

are placed the powerful and terribly destructive engines of war now produced at the Armstrong and other factories. In this connection the following passage may be quoted. "The heaviest gun on board the Victory was little over three tons; the heaviest on board the Victoria was little over 110 tons. The largest charge used on board the Victory was ten lbs.; the largest on board the Victoria close on 1,000 lbs. The heaviest metal discharged from a broadside of the shot used in the Victory was 68 lbs.; in the Victoria 1,800 lbs. The weight of Victory was 1,150 lbs., from that of the Victoria it was 4,750 lbs. A broadside in the former case consumed 355 lbs. of powder, that in the latter 2,490 lbs."

Naval Forces in the East.

It is interesting to note that Great Britain appears just now to have a very marked preponderance of strength in Eastern seas. The French fleet may be able to blow the Siamese vessels out of the water and to bombard Bangkok till it disappears from sight, but it is simply nowhere in comparison with the British China Squadron, supposed to be somewhere near Singapore at present—to say nothing of the East Indies fleet, which is not very far away. The New York Herald recently published the following list of the French ships now in Chinese waters:

Ships.	Tons.	Horse Power.	Guns
Triomphante - - -	4176	2400	13
Annamite - - -	5400	2318	5
Forfait - - -	2260	2900	15
Inconstante - - -	811	874	3
Alouette - - -	506	404	3
Lutin - - -	474	373	4
Comete - - -	473	631	5
Lion - - -	473	576	2
Jacquin - - -	192	308	2
Moulun - - -	192	308	2
Arquebuse - - -	111	150	2
Caronade - - -	111	150	2
Cimeterre - - -	111	150	2
Estoe - - -	111	150	2
Mutine - - -	111	150	2

It will be seen that the vessels are small, the tonnage not very great and the guns not very numerous. Of course, the fleet as it is now more than answers the purpose of bullying Siam, but the point of interest to us is in its comparative strength as against England. While it is probable that the ability of Lords Dufferin and Rosebery, the lack of desire for war in Britain and the efforts which will be made to persuade France into reasonable action, will avert war, yet a very little torch may kindle a great conflagration, and in these distant complications no one can be sure of the consequences. Hence the pleasure with which we can read this list of the British China Squadron:

Ships.	Tons.	Horse Power.	Guns
Imperieuse - - -	8400	10000	14
Leander - - -	4300	6500	10
Severn - - -	4050	6000	12
Severn - - -	3730	7290	14
Pallas - - -	2575	7500	8
Archer - - -	1700	3500	6

Porpoise - - -	1770	3500	6
Alacrity - - -	1700	3180	4
Caroline - - -	1420	1440	15
Redpole - - -	805	1200	6
Linnet - - -	756	1050	5
Swift - - -	756	1010	5
Peacock - - -	755	1200	6
Pigmy - - -	755	1200	6
Plover - - -	755	1200	6
Rattler - - -	715	1200	6
Firebrand - - -	455	460	4

The superiority is obvious at a glance. And not far distant in the East India fleet are half a dozen more ironclad cruisers and gunboats too in proportion. It therefore seems probable that we may put full confidence in Sir Edward Grey's statement to the House of Commons that there were plenty of British ships about Siam to protect British lives, properties and territorial interests. Politics, however, and not the navy, too often control these matters. But it is satisfactory to know that the latter is sufficient if required.

THE BOYS BRIGADE.  
An Interesting Encampment in Western Ontario.

A novel engagement commenced in Elora on Tuesday last. No. 1 Company of the Boys' Brigade, from Palmerston, and No. 1 Company, of the same organization, from Harriston, came to Elora, in accordance with previous arrangements, and took up temporary habitation in the fine piece of ground adjoining Armory Hall. Palmerston company is under command of Capt. and Rev. F. C. Piper, with Capt. Jamieson, of the 30th, as 1st Lieut. and Raymond Jackson, Esq., 2nd Lieut. The Harriston company is commanded by Capt. and Rev. J. Belt, his 1st Lieut. being Lieut. Holton, of the 30th. They pitched eight military tents and one marquee, kindly loaned to them by the militia authorities of the district, under orders from the Minister of Militia, and the camp was under thorough military organization. There are 54 non-commissioned officers and privates in the Palmerston company and 30 in the Harristown company, but the whole of them were not present. The boys wear forage caps, around which run two rows of silver braid, cross belts, waist belts, and haversack, which were procured from Glasgow. The organization in fact was established at Glasgow, in Scotland, about ten years ago, and at the present time there are 80 full companies in active operation in that city. It is not denominational in character, but the greater portion of its Scottish adherents belong to the Presbyterian church. In Canada the chief executive, the Rev. Capt. Fotheringham, is a Presbyterian minister of St. John's, N. B., and in that Province many of the companies are composed of adherents of the Presbyterian church. In Ontario, where 20 companies are in operation, they are connected largely with the Episcopal church, although in the companies here there are some Methodists and Presbyterians. Each company must have as its head a clergyman of some denomination. The non-commissioned officers and privates of the various companies are eligible for enlistment from the ages of 12 to 17 years, and pledge themselves to be-

come non-users of intoxicating liquors and tobacco, and to refrain from the use of profane language. In addition they promise to read a portion of Scripture every morning, preparatory to entering upon the work of the day. The whole proceedings of the camp are conducted with military regularity, from gun fire at 6 a.m. to "lights out" at 10 p. m. when sentries are posted, and remain on duty until morning. Capt. Jamieson, than whom there could be no better officer for the purpose, acts as adjutant, and is indefatigable in the enforcement of proper discipline. Meals are taken by the boys and officers in the marquee, and several ladies, who accompany the brigade, act as caterers and assistants to the boys. Provisions, or money for the purchase of them, has been provided by the parents of the children, and the capacity of the young soldiers for stowing away rations has been found to be equal to that of any other Canadian corps of similar weight and size. An idea of the work done may be gathered from the following:

- Orders for each day—
- 6 a. m.—Gun fire.
  - 6.30.—Orderly sergeant reports men all right to orderly officer of the day.
  - 6.45.—All tents and blankets must be aired, and boys mustered in squads.
  - 7 to 7.20.—Bathing.
  - 8.—Breakfast.
  - 9.—Devotional exercises.
  - 9.30 to 10.30.—Drill.
  - 12.30 p. m.—Dinner.
  - 2 to 2.30.—One of the officers to read aloud.
  - 4 to 5.—Drill.
  - 6.—Supper.
  - 8.—Chat in marquee.
  - 9.—Devotional exercises.
  - 9.30.—Gun fire.
  - 10.—Lights out.
- Passes granted on "off hours" only.
- Yesterday Lieut. Col. Clarke, ex-commandant of the 30th, inspected the two companies, which were put through many movements, and expressed himself as delighted at the progress made. He was not surprised thereat because intimately acquainted with the thorough character of Captain Jamieson's drill. He addressed the boys briefly, and expressed the hope that they would turn out in still larger force when next they went to camp, and that they would be joined by many other companies to be formed in the county of Wellington. Adj. Jamieson says that drill will be resumed at the headquarters of each company, in September, and kept up during the coming winter. He added that Dr. Standish, of Palmerston, delivers ambulance lectures to the boys, when opportunity offers, and the progress made by them under his instruction is as pleasing as it is astonishing. In St. Thomas, Ont., there are six companies, which recently went into camp at Port Stanley. In Toronto there are two, and one each in Sarnia and Hamilton. In the United States about 100 brigades have been formed, and all are reported as doing good work. Last evening the boys gave an entertainment in Armory Hall here which was fairly well attended.—Guelph Mercury Aug. 9.