

## THE GERMAN FLEET.

The *Borszeitung* of Berlin considers that the German fleet is now being developed with such rapidity and success that it will soon be capable of providing for all possible requirements without making too large demands on the public treasury. The iron-clad fleet of the Baltic, which, according to the memorandum laid before the German Parliament by the Admiralty, is to consist of only eight frigates and one or two corvettes, will not command that sea, but it will suffice, when supported by the fortifications which are now in progress at Wilhelmshaven and on the line of the German coast, to make it very dangerous for a hostile fleet to attempt a blockade. The most important feature, however, of the new scheme is, thinks the *Borszeitung* the proposed construction of light corvettes of the *Alabama* class, four of which are already being built, and seven more of which are to be begun shortly. It is clear, says the writer, that if a single *Alabama* could give so much trouble to the whole of the American fleet, and paralyze the American trade, ten or twelve such vessels, each armed with ten cast-steel guns directed to all points of the compass, and travelling at the rate of sixteen knots an hour, must do immense damage to an enemy. These vessels with the assistance of the new gun-boats, which are extremely swift and armed with guns of the newest construction, will also be of great service for protecting the coast, and would be perfectly capable of sustaining an engagement even with iron-clad ships, covered with 8-inch plates, especially as the gun-boats do not draw more than from ten to sixteen feet of water, which in so shallow a sea as the Baltic is a great advantage.

## TREATY OF PRAGUE.

Once more there is an agitation concerning the enforcement of that clause of the Treaty of Prague which related to North Schleswig. The leading Danish paper *Dagbladet* contains some very plain talk on the subject. It says that even if the treaty did not exist, the Schleswigers are Danes and ought, according to German policy, to be united to Denmark. But the treaty contains a solemn promise that the people of Schleswig shall be allowed to go with Denmark if they so vote. The Danes it says, we driven into hostility to Germany during the war by Germany's failure to fulfill her obligations; and although it is said that Denmark ought to be on good terms with her big neighbor, "we cannot change our long antipathy for friendship unless North Schleswig is restored to us in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Prague." *Dagbladet* closes this important article with the following sentences, which sound very much like a menace:

"If this is not done, we shall be compelled to look upon Germany as our enemy, and to hail as a friend any power which may draw the sword to break up German unity: for by so doing it would also be the champion of our neighbors. In this feeling all Danes are united; all parties are convinced that such would be our true policy. Though weak, we are united, and we hope, in spite of all the sophistical arguments of our opponents, that we shall have our right some day, under God's direction, is not under that of the government which is now withholding them from us."

It is evident that Germany, in spite of the public-opinion of the world, means to violate the treaty. The Emperor, at the late con-

ference at Berlin, made the Emperor of Austria colonel of the Hussars of Schleswig Holstein. The appointment is practically a notice to the world that Germany means to keep Schleswig, and its acceptance by Francis Joseph is equally a notice that the "parts of the other part" to the treaty sanctions its violation.

## THE IRON HEEL.

The following letter, received last night, comes from a gentleman of the very highest character and position, and well known to us personally. His statements may be relied upon as strictly true:—

On Saturday, the 31st instant, a great outrage was perpetrated in this country by officers and soldiers of the United States Government. While the King's Mountain Baptist Association, a body representing over 3,000 communicants, was in session at Bethlehem Church, one Newton Long, a Deputy United States Marshal, and one Archibald Moss, who seemed to have some authority from Long, rode up accompanied by a squad of armed United States soldiers detailed from Colonel Hart's command in Lincolnton, surrounded the church and forbade the people to leave. Long and Moss were both drunk, and Long cursed and swore very freely. The proceedings of the Association were completely broken up. The pastor of the church went out and endeavored to persuade them to leave, and on their refusing to do so the Sheriff of the county arrested Long for disturbing the religious assembly. The soldiers cocked their guns upon the Sheriff and commanded Long to come out. Efforts were made to induce them to behave, and they were promised they would not be arrested for further violating the laws of the State and of the United States if they would quietly leave the church grounds. They rode off in the direction of the spring, and many members of the Association returned to the house, thinking they were gone. But they soon returned, and were golloping over the church grounds with their guns and pistols, and broke up the Association that evening. When the people started home they found the roads picketed by soldiers who were under Long's command, and even women and children were arrested with guns pointed at them, and compelled to wait the pleasure of this fellow Long before they could get home. Moss, I am informed by an eye-witness cocked his pistol at a young lady who was driving off in a waggon, and threatened to shoot her if she didn't stop at once. The whole proceeding was an outrage upon religious liberty, perpetrated by officers and soldiers of the United States Government. The excuse rendered for their conduct was that they were searching for one Mayberry, who was charged with being a Ku Klux.

