

assimilated the penalty, by directing the corporal to be severely reprimanded. Here was even-handed justice, and under such a system, I maintain that insubordination cannot exist.

Drunkenness is the fruitful source of every crime committed in the British army. Strike at the root of the evil, and insubordination becomes a mere phantom. Soldiers, if properly managed, and acting under the influence and encouragement of good example, will soon perceive the superior advantages of sober, steady habits; but the fable of the "feasting the shepherds and the wolf" must not be reduced to practice: they must not witness in their superiors, excesses which are denied to themselves. Let every regiment be one great temperate meeting—abolish canteens, for with what color of justice can you punish a man for drinking liquor, when you place it in the centre of the barrack square for the express purpose of being sold to him? and having thus laid the foundation of sound morality, you may purchase books and open schools to some purpose.

In conclusion, I wish to observe that what I have stated in relation to excessively severe punishments—to one-sided systems of legislation, and to unfair decisions of unsworn Courts, has reference to remote periods of our military history, far beyond the experience of any soldier serving in the present army. No officer under the rank of Colonel can have any knowledge of the subject, except by consulting the public records of his regiment.

Were it my business to pass through the garrisons and quarters of the British army at the present day, and "unfold the interior to exterior light," I might exhibit a far more pleasing picture, sullied only by one single blot,—the last remnant of a barbarous system—practically, I am happy to say, in many regiments long since exploded; but there hangs the foul vestige, and so long as it remains, a feeling of self humiliation will retain possession of every good soldier's breast, which certainly cannot be considered an advantage to the service.

As I cannot subscribe to the opinion that refractory behaviour, originating in drink, or casual squabbles between non-commissioned officers and privates, constitute insubordination; so neither do I admit that a solitary instance of severity, although unfortunately resulting in the death of a fellow creature, can be regarded as an indication of the existence of systematic cruelty. It is a melancholy accident, which, despite all human prudence and foresight, must sometimes happen in the best regulated army; and I deny that any army in the world is better managed, particularly as regards the comfort and advantage of the soldier, than the present military force of Great Britain.