

States of the Union have already established Military institutes under the liberal patronage of the State and have thus made provision for the annual diffusion among the people of an educated and scientific corps of young men, schooled in Military science, trained and disciplined to its practical duties, and prepared, should the emergency arise, to discharge, to discharge the duties of any post in any department of Military duty. Several institutions of this character exist in our own State, without such patronage, in a highly flourishing condition. They are beginning to attract a large share of public attention, and richly merit public confidence and support. Through a system of regular daily instruction and weekly parades which ensure the healthful impulse of exercise and recreation, the students attain a degree of proficiency and skill, which equants them, not only with the duties of the private soldier, but with all the higher duties of company and battalion officers. It would not interfere with any Academic duties, time being specially appropriated to this physical exercise while the same system, that hours are devoted to intellectual culture. These Academic parades have been frequently witnessed by Military gentlemen of both State and Federal service, whose testimony has been uniform as to the sanctness of their exercises, the solidly learning of the students, and the superiority of their drill over that of most of the Volunteer Companies of the State.

As to the importance of diffusing Military knowledge and some degree of skill and tactics among the people, there can be no question. No elaborate system of Military 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 habits 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