

professional who has "made his century" or been named as "an aspirant for International honours."

Once remembered, in this way, such things are not to be again forgotten; and we are mistaken if the Islanders let slip the lesson so roughly given by the prophet they have themselves chosen. It is to be hoped that they will not, in their eagerness for practical reform, fall into an even more grievous error, which the prophet himself, we fear, has not altogether escaped.

To begin with, he is open to the old retort, that an indictment will not lie against a whole nation; and the more closely such an indictment is pressed the further we are from hopeful resolutions.

We seem therefore to be driven to absolute despair, for we have no other materials to work upon, but those out of which God has been pleased to form the inhabitants of this island. If these be radically and essentially vicious, all that can be said is, that those men are very unhappy to whose fortune or duty it falls to administer the affairs of this untoward people.

Even Mr. Kipling does not think us "radically and essentially vicious"; but we doubt if he quite realises how far his presentment of the national character overshoots the mark; how much more there is to be said for the Islander's view of "the lordliest life on earth."

Neither force in arms, nor the safety it brings, is an end in itself. Mr. Kipling, who has lived much of his life out of England, and has seen the South African struggle at very close range, may be pardoned for taking a short view and feeling that the one thing necessary for salvation is a gigantic army, and that to have a soul "full harnessed, accepting, alert" for war, is for any people the very state of salvation itself. But the Islander, though for two years he has given much painful thought to war and the things of war, is under no such delusion. He is willing enough to be safe, and therefore asks for the due maintenance of his hereditary sea power, but for any military force beyond the merely necessary, for any life-long and universal playing with drums and swords, he has, we believe, no appetite; nor does he set too high a value even upon safety