

in a manner as could bring no harm or danger to another human being. This, in the language of the judge, has added a new ray of glory to her youth, her innocence, and her beauty. Such opportunities, however, are not common, nor are the spirit and courage given to every girl similarly situated to use them aright. Does the terrible wreck of the man whose name stands at the head of this notice of his stiffianism give any point to the saying of the stern English gentleman who said, 'If we take not good heed to live angelically we must count on becoming devilish?'

We claim for Colonel BAKER that charity which every brave and humane man will accord to a fallen individual, and we are quite certain that British justice will in the end assert itself against his cowardly oppressors.

Our contemporary the *United States Army and Navy Journal* has dealt with this melancholy case in a straightforward and manly manner—its article entitled "Military Honor" will be found in another page, and is well worth the careful study of every man belonging to the military profession, as it contains a clear exposition of the relations a soldier bears to the society of his country, or any other with which he should be brought into contact.

We have copied from a Canadian journal the *Nation*, an article entitled "Colonel VALENTINE BAKER," in which a fair and dispassionate view of the case is taken, and a warning given, which it would be well for the "girls of the period" to take into serious consideration—as the next victim may not be as scrupulous to outward appearances as the victim in this case.

Two articles from *Broad Arrow*, entitled "Colonel BAKER" and "The Value of Colonel BAKER's Commission," will also be found in this issue. The first, we are sorry to say, represents a state of affairs thoroughly disgraceful to municipal authorities and laws as administered in England. If such a thing had happened in one of our backwood's towns—the roaring curs would be sent home howling without much ceremony, and would find some employment for their unexpended energies in hard labour for the public and their own benefit. The second does not place British statesmen in a favorable light, or advantageously reflect credit in the independence of an English Parliament.

The result of all this will be a reaction in Colonel BAKER's favor—the individual is being too heavily punished, and true British feeling revolts at the idea of such unfeeling oppression.

It is well it should be so at present; the man is as legally murdered as if the mob had their sweet will and lynched him at Croydon.

But we hope and trust the assumption of the humane and learned Judge must become a reality, and that Colonel BAKER will be allowed the chance of redeeming his character from the stain received by a momentary lapse from virtue.

The following article on "discipline" is specially commended to the officers of our service—as it embodies every principle on which a force can be made efficient or otherwise under our system—and by which officers can attain to the dignity of ornaments of their profession or sink to the level of mere drill sergeants:

"A constant misapplication of words is one of the eccentricities of human nature which are not peculiar to particular soils, and which are consequently of universal incidence, and the term discipline is precisely one of those words which, according to the idiosyncrasy of individuals, are employed to express widely divergent sentiments. To speak of a disciplinarian is, as a rule, to convey the impression of a tyrant, just because it happens to be a weakness of mankind to invest with the euphemistic title of disciplinary powers the arbitrary exercise of authority. Under the pretext of discipline the caprices of tyranny often take an active form, and a word which in itself implies nothing more than the regulation of practice, is used to consecrate the infliction of every species of petty wrong. It is, of course, exceedingly difficult to define the exact limits within which discipline should be permitted to range, and we may admit that it would not be difficult to establish the practical illimitableness of its scope, seeing that government is a term of so elastic a nature as to suggest every phase of development, but as those in whose hands the right of discipline is reposed, are thereby laden with enormous responsibilities, it is clear that their exercise of the power should be free from all extraneous influences. Systems of discipline are not in themselves bad; but discredit is often brought upon them by their administrators. If a disciplinarian were merely a man who satisfied himself with the impartial and dispassionate enforcement of discipline, the world would be entirely denuded of the offensiveness which undoubtedly attaches to it.

The importance of discipline as contributing to the efficiency of an army, is a point which need hardly be insisted on; but, whilst all men are in a vague manner agreed in affirming the general proposition, we gravely doubt whether there is any accord or even distinct idea as to what form of discipline is in reality the most efficacious. For, let us hasten to add, there is a very considerable divergency of practice, and consequently of opinion, in the matter. The severe system of discipline adopted in the German Army has of late years arrested public attention, and prompted the interesting inquiry whether the question has hitherto been sufficiently studied. Certain it is that if the discipline which prevailed in our own Army half a century ago was essential to our successes, we should, in strict logic, be now unequal to the task of holding our own viewing the immense relaxation of discipline which has been effected in the interval. Such a conclusion is, however, in unsatisfactory contemplation, and, in our opinion, so erroneous, notwithstanding the unimpeachableness of the premises from which it is deduced that we prefer to repudiate it, and to adopt the more pleasing theory that our army of volunteers can be permitted to serve without detriment to its efficiency under less stringent and less exacting regulations than any army of soldier citizens. Nor is the reason far to seek for services that are voluntarily rendered require no stimulus to set them in motion, and no coercive measures of organization while those which are violently appropriated must be to a great extent sub-

jected to rigorous control. The numerous desertions which take place from the English Army do not prejudice the distinction we have drawn, for if discipline were to take the form of more drastic measures towards deserters it is to be apprehended that the voluntary system, which is already in an unfeeling condition, might suffer by the discouragement of recruiting, and it is just one of the necessary evils of voluntarism that those who adopt it cannot pick and choose their materials. In the English Army discontented service is not one of the evils which discipline is required to correct, and so far we are unquestionably fortunate. In the days when thoughtless hinds took the 'Queen's shilling' in a state of sottish imbecility, and were hurried off to campaigns for which they had no particular favour, it was neither unnecessary nor unwise to reserve considerable powers for the repression of contumacy, seeing that voluntary enlistment was too often an entirely misapplied term; but at the present time recruiting is little, if at all promoted by unfair means, and the recruits we collect (would that they were better and more numerous!) are uncontrolled in the fulfilment of their several destinies.

Proceeding then, upon the hackneyed maxim already quoted, that discipline promotes efficiency, we find that England alone amongst European States is relieved from the necessity of regulating unwilling service by stringent disciplinary laws, but there her advantage, great as it is, terminates. Willing spirits must be led quite irrespective of the fact that reluctant ones must be both compelled and led; regulations are required to govern the ardent no less than they are demanded for the government of the hostile or indifferent; and an army, no matter of what materials it may be composed, cannot be a fit instrument of action unless properly disciplined. We have before now pointed out the absurdity of comparing the system of military pains and penalties adopted in foreign armies with those in force amongst our troops, who are raised under different conditions and constituted of materials utterly diverse, and less mixed. The remarks apply equally to the question of general discipline, and until our Army shall have taken within its ranks a more even distribution of the several classes which compose English society, whereby the lowest strata will become improved and leavened, we cannot hope to adopt with any beneficial results the forms of discipline approved amongst our nearer neighbours. Soldiers who respect their officers because they respect themselves are, in whatever Army they may be found, accessible to mild measures of discipline which would be ridiculed by those whose reluctant exhibition of respect is the mere growth of ignorance or of fear, and officers who recklessly visit every breach of observance and every petty defection with the means of punishment at their disposal, do more to weaken the effect of discipline and to discredit its influence than the most seditious spirits. Whatever fanatical biographers may say to the contrary, we do not hesitate to express a conviction that disciplinarians, as they are falsely called, have no hold upon the affections of their men. It is possible to be a great stickler for discipline, and yet to understand the wisdom of winking at a fault, and the discipline which contributes to efficiency in the field is that which cement officers and men by a sentiment of mutual esteem instead of attaching the latter to the former by a degraded emotion of fear. Friendly sympathy between officers and men is when, prudently