

porters and housekeepers of surrounding nations to dispense with watch dogs and to abolish bolts and bars, and, above all, to lay down the law that any household offering resistance to the spoiling of their goods after an entrance was effected into the premises, should be summarily knocked on the head, and that the law that interposed the prohibition of these as evil deeds should not be modified, but abrogated for ever. It surprises us—and yet it does not surprise us—that the wickedness proposed in the code of warfare laid down by Russia; and accepted by Germany, has not been discovered by the blind and toothless watch dogs of the Press, while the land is being burdened—without the faculty, apparently, of being disgusted—with the ravings of such a thing from Farnival's Inn as that entitled "Universal Peace." The French, more keenly alive to subjects of the kind, from recent sufferings, are sounding the alarm over the country. M. Brunet, so far back as July last, drew the attention of the French Assembly to the monstrous proposals of Russia to the Congress of Brussels. Lord Derby deserves credit for the jealousy with which he regarded and treated the whole affair, and the British nation owes him thanks that they are in no way implicated in anything the Congress may think they have devised. It is difficult to go over in a single article the details of the notorious proposals of the despotic Powers—Powers despotic, under whatever guise—whether of serf franchise, as Russia seeks credit for, or universal education, which is the boast of Prussia—as ever existed in any period of the world's history. We mistake much, if the worst period of the world's history in the aggrandisement by arms of ambitious nations, has not its counterpart in the actualities of the present. The determination of Russia is to have it enacted by all nations that regular armies alone shall be recognised as entitled to the amenities of the laws of war. That is to say, all Volunteers, *Francs Tireurs*, *Gardes Mobiles*, and patriots generally resisting invasion of their hearths and homes, shall be esteemed as thieves and outlaws, and shall be shot down under the new code of devilry they seek to introduce. It is to be held that when a regular army—that is, a body of men whose trade is war—shall set foot within an alien territory, they shall be opposed by regular troops only—all others not having cockades and clothing of the regular pattern being held to be brigands—that when the regular troops are forced to give way, the population must succumb to the foreigner, and none dare, under the pain of military execution, endeavour to free his country of the foreign yoke. With a great stretch of condescension, indeed, the Russian framer of this 'bloody code'—which is drawn up in the interest of humanity—refrains from compelling the conquered inhabitants to take up arms against their brethren and kindred who have not been subdued though insulted by the invader's presence. It is quite clear how much Russia and Germany, with true despotic instincts, hate the formation of armed nations of free men—of citizens and patriots who resolve that the laws evolved out of the wants and conditions of generations and centuries shall not be overturned with their consent; and that the traditions and wealth which have grown up under their fathers, and which they have administered under free and congenial institutions, should not be wrested from them by an alien race whose ways are obnoxious, and whose presence is insult and pollution. Rather than be the

poltroons to consent to the enactment of such laws, if it were possible Government could submit to such a thing, we are certain our countrymen—our Volunteers, at least, almost to a man—would die the patriot's death; but sure we are, as the Volunteer spirit exists at this moment, it would be with arms in their hands. Germany knows what the *Francs Tireurs* and *Gardes Mobiles* of France did to harass their conquering march, and her astute rulers wish to save themselves much trouble, and much blood and treasure, if they can, with impunity, in the face of Europe, in the coming struggle between the two nations, treat all but the regular army of France as assassins and scoundrels, unworthy of human consideration, because they have in them those God-like instincts of patriotism that have nerved men to the noblest deeds in the world's history. Let the invasions of Russia and Germany come—within the pale of Europe they dare not, at this date, put the dictate they would like to enforce into operation. Germany is often pointed out as being an armed nation, but it must be remembered that Germany is an empire of soldiers. There are no civilians in Germany but the halt, maimed, and the blind, who are worthless in the ranks; and thus the people of that country might evade the fate of the patriot by being forced to fight to death as regular soldiers.

