

As to the importance of diffusing Military knowledge and some degree of skill and tactics among the people, there can be no question. An elaborate system of Militia Law stands upon the Statute Book, the wisdom of the Legislature has been exhausted, and the resources of the State liberally expended without success, to perfect an efficient system of Military organization.

In a country like ours, the institutions of which are opposed to large standing Armies and aggressive warfare, and where the tastes and pursuits of the people, at large, lead them to cultivate exclusively the arts of peace, nothing less than the general apprehension of immediate war will produce upon the public mind such an influence as will suffice to sustain an effective and well organized Militia establishment. Hence the necessity for the adoption of some system, which would annually supply every portion of the State with a Corps of scientific and educated men capable of officering the citizen troops in cases of emergency, upon whose services the State would have a peculiar claim, and upon whom she could confidently rely.

It is conceded on all hands that our Militia laws have failed, utterly failed, to accomplish the purposes for which they were intended, and at the present time command but little of the public attention or respect. They have done nothing commensurate with the expenditure of time and money devoted to their preparation. Subtract the volunteer corps of our cities and larger towns, and we have in Maryland but the skeleton of Military strength, wholly without organization, undisciplined, unfit for any emergency, and unworthy of the character of the State and the spirit of our people.

Now on the other hand, and in striking contrast with this failure of the General Law, we have the perfect success of a system becoming every year more popular, which commences at the right place, with the youth of the State, and which, without any interruption to the regular course of Collegiate and Academic instruction, and with but trifling expense to the State, can make our educated youth well-trained soldiers and thoroughly acquainted with the prominent duties of Company Officers. Knowledge and skill in Military Science, all admit are more easily attained in youth, and when thus acquired more likely to be retained. They may be dormant for want of exercise, but the recent experience of our country furnishes the most abundant and honorable testimony, that when occasion demands, none rally around the consecrated flag of their country with more cordial alacrity, or render more gallant and distinguished services than those who are indebted to the Government for their Scientific and Military Education.

In addition to the Military knowledge thus gained, which is the chief concern, the drill furnishes the precise sort of exercise peculiarly adapted to Collegiate institutions. The absence of bodily training, according to proper anatomical laws is one of the