

me or assistance. The functions to which the physician and surgeon have hitherto been trained are those of curing diseases and healing wounds. No one feels a natural prepossession at first sight for something that is to supersede his science and accomplish the object of his labours by other means. Without any ill feeling to the world, the votary of the curing art has his heart's affections on difficult and instructive cases; and the humane hospital-surgeon will feel a private sorrow in contemplating an array of empty wards. The medical department of the army has endured some obloquy, because its surgical officers have not also been sanitary officers. But the function was out of the routine of their duties, and there was no warrant or authority for the undertaking if they desired it. No doubt, as Sir James Hall explains it, the regimental or inspecting surgeon would have something to say about the salubrity of quarters or the site of an intrenchment, yet these are functions merely incidental to the staple duty of such an officer among the sick and wounded. They are not functions in which he has either power or responsibility; and it depends on his relations with the officers in command, whether any suggestions he makes will be listened to. In private life, indeed, the consulting physician, whose patient calls him in for an opinion on the drainage of his house, or an analysis of the water in the pump, or even for his views about the neighbouring fen or graveyard, might not feel gratified by the compliment so paid to his enlightened views, and his advancement with the spirit of the age. The sanitary function has yet to be defined and adjusted. How readily it may come to the hands of the medical officer, was shown some years ago, though an ingenious adjustment which it once created the transformation on shipboard. The mortality among Government emigrants to distant colonies, and among penal transportees to Australia, had become alarming. It was suggested that the shortest remedy was to pay for their passage, not by the number shipped, but by the number delivered alive. The contractors now took an altered view of the term of their contract: formerly it had been to supply so much ship room and provisions, now it was a contract to keep people alive, fortified by a penalty on each death. The surgeon, instead of merely physicking the sick and treating sores and wounds, was converted into a sanitary officer, who looked keenly to the ventilation of the ship, the salubrity of the food, and even the habits, generally, of the passengers, as promotive of health or of disease. They were not to be permitted to deteriorate their condition; it was equivalent, to allowing them to cheat the contractors. A signal decrease in the mortality of such passengers was the result.

The practical conclusion of the Commissioners on this point is well put in following short statement; "In civil life, sanitary science as yet is neither much studied nor widely spread, nor has the value of its practical application to the ordinary conditions of life, obtained any very general acquiescence. While the tendency to fuse together the practice of medicine and surgery has thrown almost the whole practice of the country (except that of the great towns) into the hands of the general practitioner, a subdivision of labour of another kind has simultaneously been gaining ground in the medical profession. The study of sanitary science has been taken up as a speciality, and the field has been abandoned by the mass of the profession, to be exclusively occupied by those who so study it. The names of those eminent in either branch are perfectly well known to the public, who employ the one or the other according as they want individual sickness prevented. It is rare to send for the health officer to treat sickness or to employ the eminent practising physician or surgeon to drain a town or to guard a district against the approach of cholera. The fusion between the medical and surgical specialties in the army medical department even more complete than in the civil profession; and if efficient sanitary officers are to be obtained, it will be by the encouragement offered by Government to the army medical officers to make themselves thoroughly masters of the specialties of that branch of the medical art, and its practice application.

They propose that a special sanitary officer should be attached to the Quarter-master-General's department of every army in the field. As the watcher over all preven-

tionable causes of disease or death, the functions of such an officer will range beyond drainage and ventilation, and even the salubrity of the foods and liquors. As a brief summary of the elements of morbid evil permitted to operate upon our force in the Crimea, we shall take from the report of Mr. Neill and Tulloch a paragraph, of which we have no doubt the terms were well weighed and carefully revised before the document was issued. Observing that the returns of sickness and mortality relate to matters beyond the region of their inquiry, they say, "But the morality in the Crimea has been too remarkable not to excite a strong desire to ascertain, if possible, its causes. The medical evidence appears conclusively against attributing it to anything peculiarly unfavourable in the climate; and all the officers of whatever rank or profession, whom we examined, referred to overwork, improper diet, exposure to cold and moisture, with deficient shelter, inadequate clothing, and defective boots, as the causes of disease. Some of the witnesses appeared to attribute greater influence to one of these causes, some to another; but there can be no doubt that the mortality was the effect, not of any one cause apart from the others, but of a combination of the whole."

