

the name from military drill to some other, such as military gymnastics, it might be more favourably received throughout the country."

To this letter the Chief Superintendent replied as follows:—

"I desire to express to you my hearty thanks for the suggestions which you have made in regard to military drill or gymnastics in our schools, whilst I cannot but admire the spirit which pervades your whole letter.

"In the schools immediately under my own oversight, military exercises to a limited extent, under the name of gymnastics, have for several years been introduced. Latterly in one of them, formal military drilling has for some time been introduced. I shall submit the whole question to the consideration of the Government, with a view of having such exercises introduced into the schools generally."

## 2. MILITARY DRILL IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In the House of Lords, Lord Stratheden lately called attention to the subject of the military drill recently introduced into public schools, and inquired of the Government whether the Commission on Public Schools had been instructed to report on this branch of their system. It was not requisite for him to enter into all the arguments in favour of military drill in public schools. Some years back he had ventured to address a letter to a great and well-known journal stating his views upon the subject. In February, 1860, a meeting was called at the Thatched House Tavern, at which Lord West, Sir De Lacy Evans, and several other eminent persons attended, and the subject was urged with considerable ability. A very few days after the same cause found a more persuasive advocate in the Editor of *The Times* itself, who, in a leading article, employed his weight and eloquence to promote the objects of the meeting. It might be stated briefly that all our public schools since 1860 had made efforts, more or less successful, to introduce into their system the elements of military knowledge. Public schools had competed at Wimbledon for shooting-prizes; not long ago the Eton Company competed, and on that occasion, it ought not to be forgotten, the late lamented Prince Consort was last seen by the public. Thus it appeared that the discussions of 1859 and 1860 had not been wholly unproductive. In spite, however, of those favourable circumstances, all that had been done was voluntary and contingent, and might pass away. Some decline had been already exhibited. At Westminster, in spite of the judicious exertions of the Head Master, the whole thing has passed away; at Eton the number under training had declined from 400 to 200; at Harrow it had fallen from about 200 to 100; of Winchester he had not exact information, but there appeared to have been a sensible decline. The movement, therefore, could not be relied upon as permanent, and the question at once suggested how far the commission of which the noble lord below him (the Earl of Clarendon) was the head might, by practical suggestions, give to it the necessary permanence. He was led to believe that their instructions would enable them to take the matter into consideration, because all the public schools to which he had alluded came within the scope of the commission, and they could hardly exclude from enquiry any existing facts which they might consider of importance in connexion with the schools. He was perfectly well aware that the position of his noble friend was that of an unprejudiced inquirer, and that it was open to him to report for or against the system—to recommend its abolition or to advocate its permanence. It was obvious that military drill at schools must make the Volunteer movement more effective, because it tended to furnish a better instructed class of officers. It must come home to the experience of all that, however great might be the zeal of Volunteer officers at present, nothing could entirely supply the advantage arising from the early use of arms. Military drill at public schools would also tend to the permanence of the Volunteer movement; for what could contribute more to that end than the existence of a higher class well versed in military exercise, and, consequently, reluctant at any time to be withdrawn from the field of their activity? Even supposing that the Volunteer movement should pass away with the fears and the dangers which had called it into existence, what could be more conducive to the military defence of the country than the existence of a higher class, whose education at the public schools would at once qualify them to take commissions in the Militia (as that would be the force on which we should then rely); or in the case of any great and extensive levy of the people, such as occurred in the beginning of the century, would enable that class to inspire and direct it? He begged to inquire whether the Commission on Public Schools had been instructed to report upon the question of the military drill lately introduced as a branch of the system of those schools.

The Earl of Clarendon.—As my noble friend has alluded to me as the President of the Public Schools Commission, I beg to inform him that our instructions are amply sufficient, and have, indeed,

been purposely framed to embrace all matters relating to the administration of the public schools. Our inquiries will be turned not only to the studies, but also the recreations of the boys, and the mode in which they habitually employ their leisure time, and in these inquiries drilling will certainly be included. I regret to hear of a falling off in the number of boys who have devoted themselves to drilling, for I agree with my noble friend as to the advantages to be derived from it. No one can see a large number of boys walking together without being sensible how much their appearance, both individually and collectively, is improved by the instructions of the drill sergeant. I also agree with my noble friend that it is impossible to exaggerate the political advantages of the Volunteer service, or to speak in too high terms of the noble spirit and true love of country which have animated the Volunteers. We are all interested in the Volunteer movement becoming a permanent institution of the country, and we must all be desirous to use our best efforts to make it so. It is therefore desirable that a taste for a certain amount of military drill, military training, and the use of the rifle at an early age should be encouraged. I apprehend, however, that in order to attain this object we must not seek to render attendance at drill compulsory on the boys of our public schools. (Hear.) In answer to the comprehensive questions circulated by the Public Schools Commission certain shortcomings are admitted and regretted, but want of time is pleaded as the general, and not always unreasonable, excuse. One thing is certain, that it is useless to expect that the masters will permit any portion of the school hours to be given up to drill. On the other hand, it would be very hard upon the boys and very unpopular to compel them to drill during their play hours, of which they have not more than is necessary for health of body and mind. If drilling, therefore, is to be voluntary, it will be a formidable rival to cricketing, boating, and foot-ball. I can conceive nothing more calculated to inspire a distaste for drill than a compulsory attendance on the drill sergeant by boys who are now permitted to employ their own time in their own way. I have heard that a certain number of boys regard drill as an amusement. How far it may be desirable to stimulate this taste by encouragement and rewards will be carefully inquired into by the commission; but, as my noble friend is aware, our duties do not go beyond that. Our instructions are to inquire and report, and if our opinions, being founded on the evidence we may obtain, should appear to be of any value, and if we are able to point out where reforms are required, and how they are to be effected, I trust we shall have the support of public opinion in our recommendations. We hope to have the benefit of personal communication with the head and other masters of our public schools. Their attention will be drawn to the subject of drill; we shall consult with them, and we shall receive with satisfaction any suggestions which they shall make, in order to carry into effect the intentions of my noble friend. (Hear.)

## 3. MILITARY TRAINING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A bill has been introduced into the New York House of Assembly which provides that:—"Classes of all scholars over ten years of age shall be established, to be armed with wooden rifles or muskets, with good locks and steel ramrods that can be used at any time on regular arms. A teacher of the school to be competent to instruct in the manual of arms and drill, and not less than one hour a day to be devoted thereto. The expense to be paid out of the State treasury, on certificate of the Governor, Lieut.-Governor, and Adjt.-General."

## 4. MILITARY DRILL IN SCHOOLS.

The following is the substance of the bill under consideration in the New York House of Assembly as we find it in the *Rochester Union*: It provides that the Regents of the University may appoint six Colleges in the State, and one Academy in each judicial district, where a system of military education and training and the use of the manual of arms shall be established. To such institution the Adjutant General shall furnish State arms and equipments for the use of pupils. Three professors of military instruction shall be appointed by the Regents at a salary of \$1,500 each. A drill master shall be appointed by each of the institutions at a salary of \$750 per annum. An appropriation of \$500 is made to each institution for map, books, charts and models. The sum of \$25,000 per annum for two years is set apart for this object. Any surplus that may be left can be used for the expenses of encampment or for artillery practice. The Regents who have the entire control of this matter are to report annually to the Legislature as to the manner in which the provisions of the act have been carried out.

This is intended only to apply to the higher educational establishments, but it has been suggested that the system should be extended, and that each county, city and town, should be provided with a drill