

amass wealth, a high standard of honour, decision, determination, and patience under hardships. "Against such there is no law."

But I shall be told that military life and war brutalize the soldier; that the fine qualities I have enumerated are accompanied by a hardness, a savagery, which cancels their value in a modern civilization. I could raise the objection that these defects would have no time to develop in the very slight time which the ordinary Canadian will ever devote to military training. But I will not; I take stronger ground and express my strong doubts of the truth of the whole charge. So far as my own slight experience goes, the soldier is fully as humane as the civilian. If I may cite my own case, the experience of a few months' campaigning made me more, not less, sensitive to the great issues of life and death. In the actual conduct of warfare, professional soldiers are more humane than amateurs. I have heard colonial soldiers decry the practice of granting quarter in the heat of an assault—the British regular in South Africa was conspicuous for an almost foolish generosity in action. Both the Peninsular War and the American Civil War afford instances which go to show that as soldiers gain in experience of battle they grow averse to needless shedding of blood, such as the purposeless shooting of sentries.

Leaving this side issue, there is the very practical aspect of the case that war is a possibility and may prove unavoidable. The only way to avoid defeat is to prepare. We must consider not only the attitude of the state but our own personal attitude. Shall we face the possibility best by schooling ourselves to shrink from war, by dreading it as an unspeakable calamity, so that we should enter it unnerved, terrified, and ready to flinch? or by looking at it soberly, resolutely in the face, not desiring it, not fearing it? We must remember that there is now extant a Literature of Cowardice; that one of the recognized forms of American magazine story is the portrayal of a man in fear, so handled as to make his lack of courage seem normal, interesting, pardonable, and even