Let us count one of these causes of mortality, the "overwork," among the sacrifices cheerfully and heroically made by the soldier: there was an end to be gained by it which neither quartermaster nor commissary could achieve. We had a wide-extended front and a thin line, and overwork must make up for the deficiency of numbers. But the other causes were deficiencies in things due to the soldier—due by our engagement with him to go where he went to fight our battles; and the bargain was not kept with him. Wh shall say no more on a matter which we thoroughly discussed while it was yet fresh.

In conclusion, let us drop for the reader's consideration a few thoughts upon the question, whether it is decent and just, wise and generous, that our country should be given to the practice of maligning the mass of its soldiery as a kind of pariah class, when estimated with the rest of the citizens of the British empire. It is true that we uphold their fame in all comparison with foreign troops. They are the only men who will stand to be cut down at their post; they are the only troops who can be trusted in lines against columns, or who can be handled in small detachments close to a hostile army. Dupin criticises as a peculiar nationality the superb arrogance with which our statesmen and generals have ever spoken of auxiliaries and foreign mercenaries when engaged in the same operations with British troops, comparing their combination to the mixing of gold with the baser metals. Of late years the national boast has been better grounded than ever. Our standing and fame among the nations of the earth, though it may have many substantial foundations, has in late trials and difficulties been upheld chiefly by the soldier. And yet, at home among ourselves, he is still spoken of as the black sheep of our family. It was predicted that when the Russian war ceased, and a large portion of our army was disbanded, crime would immediately increase. It did not. In the interval between the two wars, the Russian and the Sepoy, the number of criminals continued steadily to decrease. However the survivors of that long stern conflict, in which the enemy was not the most formidable destroyer, bestowed themselves, it was not by becoming tenants of the jails. In one shape however, their conduct taught an unpleasant lesson: those disbanded did not come forward on the new emergency, and raw recruits had to be sent to India. Hence the natural inference is, that our enlistments bring in high-spirited thoughtless youths, with little notion of the actual soldier's life and struggles; that when these come upon them, the natural courage, endurance, and dutiful feeling of their race, supported by a powerful system of discipline, make them go through with what they have engaged for; but that when they have endured all, and find how small the reward is in any shape—position, repute, or pecuniary recompense—they are not inclined to resume the same career. We believe that the hard trials and the variety of occupations improved to usefulness by the strict discipline kept up, converted many of the raw recruits who had been taken to the Crimea into very valuable men for

some departments of civil duty when they were disbanded, and it is satisfactory to think that some of them are thus occupying positions of permanent usefulness, and reaping better regards than any that awaited them in the service.

When people speak of enlistment as the proper refuge for all the worthless scamps of the community, they are but repeating a scandal long ago affixed upon our army by Act of Parliament. In the recruiting Acts of Queen Anne, justices of peace are authorised to impress into the service "such able-bodied men as do not exercise some lawful calling or employment, or have not some other lawful and sufficient support and maintenance." In the early days of Methodism, a clergyman of that persuasion, named Nelson, was forcibly enlisted at Halifax as a person "having no lawful calling or employment."

It became the practice in these enlistments to certify that the recruits had no visible means of livelihood; and it is under a literal interpretation of the definition that Sergeant Kite, in Farquhar's *Recruiting Officer*, secures a collier, because "may it please your worship, this man has no visible means of livelihood, for he works under ground." Burnett said of the Act when first adopted, "If well managed, it will prove of great advantage to the nation, since by this means it will be delivered from many vicious and idle persons who are become a burden to their country." The object of the Act was to sweep in to the army every blackguard in and out of jail, and it became habitual to suspend punishments of atrocious offenders, and enlist them; so that to be enlisted in the army, and to be transported to the plantations, were but two ways of accomplishing the same object, enjoying a common infamy. In the *Gentleman's Magazine* April 1744 there appears the following highly satisfactory statement of the working of the Act: "A general press began for recruiting his majesty's regiments and manning the fleet, when upwards of one thousand men were secured in the several jails of London and Westminster, being allowed 6d. a-head per diem by the Commissioners of the Land Tax, who examine them, and send those away that are found fit for his majesty's service. The same method was taken in each county." This species of recruiting, with variations, was continued so long, that Grose, in his *Military Antiquities*, gives the following account of its practice in 1780: "All the thieves, pickpockets, and vagabonds in the environs of London, too lame to run away, or too poor to bribe the parish officers, were apprehended and delivered over as soldiers to the regiments quartered in the towns and villages where these banditti had lived. The pressed men deserted, nor did the regiments on which they were imposed take the least pains to prevent their escape or to retake them as they justly considered being thus made the companions of thieves and robbers a most grievous and cruel insult, and loudly complained of it as such to their officer." The legacy bequeathed to us by these unworthy acts of the Government and Parliament of last century is found in the traditional taint still attaching to the soldier's lie—a taint which makes those who would chiefly give their sons as an honorable sacrifice to their country, lament it as they would a crime when they hear that a youth has enlisted." It is the traditional result of this policy that has seemed to justify a respectable writer of the present age Dr. Wade in speaking of the British soldier in terms which are a heavy scandal to the country. In his *History of the Middle and Working Classes* he says: "The army is mostly filled from the same causes which fill the jails and houses of correction: it is not choice, but necessity, which compels men to enlist therein. Having lost their character, or contracted habits of idleness and improvidence which exclude them from the better paid walks of civil industry, they are constrained to devote themselves to the hardships and perils of military life." It might perhaps be hard to determine by rigid law that there is any sphere of usefulness from which the reformed offender should be excluded. But, far from making the army the general refuge for offenders, reformed or unreformed, we would hold that, next to the Church, it ought to be counted the last profession in which offenders stained by dishonesty or other degrading crimes can secure a welcome.

