

injured by his neighbour's misdoings." Under this system, every man was brought up with the idea that it was his duty to be trained as a soldier to defend his country, as well as in some civil capacity to serve it; and the object of the statesman was not to increase the wealth of the country by the encouragement of commerce, but the maintenance of the population then existing in a sound and healthy condition of body and mind. The organization of the population was as complete as that of Prussia is now, only it was not as an army for offensive purposes, but as a nation, for religious, civil, and defensive purposes.

Every class in the State was taught that they had duties as well as rights; and as the labourer was so plentifully supplied with food, and having a somewhat independent position from the possession of a few acres of land, which he had by law, he was in a condition to appreciate and perform his part in the State, and ready for hard work and enterprise. And England was altogether in a better condition than other countries to take advantage of the revival of learning, and also of the new opening for enterprise in the oceans and worlds not long discovered, and now being opened out.

The seamen were good specimens of these characteristic qualities of Englishmen at that time; they are called by Mr. Kingsley, the true descendants of their Viking ancestors; their boldness was that of independent reasonable men, who felt that they had a responsibility in the face of difficulty, and that they had the skill and the power to meet it.

It appears from the foregoing that the power of Great Britain now, in respect of a conflict with another nation, is at least sixteen times as great as it was then. The population is eight times as large, and the exports of the country, which may be taken as some measure of the wealth, are now nearly £10 per head, whereas in those days they were apparently on £5 or £6 per head.

PREPARATION IN SPAIN,

In the huge isolated palace of the Escorial, by himself at his study table, sits a grey-headed man of sixty, who, from his slight frame and stooping posture, and assiduity to his desk, might have been taken by a stranger for a confidential clerk of the palace. This is Philip II, King of Spain, and ruler of Portugal and parts of Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands, and of both the Indies; who sits here for hours together, day after day, seeing few people, saying little, trusting nobody, but directing the affairs of his vast empire himself, and sowing discord all over Europe by the correspondence dictated in that room.

It is a picture worthy of the attention of all Englishmen, for in that room was hatched the invincible Armada, and those very circumstances of its birth were some of the principal causes of its failure. Philip himself gives to the Duke of Parma, his Viceroy in the Netherlands, the credit of originating the idea of an invasion of England, by way of putting an end completely to the Protestant ascendancy in the north; but Philip himself is responsible for the plan of carrying it into execution. It was he who decided that while Parma was preparing troops and means of landing and occupying the country, the fleet that was to protect his passage should be prepared in Spain; and, although Parma was to be the supreme chief of the undertaking, the person commanding the fleet was of such rank that he was, in effect, an independent authority.

Then, again, Philip ignored the advice of Parma that a proper harbour in the Netherlands, for embarking his troops and to which the fleet could get access, should first be secured; and thus it happened that, when the fleet arrived at their appointed place, selected by Philip, Parma could not bring his troops to them, and the fleet could not reach him without first defeating both the English and the Dutch fleets. Then, the jealousy of the two great Commanders made them each suspicious of the other, under the action of which the fleet left the rendezvous, and never returned.

The habit of secrecy and mistrust, characteristic of Philip II, prevented him from confiding to any person but the Duke of Parma, the destination of the great expedition he had ordered to be prepared; and he had not the capacity himself to organize the details absolutely necessary for the work to be done. The result was that ships were constructed unfitted to fight those of the enemy they were to meet; proper information was not obtained of the countries they were going to, or proper pilots for the coast; no arrangements were made for insuring the junction of the two parts of the expedition; and, at the last moment, a wealthy nobleman, who had been a soldier, was put in command of an expedition expressly naval. It would probably have given more chance of success if he had published his purpose to all the world, as he would then have been compelled by his advisers in Spain to listen to the repeated warnings of Parma. He did succeed in blinding, to some extent, the Governments of Europe, and especially that of the country he had in view—England; but, fortunately for us, he could not altogether lull the feelings of the people of this country, and especially of the seamen. And it may be said to be owing to his boast that he governed the world in secret from his room in Escorial, that the Armada had in itself causes almost sufficient for its failure.

