

AMATEUR SOLDIER.

A Spirited Discussion of the National Guard by Able Writers.

KIND WORDS FROM GEN. SHERMAN

Shots at the Militia by Elder Evans and William Kirwan Norcross.

HOW IT STRIKES FEMINE HEARTS

(PREPARED FOR THE DISPATCH.)

Our National guardsmen may be surprised that anybody should raise the cry, "Away with them!" It is a Quaker elder who thus demands the abolition of amateur soldiers, and his reasons are well set forth, to be answered at once by several of the greatest contributors to a position on the subject. There has of late been current the rumor that General Sherman regarded the militia contemptuously, and would like to see the recruits either disbanded, or offered wholly by West Point graduates. The veteran writes a precisely contrary view, and advocates a substantial support of the different State military organizations by the National Government. There is a devious Quaker condemnation of the militia, and a more violent outcry for abolition from William Kirwan Norcross. But these two articles are offset by those of the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D. D., and the Rev. Howard Crosby, D. D. There is a strength of statement in H. K. Elliott's favorable arguments. The editor has also some feminine admirations of the handsome soldier, worded in a heartless way by a woman. On the whole, we think that the National Guardsmen will be encouraged to remain about as they are.

A QUAKER DISLIKES THEM.

They Should be Abolished in the Interest of Peace and Religion.

As a consistent Quaker, it is no wonder that I am opposed to soldiers of any sort, and I cannot understand how preachers of the gospel of peace, no matter to what denomination belonging, can consistently act as chaplains in the militia, or as parade leaders. Not long ago I saw Talmage riding at the head of a body of citizen soldiers, bowing proudly right and left to the crowd; and I suppose there is no difficulty in obtaining a clergyman as chaplain of every regiment in the land. A way with the National Guard! Do we officials of the militia go to thieves or murderers? Then why train men to be homicidal fighters? It is a disgrace to civilization, and especially to Christianity, that we should have men drill their people to proficiency in the taking of human life. Would there have been a War of the Rebellion if military science had been unknown to our citizen soldiers?

THEIR OWNERS DISLIKE THEM.

A National Guardsman Appeals Strongly to the Militia Fanciers.

Rob-a-dub, rut-a-plian, burrah, burrah! The soldiers are coming, and every feminine heart, from the old maids under the eaves to the young girls in the line of a linen apron, beats faster. What is the witching fascination of epaulettes and brass buttons? We have all seen it. Nay, is there a girl of us who has not felt it? Is it the man or his clothes? This question I propounded to a young lieutenant the other evening. He answered that he had never felt it. He had an ideal military beauty; a sort of Onidage hero. I knew him to be an idol of women, petted and lionized wherever he showed his handsome face and erect, manly figure in uniform. He is at our command, and the National Guard Convention in Washington. "Well, both," he answered with some hesitation. "A handsome man always looks better in uniform than in civilian dress. But my uniform is rather becoming, you know. Even a plain fellow looks well in it. Then women love strength and bravery, and soldiers are supposed to have both. A man like me who she thinks can protect her, and one of our men belted and capooled, looks able to care for any bit of feminine frailty."

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They can be restrained only by the idea of force. It is a country like ours, where a national army is needed only for the Indian frontier and the tending of forts, the national force is not sufficient to repress city mobs. Nor can a police force be organized in a city of 100,000 people, and its limited armament, numbered to do more than check the sporadic ebullitions of crime. The citizen soldier meets the requirements of a case made. Made up of citizens interested in the city's welfare, and taking pride in its order, they form an army in themselves with the full apparatus of war, the knowledge of whose existence is an effective curb on the wild and violent passions of the lawless. HOWARD CROSBY.

PRaises AND REASONS.

In Peace Preparing for That Warfare Which Happily May Never Come.

In no direction does the theory of self-government show to better advantage than in our militia system. While the aristocratic governments of Europe are staggering under the expense and waste of standing armies, we are able to maintain order within our own borders, and command respect and good usage abroad, at a nominal cost and a small drain upon the best time and strength of our young men. The existence of standing armies is a good thing, made up of citizens, for it may well be doubted if any people, left to themselves, would sustain costly, brutal and wasteful armaments. Fortunately, one reason and one excuse for their maintenance, the vicinity of rival nations, does not exist among us.

THE BOYS IN BLUE.

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There have been occasions when the National Guard, the great civil-military organization, has been absolutely necessary as a conservator of peace. It is for such emergencies that the military is of inestimable value. Nothing is more necessary to our American institutions than to have after the elections. "It is unwise to give free ballot to the masses of the people," said foreign despots and monarchists. "Republicanism is mobocracy." "You are a bubble-bursting nationality," said Lord John Russell. Before the elections it sometimes seems that anarchy is about to take possession of the people; but by the time the people have read the Wednesday newspapers their pulses begin to slacken. The voters go back to their places of business, perhaps a little jaded from being out to hear the late returns. The political clubs are disbanded, and a few men left to pay the larger expenses. The stump orators go home to eat treacles for sore throats. The victors for a little while feel jubilant, and the minority are somewhat depressed, but in a little while all is placid, as though nothing of importance had happened.

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