

possible combination in Europe, a well devised scheme by the British navy could paralyse its commerce, and as a French statesman admits render coast defence impossible. Prince Bismarck is reported to have said that a war between England and Russia would be like a fight between a horse and a whale, with this difference, that the whale would be like Sir Boyle Roche's canary, in more places than one at the same time; and homely as the comparison may be it implies a fact which cannot be gainsaid—that the land and sea forces of the British Empire would be above all other things ubiquitous.

The reasons are simple. Great Britain may be called the citadel of the British Empire. Comparatively a small island it governs in all quarters of the globe territory over sixty times her own area, which contains 7,647,000 square miles, about *one-third* of the surface of the globe and nearly one-fourth of its population. Of this vast dominion 3,000,000 square miles are in America, 1,000,000 in Africa, 1,000,000 in Asia, and 2,500,000 in Central Asia; in Europe 121,607.

It is the citadel or centre of political power, and it need not excite surprise to find statesmen and soldiers sensitive in proportion to their knowledge of the magnitude of the interest involved and their estimate of the resources at hand to protect them. The pessimistic view is generally adopted by the mercantile and a portion of the military class who have had hard work with small means to achieve great results and little or no rewards for the gallant services they have rendered in keeping this mighty Empire together. In nearly all cases the complaint is that the forces, naval and military, are unequal to the task imposed upon them, and that in the event of a general war in Europe the defence of the British Empire would be an impossible task; but as no sign has yet been exhibited that such an event is on the political cards we may take time to consider our position and see as far as we can do into this question.

(To be continued.)

Personal.

Mr. Otley L. Perry, an English volunteer officer well known as the author of several meritorious literary works, has been spending the week in this city, and has paid several visits to the Militia Department. Mr. Perry has already spent some time in Quebec, where he renewed old acquaintance with officers of "A" battery, and at Montreal, and as he intends proceeding as far as British Columbia, stopping at various points on the way, he will have acquired ere he returns home quite a volume of knowledge concerning Canadian military matters, of which he is making a study *en passant*. It is not improbable that we yet may have the benefit of seeing his impressions in print, in a volume or otherwise. The statement has appeared in the daily press that Mr. Perry is here in the capacity of a representative of one of the British service journals, but this is a mistake, as he is not a contributor to or otherwise connected with any paper. The literary work he has at present in hand is a revision of and addition to his latest work, "Ranks and Badges of Her Majesty's Army and Navy," an exceedingly valuable production to which we hope to make further reference later. The first edition, published in the early part of this year, took so well that a second, with much supplemental matter, is now in course of preparation, and may be expected to be issued about the beginning of the new year. The corps to which Mr. Perry is attached is the Second Volunteer Battalion of the L. N. Lancashire Regt., in which he holds the position of lieutenant and assistant instructor of musketry.

Major H. F. Perley, engineer officer at headquarters, who is also chief engineer of the Public Works Department, has just returned to Ottawa from an official trip to British Columbia. His business was chiefly in connection with the Esquimalt graving dock, which ten years after the commencement of the work, is now ready for use. The dimensions of the dock are as follows: Length, 430 feet; width of entrance, 65 feet; width of dock at top, 90 feet; depth of water on the sill at high tide, 28 feet. The total cost of construction was about \$1,000,000, of which the sum of £50,000 sterling was contributed by the Imperial Government, a special agreement being made that vessels of the navy should have the preference over others in the use of the dock. Already two vessels belonging to the Northern Pacific squadron have undergone cleaning and repairs, and as the charges are about one-third those collected at San Francisco, a large mercantile custom is anticipated. The position of the dock—inside Esquimalt harbor—renders it safe from any hostile demonstration such as might result from Russian intrigue in the Northern Pacific, and its safety will be further assured by a system of defences, plans for the construction of which have been submitted to the Imperial authorities. As the only other dock on the Pacific is the Imperial dock at Yokoska in Japan, the pressing nature of the demand for some such haven, dependent on the exigencies consequent to the maintenance of a squadron in the Northern Pacific, will be fully recognized. In addition to the protection of the dock a heavy system of

harbor defences will be required to assure the safety of Esquimalt, which besides being the only naval station in the Pacific, commands the straits of Juan de Fuca, controlling also to a large degree the coal trade in Vancouver.

