

Well, John, but you are a queerish old fellow—full of native good humor, but sometimes unfeeling and very selfish.—Accustomed to handle your fists in manly combat, you think nothing of a sound drubbing; the case would be different I believe though, were another to stand before you, thumping away at your portly figure, and you deprived of the power to throw up a guard, and let fly at his “potato trap,” in return—that would not be fair play—would it John?

Seated in an easy chair, before a cheerful good fire, enjoying the luxury of a foaming mug of ale, and a pleasing long pipe, about the moral debasement of the soldier you don't care a button. So long as he fights your battle, extends your empire, guards your possessions, and protects your firesides and altars from domestic foe and foreign aggressor—so long as you are safe, he may, for all you care, be shot down like a dog, or flogged to death the next minute. I am not your enemy, John, and all the harm I wish you is, that you and all other abettors of corporal punishment, beyond the limits I have suggested, may be compelled to receive fifty lashes, over the bare shoulders, each summer's morning, for one week, before breakfast. Be me sowl, old chap, I think you would soon burn the “cats,” and rather than have the discipline renewed, e'en consent to let DAN have his own Parliament.

Unlike persons in civil life, a soldier is a mere machine—freedom of thought is all that can be reckoned as his own—in nothing else can he be said to possess any will whatever, but moves and acts by the command or permission of others; it is not difficult, therefore, to perceive that example must exercise a powerful influence in the direction of his conduct. Prevail upon the soldier to abstain from the *abuse* of strong drink—treat him with humanity and the consideration due to a fellow creature—address to him rational and consistent orders—be as strict as you please, but do him no injustice, and, take my word for it, you do not require the assistance of the Drum-Major to maintain subordination in your regiment.

The course here recommended cannot at all times be free from unavoidable interruption. The officers of a regiment seldom approach their men oftener than twice in the four-and-twenty hours. During the remainder of the time their jurisdiction is maintained through the agency of the non-commissioned officers, and if they suffer the authority of this useful class to be impaired, or neglect to sustain it with their own, that moment, to a certain extent, they sap the foundation of discipline. A non-commissioned officer therefore, in the execution of his office, unless manifestly guilty of some gross irregularity, is always, very properly, declared to be in the right, and a soldier interrupting him in the discharge of his duty, or refusing to obey his commands, if the case is no worse, must make a suitable apology, or incur the risk of more serious