

The professional soldier is forever flashing his sword in the eyes of the world. Using the words of Pyrgopolinices, in Plautus' comedy of the "Braggart Captain," he shouts :

"Take ye care that the lustre of my shield is more bright than the rays of the sun
"are wont to be when the sky is clear; that when occasion comes, the battle being
"joined, 'mid the fierce ranks right opposite it may dazzle the eyesight of the enemy.
"But I wish to console this sabre of mine, that it may not lament nor be downcast in
"spirit, because I have thus long been wearing it keeping holiday, which so longs right
"dreadfully to make havoc of the enemy."

The honest self-opinion of all soldiers agrees with that held by the old General, (the story is told by Southey in his *Colloquies*), who, one day when he was reproving a Grenadier for some neglect of duty, and telling him he could not bear to see a Grenadier bring disgrace upon his corps, grew warm with the subject, and clapping him on the shoulder said :

"Why, man, do you know that a Grenadier is the greatest character in this world,"

And, after a moment's pause, adding the emphasis of an oath to his speech,

"And, I believe, in the next, too!"

The sole aim of these modern knights in armor seems to be, in the words of Colonel Fletcher, to obtain for the whole world : "honorable employment in the profession of arms." Their panacea for States is a permanent force of soldiers.

Nor do they prescribe in homœopathic dose either. The following modes of determining the number of troops our Dominion should permanently maintain, would by no means seem too extravagant to be uttered by an army officer : "The boundary line between Canada and the United States is 5,280,000 yards in length, now a Battalion in line occupies 250 yards, and as the best military authorities consider that a State should possess enough troops to cover its whole extent of inland border, and have a force of equal strength in reserve, I think Canada should keep up a regular force of 42,240 Battalions, or 31,680,000 men." Another favorite way of arriving at a result is this : Canada has as a neighbor a country