

man between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, which if carried into effect, would with the proverbial skill of our people, and their natural adaptation to military life, render us the most formidable military power on earth, and in a just cause, "confident against the world in arms." But has the military policy of Washington been fully adopted? I think certainly not. Congress while reducing the army below a safe minimum, has never exercised the authority conferred by the constitution to organize the militia. This power has been left in the hands of the States, which, with a few honorable exceptions have utterly neglected this important duty, and appear to have assumed the fact that all men are born soldiers, and that armies are merely aggregations of men with muskets or sabres in their hands, and yet nothing can be more fallacious, the victory is not always to the strong, to the brave, or to the most expert in the use of arms. It is not so much a question of prowess, as it is of the skilful drilling and manœuvering of masses, in which the individual man is but the component part of a vast and intricate machine, to perform his part, in which he is called on, not to think, but to act in perfect harmony with his associates, and in profound subordination and obedience to a controlling intelligence. This lesson is taught on every page of history.

Nearly all great victories, on whose issues have sometimes depended the fate of Empires, have been gained in the open field, where discipline and skill, other things being equal, turned the scale. This must always be so; and no nation, can consider itself safe, that is not prepared to fight such battles. It can never repose with confidence on mere defence of Forts or defiles, or the fighting of the battles of position, for the selection of the scene of strife, and the mode of attack, and more frequently rest with the invader, and the government acting on the defensive, must expect to engage in pitched battles.

Frequently an army without discipline and instruction, is broken down, like an ill constructed machine by its own weight, which does not even bend its momentum. Such an army can act only on the defensive, and in a position which can be assailed in but one direction, when it may be said to resist by its *vis inertie*, but should it attempt to assume a new line or change its front, (as happened fatally, at North Point) to meet the sudden and unexpected disposition of a bold and skilful enemy, it becomes a mere disorganised mob, in which each man stands in his neighbor's way, and all alike fall victims to their ignorance of the art of war, and to the superior knowledge and mobility of their opponents—not to their superior courage or physical strength—the triumph of art over strength and courage.

The question arises, how are we to remedy the defects of our militia organization, so as to meet the views of Gen. Washington