

To the Editor of the NAVAL AND MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—My attention having been drawn to a "Notice to Correspondents," in your Number of the 23rd ultimo, relating to the proposed Wellington Testimonial, coupled with a paragraph in your previous Number on the same subject, in both of which I find myself personally alluded to, I trust I may be permitted to claim such space in your columns as will enable me to advert to both.*

With respect to the latter, as first in date, there must be many old Officers still living, who can vouch for the fact of my being able to claim the merit—if any—of having truly been the originator of "The Great National Institution" therein alluded to; and of this unquestionable evidence will also be found in the files of your own and the *United Service Journal* of February and March, 1834, in both of which my project was freely discussed, and (I gratefully remember) powerfully advocated, until objections were raised by a vitally influential individual, which induced me to abandon all further agitation of the matter during the life of the late illustrious Commander-in-Chief. Suffice it to add, on this head, that I adhered to my resolution; but that, being providentially the survivor, the subject has been revived in a high and auspicious quarter since the Duke of Wellington's lamented decease; and that I am led to cherish a hope that the happy result may be an amalgamation of the very meritorious and philanthropic, though minor project, intended to be honored with the name of "The Wellington Testimonial," with the far more extended and comprehensive, yet congenial Institution planned by me, by which a truly noble fabric will, ere long, be perfected, that will be found alike worthy of the august patronage of our beloved Sovereign, of the great name of the Illustrious Chief whose irreparable loss the nation now deplores, and of the cordial acceptance, and hearty permanent support of every Officer of the British Army.

You may perceive, from the foregoing observations, that I take it for granted, that, however excellent the Institution of late proposed may be, so far as it goes, it must be regarded, at best, as a limited eleemosynary endowment, or, in other words, a *Charity School*, for the reception of a certain number of, say 100 Officers' Orphans, confined to one sex only; whereas, the great educational and benevolent Institution projected by me,—embracing at least 1,000 children of both sexes,—was to be mainly based on a proud, *self-supporting* principle, the benefits of which every British Officer might *claim* for his children, without any mortification of his feelings, either "as an Officer or a gentleman,"

To enable the general reader to understand thoroughly this nice yet

* The paragraph here particularly alluded to, consisted of the following extract from "Notice to Correspondents" in the Naval and Military Gazette, of 22d January, 1853:—

"A SOLDIER" writes—"I can most distinctly vouch for the fact, that the foundation of an Institution for the education of Officers of the Army was discussed constantly in the Garrison of Woolwich so long back as 1822; and that, therefore, Major Lachlan must go further back than 18 years if he claims the merit of the suggestion. As to connecting the Institution with the name of Wellington that is another affair." We said last week that Major Lachlan published a pamphlet on the subject 18 years ago, but if our recollection does not mislead us, we had conversation with him on the subject of his plan many years before; and further, that it was discussed in our columns."