

as with the *Devastation*. The comparative dimensions of both are as follows:—

*Peter the Great. Devastation.*

	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.
Length between perpendiculars.....	321	0	285	0
Breadth between.....	64	0	62	3
Draught forward.....	22	9	25	9
" aft.....	24	9	26	6
Displacement in tons.....	9,062		9,062	
Metacentre above centre of gravity.....	8.64		3.85	

The armour of *Peter the Great* is said to be in every part equal to that of the *Devastation* and the four guns on her turrets are to be the most powerful Krupp can produce.

The only ally on which Great Britain could rely would be France, and her condition as a naval power, may be judged by the following extract, and by the inefficiency of the navy during the late Franco-Prussian War.

"The *Ocean*, of Brest, prints the following details of the composition of the French fleet in 1872:—The fleet consists of 104 vessels fully equipped, seven of which are iron-plated, and of 52 ships of the reserve, of which 19 are plated. The marine compose an effective force of 23,441 men. The amount allotted for new vessels during the two years 1872 and 1873 is 22 million francs. The 94 vessels that will remain equipped in 1873 are distributed in the following manner; the evolution squadron, 11 ships, 2 plated frigates, 4 plated corvettes, 1 corvette with battery, 2 advice and instruction boats. Besides the evolution squadron the fleet must provide 36 vessels for the squadrons of the Antillas, and the South Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; other 24 for stations in Algeria, Egypt, Martinique, Guadeloupe, New Caledonia, Réunion, Mayotte. Finally 14 vessels are assigned for special missions and for provisioning New Caledonia. The floating material is divided into three groups:—1. Vessels that are in a thoroughly serviceable condition; 2. Vessels that may still be used; and 3. Vessels condemned to be broken up.

It would be a useless speculation to attempt to enumerate the United States amongst the powers that would take an active part in limiting the advance of despotism in Europe, her antecedents and leanings are in favor of it. Between the tyranny of the mob, to which she is subject, and the rule of the one-man power, the choice of the educated classes, must necessarily be in favor of the latter, and when this is backed up with the unconcealed desire to supplant Great Britain in her naval supremacy, the side taken in the question of hostilities by the United States can be easily predicated with certainty.

Although of no account as a naval power, her active aid, and the facilities her great coast line affords for fitting out cruisers. The necessity of watching this in case of assumed neutrality, would make her equally dangerous as friend or foe, and the only alternative would be to compel her to take sides at once.

The political horizon of Europe is charged with war clouds, dense and impending, and the Mistress of the Sea will have an ugly time of it.

*Broad Arrow* of 12th October has the following paragraph:

"A circular has been issued from the War Office stating that a non commissioned officer granted a commission (except as riding master or quartermaster of a regiment of cavalry) will be allowed £100 in aid of his outfit, and if subsequently appointed lieutenant of a horse brigade of the Royal Artillery, or of a regiment of cavalry will be allowed a further sum of £50. A non commissioned officer granted a commission as riding master or quartermaster of a cavalry regiment will be allowed £150 in aid of his outfit. These allowances may be issued without previous reference to the War Office and charged in the accounts in which the first charge for the officer's pay appears, vouched by proof of payment and the certificate that the officer has provided himself with the necessary outfit and paid for the same. The certificate in the case of regimental officers will be signed by the officer commanding the regiment or corps, and in the case of sub inspectors of army schools by the Director General of Military Education.

An arrangement of this description will go further to procure a good class of recruits for the service, than the abolition of purchase, and it will be for the interest of the Empire if Mr. CARDWELL will go one step further, and show what retiring allowance those officers so promoted will be entitled to.

All the advantages given by the circular were enjoyed under the old Regime.

The following account of a trial of rapid firing is taken from the (English) *Volunteer Service Gazette* of 12th October, and is certainly a remarkable feat.

We re-publish it in hopes some of our crack shooters will be tempted to try and rival the performance.

"Mr. R. C. Vanscolina, of Hadleigh, who holds a commission as Lieutenant in one of the Metropolitan Corps, wagered with some friends that he would, with the breech-loading Snider rifle, make not less than 200 hits at the 100 yards range within the hour, and he further wagered that he would score not less than 550 points. It was arranged that the trial should come off at the Hadleigh range, and it was stipulated that Mr. Vanscolina should place himself in any position he thought convenient, and use two or more rifles. Accordingly, at three o'clock on the day named, Mr. Vanscolina, with several friends and others interested, met at the rifle range, Surgeon Muriel and Captain Davy acting as umpires. The weather was unfavorable, being wet and squally, but Mr. Vanscolina was very confident, and as the shooting gradually proceeded it became evident that he would be an easy winner. The 200 hits were made in three quarters of an hour, and Mr. Vanscolina continued firing until he had registered 651 points, thus winning the second wager within the time specified, and 101 points to spare. There were three targets in use scoring, and the following shows how the points were obtained:—

	Outers.	Centres.	eyes.	Total.
First target ...	44	22	8	186
Second ditto ...	27	23	20	203
Third ditto ...	45	28	22	262
	116	73	50	651

The following notice of the Minister of War is copied from the *Broad Arrow* of 26th October, and must be gratifying to the numerous friends of that distinguished Statesman, whose health we are happy to inform our readers has so much improved as to warrant the expectation of an early return to the scene of his labours, which have always been directed to the benefit of his country and the advancement of the interests of its people.

"Sir George Cartier, the Canadian Defence Minister, who is now in this country, received on Monday, by telegram from Manitoba, information of the arrival there on the 20th inst. of the expedition which some time since left Canada, 200 strong, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel O. Smith. The party took about three weeks to effect their passage by the Dawson route from the head of Lake Superior, and arrived at their destination without casualties. They were despatched from Canada in order to relieve an expedition sent a year ago."

At 9:10 this morning (13th) the Governor General received the following telegraphic message, which was dated Nov. 15th, 1872, Australian time:—

"Telegraph banquet held. Desira Health of the Queen and Union of the Empire."

(Signed,)

GOVERNOR OF ADELAIDE.

At 11:10 this forenoon, the following telegraphic message was sent in reply:—

"Canada re-echoes Australia's toast: The Queen and a United Empire."

DURHAM.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the *Volunteer Review*.

To the Editor of the *Volunteer Review*.

Sir,—Your correspondent "B," in one of his former letters advocates the just claims of Colonel Fletcher, C.M.G., to the vacant post of D.A.G. of No. 5 District, with great warmth and a good share of reason. Colonel Fletcher, as senior officer, is entitled to it, and, if this sterling officer is passed over, it will be a lasting disgrace and shame; but I have better hopes than that.

What is Colonel Fletcher's record? as noble and meritorious as one as any one can show.

From 1837 to 1846 non-com. officer in the Montreal Light Infantry.

From 1846 to 1855—Captain and Adjutant of the Montreal Fire Battalion.

From 1855 to 1858—Captain with rank of Major of a Company of Bikes (now No. 2 P. W. R. Regt.)

From 1858 to 1862—An officer in H.M. 100th Regt.

From March 1862 to November same year—Major in the 5th Royals, Montreal.