

in one particular system, in which it is essential that we should imitate Prussia, viz., keeping, not making our army essentially aristocratic,—a disregard of the leading characteristics of that successful military nation has been displayed; not necessarily by the abolition of purchase, but by the non-introduction of a system which would be in harmony with the views of our aristocracy. By the adoption of such a system, we should not only please the admirers of Prussia but would smooth the ruffles of the adherents to the old plan of obtaining officers.

The object of this paper being only to make public the topic which forms the subject of this short article, it is not now intended to enter upon the discussion of any perspective system; but merely to hint at the propriety of quartering line regiments in the Counties from which they are named, and of creating between them and the militia of those Counties intimate relations. Those regiments which do not already possess a County title might easily have one conferred on them, or, if good reasons exist for it, a national title might be given to certain regiments as in the case of the 1st "The Royal Regiment" which has been permitted by Her Majesty to resume the title by which it was distinguished from 1812–21, viz.: "The Royal Scots Regiment." The idea might be entertained of selecting for each regiment officers from the County after which the battalion is called, (not all the officers, but a certain proportion, as some gentlemen might not wish to join the regiment of their own County) thus establishing a cordial feeling and local "esprit de corps" similar to that which characterized the conduct, and accounted for the unanimity of action, of the officers of each regiment of the Prussian army during the war. Are not these expedients in conformity with British views and British wishes? Thus acceptance would necessitate but little alteration in the rules laid down for the subsequent practical military training of officers. Speaking of British wishes in connection with our army, and adding that every army has its idiosyncrasy and national characteristics, a reference to General Trochu's "*L'Armée Française en 1867*," may not be considered inapplicable. General Trochu writes with esteem of the British army, and quotes Marshal Bugeaud's familiar saying "The British infantry is the most formidable in the world; happily there is not much of it." But the General (Trochu) adds "that as armies faithfully represent the merits and defects of their respective nations, they must be governed and organized on their own distinct principles." Let us therefore, in the selection of our officers, be guided by those principles which will please the national taste, and should we see any characteristic in another army which could with advantage be applied to our own, let us by all means adopt it.

With regard to military training our officers are certainly deficient in this respect, but they are not to blame, they are quite willing to learn and improve themselves; what they require is directing power in each branch. The habits and occupations of our officers peculiarly adapt them for warfare. Lieut. Col. Bray, of the 4th King's Own Royal Regiment, who visited Prussia in 1868, with other officers, for the purpose of witnessing field manœuvres, was greatly impressed with