

is beyond question ; but if the remark were not presumptuous, we should say that he was too great a diplomatist : he believes too much in diplomacy as an occult science and overrates its power of controlling violent passions and brute forces. How can he or any man tell what gust of emotion may to-morrow sweep over France, what thoughts may be harboured in the breast of the Czar, or what complications may any day be brought on by some outbreak in Eastern Europe, in Crete, or in Afghanistan ? Assurances of peace may be trusted when armaments are reduced : while they are augmented we must infer that those who augment them look for war. The finances of France appear to be in a bad state. Supposing a crisis comes, will it lead the French to curtail their military expenditure, or will it lead them at once to hurl themselves desperately on Germany ? Who can tell ? In such a case passion would reign and diplomatic science would have little power.

--The contagion of the Dock Strike has spread and British industry seems to be falling into disorganization at the moment when reviving commerce had made the outlook bright. What will be the ultimate consequence, we all know ; it will be the withdrawal of trade from the disturbed centres ; perhaps its departure from England to the continent ; for the men have not yet succeeded in persuading their foreign competitors to forbear taking advantage of their mistakes. The community, let us say again, is the real employer and will give no more for goods or labour than it can afford, so that if the producers or labourers insist on a price higher than the community can afford the trade must cease. There is no help for it, however ; combination is lawful, though it seems hard that those who turn a single wheel in a great machine of industry should be able by striking to make the whole machine stand still, and that a great city should be plunged in darkness whenever the men in the gas works have a quarrel with their employers. Nor are there any means of preventing men from