades as the gas check. The shot is loaded round its base to take the grooving of the rifled tube. On Friday the gun and a small iron target three inches in thickness were taken down to Fort Cumberland, and five shots fired at the target at a distance of 100 yards. The target had no backing, and was set upon and supported by beach sand and shingle. No. 1 was taken as a trial shot, the latter passing immediately over the top of the target. No. 2 struck near the bull's eye, the shot penetrating 2 1/2 in., and remaining embedded in the plate. No. 3 struck on the opposite side of the bull's eye, penetrating to a depth of 2 3/4 in., and also remained embedded in the plate. No. 4 struck the target low down, penetrated to a depth of two inches, and rebounded from the plate on to the shingle of the beach. No. 5 shot was attended with nearly the same results as No. 4. Two facts were deducible from the firing, and they must just be taken for what they are worth in the opinion of practical artillerymen. 1. There was no observable escape of gas. 2. A gun with a rifled tube of 1.275 inches diameter obtained with its shot a maximum penetration of 2 1/2 inches in a piece of unbacked rolled iron plate, three inches in its thickness. Our authorities may possibly know all about the Macombie gun, but if the principle of the breech and its powder chamber is correct it should be worth some attention from us, however faulty we may consider many of the details.—*Broad Arrow.*

Some very novel and interesting experiments, says the *London Iron*, have recently been made at Tyne Dock. In consequence of the increased depth of the river—the results of the recent dredging—ships of larger tonnage and draught are enabled to enter the dock, but a number of large blocks of concrete, which were laid down to secure moorings, interfere with the dredging, and require to be removed. As these blocks are of large dimensions (12 feet long by 12 feet broad by 6 feet thick, and 20 feet under water), the task of removal has hitherto proved laborious and expensive, but it is found that small charges of dynamite laid on the centre when fired reduce the mass to a heap of rubbish, which can be easily lifted by the dredger. The charge, 10 lbs., was enclosed in a canvas bag, and simply laid on the concrete by a diver, who secured it in its place with some strong clay, and it was fired by means of a gutta serena fuse, ending with a copper cap containing a charge of fulminate of mercury, without which this powerful agent cannot be exploded. A loud report announced the ignition of the dynamite, and a large body of water was upheaved. On descending, the diver found the large solid mass reduced to a heap of rubbish.

General di Cesnola has been actively engaged for some months past in excavations in the Island of Cyprus. In September he discovered the ancient site of Curium or Kuri and the Temple of Apollo Hylates. Several long Greek inscriptions bearing the name of that deity have already been unearthed, also some smaller inscriptions in the Cypriot language. The latter are for the most part upon statuettes of calcareous stone. The General has also found a beautiful Greek statuette of white marble over two feet in height, representing a naked youth, perfect from the knees upward; there is only the left foot wanting. Other statuette and a large quantity of beads in terra cotta and some terra cotta equestrian figures wearing armor were found.

THE GERMAN LANDSTURM.

The bill for organizing the German Landsturm threatens to lay upon the German people a new burden of extraordinary magnitude. A letter from Berlin which appeared in the *Times* some days back will help us to understand what this burden is. The number of able-bodied men, it appears, who annually escape military service on various grounds is estimated at 70,000, and of men between seventeen and forty there are at least 500,000 who have never been in the army. Besides these there are 500,000 men under forty who, after serving in the active army, the reserve, and the landwehr, have been set free at the age of thirty-two. Both these classes will be swept into the all-embracing net of the landsturm. Hitherto the Landsturm has been little more than a name. It could only be called out for service when the country was invaded, and its relation to the real army was scarcely closer than that of the English Volunteers. When this bill becomes law the Landsturm may be called out at the pleasure of the Emperor, and the battalions composing it may, if necessary, be drafted off to fill vacancies in the Landwehr. It may be taken for granted that no German troops upon whom this last-mentioned duty may possibly devolve will be allowed to remain without proper preparation; so that, even if we assume that the men who have passed through the army will need no further practice after they are thirty-two, there is not much doubt that those who have not passed through the army will be subjected to whatever training is required to fit them for foreign service. The effect of this new legislation will therefore be, first, to lengthen every man's liability to military service by eight years, and those between thirty-two and forty in other words, the best of his life; and secondly, to abolish the greater number of the exemptions which have hitherto been enjoyed on one ground or another by many men under thirty-two. For the present, it appears, only 300,000 out of the 1,000,000 comprised in one or other of these categories are to be organized. But the sense of insecurity will be imparted to all. No young man will in future be able to look forward to thirty-two as to the age after which, even if he is most unlucky, he cannot be called on to leave his home. Wherever marriage has been delayed until the period of liability to serve in the Landwehr is over, it will now become a question whether it ought not in prudence to be delayed until after the period of liability to serve in the Landsturm is also over. Where a man has postponed investing his capital in trade until he could feel sure that he would not be called off from attending to his business by the exigencies of military law, he will now have to calculate whether the prolongation of the risk is a sufficient reason for postponing the investment still further. Probably in both the decision will be to take no account of the new obligation—at all events, until the first Landsturm battalion has been sent off to replace an invalidated battalion. But the sense that such questions have to be considered will remain, and with it the feeling of the excessive burlesqueness of life under the imperial rule. Again, in so far as the organization of the Landsturm constitutes an effective addition to the military strength of Germany, it must involve a corresponding addition to the taxation of the country. This addition will, in part, take the most costly of all forms of taxation—contribution of personal service. Not only will the profits of all trades be dimin-

ished by the necessity of paying the expenses of the Landsturm, but the productive power of all trades will be diminished by the diversion of the labour which would otherwise be engaged in carrying them on. The financial crisis will be hurried at both ends—Germany—especially Prussia is a poor country, and consequently can ill afford these fresh inroads upon her resources.

