

of that fellow's insolence to his sovereign and the abettor of his over-riding the constitutional law of the realm to perpetrate and legalize an act of robbery, or if it is thought better of confiscation of personal property in order to create patronage for the worst purposes. Our second reason is to be found in the fact that our contemporary in the article under consideration does not deal fairly with the question of Purchase, or tell its readers honestly that its abolition has only succeeded in making the Whig Radicals to squander money for the benefit of their followers, prevented the English peasant or patrician from entering the ranks of the British Army, and opened its ranks to the introduction of a class of officers under which no Englishman will serve, half school-masters, half clerks.

The ingenuity with which our contemporary shifts ground is surprising, it is the Crown that now "felt itself fettered in the nomination of its officers," and not the Whigs. The attempt made in Queen Anne's reign to take the officering of the army out of the hands of the aristocracy was made under BOLINGBROKE's administration, and for the express purpose of placing the army at the disposal of the Ministry in the event of attempting to over-ride the law of the land by changing the succession contrary to the Act of Settlement—is that an exact historical parallel to the Whig Radical successors of BOLINGBROKE's unprincipled and disastrous policy. Happily in the former case the people of England were alive to the consequences and prevented the consummation of the rascality, and we expect Lord Justice James's report will finish Mr. CARDWELL's career at the War Office.

Our contemporary knows very well that the special corps are no example of the truth of the theory on which the destruction of the British Army was effected, Engineers or Artillery men are necessarily artisans trained to particular handicrafts, it could only be by superior education that an officer could get appointed to either corps, together they did not form one-fifth of the whole army; and how was the rest to be recruited, as special corps, better pay, more comfortable quarters, and less moving about awaited those soldiers than the rank and file of the battalions or the individual trooper; the latter volunteered or enlisted voluntarily to follow the colors, because he knew he would be commanded by gentlemen who purchased their commissions as an equivalent to the providing the rank and file necessary to give them their standing in the army, thus relieving to a certain extent that special object of Whig Radical affection, the British taxpayer, from a part at least of his burthens. It is only necessary to say that Mr. CARDWELL has changed all this and the results are that Britain is without an army for the first time in her history, and that a Royal Commission is now actually sitting to devise a remedy for as our contemporary puts it,

"discontent therein"—but in reality to endeavour to find out and remedy what is radically wrong, which is the whole system devised by those who have misgoverned the Empire; and we should not be surprised to see a return to purchase, or its equivalent the duty of providing the requisite number of volunteers as much a necessary qualification as passing a competitive examination, in which the English classics largely figure for a commission; it will be the only salvation of the service which has sunk so low in popular estimation, that even Mr. CARDWELL's friends the White Chapel gutter snipes will have nothing to do with it.

Whatever the final result of the *Virginian* affair, we shall reap this much advantage from it: the country will realize, for the moment at least, the advantages and the necessity of having a strong naval establishment, and Congress will assemble in December with better disposition toward legitimate naval appropriations than it has shown for years. Within a month so wise a gentleman as an ex-member of the Cabinet, Mr. BOUTWELL, has seen fit to thus air himself before a New York audience on the subject of our naval establishment: "If you have considered the subject of a large navy, even without reference to the question of war or peace, I think you must have reached the conclusion that the day of naval engagements is over; or if it be not over that for us, a people occupying a continent—40,000,000 strong, with an extensive sea coast on both oceans—that for us no naval conflict would ever settle any question in which we were concerned; and after some reflection I reach the conclusion that the ability to conduct a naval warfare on the ocean, except so far as it may relate to coast defences, is not of the least consequence to a great power, and that for the purpose of protecting the commerce of the country it is sufficient that we show the flag of the country in the Mediterranean, in the seas of the East, upon the coast of Africa, in the Gulf of Mexico, upon the coast of South America, for the time, in my judgment, has already come but if it has not come it is near at hand, when America will have power enough to exact what is just from every nation in reference to commerce without resort to force. There may be other questions in which a naval armament may be of some consequence, but it will relate merely to our coast defences, and not to offensive operations in other seas or against other countries in other quarters of the globe. Now, then, if I do not err in this, it follows as a necessary consequence that the naval armament of the country, may be much reduced, and especially the size of the ships diminished on which our flag is shown in the different seas of the globe, and instead of an expenditure of \$17,000,000 or \$20,000,000 a year, I look for a time within ten or twelve years when our expenses in that department of Government will be reduced at least 33 per cent. I believe it to be practicable to make that reduction."

Such excitement as this which has grown out of the *Virginian* affair, shows how impossible it is for governments to control the question of peace or war, and yet here is a gentleman who has served in our Congress during the rebellion, held a position in the Cabinet, and been for years in a position to study our people to the best

advantage, urging as though the millennium had already come, and a simple Fourth of July appeal to the "flag" was sufficient to make the nations fall down in awe before the image of American greatness, and cheerfully concede to us all that the most sensitive honor might exact.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Boutwell could not have reserved his views on this subject for another month, and then presented them at that meeting held in Steinway Hall on Monday last, when some of the very men who applauded his wise remarks were assembled to howl for war with Spain and to cheer to the echo eloquent prophecies of the bombardment of Cuban towns and the sinking of Spanish iron clads. We are glad to see that our Navy Department is wisely taking advantage of the present excitement to put our Navy into better trim.

The above is taken from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* and shows the danger any nation will incur from leaders whose ideas of national policy are of a purely commercial character. Representative institutions are favorable to the growth of such political fungi as the late ex-Secretary of the United States Treasury, men whose idea of national life and honor are confined to the percentage of profits gained by the class they represent without reference to the interests of all other classes of the community; this policy or folly or by whatever other name it may be called, has been and is the sole cause of all the troubles which afflict the United States, her affairs are managed by a knot of commercial speculators in their own interest, they forced on the contest between the two sections of north and south, they have been at the bottom of the present embroglio with Spain, and they have left the country destitute of a naval force respectable enough to cope with a third rate European power.

The reform our neighbors need is one that will rid them of the commercial night mare which has hitherto wasted the national strength under the high sounding names of enterprise and progress—in reality meanness—and gambling with the best interest of the people who blindly trusted to the leadership of mere commercial speculators, for it is well known that the qualities which made a *Jim Fisk* or a *Jay Gould* are more highly appreciated amongst our neighbors than those that make a Statesman or a patriot—and such men as ex-Secretary BOUTWELL will be rapturously applauded, have all the honors of the State forced on them by the class they represent, till on some occasion like this of the *Virginian* the nation awakes from the fool's paradise in which it slumbered to find itself in the presence of imminent danger without any means of defence, and must coolly contemplate the possibility of having its ports blockaded, its mercantile marine destroyed, and possibly contributions levied on its cities as the result of allowing the commercial class, possibly numbering one in a hundred of the community to plunder the other ninety-nine.

This very affair of the *Virginian* could only cause trouble to a nation whose govern-