

## THE GERMAN EMPIRE'S

another Power, France, which strengthened itself at sea under the wise guidance of Colbert. This enmity England maintained so long as no other Power became more dangerous. On every occasion when France, driven by her restless ambitious policy, was involved in a conflict, we find England on the side of her opponents and also even when English interests were not directly in question. And we find this continuing until some other Power appeared which could threaten the Island realm more directly than our western neighbour.

Slowly but uninterruptedly Russia had extended its borders in Asia ; with exceptional stubbornness had pushed its Cossack hordes towards the east and south, and England saw that she had to make immediate preparations, as her own efforts to expand from the direction of India would knock up against Russian opposition. The dangerous situation was that in that direction her strength left something to be desired, that is to say she