THE CLOSING ARGUMENTS IN THE TRIAL OF COUNT VON ARNIM.

PERLIN, Dec. 14.—In the Von Arnim trial today the Public Prosecutor made the speech for the Crown. He declared the Count had been guilty of bad faith, and his statements were unworthy of credit. He argued that the Count purposely abstracted the documents and never had any intention of returning them. The revelations communicated to the *Vienne Presse* were intended to be used as weapons for a campaign against Prince Bismarck; but the accused retreated almost before the attack was commenced. The echo of the assassin's shot at Kis ingen was too much for him. The offence was without extenuation, and was aggravated by the rank of the Count. Nevertheless, concluded the prosecutor, the Government would refrain from demanding deprivation of civil rights.

Houze-dorf, counsel for the defence, argued that even if all the charges were admitted an acquittal was unavoidable on purely legal grounds. It could not be maintained that the Crown had any proprietary right in the missing documents. The accused, in his conflict with Bismarck, considered that he was defending his honor.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Intense feeling has been aroused in France by some of the papers read in the Arnim trial. One despatch especially, in which Bismarck says he cannot but wish to see France weak, and seems it unadvisable to strengthen her by contributing to the establishment of the monarchy, causes profound indignation.

WAR STATISTICS.

M. Chenu, medical inspector general of the French Army, whose statistical and clinical observations on the Crimean and Italian campaigns were exceedingly valuable, has published a similar work on the last war. He reports the losses sustained by the French to have been as follows:—Killed, disabled, or died of wounds and diseases, 138,871; wounded by the enemy's fire, 143,000; men disabled by marching, 11,421; 11,911 missing and treated as dead. These figures include 2881 officers killed or who died of wounds and disease, and 95 missing, with 17,240 prisoners who died in Germany, 1701 in Switzerland, and 124 in Belgium. While 17,240 deaths, then, occurred in captivity, only 1223 soldiers were killed at Gravelotte, the bloodiest battle of the war. The German losses were:—Killed or died of wounds and disease, 40,741; missing and treated as dead, 4000; wounded, 127,897. To these have to be added 1795 killed, 6930 wounded, and 1539 missing in skirmishes, patrols, and slight engagements. The Germans had 41,000 deaths, the French 138,871, the Prussians 127,000 wounded, the French 143,000. The French had 14,421 men disabled by *plaies de marche*—through defective socks, boots, and gaiters while the Germans suffered but little from this cause. M. Chenu shows that in the Crimea and Italy, as well as in the last war, disease was more fatal than the sword, this being partly attributable to commissariat, outfit, and hospital shortcomings.

WINNIPEG FIELD BATTERY.

This Battery was inspected on Thursday evening 26th Nov. by Lt. Col. W. Osborne Smith, D.A.G., District No. 10, who was accompanied by Captain Tschereu and Lt. Cotton of the Dominion Artillery. The Battery mustered sixty officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The force were complimented by the Deputy Adjutant General for their efficiency in drill and on the state of their guns and equipment. The following extract from the order book of the Battery is highly complimentary to both officers and men:—

HEAD QUARTERS,

Military District No. 10.

Winnipeg, 27th November, 1874.

Extract from District Orders:

No. 3. The officer commanding the district desires to record the gratification he experienced at the highly creditable annual inspection passed by the Winnipeg Field Battery yesterday.

The proficiency exhibited in drill both with the mountain howitzers, and small arms, was, considering the limited training this corps has had, most satisfactory and reflect very favourably on the pains which must have been taken by the Instructor, Lieutenant Young.

The Non-Commissioned Officers and men were steady under arms, and their general appearance was clean and soldierly.

Continuous attention to their drill cannot fail to make this corps equal to any Volunteer Militia Battery in the sister provinces.

WM OSBORNE SMITH,

D. A. G. Commanding Dominion Forces, North-West—*Manitoba Gazette*.

AN IRON STEAMSHIP IMBEDDED IN THE SAND OF THE ROMER SHOAL.

The steamer August André, Capt. Greer, from Antwerp, with fifteen passengers and a general cargo consigned to Funch, Edge & Co., arrived off Sandy Hook on Saturday night. In trying to enter the Swash Channel she ran on the southwest end of the Romer Shoal, two miles north of Sandy Hook wharf. She settled in the sand, and all efforts to pull her off were unavailing. Yesterday morning the tug H. W. Crawford took off the passengers, twelve of whom are Sisters of Charity. They were taken to St. Peter's Hospital in Hicks street, Brooklyn.

The ship pounded all night on the shoal. Lighters and tugs were sent to her relief. Four tugs of the Coast Wrecking Company worked until 3.30 P.M., but still she remained imbedded in the sand. The high wind at length forced the tugs and lighters to seek a place of safety at the Sandy Hook Railroad wharf.

The André is an iron vessel of 1512 tons. She was built last spring for the White Cross Line Antwerp trade. This is her fourth trip to New York.

The French Academy of Science, it is announced, are about to consider the propriety of adopting the meridian of Greenwich, which is already recognized by the other nations of the continent, in lieu of that of Paris. The meridian would touch the French soil at Trouville, and, in the event of the Government sanctioning the change, a column would be erected on the spot.