

requires to come into collision with another to prepare them for a conflict with the barbarous nations by which a great portion of the earth is still inhabited. If civilized man is master of the world, at the present day, it is his superiority in arms which has made him so. Our intercourse with half the world and a large majority of the human race is preserved only by our superiority in the use of arms. If Europe and America abandoned warlike preparations, and adopted rules for settling international disputes by arbitration, both countries would be conquered by the barbarous and semi-barbarous hordes of Asia and Africa within two centuries. To civilized man, war is an evil ; but the abandonment of the art, as advocated by the arbitration movement, would be a greater evil. In wars between civilized nations, civilization suffers little in comparison with what it suffers when a civilized nation is conquered by a barbarous one. This is where the screw is loose in the Free-Trade movement. Free-traders think that arbitration as a means of settling nearly all international disputes is an accomplished fact ; and that any policy which the present civilized nations think proper to adopt will control the destinies of mankind in all time to come. This kind of egotism is common in all ages. Greece, Rome, Persia, Assyria, and all the nations of antiquity, thought the same thing of themselves. They never dreamed that the seat of power would be in Western Europe some day ; just as the free-traders of Western Europe now think it will never remove to any place else hereafter.

Should any considerable declension take place in the military art in Western Europe, the British army might probably be driven out of India within fifty years. Were it not for modern improvement in the manufacture of fire-arms, I doubt if the Government could hold India even now. With the old musket, British soldiers could hardly succeed in expeditions even against such enemies as the Abyssinians or Ashantees ; and repulses in cases of this kind might lead to the invasion of Europe by Asia or Africa once more. However improbable this may appear at present, it might be rendered quite practicable by the operation of such principles as Free-Trade and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

The arbitration and Free-Trade doctrines emanate from the same source. Free-Trade economists are the blindest of all politicians, and those who elevate such men are the blindest of all electors. They remind one of the man who in lopping the branches off a tree cut the one on which he was standing. The declension of the military art, likely to arise from arbitration, would efface civilization on two continents, and exclude the manufactures of Western Europe from half of the human race.

To each civilized nation individually there is no more important question than protection to home manufactures ; and to all civilized nations collectively there is nothing of greater consequence than progress in the art of war. While the former confines the evil effects of war pretty much to its immediate locality, the latter is required to push forward civilization in barbarous countries. Disarming civilized nations is equivalent to arming barbarous ones. But the practice of modern philanthropists is to disarm everything good and leave everything bad armed to the teeth. They are silly enough to suppose that if the saint lays down his sword Satan will follow the example. The ballot bill just passed is a corresponding principle. By it, law and public opinion, the highest emanations of public virtue, are totally disarmed, while every elector is placed in a position to bribe or be bribed with impunity.

W. DEWART.

FENELON FALLS.