

militia men take a great interest and pride in their warriors' gear, and their bravery has been so often tried and proved that they have a right to be proud. Of course as they took an interest in their work they did it well. They were dressed precisely as regular troops, the wisdom of which may be doubted. Militia men can never come up to regular troops in discipline and machine-like movement, but in their own peculiar way they may do equally good service. Better to keep each arm of the service separate and distinct—having its own style of warfare and its own distinctive dress and equipment. At least such is my opinion. But if any respectable general officer, who has had an opportunity of judging, will tell me that I know nothing about it, I do not pledge myself to stand obstinately by what I have said.

What may be the number of the whole body of militia of the Channel Islands, I do not know, but it must very nearly correspond with the number of able bodied inhabitants. The following extract from an authority on the subject, shews that few are exempted from service :

‘The political constitution of Jersey, Guernsey, and the smaller Islands of the group, requires that every man from sixteen to sixty shall serve gratuitously either in a military or civil capacity, and frequently in both. Parochial officers are by this means supplied in easy and constant succession, and the recruiting of the militia becomes a mere automatic system, more comprehensive even than conscription, for registers of births furnish an inexhaustible supply of raw material for the manufacture of soldiers. None are exempt from personal service but persons affected with congenital or acquired infirmity ; and not even these until they have undergone the ordeal of a medical board composed of militia surgeons, all private practitioners, who are allowed the option of serving in their professional capacity or shouldering a musket—an alternative not allowed to their brethren in England by the provisions of the Militia Bill.’

The population of Guernsey is about 30,000. Its form is triangular. It is thirty miles in circumference ; its extreme length is about nine and a half miles, and its breadth about four miles. It is one hundred and twenty miles from Southampton, and twenty-eight from Jersey. It is almost entirely of granite formation, and it exports large quantities of this rock, which is of a superior quality. Guernsey shirts are no longer made in Guernsey. The shipping in 1839 consisted of one hundred vessels averaging a hundred tons each. The Royal Court of Guernsey has jurisdiction over all the other Islands except Jersey. The population of these small islets, however, does not probably amount to more than two thousand souls.

All around the coast of Guernsey the marine herb or algæ, called in all the Islands *vaie*, is very abundant. This seaweed, which is used both as fuel and manure is of the greatest value to the farmers, and of the utmost importance to the poor fishermen, who being unable to afford coal or wood for the winter, depend upon this for firing, and sell the ashes for manure. So important is this article in the Island, (and in Jersey also) that certain restrictions,