

was never issued by Lord Wellington nor Napoleon Bonaparte, and could not have been conceived of by its author, but for his unbounded confidence in the officers and men, under his command." It may be truly said that this, with other numerous brilliant victories so easily attained by our small army, were never equalled since the dawn of national strife, and in the language of an early saying, terminated "in conquering a peace," in a blaze of glory. In these grand exploits without taking into account other inestimable testimonies, are developed ample illustrations of the correctness of a favorite theory long cherished by me, that an Academy in every State of the Union, like that at West Point, or collegiate instruction, I would prefer the latter, because more simple, attended with less outlay, and of its insuring a more appropriate spread of benefits, would be far better suited to the republican system of Government, disposition and habits of our people, than any other mode of tuition hitherto thought of by those who direct the affairs of State—in a word, vastly superior to all our exploded nondescript militia laws, enacted from the foundation of our Government down to the present time.

The absolute necessity of collegiate instruction being given to militia officers and men, were beautifully enforced by General Pierce, late President of the United States; notwithstanding his early constitutional scruples in reference to the West Point Academy; on his return from Mexico, at the reception meeting given him at Concord, New Hampshire, when he declared "that the city of Mexico, could not have been entered in the way it was, but for the intelligence and science of the officers of the old army. Services were rendered by the topographical engineers and ordinance, which could not have been rendered, but by men who had received the most complete military education." Maryland wants just such officers and militiamen, to be in readiness for any emergency, and either of the methods suggested, would answer as an available substitute, for our sickly inoperative bundle of laws. Does not every one of experience who has bestowed any reflection upon this vital subject, acknowledge that the original, and various supplementary provisions for training the militia from an early date to the present time; amount to nothing more than a dead letter upon our statute book.

It is to guard against lurking danger that we rely upon, and are accustomed to talk of the militia in this land of political freedom, as a shield for her cherished institutions; and shall we longer forbear to abandon the old, and refuse to adopt some new system, characteristic of the age, and in harmony with the spirit of our constitution. All circumstances considered, I cannot conceive a project, so well calculated every way, for the protection of our commonwealth, as it would be to round off our civil and military code, in the enactment of a statute, embracing my favorite plan of State defensive armor.