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(2) That this doctrine logically carries with it another—that of “the primacy of the Navy,” as Mr. Wilkinson has named it. This has been long admitted, but is unquestionably not acted upon as it should be, and it is probably in the vigorous assertion of this doctrine that effort can be most usefully expended at the present moment. We are now devoting to the Navy and Army on a normal footing the enormous sum of eighty-two millions a year; of this fifty-one millions go to the Army and only thirty-one millions to the Navy. Even after making every allowance for the necessities of our Indian Empire there remains a disproportion which is indefensible. It is difficult to trace it to its origin: it may be that inferior tools are always more expensive than good ones; and the Army as an instrument is unquestionably the less well designed of the two: or it may be that the Army has more direct touch with the class of men who fill our Cabinets, and is able to obtain preferential treatment from Chancellors of the Exchequer: whatever the cause the fact is there, and it is significantly paralleled by the extravagance of life in a smart regiment as compared with the standard of living in the older and more efficient service. The primacy of the Navy is violated by this disproportion: Mr. Wilkinson put the matter strongly, but aroused no sign of anything but approval when he said that “those who were thinking about these questions looked to the Government not to treat the Army and the Navy as two establishments which had equal claims, but to let the Admiralty give to the Government its strategical theory of what the Navy required to make us secure, and then to leave what was left over for the War Office.” Sir Charles Dilke, who followed, added the significant comment that this “could only be done by a Revolution in Army Reform.”

(3) The third point was the co-ordination of the two Services for the purpose of national defence. An amendment to the Address had been drafted, dealing with this question: but it was announced that it had been abandoned in consequence of Mr. Balfour's recent statement as to the proposed