

are likely to visit these waters. The Imperial squadron on the Australian station, which has its headquarters in Sydney, is under the command of Rear-Admiral Henry Fairfax, R. N., who carries his flag on board the Nelson, a first-class screw cruiser, armoured, 12 guns, 7,630 tons, and 6,640 horse-power. The other royal ships stationed here are the Diamond, ordered home, 12 guns, screw cruiser, 3rd class, 1,970 tons, 2,140 horse-power, commanded by Capt. Finlay S. Clayton; the Opal, 12, screw cruiser, 3rd class, 2,120 tons, 2,190 horse-power, Capt. Day Bosanquet; the Calliope, 16, screw cruiser, 3rd class, 2,770 tons, 4,020 horse-power, Capt. Henry C. Kane; the Egeria, 4, screw surveying-vessel, 900 tons, 1,010 horse-power, Capt. Pelham Aldridge; the Rapid, 12, screw cruiser, 3rd class, 1,420 tons, 1,400 horse-power, Capt. Wm. F. S. Mann; the Swinger, 4, screw gun-boat, 2nd class, 430 tons, 520 horse-power, Lieut. and Com. Albert C. Allen; the Myrmidon, 4, screw surveying-vessel, 877 tons, 720 horse-power, Com. the Hon. Foley C. P. Vereker; the Dart, 2, screw surveying-vessel, 470 tons, 200 horse-power, Lieut.-Com. M. Field; the Raven, 4, screw gun-boat, 2nd class, 465 tons, 380 horse-power, Lieut. and Com. Frank W. Wyley; and the Undine, Harrier, and Lark, schooners employed on surveying service. An agreement has been entered into between the Imperial Government and the Governments of the principal colonies for the maintenance in the Australian seas of a largely augmented fleet—sufficiently strong in numbers and weight of metal to efficiently guard the Australian water-ways under all circumstances.

With regard to the second line of defence, good solid progress has been made in the construction and arming of the coast batteries. These batteries have been built at various places along the coast which would, if unprotected, give an invading force a favourable opportunity for landing. At those most distant from headquarters an Artillery garrison of sufficient strength is constantly maintained. Large batteries, mounting heavy pieces of ordnance, are constructed on the heights commanding the entrance to Sydney Harbour, and opposite the entrance itself is a casement of great strength. The works, which are considered good examples of engineering, were designed by the late Major-General Sir Peter Scratchley. There are, in addition to the Artillery defences, mines of torpedoes laid out at such places as are likely to be threatened by the ships of an enemy. There is a partially paid corps of torpedo and signal operators, about 230 strong, who attend to that branch of the defences. A permanent force of artillery, about 500 strong, are trained for field and garrison service.

The field force, which forms the third line of defence, consists of Cavalry, Field Artillery, Engineers and Infantry. The British troops were withdrawn from New South Wales in 1870. The first volunteer force was enrolled in Sydney in 1854. It was established under an Act in Council, 18 Vic., No. 8, and consisted of one battery of artillery, one troop of cavalry, six companies of Infantry, numbering between 300 and 400 men. It practically ceased to exist in 1856, but in 1860 a second force was enrolled under the same act. It comprises two batteries of artillery in Sydney, one battery in Newcastle, one troop of mounted rifles, and 14 companies of rifles in Sydney and its suburbs, and six companies of rifles in the country districts. On the 1st of January, 1861, the establishment consisted of 1,696 of all ranks, but its strength and composition varied to the end of 1867, when four additional batteries of artillery were raised in Sydney, and the companies of rifles at headquarters were organized as two regiments. At the close of the year 1867 the Volunteer Regulation Act was passed, authorising the issue of grants of land as a reward for the services of such volunteers as might serve continuously and efficiently for a period of five years. The issue of land orders was, however stopped in 1874. During the years the system was in operation the force averaged annually 2,884 of all ranks. A reorganization of the volunteers became necessary, and was carried out in 1878 on the lines recommended by Sir William Jervois. In 1871, the year following the withdrawal of the Imperial troops, one battery of permanent artillery and two companies of infantry were raised; but the latter were disbanded in 1872. The artillery was increased in 1876 by a second, and in 1887 by a third battery. The Torpedo Corps was organized in 1887. The following may be taken as the present strength of the military forces:—Regular Artillery 376 men; Volunteers partly paid or militia—Artillery, 614; Engineers, 100; Torpedo Corps, 160; Infantry, 2,056. Reserves—Cavalry, 542; Artillery, 180; Infantry, 2,357. The Reserve is purely a volunteer force, with a capitation grant and issue of arms. It represents the principle of a citizen soldiery, lightly, cheaply, but efficiently equipped, and the movement has led to the creation of a corps of Mounted Infantry, for which the circumstances of the colony are peculiarly favourable. The field forces are provided with the Martini-Henry arm. The annual match meeting of the New South Wales Rifle Association gives a stimulus to rifle shooting, but the grant from the State in its aid is small. It is believed that to meet an attempted invasion the colonies could call out a force very little short of 10,000 men for service on land and water; and new corps are periodically springing into exist-

