

mere vacant waste, but a field for ugly and noxious weeds. Knowing nothing beyond the pleasures of sense, they will sink therein and never know that there are pleasures much keener, much more exciting, and much more lasting, than any which can attach to mere carnal gratification.

To those again who would form an idea of the difference between a professional education and the liberal preliminaries which have been chiefly intended to be given here, I would reply in the words of another :—

Put the case, says he, of a boy of a weakly constitution and effeminate habits, and suppose that family connections and interest make it seem desirable that he should enter the army, and that he is committed to the care of some one, an old soldier if you like, who professes to prepare him for his military career.

At the end of four or five years, when he ought to obtain his Commission, his father may think it right to inquire into his fitness for his profession.

“ Have you studied tactics ?” No Sir.

“ Have you studied gunnery ?” No Sir.

“ Are you perfect in the last instructions issued by the Horse Guards for the manœuvres of cavalry ?” I have never seen them Sir.

“ Have you learnt the broad sword exercise ?” No.

“ Can you put a Company through their drill ?” No.

“ Have you practised platoon firing ?” No.

“ Can you even fix a bayonet on a musket ?” I have never tried, Sir.

After such an examination, we may suppose the father expostulating indignantly with the veteran under whose care his son has been left; the latter might reply :—“ Sir, when you entrusted your son to my care he was weak and sickly—he had little appetite, and