

the skill and military science displayed and had an excellent opportunity of comparing Prussian with British officers. Colonel Bray, in his lecture delivered at Woolwich in February, 1871, on "The Prussian mode of conducting large manœuvres," thus speaks of English officers: "Taken as a body English officers are as good as any body of officers in Europe, and I think ready enough to receive instruction if properly administered; but, as matters now (Feb. 1871) stand, they are professionally 'untaught officers,' as the great majority of officers of the army know nothing of their profession beyond what may be called 'barrack-yard knowledge'; that is drill, interior economy of regiments, some military law and practice of court's martial, and certain experiences of military practices and customs; and it is in the general knowledge of things, good liberal education, large amount of travel and experience of foreign countries, hunting and shooting experiences all over the world, and mixing with general society which makes the British officer a better man 'all round' than the officers of most continental armies. His natural energy, dash, high temper and spirit pull him through war generally successfully. There can be no reason why the British officer should not be as good at his profession as he is at other things." The recent provision to train our officers after admission into the service, is a step in the right direction; it would be still better if we took steps to retain and obtain the services of the class of officers to which Col. Bray alludes. In all our campaigns the habits and pursuits of our officers have told in their favour. Testimonies, too numerous to quote, can be produced on this head. The very last exploit of the British officers occurred on this continent, is beyond praise, and deserves special notice in *THE QUARTERLY*. The Red River expedition, to which belonged H. M. 60th Rifles, advanced 600 miles through a wilderness of water, rocks and forests, where no supplies could be obtained, and where all the provisions, stores, &c., had to be transported for miles on the backs of the soldiers, (officers and men.) The officers of course were volunteer carriers; but still they were foremost when hard work, for which their usual habits peculiarly qualified them, was to be done, (and in this expedition hard work was never wanting) thus showing a noble example to the men. All honour to these gallant fellows and to their comrades of the Canadian militia, who, with friendly emulation, vied with regulars in the successful accomplishment of this arduous undertaking—an undertaking which must be looked upon as exceedingly brilliant although little record has been made of it. Had not a great war raged in Europe, when that small British force was contending against the natural obstacles which incessantly beset it, the Home newspapers would, without doubt, have chronicled with pride that prosperous military achievement. The limits of this article do not permit the mention of the innumerable proofs of the peculiar fitness of the present class of British officers for warfare; but proof is not wanting, their aptitude for active service is acknowledged by the nation. They are avowed to be fit to command and fit to lead our soldiers by whom they are respected, which probably an inferior stamp of officers, as regards social position,