

them have everything they ask, without going to the expense of an imbecile farce of diplomacy, which only keeps men's minds in suspense, while it in no way affects the result.

Several gentlemen of standing here, have at different times, asked me questions about the Militia, and expressed an interest in its organization, but I fancy now that the Adjutant General, favourable as was the impression he created has been, and is gone again, and nothing is known, except that the arms &c. are stored in the H. B. store-houses, and, for aught any one can tell, may lie there for another year or two, whatever interest in the question may have been felt is fast dying out of inaction induced by long suspense.

You know I have always been, even against your own opinion, an advocate of the ballot. I think it much to be regretted that it was not put in force this year. It is easy to imagine why this year would have been an inconvenient period to select, nevertheless if it had been done, it would have gone down well enough here.

The authorities (if they mean to do anything next year, or even the year after) would do well, in the meantime, to "prepare for action" by securing from Parliament a grant towards obtaining land, if that cannot be arranged with the local government, and erecting drill sheds, and a storehouse for the Dominion stores at Victoria.

H. M. Ships in these waters now are the *Scout*, *Cameleon*, *Petrel*, and *Boxer*. The new flag ship, the *Repulse* (ironclad) flag of Rear Admiral Charles Farrell Hillgar, C. B., is on her way out.

DISCIPLINE.

It more docility, without the more spirited adjuncts to the character of a true soldier, be but a tame and inadequate qualification, it is yet equally certain that all other material attributes are annulled in the absence of what is implied by, or comprehended in, the word "Discipline," which is, after all, the supreme military virtue.

We would not be understood to mean by the term "Discipline" simply the quality of a stolid submission to the caprices of an irrational Martinism, but such an intelligent exercise of the principle of self control as enables the soldier to perceive and appreciate both the wisdom and the dignity of a conscientious adherence to regulations which interdict such actions or lines of conduct as would, if allowed to be pursued, tarnish his individual reputation, no less than his military honor and virtue.

If men were in the constant habit of bearing in mind, in such a way, as that they should hourly influence their thoughts and actions, (in the way that good men are, unobtrusively influenced by their religion) the fundamental principles which should guide

them in the conduct of their calling for the time being, it would be sufficient for purposes of monition merely to advert to the significance of those principles, and, assuming a general intelligent comprehension of them, such reference would carry with it all the force which we are now constrained to derive from citation of the weightiest known authorities.

But the subjection of impulse to reason is as yet so imperfect, that we are only too glad to avail ourselves of the stimulant afforded by historical illustration to enhance the flavor of an ethical bill of mental fare which would otherwise probably prove both dry and insipid.

Excellent as is the conduct of the forces of the Dominion, instances of violation of military propriety, have been sufficiently numerous, and so not sufficiently recent, to render unnecessarily any apology for an earnest endeavor to attract to the subject the serious consideration demanded by its vital importance.

Let us, therefore, in the first place, hear what Napier, the historian of the Peninsula War, has to say concerning two or three notable cases of breach of discipline. An historian, be it remembered, whose ideas even on military subjects, partook almost as largely of the views of the advanced political liberal, as of those of the professional soldier, yet whose clear, and well balanced judgment cannot be questioned.

Writing of the siege of Zaragosa, he says:

"The two circumstances that principally contributed to the success of the defence, were the bad discipline of the French soldiers, and the system of terror established by the Spanish leaders. Few soldiers can be restrained from plunder when a town is taken by assault, yet there is no period when the moral responsibility of a general is so great. Will military regulations alone secure the necessary discipline at such a moment? The French army is not deficient in a stern code, and the English army, taken altogether, is probably the best regulated of modern times; but here it is seen that Lafore failed to take Zaragosa in default of discipline, and no wild horde of Tartars ever fell with more license upon their rich effeminate neighbors than did the English troops upon the Spanish towns taken by storm.

"The inference to be drawn is that national institutions only will produce that moral discipline necessary to make a soldier capable of fulfilling his whole duty; yet the late Lord Melville was not ashamed to declare in Parliament, that the worst men make the best soldiers, and this odious, narrow-minded, unworthy maxim, had its admirers."

The last paragraph of the above quotation should be of weighty significance to the soldier of the Dominion Forces. There are, it

is to be supposed, few Canadians who do not believe that their constitution is the best in the world, combining the fullest degree of political liberty with just so much of the sobriety incident to a monarchical polity as to induce a repose, so to speak, the absence of which is so painfully felt by Canadians who sojourn long in the States. Canadians are justly proud of the cheapest and best Militia system of the day, and they rightly entertain the highest opinion of their system of national education. And in truth the result of the Canadian form of Government, and Canadian educational institutions, is citizenship of a high order of intelligence, and possessing a strong sense of social and public duty.

So happy a political and social condition should furnish the army of the Dominion with the most intelligent, and therefore, the most self controlled soldiers in the world.

The fact that, as a general rule, Volunteer corps composed chiefly or entirely of what are conventionally termed "gentlemen," are the best disciplined, and most easily managed, and the smartest in manœuvring, is familiar to Volunteers of any extended experience. Numerous instances are within our personal knowledge. The admirable proficiency of the famous "Devil's Own" or Inns of Court Corps in London, will occur to the reader as a prominent example. A Volunteer Rifle Regiment in Victoria, Australia, so constituted, whose drill and discipline were irreproachable, also recurs to our remembrance.

But the same amenability to the requirements of discipline, is, apart from the conventional status above mentioned, also perceived among men whose social surroundings have been those of earnest religion, of high morality, and of the pride of respectability, and integrity. Of such, the Highland Regiments have at all times been conspicuous examples, and the remarkable testimonials to their admirable behaviour in the occupation of foreign towns, from the native people and authorities, are such as probably, no other forces either ever received, or perhaps, so thoroughly deserved. The Puritan soldiers of Cromwell's armies, men whose minds were enlightened and sobered, if not enlarged, by speculation in republican theories, and by study, intense if narrowminded, of the scriptures, may also be adduced as instances; as well as, to a certain extent, the soldiers of Gustavus Adolphus; and of William of Orange, largely drawn from countries standing comparatively high in the scale of intelligence, and political freedom of their day.

It would, perhaps, be little calculated to cause surprise that an occasional escapade should occur among bodies of men whose strong political feelings, under particular temporary circumstances, have been diligently wrought upon by unscrupulous political partisans; tho' it is undoubtedly, a mat-