

several branches of their profession was invaluable to the West Point officers. They were not opposed to the more carefully trained soldiers, and to officers in some respects more highly educated in their peculiar branches of the service, which compose European armies, but they were required to take command at one time of infantry, at another of cavalry or artillery, or to put in motion the engineering intelligence which existed in so remarkable a degree among the volunteer regiments. This work they did steadily, efficiently, and with the sense of honor and duty, inculcated at the academy; whilst in addition they furnished a leaven of soldierlike feeling that permeated the masses of men swept together into the vast armies that both sides brought into the field. As far as the American nation and the American army were concerned, West Point had proved a success, and every thinking man, whether on the Northern or on the Southern side, must acknowledge that the officers it has trained, were not only fully competent for the performance of their duties, but proved on an emergency that they were qualified to undertake responsibilities beyond what could have been reasonably expected from them.

In order to reply to the second question, viz.:—How far an institution conducted on the principles that govern West Point would be adapted to countries other than the United States, certain peculiarities of its constitution require to be carefully considered. In the first place, as has already been pointed out, the spirit of the nation requires that the Academy should be conducted as far as possible on Republican principles, and should educate officers drawn from all classes of society; consequently the entrance into the Academy is by means of a low qualifying examination, and the four years' study and discipline are relied on to inculcate into the young men sufficient education to fit them for their future duties. With this object they work during these years under high pressure, and under a severe code of military discipline. This necessitates a large staff of teachers and of officers charged with their supervision; in deed, one officer to about every five cadets is the proportion at present allotted. In an ordinary military school it would be difficult to procure or to justify the employment of so many officers, but West Point is more than a mere school, it is almost the nucleus of the army to which its scattered officers return for duty in order to renew their studies and to remedy the inconveniences attaching to life passed away from the society of their comrades in charge of small detachments. They remain at West Point for only four years, and consequently a large proportion have the advantage of a second course passed as instructors instead of as students. The cadets isolated from the world, and more especially from the busy money making world of the United States, are surrounded by the accompaniments of military life. They are brought into daily contact with officers who have distinguished themselves in the Civil War, or who have passed through the adventurous scenes of Indian skirmishes, and their severe military discipline has consequently a reality which the expectancy of engagnig in a similar career would naturally give it. Otherwise the control to which they are subjected would be too irksome for young men to endure. If they were training for a civil career, they would feel the tedium and restraint of the continual drills, and of the army regulations, which are essential as part of their

education. Even now after their two months' furlough, the severity of the West Point discipline somewhat affects them, but the prize is in view, as well as the feeling that to fail would be discredit. In fact, the secret of the success of West Point lies in the fact that the Commissions to be given in the army are few, and that although they may sometimes be obtained by direct appointment, or even in a few instances by service in the ranks, yet that a prestige attaches to a West Point officer which others do not possess; consequently, the cadets look with eager hope to the reward for their work which the fact of graduating at the Academy insures. They form a class, with their own traditions and their own *esprit de corps*, a class even more distant than the officers of European armies. Their men are usually Irish and Germans, few native Americans entering the ranks; thus the West Point officers preserve the historical memories of the service, and feel that although in peace time they may be neglected, yet on them must devolve the conduct of armies, which in the event of war, so great a nation as the United States would be forced to raise. The ties of society do not bind them together, as they come from all classes; even their nationality is so wide that the sympathy in this respect of a New Englander with a Texan cannot be great, but they have been educated in the same school, are ground in the same mill, and have consequently the double bond of union of a common education as well as of a similar profession. This *esprit de corps* acts on the officers of the army and reacts on the cadets, imbuing them even as lads with the spirit that should animate officers. In fact, West Point is essentially a Military Academy, and the success of its training depends on that aim being constantly kept in view. Under similar conditions an Academy resembling that of West Point could be initiated, but it is essential that a true military spirit should be infused, a spirit which can at first only be created by the influence of able men imbued with soldier-like feeling, and accustomed to military life.

(To be continued.)

#### THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

The *Post* believes that the announcement that Prince Arthur has been raised to the peerage by the title of Duke of Connaught and Strathearn and Earl of Sussex will have been received by the country with much gratification, and for more reasons than one. In the first place, Prince Arthur has won for himself golden opinions; and all who have outwatched his career must be glad at the distinction conferred upon him. But there is another reason why the advancement in rank of Prince Arthur will give general satisfaction. From his birth he has been, in a manner, specially associated with Ireland, and, with all the disaffection to England that unhappily has existed in the Island, the people have ever been well disposed to the Royal family. Anything in the direction of increasing or strengthening the connection of the Royal family with Ireland will be deemed by perhaps the majority of politicians to be a decidedly proper and politic act. The raising of Prince Arthur to the Dukedom of Connaught may or may not be the prelude to a further strengthening of the ties between him and Ireland. It is to be hoped that it may be. The Duke is approaching the age at which he can be, and ought to be, employed on higher functions than that of the command of a troop

of cavalry; and in due time it will no doubt be recognized as desirable and feasible that the Duke of Connaught should occupy a seat in Ireland suitable to his birth, his rank, his qualities, and his attainments.

The *Standard* observes that the career of arms has in this country generally been made smooth and pleasant to Royal personages, their promotion has been rapid, and their connection with the army little more than nominal. The Duke of Connaught, however, is an exception; he has regularly served his apprenticeship to the art of war in the engineers, artillery, infantry, and cavalry, and at the age of twenty-four is still only a captain of hussars. It would be a gross flattery to say that his comrades have discovered in him a second Wellington; but it is only the simple truth to assert that he has worked at his profession steadily, that he has of his own accord studied the higher branches of it, that he is a good regimental officer, and popular with both officers and men. It speaks well for princes when gossip is not busy with their names, for young men of Royal blood are not only particularly exposed to temptation, but especially the object of idle and malicious reports. Prince Arthur is free from the slightest aspersions of any sort, not a word ever having been said against him. Public military opinion designates him as the intended successor of the Duke of Cambridge in the command of the army, but rumor is equally confident in assigning to him the viceroyalty of Ireland, and the selection of one of his ducal titles will be taken as countenancing his report. It is, however, more reasonable to believe that no definite plans as to his future employment exist, and that her Majesty is chiefly occupied with the thought of how best to prepare him generally for his exalted position as an English Prince.

The 81-ton gun, says the London *Army and Navy Gazette*, has already been commenced, and will soon be an accomplished fact. It is interesting to speculate upon the probable dimensions of the ammunition which will be required for different sizes of this monstrosity. Taking the three calibres—one of which will be given to the new gun—viz., 14, 15, and 16 inches, we find that areas of the basis of the projectiles for the first and last would be 152 and 200 inches, respectively, allowing for the ordinary windage around them of 0.04 inches. The "Woolwich Infant," or 35-ton gun, has a projectile with an area for the base of 112 inches, and the projectile weighs 700 lbs., hence we may safely assume that a proportionate weight of, say 950 lbs., would be given to the projectile of the 81-ton gun, if bored only to 14 inches, but of 1,250 lbs. if bored up to 16 inches. As, however, the proportions of the service projectiles for the various natures of the heavy ordnance, from the 7-inch to the 35-ton inclusive, are in an increasing ratio as regards weight, it is very possible that our estimate may be considerably within the mark, but we feel confident that we have certainly not exceeded it. The length of the Palliser shell of 950 lbs. would be 3 feet 6 inches, that of the 1,250 lbs. shell 4 feet 8 inches, or, if placed upright, the height of an ordinary woman. The charge for the 950 lbs. shot would be about 160 pounds of pebble powder; that for the 1,250 lbs. shot 210 pounds, or more than two barrels. The "racking" powder, or force of impact, which will be exerted by a 1,200 lb. projectile from the new gun, has been estimated at 15,000 tons at the muzzle, and 12,000 tons after travelling for a mile and three quarters.