

legal or artificial barriers to those natural ones which oppose, only too successfully, the elevation of the lower classes in such countries ; still, so long as they continue in force, it is simply absurd to ignore the actual diversities in training, talent and temperament, which separate the extreme grades.

I do not presume, therefore, to offer any criticisms upon the constitution of the British army,—all that I desire to draw attention to is—the manifest differences between such states of society and that now subsisting in Canada—the comparatively trifling distinctions between the various classes here—the superior position of even the humblest orders of our population compared with that of the class from which the majority of the British troops must be drawn,—and more especially to point out the necessity, consequent on these facts, of making very considerable alterations in the British system before we can obtain a corps which would be modeled as much in accordance with our customs as an English regiment is with those of English life.

It casts no slur whatever upon the British soldier when I say, that in a country where every sober and industrious man may reasonably reckon on becoming an independent land owner before he dies, greater inducements may be fairly expected by and held out to the soldier than in one in which hundreds of thousands of hard-working men must pass through life with no more exalted hope than just escaping the work-house at its close. But, be this as it may, and whatever Englishmen may find to urge against this part of my argument, I feel convinced that few of them will be inclined to dispute the converse of the proposition above set forth, namely, that since in Canada we are, as yet, quite without any order of nobility, or even of landed gentry in the English sense of the term, it must be admitted that the class from which our officers would naturally be selected, stands several degrees lower in relative social position than that to which most British officers may be supposed to belong, although