

After describing the powerful, well appointed, and finely disciplined armies kept up by the leading powers of Europe in the reign of Charles the Second, Macaulay says :—" In our island, on the contrary, " it was possible to live long and to travel far, without " being reminded by any martial sight or sound " that the defence of nations had become a science " and a calling. The majority of Englishmen, who " were under twenty-five years of age, had probably " never seen a company of regular soldiers. The " only army which the law recognized was the " militia. The whole number of cavalry and infantry thus maintained was popularly estimated " at a hundred and thirty thousand men. (Not half the militia of Canada.)

These militiamen received no pay, except when called into actual service. Macaulay describes them as " Ploughmen officered by justices of the peace."

By degrees Charles got together a few regiments of troops; but the regular army, as late as 1685, did not consist, all ranks included, of above seventeen thousand foot, and about seventeen hundred cavalry and dragoons, not a great many more, it would appear, than the militia officers of Canada. The discipline was lax, and could not be otherwise. " The common law of England knew nothing of " courts martial, and made no distinction in time of " peace between a soldier and any other subject; " nor could the Government then venture to ask the