A description of the operation of placing in the floating dock at Bermuda, the *Royal Alfred*, which we find in London journals, is of interest. Other large ships of war have been safely and successfully received into the same capacious bosom, but none nearly as large as the *Royal Alfred*, which weighs about 6,000 tons; and the docking of a first-class man-of-war of this kind has been looked forward to as the crucial test well, verifying in every particular the scientific calculations of its projectors. On Saturday, May 11, the ship was moved across the chamber, and on Thursday, the 14th, when everything was ready, the ship was placed in rear of the dock, pointing her bows towards its central line. Steam capstans in the dock assisted the

ship's capstans. There were two hawsers over her bows: one over each quarter one right ahead, and a checking hawser right astern; each of these was diligently and skillfully attended by competent officers, and thus tenderly guided she moved in majestically, her keel being exactly over the central line of blocks ranged along the bottom of the dock on which her huge bulk was presently to rest. The dock was then allowed to rise enough to touch gently first one end, then the other of the ship's keel, with just sufficient pressure to prevent the least lateral motion. The ship at this moment was drawing twenty five feet; strong timber shores were fixed all round the top sides. The dock was then allowed to rise gradually about ten feet. The caissons were placed in position the ship being in fifteen feet water. The work of shoring up followed the subsiding of the water, which was allowed to run into the bottom of the dock so as to carefully counterpoise the whole load, keeping exactly level. A close examination of the ship showed that the whole of the false keel was gone, bolts and all cut clean away. It had served the purpose for which it was put on by protecting the ship's keel from abrasion. The lower part of the bilge pieces were much rubbed, small patches of copper broken away in parts, and some galvanic destruction of the Muntz's metal was apparent, where the rust of the iron plating drained through the sheathing of wood. The copper was remarkably clear and the planking perfectly sound and good.

READY MADE SOLDIERS.—The N. Y. *Herald* says France is endeavoring to improve her military arrangements and repair the ravages of the war. One of the measures towards that end is the establishment of outfitting stores in certain localities. Of these M. Thiers is reported as saying:—"We must in future be ready to go to war at a day's notice, and the young soldiers must be able, on entering dressed in their civilian clothing by one door of the stores, to leave by the other, armed equipped, and in a word ready to fight." The ripe experience of the French President should teach him that uniform, arms and equipment, fall far short of making soldiers. We had ready made soldiers in our first battle of Bull Run. It is unnecessary to say they did not win. In many other of the early engagements of our late war we bitterly learned that war requires its own peculiar tuition; that soldiers are neither to be made by machinery, like shoe pegs, nor are they born full fledged, but must be trained to the full shock of actual war. That France will again have a conquering army none who know the genius of her people can doubt; but veteran squadrons will not be the product of the clothing and equipment bureaus.

At the Suez Canal shareholders' annual meeting the votes were by a great majority in favor of M. Lesseps' proposition for the maintenance of the board's scale of tolls according to the decision of last March, and which has been in operation since the 1st of July. The opposition was completely outvoted. The canal receipts for the month of July were 1,626,000*fr.*; eighty-three ships passed through the canal within that period.