

“most loyal Parliament for a Mutiny Bill. A soldier, therefore, by knocking down his colonel incurred only the ordinary penalties of assault and battery, and by refusing to obey orders, by sleeping on guard, or by deserting his colours, incurred no legal penalty at all.”

Let us trust that the discipline of our despised militia in the Provinces is not worse.

Macaulay's description of the Navy is almost as ludicrous:—“The naval administration was a prodigy of wastefulness, corruption, ignorance and indolence, no estimate could be trusted, no contract was performed, no check was enforced.”

But to return to the Army. There was “no regiment of Artillery, no Sappers and Miners.”

Surely we are not much worse than this in the Provinces? Hear Dryden's description of the militia of England in the reign of James the Second:—

“The country rings around with war's alarms,  
And now in fields the rude militia swarms.  
Mouths, without hands, maintained at vast expense,  
In peace a charge, in war a weak defence;  
Stout once a month they march, a blust'ring band,  
And ever, but in time of need, at hand.  
This was the morn, when hast'ning to the guard,  
Drawn up in rank and file they stood prepared  
Of seeming arms to make a show essay,  
Then hast'ning to be drunk, the business of the day.”

Here, then, are the militia of England described by her poets and historians at a time when England had nearly double the population of Canada. With