

making the profits, which constituted their wealth, and which is falsely called national wealth.

The remedy is to compel this wealth to help in its own defence.

KING ALFONSO XII. has been received with enthusiasm in Spain, and legitimate monarchy has displaced the anarchy introduced by PRIM and his associate followers and successors. It is to be hoped that permanent peace will settle down on the peninsula, and that this unlucky country which has been the shuttle cock of fortune so long will be allowed to rehabilitate itself amongst the nations of the world. The whole drama is a lesson which diplomatic and political intriguers would do well to regard. It is hardly a month ago since the astute BISMARCK took the lead in recognising SERRANO's Republic as the Government of Spain, inducing Russia, Austria, Italy and France to follow his lead; it will be curious to know what he will do now when the Spanish people have repudiated his little arrangement. It would appear that Germany has two ironclads known as the *Nancteur* and the *Albatros*, these have been ordered to Santander to protect German interest whatever that may mean, while DON CARLOS still keeps alive his faction, and hope opportunity will not be wanting nor a pretext to meddle. Late despatches say that BISMARCK has notified the Spanish authorities that he will not recognize the new order of things except the restrictions placed on the "Protestant Press of Madrid" by his late proteges the Republicans is taken off. If the present Government have any spirit it will be easy to conceive what the reply must be, and it would not at all surprise us to learn that a row between Spain and Germany was the signal for the outbreak of a general war. *Blackwood* for December in its article on the "Parliamentary recess," has the following: "In a military point of view the most striking circumstance of the recess has been the calling out of an additional force of about 175,000 men from the reserves of the German military organization in order to swell its effective Army. The state of the continent is such that after all the Germans have achieved—having trampled over Denmark, crushed Austria, and for a time at least destroyed the power of France—they do not feel secure unless at a few weeks' notice they can muster in the field 1,800,000 men."

This was written before the sudden changes in Spanish affairs placed ALFONSO on the throne and scattered the Republic to the winds. The ominous passage at the close of the speech of the German Emperor at the recent opening of Parliament is noteworthy: "I know myself to be free from all tempting thoughts to employ the united power of the Empire for other than defensive purposes. Conscious of the power at our own disposal

my Government can afford to pass over in silence the suspicion cast upon their policy. Not until the malice and party expression to whose attack we are exposed, passed from words to actions, shall we resent them. In such an event the whole nation and its Princes will join me in defending our honor and rights."

It is the old story of the Wolf and the Lamb, the pretext of "honor and rights" will be easily found—and then comes the catastrophe.

THE speech of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, at Taylor's Hall, has provoked considerable comment from the Press the more remarkable because he had simply communicated an incontestable truism when he stated that the only alternative open to Great Britain for supporting a military force was "Conscription," or an increase of pay sufficient to bring the soldier's wages to a par with the current price of the labor market.

Amongst the many articles which this announcement has provoked, one from the *Broad Arrow* of 19th December is especially deserving of notice; because it is a military journal, and therefore supposed to know the full bearings of the professional subject on which it speaks, and also because it has declared the principle of voluntary service as that on which any military force raised in Great Britain must be founded.

This article will be found in another page under the title of "Standing Armies," and we reprint it in order to show our readers the value of our own system of organization, by contrasting it with the military despotisms of Europe, and the pecuniary considerations that complicate the British system. Historically the writer alludes to a period—that of WILLIAM III. (or Great as he ought to be called) of England, who was the first whose capacious mind appreciated the true policy for the preservation of the independence and preponderance of the British Isles; in other words, he may be said to have invented the balance of power amongst European nations and fought England's battles in Flanders and Germany, instead of on the fields of Kent and Sussex. He understood thoroughly the method of keeping invasion at arms-length, and that was by finding constant employment for the would-be invaders in defending their own firesides. Since his time the world has progressed. Ignorant Charlatans unable to appreciate his policy has allowed it to be set aside, and as a consequence England to lay herself in the face of a menaced danger of greater magnitude than any she has yet confronted—almost unarmed and entirely alone.

There can be no doubt that she has within herself ample resources to meet all possible contingencies, but these require time for development. The question is will that time be granted, or will the doctrinaires

whose handiwork has left her without an effective military organization be allowed time to make further experiments. It is as true now as it was in 1690 that the problem of immunity from invasion must be solved on the banks of the Rhine, the Sambre and the Meuse, and the British soldier must again face the enemies of his country on the historic battle fields rendered famous by the prowess of his forefathers. This question of military organization can only be solved by using compulsion; but it is on the monied class that the pressure should be brought to bear. English soldiers can be found to fight in England's cause without compulsion; but they must be paid, clothed and fed.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the "Seventh Annual Report" of the "Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary" from the Superintendent, and are pleased to learn that this valuable Institution is in a flourishing condition.

It has already effected a great deal of good in cases the most painful, and as it aims at affording relief to parties unable to pay for the costly services of oculist or aurist and as those specialities are not to be found amongst the ordinary surgical or medical practitioners in the agricultural districts, this institution is not, as its directors point out, local in its operation, but belongs in a special manner to the whole Province.

Its financial statement shows that it is partly supported by an allowance of the small sum of \$500 per annum from the Provincial Government, and chiefly by private subscriptions and donations. Its whole income for the last year was \$2,862; during the year 535 patients had been treated, of which 420 were for diseases of the eye and 115 for diseases of the Ear. The Institution is non-sectarian and has adopted the common sense resolution of admitting the ministrations of all denominations who chose to seek the poor and suffering of their various creeds within its walls. That it has claims for the most energetic public support is beyond a doubt, and we do not see why the Local Government should not extend a liberal patronage towards it.

The men who support and direct it deserve well of the country.

The following paragraph gives extraordinary results from the trial of a model of a newly invented gun, the principle of which is the direct antithesis of that on which all modern artillery has been constructed.

Experiments with models, especially of artillery are generally deceptive; but if this weapon is a success it will revolutionize the whole system of modern artillery. We are not at all taken with its leading recommendation—"soft and elastic" interior lining—with a rigid envelope. The laws of expansion are likely to tell with fearful effect on such a construction when large charges are em-