The actual preparations were probably begun in 1585, when the direct assistance given by Queen Elizabeth to the revolted Netherlands showed him the necessity of taking more decided measures against England. But his slow methodical ways of carrying on all the services of his empire, which he had concentrated in his own hands, extended to the Armada, and it was not ready till May, 1588, when it actually started. Thus, again, by his own fault, he lost the opportunity of taking England unprepared. And yet so little did he realise the character of the business he had taken in hand that, when he found the time going by and the preparations in Spain still behind hand, he proposed to the Duke of Parma that he should invade England without waiting for the Armada from Spain, forgetting that it was by his own direction that no war ships had been provided in the Netherlands' part of the expedition, because the Armada was expressly to convoy Parma's forces over.

He had a large area from which to draw his resources for the equipment of the expedition. Besides the ports of Spain proper, he had the more efficient ones of Portugal, and those of the adventurous Biscayans, and of the more advanced and scientific Italians. The harbours of all these countries were occupied during those three years with the preparations for the contingents they were to supply towards the great Armada; and from all these countries bodies of horse and foot soldiers were making their way, either to Spain or to the Netherlands, to form part of the invading army. The power of the King was absolute, and the work was blessed by the Pope; for although the pre-

cise destination was not allowed by Philip to transpire, it was well known that, at all events, it was to be employed in the service of the Catholic Church against the heretics. And yet, notwithstanding these powerful influences, it was not till the beginning of May, 1588, that the whole force was assembled in the Tagus, ready to start. And before, that time, another act of Philip's had struck a heavy blow against the prospects of the expedition. The first commander appointed to it was the Marquis of Santa Cruz, a man of considerable naval experience; under his superintendence the preparations were made, and under his guidance it might have had a different issue. But the ignoble spirit of the King was influenced by other favourites to discredit this naval noble, and in so evil minded a manner that the Marquis died of chagrin three months before the Armada sailed. And then to complete his mistake he appointed to the command the Duke of Medina Sidonia, whose capacity for it, at compared to the other, was marked by the saying that "to the iron Marquis succeeded a golden Duke." He was a grandee of vast wealth, with little capacity, and less experience.

(To be Continued.)

Military Drill in Schools.

A deputation from the Society of Arts, consisting of Major General Eardley Wilmot, R. A., Vice Admiral Ommamney, F. R. S., Sir Henry Cole, Mr. E. Chadwick, Mr. P. Le Neve Foster, secretary, and others, waited upon the London School Board on Wednesday last week, to present a memorial in favour of military drill in schools. The memorial stated that the Society of Arts had endeavoured for many years to promote drill in schools, and the system was now recognised by the Education Department. It was desired to bring the great influence of the School Board for London to bear on the War and Education Departments, to induce them to work together to introduce drill in all schools in the country, and that even in the absence of Parliamentary aid it would be a wise expenditure on the part of the board to make arrangements for instruction in military drill. The desirability of dividing the metropolis into districts for the purpose of holding public reviews and inspections at least once every year was suggested, as also that the board should invite the people of each district to give prizes to the schools which distinguished themselves. The Society of Arts were willing to provide a handsome set of colours to be competed for each year, by schools. They also proposed to give such school a sum of £20, to be divided among the boys as prizes, and otherwise assist the board. Major General Wilmot said they had made experiments with several thousands of boys from different parts of the country. These proved wholly successful, and the work had received the encouragement of those who were able to correctly judge upon it, among others His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. The subject was now in a condition to be handed over to a body like the school board to carry it out in its entirety. Sir Charles Reed said that four years ago one of the earliest resolutions of the board instituted the very thing now suggested, and they actually had a system of drill under military inspection. However, the recommendations of so important a body as the Society of Arts would have their full consideration. The subject was referred for consideration and report to the School Management Committee.—*Broad Arrow 22, May*