Col. Cameron, of England, is in the city, on business and for pleasure. It has been reported that his mission to Canada is to secure the position of Commandant of the Royal Military College, but this would appear to be not the case, although at the same time it would not be altogether unexpected were he chosen as the successor to Col. Oliver. Col. Cameron has already seen service in Canada, having nearly twenty years ago been in charge of a survey party sent to determine the international boundary westward from the Lake of the Woods, and in connection with which expedition an alleged order of his for the removal of a "blawsted fence" set up by the distrustful and irate settlers to block his way, has since been the foundation for a rich standing joke at his expense. Col. Cameron is a son-in-law of Sir Charles Tupper, and is to accompany him to Washington to act as secretary to the Canadian representative on the fisheries commission.

Our Exchanges and their Contents.

An examination of the *Illustrated London News* (American reprint) for Oct. 22nd, will show the English view of the trial yacht race, illustrations in connection with the State of Ireland, Our Homeless Poor in St. James's Park at Mid Day, the British Mission to Morocco, and Sketches on the River Congo. A Sleeping Beauty represents a handsome tiger at rest, while Christening Sunday presents infancy surrounded by admirers. The price of the number being only ten cents places it within the reach of all. Every newsdealer has it. The office of publication is in the Potter Building, New York City.

The Grand Army of the Republic has recently, in more ways than one, been passing under review. A description of the order by ex-Commander-in-Chief Fairchild, in the *American Magazine* for November, is timely, and will no doubt be eagerly read. He gives a clear and almost too concise account of the organization from its birth at Springfield, Ill., in 1866, to the present time; explains the objects, and tells of its vast charities and the benefits it confers on the families of deceased soldiers. The order is doing a grand work in charity to the families of deceased and dependent soldiers. For this year the actual reported outlay exceeds \$253,000; but reckoning the amounts paid for the same purpose and never reported, it is fair to say that not less than half a million dollars have been thus expended. During the sixteen years from 1871 to 1886, the sum of \$1,173,688.60 has been disbursed in charities; and as it is well known that one-half is not reported, there can be no exaggeration in saying that twice that amount has thus been well spent.

The *Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine* for this month sustains creditably its high reputation. Commencing with an account of "The most exalted Order of the Star of India," where the writer displays considerable heraldic knowledge, it concludes also the following articles, well chosen and smartly written. Admiral Ingram tells the story of "The Dismasted Troopship," including some personal experiences narrated in a spirited style. "The Great Wall of China," once known as one of the seven wonders of the world, and recently said to be apocryphal, is described by the Hon. H. N. Shore, R.N., with some artistically executed illustrations. "Ship Launching," "The Quick Breechloading Gun," and "Modern Tactics," are treated in a workmanlike and scientific fashion. The continuation of Major-Gen. Mitford's "Orient and Occident," deals with the short visit paid by the writer to Canada, and has several Canadian illustrations. Colonel L'Estrange sketches the salient features in General Boulanger's brief and eccentric ministerial career, in a friendly and yet impartial style, giving due credit for the ex-minister's many soldier-like traits. Mr. Charles Marvin, always at home when writing on England and Russia in the East, contributes an entertaining article on "Diplomatic Penjeh."

The exact geographical centre of the United States is marked by a grave—that of Major Ogden of the United States army, who died at Fort Riley, Kan., in 1855, during the cholera epidemic of that year. Major Ogden's remains were afterwards removed to Fort Leavenworth and buried in the National cemetery there, but his monument still stands on a knoll a little to the northeast of the post—Fort Riley—and it lifts its head to the clouds in the exact geographical centre of the United States.

In these days stories of new projectiles and new explosives come thick and fast. The nations of Europe are eagerly rivalling one another to see which shall equip itself with the most terrible armaments. The latest reported novelty is a gunpowder invented by a Russian chemist. It is called "Sleetover," and its merit is said to be in the peculiar mode of explosion. Says a published account of it: "The peculiarity of the compound is that it explodes by expanding in one direction only, and that the direction in which the projectile is to be carried forward." In other words the Russian inventor has discovered a way to overcome and reverse the laws of nature hitherto governing the expansion of gases. Now he ought to devote himself to lifting himself by his boot-straps to the moon.—*Forest and Stream*.