

The application of this offensive weapon to naval attack and defence in the open sea is another question; it has been asserted that a vessel with an *out rigger* could be equipped in a formidable manner with torpedoes, but a moments consideration will satisfy any one that such a craft must be necessarily slow and run at great risk from the explosion as the vessel she attacks.

A *towing* torpedo is a different machine, but even its positive value will be at best doubtful: a vessel moving at the rate of ten miles per hour has a speed of 293 yards per minute towing any object from her bow ram or cutwater, its tendency would be to fall into her wake, her opponent passing at a similar speed, if 300 feet in length, would clear her in about *one-third* of a minute, and the arrangements of either must be singularly accurate if they could succeed in placing a machine towing alongside in a position to do the slightest mischief to their opponent in that time.

No outrigger standing at right angles from the vessel (the only position in which it could be of use) could be concealed, and with the power of modern steamships a known danger can always be avoided.

It is evident that the torpedo is just about where Captain WARNER left it.

THERE is nothing calculated to be more beneficial to the mutual interests of Great Britain and her Colonies than an earnest practical consideration of the relations in which they mutually stand to each other.

It is no longer a matter of doubt that intricate political problems have been actually solved by the progressive growth of those dependencies, and it is evident the time has arrived when the question of a Federation may be fairly considered.

With respect to the aspect of the constitutional question the universal feeling in Canada is *one country one Queen*, and its practical solution is fairly illustrated by the following extract from an exchange:

"The correspondence on the Treaty and the proposed guarantee illustrates the new constitutional relation which has arisen both in Canada and in the Australian colonies from the modern experiment of so called responsible government. The Cabinet which, while it has absorbed the whole executive power of the Crown, has still no recognized place in the English Constitution, assumes in Canada, under its proper title of the Committee of Privy Council, an independent character in which it corresponds and negotiates with the Imperial Government. In theory the Governor General selects his Ministers, though they are necessarily, as in England, the leaders of the Parliamentary majority; but, while it is his business to obey the instructions of the Crown, the Committee of Privy Council is already recognized as the authorized representative of the Parliament and people. A minute of the English Cabinet is intended only for the guidance of its members, except on rare occasions when a collective resolution of the Ministers is submitted to the Sovereign. A minute of the Canadian Committee of Privy Council, for

ally approved by the Governor General, is a State paper embodying the decision of the Government on the most important affairs. It is convenient that a Ministerial body should be interposed between the Colonial Parliament and the Home Government; and there is a strong presumption in favor of institutions which owe their origin to practical expediency rather than to deliberate and theoretical legislation. The successive statesmen who, sometimes through indolence, and sometimes in accordance with their convictions, conceded responsible government to the colonies, probably persuaded themselves that the intercourse between the Secretary of State and the Colonies would afterwards, as in former times, be conducted by the Governor. As the Ministers now exercise the chief political power, it is desirable that their position should be acknowledged, and also that colonial statesmen should be known to those who hold office at home. The Canadian Committee of Privy Council apparently consists of sagacious men of business who regard substantial advantages as the best results of a dialectic victory."

The commercial aspect of our relations have been so often illustrated and analyzed that it is not necessary to do more than remark that Canada is the *third* naval power in the world.

In a military point of view she has over 700,000 enrolled soldiers and could put 250,000 in the field; her marine force in sea going ships would probably rank next to Great Britain, federation would therefore at once double the effective force of the latter; and although there are people who ought to know better—who will persist in asserting that Canada is a source of weakness to Great Britain—the people of this country and the United States thoroughly understand the contrary.

It is a well attested fact that the exigencies of Yankee politics would have forced a dangerous quarrel on Great Britain long since if there was no Canada in the rear of the United States.

As it is we can take that country by the throat at any time, and they know it.

The interests of Great Britain will be best served by Federation

"Several of the County Councils have a liberally and properly voted some additional compensation to that granted by the Government for the services of the active militia. Wentworth has voted fifty cents per day, per man. Wellington and Peel have added twenty-five cents per day, per man, to the Government fifty cents. These generous acts are appreciated by the volunteer forces of the counties named, not so much for the mere money value of the boon, but because they regard it as a public acknowledgment of the valuable services of those who leave the comforts of home for the discomforts of camp, and make large sacrifices for the defence of their country."

The above extract which we copy from the *Expositor*, proves that the value of the Canadian army is fully appreciated by the great mass of the people, and that they will endeavor to atone for the misdeeds of the economists of the House of Commons.

It is well known that our County Councils

really represent the public opinion of the people; and in this case a sufficient answer has been given to all objections respecting the value of the Volunteer force. Military service under the enlightened and generous administration of Wentworth, Wellington and Peel, will be no "unequally distributed burthen," as those counties have shown that they thoroughly appreciate the duties as well as the rights of property, and by imposing a tax for its defence are determined that every individual shall do their part in that necessary function.

We commend a careful study of this feature of our municipal arrangements to those who complain of unfair treatment, and advise them to look for redress to their representatives in Parliament or their County Councils.

It does not argue well for the "any reorganization" scheme of Mr. CARDWELL and his Whig Radical confreres to find that fully *one half* the trained officers of what was the British army are retiring from the service this year.

We saw with regret in *Broad Arrow* an article on a gallant and experienced soldier (a man too who had attained the rank of Field officer by hard and meritorious service) having adopted the profession of *leather law*, in other words, being called to the bar—in which it was half jocosely insinuated that his military knowledge would be rendered of more value to his country by his forensic talent—although he had filled the rank of Deputy Quartermaster General.

It would strike practical observers that people who could contemplate the loss of valuable and experienced services to the country must be living in a "fool's paradise"—and it would appear that the advocates of "army reform" in Great Britain in their delight at having eliminated all the practical experience from its ranks—forget that mere scholastic acquirements is not efficiency, and that the *Dux* of a competitive examination will not necessarily be the *Dux* of a forlorn hope.

Perhaps the new tactics will render such an operation unnecessary, and the future subaltern with the aid of a camp stool, map, field-glass and the telegraph will be able *a la* Von Moltke to command his detachment out of the range or sound of cannon shot.

New discoveries in science and mechanism are making every day—and it might be possible for Birmingham to turn out a cast iron force as impenetrable to shot or shell as the far famed ironclads. The only trouble may be in the fact that they would be just as effective.

WHETHER the *Boston Journal* is an accurate authority on ordnance we do not know, but of one fact we are quite certain, the rifled gun is not the proper weapon for Naval armament.