

## THE GOVERNMENT, THE ARMY, AND THE NATION

IT is a fact of some significance that, in the newspapers and in the weekly Press and in the magazines, articles suggesting that the British Army should be reformed are perpetually appearing. One does not remark a like evangelical interest in the Navy. The inference is that we are satisfied on the whole with the state of the Navy; and, conversely, that we are troubled concerning the welfare of the Army. The reformers number among them both civilians and soldiers. Needless to observe, they differ considerably among themselves. But, in one point all agree; for, all are profoundly convinced that there is something inherently wrong in our military system. The general public, which, taken in the gross, does not exhibit a deep concern for military affairs, is vaguely impressed by the same conviction. It is probable that the most of us would fail to give a lucid statement of the reasons upon which that vague conviction reposes; for, the multitude of counsellors bewilders; and nearly all the arguments posited presuppose the existence of a general and an historical knowledge which, in this unmilitary nation, can but seldom exist. So that it is the point of unanimity which impresses us. There is something wrong with the Army, or with the system upon which it is administered, or both.

It is not my design to add to a possible confusion of mind by advancing a new theory, or even by tracing in detail the