While the process of degradation was go-

ing on, the sagacious Defoe uttered in his own rough fashion some remarks, which came close to truth and soundness on the point. "Why," he says, "are jails rummaged for malefactors, and the Mint and prisons for debtors? The war is an employment of honour, and suffers some scandal in having men taken from the gallows, and immediately, from villains, and house-breakers, made gentlemen soldiers. If men wanted employment, and consequently bread, this would never be. Any man would carry a musket rather than starve, and wear the Queen's cloth, or anybodys cloth rather than go naked, and live in rags and want. It is plain the nation is full of people, and it is as plain our people have no particular aversion to the war, but they are not poor enough to go abroad. It is poverty makes men soldiers, and drives cowards into the armies; and the difficulty to get Englishmen to list is because they live in plenty and ease; and he that can earn 20s. a-week at an easy steady employment, must be drunk or mad when he lists for a soldier, to be knocked on the head for 3s. 6d. a-week."

This, as we say, comes close to the point. Frankly, we would have the entire condition of the common soldier uplifted in the social scale, by the expenditure necessary to produce that result. If we are told that this may cost the nation two or three millions, the answer is, that they would be well expended. Perhaps some one will say that the army is not a mercenary profession. This argument may be decoously employed by those who receive, but not by those who give. The parson and the surgeon of the parish are not perhaps mercenary, and yet if each have not a good house and clean linen, with the means of educating his family, the usefulness of his functions will be impaired, and the position of his children will sink in the scale of civilization. It may be truly urged that our troops cost more by the head than any other troops in the world, but yet it is notorious that in scarcely any other country is the soldier so far below the level of the other citizen. Until he reaches a position corresponding to what he holds in other nations, we maintain that the expenditure assigned to him is insufficient. From the constitution and habits of this country—especially from our way of dealing with the army—money is the sole means by which the amendment can be accomplished. We have ceased to be in any way a feudal people—we buy all services in hard cash—and we must pay what they are worth, instead of attempting, through the flouting recruiting-sergeant at the gun-house door, to obtain them by a combination of fraud and force.

It cannot be doubted that the many kind and judicious details of improvement suggested by the Sanitary Commissioners will materially improve the soldier's condition. They come in a shape that cannot be resisted. Their tenor forcibly reminded us of one whose latter days would have been gladdened had he lived to see the great object of his life placed in such a train for practical accomplishment. Many readers will anticipate the name of Dr. Henry Marshall, Inspector of Military Hospitals, the author of the work to which we have occasionally referred, and of other works devoted to the grievances of the soldier, and their remedy. In the following brief emphatic remark in his *Military Miscellany*, the reader will recognize a grievance which has been lately thundered loudly in the British ear.

"With respect to the dinner, it may be observed, that in this country it is commonly excellent in quality and abundant in quantity; but it is unvarying—the same kind of articles cooked in the same manner, from the 1st January to the 31st December.

Que le vent souffle au nord, où qu'il souffle au midi.
C'est toujours du bouilli, mais jamais du roti."

Whatever improvement may hereafter be attributable to the Report of the Army Sanitary Commission, we cannot help thinking that the future of the British soldier is not unlikely to be brightened, by a historical episode, which about this time last year opened in darkness and calamity. Certainly no great theory seemed ever to be better founded—none ever bore discussion and criticism better—than that which enjoined us to keep a large well-paid native ar-