One thing, we think, is clear, the Volunteer or citizen army system is the matter aimed at in the protocols of Brussels, and surely we may be pardoned for having suspicions against their fair dealing towards ourselves of the propounder of a system which must make us outlaws and traitors if we use the arms we have been trained to wield; or we must convert our nation into a huge military camp like Germany and other despotic States. Having no ambitious designs in view, we deprecate standing armies as an 'evil, and only necessary in this country because of our vast colonial and foreign possessions. Having nothing to gain by arms but to keep what we have got by our laborious industry, we bid defiance to none, but our defence shall be effective, and, if need be, to the death. And—call the resistance by whatever euphuism we may—it shall most assuredly rise into the dignity of defiance the moment we are called upon to use in earnest the weapons we now use in training.

We hold that in warfare there can be no limit to resistance save the avoidance of those acts that are cruel and repulsive to humanity, but on the aggressor left the blame alone fall for the severity which may be necessary to purge the land from the mercenary and cruel invader.

The main aspect of this question may arise out of the abolition of the right of search and seizure of an enemy's goods at sea, brought about by the declaration of Paris, in order that the humanitarian follies of such money-making speculators as Cobden, and those of the peace at any price Manchester schools who acted with him, might be carried out in prospect of private gain at national expense. The right of search and capture of an enemy's goods at sea, Sir John Macneil, the accomplished diplomatist, declared to be that which constituted "the maritime power of England." The right of search without which our Navy would be crippled in a war with any of the Great Powers, gone, Russia and Germany find that a new power has sprung up in Great Britain and in France, and may arise in every free country—the power of a patriotic and trained people. They seek to

declare that war, for defence even, can alone be participated in by regular professional soldiers, and that all citizen soldiers shall be regarded as freebooters and outlaws, to be shot down and massacred without mercy, whenever they draw their swords or present their rifles against the invaders of their country. This, too, is professed to be in favour of humanity, to save the blood of the irregular and invading soldiers. The British Government has, we are proud to say, refused the terms—they could not possibly have done, or wisely without having insulted their hundreds of thousands of trained civilians who during the past sixteen years have passed through, or now remain in, the Volunteer ranks. Even had the Government compromised every Briton's birthright to defend his fatherland, the nation would have repelled the insulting obligation at the first call to duty to defend their shores or drive back an invader into the sea. What is the meaning of these machinations? Does Russia mean merely to aid Germany in her coming struggle with France, in order that French Volunteers may be massacred by some shadow of conventional international law? France repudiates the doctrine, and, though we have no wish to interfere in other men's or nations' quarrels, we trust to see the patriotic spirit in every land rise superior to the edicts of ambitious despots or aggrandising invaders. We can hardly believe the attempt is made to muzzle and gag Great Britain, because, invasion of her shores, though possible, and even the attempt, under certain complications, probable, would still be a hazardous proceeding—for our navy would remain a hard nut for an invader to crack. If, however, designs upon our Eastern possessions are developed into actual hostilities, on our Volunteers and auxiliary forces would be thrown the main burden of home military duty. These, thrown outside the pale of war, would be considered as nonentities, and the nation invitingly open for a pleasure and plundering excursion for the regular soldiers of hostile States. The proposition is preposterous. The people of these realms, at least, will hold the country as their own against all forcible invasion. The advancement of civilization must tend to the abolition of regular armies, because, when mankind become wiser, there will be less disposition to go to war, or to spend the nation's strength on the upkeep of standing armies; but we fear it will be a long time yet ere nations can afford to dispense with the strength which military training and armaments afford.

THE IMPERIAL HOUSE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

In connection with this topic, we may refer to an incident which has caused considerable discussion in the Press. The Empress of Russia has for sometime been in this country in attendance upon her daughter on the birth of a Prince. The Queen, the other grandmother, has been in Scotland during the visit. These events gave great point and significance to a remark made by that veteran denouncer of Russian guile, Mr. David Urquhart, in a speech he made to the Yorkshire Foreign Affairs' Committee, at Keighly, in June last, on the topic of the approaching Congress. Mr. Urquhart, referring to the visit last spring, of the Emperor of Russia to this country, said:—"I say with assurance, that up to this hour the English Government has not been committed; and that the Emperor of Russia has left England *reinfecta*. There is another proof of defeat. I suppose you are