

to perfection; and she finds herself at the head of a people prepared to make enormous sacrifices for the advancement of her political objects. We give Count Bismarck credit for having foreseen these things and their results. It is our deliberate opinion and belief that he has for many years—that is, since the humiliation of Olmutz and the pitiful conduct of Prussia during the Crimean war—had steadily in view the means by which he could gratify the ambition of his country and his own, by raising her to the first rank of European Powers, and by placing the Imperial Crown on his master's head. Such an undertaking involved the overthrow of the Germanic Confederation, the violation of numerous treaties, the destruction of the whole system of the balance of power in Europe, war with Austria, concessions to Russia, defiance of England, and at last a death-struggle with France. It therefore exacted incalculable sacrifice of human life and property. But the man of 'blood and iron' knew what he meant to do, and he has apparently done so. The end is a great one. But probably no other living man would have had the force of will and the insensibility of conscience to enter upon that blood-stained path. However guilty of recklessness and ambition the French Government may have been in the transactions which were the immediate cause or pretext of the declaration of war, on which we have in our last Number freely expressed our opinion, it can never be denied that the disruption of Europe, the change in relative position of States, and the final overthrow of the great settlement of 1815, were the results of the policy of Prussia in 1864 and 1866, guided by Count Bismarck, and we do him no injustice by supposing that he desired and intended them, and was prepared to pay the cost of them. The passions of men are after all but the blind instruments, of the Providential government of mankind. The spectacle of human misery and helplessness would be too dreadful, but for the belief that even the crimes of nations are working to some beneficent, though unseen end; and that there is a plan in the ultimate conduct of human affairs, infinitely more vast and just than the schemes of statesmen and the tactics of successful war.

(To be continued.)

The *Standard* says that Mr. Cardwell has sanctioned the adoption of the Martini-Henry rifle with the shorter of its two breech actions.

The military force at Aldershot for the summer drill will consist of twenty infantry and seven cavalry regiments; but it has not yet been finally settled which corps will be included in the number.

The *Frankfort Journal* says that from 120 to 125 millions of the war indemnity will be reserved for the pensions of the sick and wounded. The annual figure of these pensions is estimated as above five millions.

It is reported that several of our regiments of heavy and medium cavalry are to be cuirassed, the value of the cuirass as a means of protection to the horse soldier having been incontestably established during the Cortin-al war.

A new regulation has come into force, by which soldiers will be paid weekly instead of daily as heretofore, a change which will, it is hoped encourage habits of frugality and sobriety among the men. One week's pay will always be kept in hand until the soldier leaves the service.



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F. BRAUN,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, April 1st, 1871.

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