

has been long tried and has stood the rudest test. The lapse of ages tends only to invigorate and render it more effective. It is through its excellence, under God, that an inconsiderable Island has acquired the resources, energy and strength, of the mightiest Continental Empire. It is an honor to be born under it,—a blessing to live under it,—and a glory to defend and support it. The Civil Servants were imbued with this feeling, and felt it a peculiar duty to the Government that they at least ought to set an example to their fellow men, by offering to support it, not only by Civil Service, but military duties. An impetus was given by the following fact, to the life and drilling of the corps; on the 8th of November the Captain of an United States man-of-war, ordered a round shot to be fired across the bows of a regularly subsidized English Mail Steamer, then on her way from the island of Cuba, in the dominions of Spain, to a British port. She was boarded by an armed force from the American, which seized and examined her mails, a lieutenant possessed himself of such part as he deemed fit for his ends, and took from the *Trent* four of her passengers, and carried them to the United States where they were consigned to a dungeon. The rights of England, as well as those of the persons taken from the steamer, were well covered and laid down by international law. Two courses were left open to Great Britain to follow,—one leading to ignominy—the other, the old honourable path that has brought our country safe through every difficulty to the pinnacle of