

**THE VOLUNTEER, THE MILITIAMAN,  
AND THE REGULAR SOLDIER: A  
CONSERVATIVE VIEW OF THE ARMIES  
OF ENGLAND, PAST, PRESENT, AND  
FUTURE, AS SEEN IN JANUARY 1874**

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The Volunteer, the Militiaman, and the Regular Soldier: A Conservative View of the Armies of England, Past, Present, and Future, as Seen in January 1874 by Richard Harrison

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**RICHARD HARRISON**

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IN JANUARY 1874

BY  
A PUBLIC SCHOOL BOY

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'For Romans in Rome's quarrel  
Spared neither land nor gold,  
Nor son nor wife, nor limb nor life,  
In the brave days of old.

As we wax hot in faction,  
In battle we wax cold,  
Wherefore men fight not as they fought  
In the brave days of old.'

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## PREFACE.

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WE live in a world of change. States rise and fall. Institutions come and go. The scenes of our great Theatre are perpetually shifting; and it would be strange if our Army—the Army of England—were any exception to the general rule.

Yet the very fact that anything about which we wish to treat is changing makes us reluctant to finish our task. We are for ever saying to ourselves, 'if we only wait a few weeks, a few months, or at the most a year, things will have settled, and our subject will be more tangible because more clearly defined.' But at the end of the limit of time that we assign to ourselves the argument is the same as ever. Something is not quite organised. There is the same inducement as before to wait a little longer.

Therefore I will not delay to submit to the general public, or rather to that part of it that

takes an interest in military matters, the following pages.

All who care for the welfare of their country ought to know something of the machinery by which that country is guarded and maintained. My object has been to explain what that machinery is, of what it consists, and how it is worked. While craving excuse for any unavoidable errors in the facts that I have stated, perhaps I may be allowed to remark that whether they exist or not the general purpose of what I have written will not be materially affected. For those of my readers who see the errors can at the same time correct them; while those who do not will not be disturbed. In either case the facts that I have given are, I feel sure, quite correct enough to afford to all a general idea of the constitution of our armies, and doing this are quite sufficient to form a basis for any theories of reform which writer or reader may choose to build up.

One word more. It is far from my intention to stir up in the army itself any feeling which may be akin to insubordination against the authorities who rule over them. I hold, however, that in a free country thought and opinion should be free too; and I feel convinced that nothing will ever be gained

by suppressing free discussion, even on subjects which may seem to some to be inopportune or premature. Let those in authority cultivate independent thought and action among their subordinates, and they will be sure to find that respect and implicit obedience in the hour of need will not be weakened, but rather strengthened thereby. There was as much, if not more, real discipline in the old school where I spent five happy years of early life than I have been able to discover in the most crack Regiment of Her Majesty's Service. And yet that school allowed free thought and free debate, it did its best to encourage self-government among its pupils, and it has produced many a legislator of the highest reputation who has not been afraid to speak to his countrymen what he considered to be the truth.

Yours &c.

A PUBLIC SCHOOL BOY.