

historical aspect of the case. That is the business of the specialist. By a specialist I mean one who has devoted his whole time for many years to the study of war. It matters not whether he be a soldier or a civilian; for, one who gives his life to the mastery of a given subject must not be regarded as an amateur because he does not wear the King's uniform. His authority, so far as it goes, carries a professional weight. And in the same way a soldier, merely because he is a soldier, has no overruling power of opinion, unless he is conversant, not only with the range of his practical duties but, with the theory of his profession. The works of such a writer, for instance, as Mr. Spenser Wilkinson, who has won for himself an European reputation, must rank with the treatises of the great military authors; just as the opinions of Lord Roberts must needs be fraught with the unique and inestimable value of long and various experience and of great achievement. If the words of these, and of such as these, be disregarded or neglected, lesser men may talk in vain.

It is rather my modest purpose to endeavour to discover the point at which the national interest and the military interest touch and interfuse. If we can discover and define such a point of contact, it may be possible further to establish a clear principle which may serve to guide the plain man, who has no time to study war and policy and details of military organisation, towards a right working comprehension of his own relation to the whole matter. For, it must be evident to the least observant, that there is a certain indeterminate but actual line of cleavage between the life of the nation and the Army. The Army, owing to certain reasons, one of which I propose to suggest, is held somewhat aloof. It will perhaps be conceded that such a condition—assuming that it exists—cannot be wholesome either for the nation or for the Army. It may indeed be, that in this separation which we seem to observe lies the origin of that unnamed evil which we are all agreed in lamenting. For, it cannot be well for a nation to pay a certain class of men to give their lives in national defence, and, with