

know how to train soldiers while in garrison nor how to lead them in the field, such a man will never accomplish great things, if he is not himself a military leader, even although he were a most intellectual and a most skillful statesman. Unreservedly, the King of Prussia must make war his principal study and inspire the zeal of those who have chosen the noble and dangerous profession of arms.

Prussia is surrounded by mighty neighbors. You must, therefore, be prepared to face many wars. From this there follows that the military in Prussia must occupy the first position even as was the case with the old conquering Romans during the period of their ascendancy, and as was also the case in Sweden, when Gustavus Adolphus, when Charles X and Charles XII filled the world with their fame and the glory of Sweden's name penetrated into the remotest lands. Offices, honors, and rewards conferred each in turn, stimulate and inspire talent. Praise bestowed for merit arcuses noble emulation in the heart of the nobility, encourages its members to enter the profession of arms, to acquire knowledge and leads them to distinction and fortune. To show contempt toward officers and to require of them at the same time that they serve with honor, is a paradox. You must encourage a profession which forms the power of the kingdom; you must respect the pillars of the state (if I may so express myself with regard to that profession), and prefer it to the effeminate and weak-hearted race of men who are only fit as a decoration for an ante-chamber. . . .

Finally I venture to assert that the ruler himself alone can introduce and maintain this wonderful discipline in the army. For he must frequently assert his authority; some he must blame severely without distinction of person or rank; others he must reward liberally; he must, as frequently as possible, review the troops and he must not allow the slightest negligence to escape his attention. The King of Prussia must, therefore, of necessity be a soldier and the commander-in-chief. . . .¹

To make one's self respected and feared by one's neighbors is the very summit of high politics. One may attain this object in two ways: first, to have real power and actual resources; second, to know how to make the most of one's available strength. We are not within the first case. For this reason I have neglected nothing that might put me in the second case. There are powers that imagine that an embassy must always be carried on with great pomp. . . .

¹ Bolz, *Ausgewählte Werke Friedrichs des Grossen* (Berlin, 1916), vol. 2, pp. 69-71.