

the Major's friend, Mr. D. L. MacDougall, of the mode of conducting negotiations; namely, only to read the correspondence on one side, and to take it as a mathematical postulate, that every opinion on that side, is "founded on facts." It reminds me of the well known anecdote of James the First, going to Westminster Hall, where he insisted on judgment being given for the plaintiff, as the case was so clear that he was sure the defendant could have nothing to say for himself. It certainly has the advantage of simplifying things, and saving ink. But I wonder that it did not strike his gallant principal, who, so properly reproaches the weak-mindedness of having recourse to the pistol, in which I cordially and unaffectedly agree with him, that, if carried into civil life, where we have not the advantage of a Court of Honor sitting either at the Horse Guards, or at St. Martin's le Grand—though it is news to me that such a department exists in the Post Office—this inconvenience would follow, that every quarrel would be a fight, and blood flow instead of ink. The army would then be the only place where the timid could find safety, and the courteous seek society; the gentlemen of the long robe would exchange places with the *gens de l'épée*; and peaceable and civil men like myself would rush in crowds, when the officers' mess-table was over-peopled, from the Bar to the ranks, leaving cases to be argued by sergeants—not of law, or counsel, who knew how to use their fists—before judges who would see fair play every way, and direct the Sheriffs to clear the ring and the Prothonotary to record judgment for the best man.

There are some traces of this doctrine to be found in the memoirs of an Irish gentleman, named Sir Lucius O'Trigger, who thought that explanation always spoiled a quarrel. But then Sir Lucius would have heard *neither* side. The plan of only hearing *one* is a modern improvement. It is certain it could not have been known at the time of Swift, or it would have found a place in the immortal "Hamilton's Bawn," where the Captain of Horse demonstrates so satisfactorily that,

"To give a young gentleman right education,  
The Army's the very best school in the nation."