ence. No pains have been spared to place the forces upon an efficient footing as regards organization, discipline, and equipment. The regimental officers are, as a rule, well acquainted with their duties, and command the respect and obedience of their men. The rank and file execute their duties with the object of making themselves a highly-trained and efficient force. The commander-in-Chief of the Forces is His Excellency Lord Carrington, G.C.M.G., who is Honorary Colonel of the Sydney Lancers, and Lieutenant-Colonel in the 3rd Oxford Light Infantry; and the General Commanding the Forces is Major-Gen. J. S. Richardson, C.B.

Federation and Defence.

(United Service Gazette.)

Sir Harry Parkes, the Premier of New South Wales, in a recent speech dwelt at some length on the question of colonial federation and the relation of such a scheme to the greater question of imperial federation. He referred with some emphasis to the necessity and the wisdom of strong and effective works of defence, and he clearly attached great importance to the question of defence as being the surest foundation on which to build any scheme of imperial federation. And upon this point it is well to remark the apparent coincidence of opinion between the head of the Government of New South Wales and our own First Lord of the Treasury in his speech at Salford the other day. For those energetic politicians whose acquaintance with the details of our present equipments and their deficiency from bare necessity have compelled them to speak out plainly, it is matter for congratulation, and for the nation at large it is a token of good augury, that Mr. Smith felt himself at liberty to use the language which he did in his speech at Manchester. His words will be noted, and so far as they are a pledge for action he may expect to be invited speedily to redeem his promise. We hope he spoke also the mind of his colleagues. He declared it to be one of the duties of the Government to see that, notwithstanding our cordial foreign relations, the country should be in a state to hold its own and to protect its best interests, and to present a force which would at least make it impossible that we should be wantonly attacked, insulted or injured. But a more useful declaration was that he recognized that duty on the part of the Government.

Is there any reason why the matter should not forthwith be seriously and actively taken up by the Government? It is equally important and pressing, if indeed not more important, than many other matters that may expect to claim the attention of the Legislature. The persistence of skilled authority in calling attention to the condition of our forces and defences has induced the country at large to enquire into the matter for itself, and it is but natural that they should come to the same conclusion as the experts. It is a question of finance, but the country is persuaded of its need and will readily assent to the necessary expenditure.

In the formation of what we may call imperial opinion on the subject of federation, it is useful and even imperative to know the points on which any individual parts of the whole empire lay stress on questions for preliminary settlement before any definite scheme be brought forward. Sir Harry Parkes has declared that the imperial constitution must be recast to be permanent. There is a certain vagueness about the proposal, but the literal undertaking of such a reform would probably be a task more difficult of performance than even the formulating in detail a scheme of federation likely to be approved. Our constitution has always been developing, and is now undergoing a more rapid evolution than at any other time in its history. A sudden revolution and remodelling is foreign to its whole spirit and to what some claim as its chief inherent excellence of gradual growth. If the Premier of New South Wales means that between two countries like ours and his, possessing constitutions somewhat different in form, if not in working, any scheme of federation is impossible, we think his opinion may be very greatly modified, as we hope it will be. His concluding words would seem to indicate that this demand for a recasting of our constitution would not be made *a sine qua non*. He said:—"In uniting the outlying colonies to the mother country, England must present an object for love and loyalty, and for the young passion for national authority in Australia, of a kind which would be more attractive than anywhere else to be found within the wide circle of the family of nations." Such words show a strong under-current of filial attachment.

Mr. Thorneycroft's Statue of Gen. Gordon, which is henceforth to adorn Trafalgar Square, was very quietly unveiled on Tuesday, Oct. 16, without ceremony of any kind. Mr. Primrose and a few friends, including the Baroness Burdeth Coutts, went over from the Office of Works, and in a few minutes laid the statue bare.