

very influential distinction, it would be almost necessary to go into the whole merits of the case, as embodied in the carefully digested *Prospectus*, published and circulated by me, now 19 years ago, at great trouble and expense; but that being impossible, I may be allowed to observe, that considering the great National importance of the subject, it might be desirable to have the pamphlet re-printed in London, for general circulation; and were I in Britain I would willingly do so; but comparatively in the dark as I must be in this distant land, it would be folly in me to attempt it. All, therefore, that I can do is to throw out the suggestion, and to offer up, at the same time, my fervent prayer for the success of the noble work in agitation.

With regard to the remarks of your Correspondent, "A Soldier,"—quoted as writing that "he can most distinctly vouch for the fact that *an Institution*, for the education of children of Officers of the Army, was discussed constantly in the Garrison of Woolwich so long ago as 1822, and that therefore Major Lachlan must go farther back than 18 years, if he claims the merit of the suggestion,"—it is only necessary to state, that I also "can most distinctly vouch for the fact," that I was serving with my Regiment in India at the time mentioned by him, and could therefore know nothing of what was then passing in Woolwich Garrison; and that though I came to England in the following year, and was quartered in the neighbouring Garrison of Chatham, I never heard of anything of the kind; and that, in fact, I brought the idea with me from India—not as altogether new—but, from having for many years witnessed the blissful results of a somewhat similar Institution, as far as Orphans are concerned, most successfully supported by my brother Officers of the Hon. E. I. Co.'s Service on the Bengal Establishment. I may also add that I can produce documents to prove that my project was in progress from the moment of my return to England, and that the rough draft of the *Prospectus* was actually in the possession of Sir Herbert Taylor, Private Secretary to His late Majesty William IV, for more than 9 months, in 1831-2, and that I have reason to believe that it was seen, and favourably regarded by that Monarch.

Should the above not be sufficient to re-establish my claim to being, at the very least, the original proposer of the Great National Institution alluded to, I must leave it to others to do me justice; and shall in the mean time rest content with looking back upon my humble exertions in so excellent a cause with unalloyed satisfaction, and at the same time looking forward with ardent hope to the ultimate modification and adaptation of its general outline and principles to some equally noble educational Institution, destined to prove a lasting benefit and blessing to the offspring of the Officers of the whole British Army.

Trusting to the importance of the subject pleading my excuse for having, in this remote land, trespassed so much on your space, I for the present confidently leave to you and other talented writers on the spot, the successful advocacy of the great object now so happily revived.

Yours, &c., &c.,

R. LACHLAN,
Late Major 17th Regt.