

there any man of sense who believes that even the severe discipline of Prussian armies, admirable though in many respects it may be, might not, if it could be imposed upon British soldiers, produce more of loss than of gain? It has not always been a simple advantage even to Germans. The army that marched to Jena inherited the traditions and the training of Frederick the Great. It was believed, not only by Germans but by many foreign critics, to be the finest body of soldiers existing in Europe. At Jena the German army was completely beaten. This is comparatively nothing, for the armies, even of Rome, suffered many defeats. The important matter is that the German army was for the moment panic-struck, though it consisted of officers and men as full of personal courage as are their descendants of to-day. Nor is this panic strange. Soldiers trained to be part of a great machine are often perplexed and confused when the machine is damaged or broken up. Any training, further, which diminished the hearty goodwill between our officers and soldiers might well be purchased at too high a price. So also might any discipline which taught men strictly to obey orders, but did not leave them enough of individuality to act for themselves when no orders came. What every one must be anxious to secure is that we should not, in the legitimate desire to free Englishmen from some recognized defects, forget that freedom with all its possible errors, has on the whole been the source of English greatness, and has been the spirit which has built up the British Empire. It is as certain as anything can be which concerns the future, that, even when the war comes to an end, the United Kingdom, and indeed the British Empire, may well have for years to maintain military