

which most commonly actuate its members; and war as now carried on is certainly among the last vocations which are entitled to be called honorable.

In fine, let us keep aloof from and refuse to listen to those men in whose writings on the "Defence of Canada," we find expressions advocating a standing army, *e.g.*: *a small permanently embodied force; the nucleus of an army; the careful training of a small force; the prospect of honorable employment connected with the profession of arms; a military career after a military education; permanent nuclei; a small force, well trained, and officered by men who have learned their profession.*

But in concluding the observations which we have to offer on this branch of the subject, we feel bound to suggest an important caution. Let not the cause of peace be injured by the assertion of extreme and indefensible principles. We particularly refer to the principle that war is absolutely, and in all possible cases, unlawful, and prohibited by Christianity. This doctrine is considered by a great majority of the judicious and enlightened as endangering the best interests of society. War, as it is commonly waged, is indeed a tremendous evil; *but national subjugation is a greater evil than a war of defence*; and a community seems to us to possess an indisputable right to take up arms when all other means have failed, for the security of its existence or freedom. It is universally admitted that a community may employ force to repress the rapacity and violence of its own citizens, to disarm and restrain its internal foes; and on what ground can we deny to it the right of repelling the inroads and aggressions of a foreign power? If a government may not lawfully resist a foreign army invading its territory to desolate and subdue, on what principles can we justify resistance to a combination of its own citizens for the same injurious purpose? Government is instituted for the very purpose of protecting the community from all violence, no matter by what hands it may be offered; and rulers would be unfaithful to their trust, were they to abandon the rights, inter-