

progress and vital good of the people they govern. In the mental as well as in the terrestrial atmosphere, all winds are not fair winds; and when statesmen have to contend with an ill-instructed public opinion, inflated by fanaticism, or swayed by political passion, their responsibility is one of no ordinary character. With a full fair breeze, on the other hand, the ruler's task becomes so easy that he has but to spread sufficient canvas, and keep his vessel well before the wind, to insure a rapid voyage and triumphant entrance into the desired haven. Who can doubt that the people of this Dominion of Canada are now possessed with an unanimity of desire touching the great subject of Military organization and Militia reformation? Exclude those who repudiate armies, but suggest no practicable substitute for settling the disputes—the inevitable disputes—of nations, and there remains a mighty mass of consentient humanity. Respecting the question of our defences, indeed, something very like a steady gale of public opinion is blowing—and the statesmen now at the helm have a splendid opportunity of earning the lasting gratitude of the country if they will only adopt measures, full and fair, for satisfying this most reasonable, this most legitimate desire of the Canadian people.

Vast masses of the people never think, cannot think for themselves, but blindly follow some leader or party to whom, as the result of accident, education or self-interest, they have proffered their allegiance. What those leaders advise they commend and follow, no matter whither the policy tends. Hence it is that many thoughtful men are desirous of detaching our Militia matters as much as possible from politics. We should like to see the Militia Department conducted on principles independent of all personal and party control, so that the Minister of Militia would not have to create or reform, to increase or diminish, in connexion with the politics of his party, but simply to administer the service on a system approved by the best authorities and determined beforehand by Parliament. In this way the united pa-