

war, to demand the removal of the restriction upon her having naval stations and sailing war ships in the Black Sea; and she succeeded. England could not oppose her alone, and could get no help from the other powers. Six years later Russia entered upon a war with Turkey to gain possession of Constantinople; but although she was victorious over the Turks, an English fleet entered the Dardanelles to protect the ancient Turkish capital. Russia was forced to give up her design; and by the Treaty of Berlin the powers of Europe once more balked her ambition.

Ever since 1871, therefore, Russia has had the right to maintain her fleets in the Black Sea, but has not had the right to send them to and fro through the Dardanelles. In the latter part of last August, the European world was startled by the announcement that Turkey had permitted certain Russian ships—transports carrying soldiers, but not technically

war vessels—to pass through the Dardanelles. Thus the object for which the Crimean war was fought, and which actuated the powers in restraining Russia by the Treaty of Berlin, seemed likely to be lost by the consent of Turkey, which empire the powers, for their own reasons, have always sheltered from Russian aggression. While the ships sent through the Dardanelles were not exactly military armaments, all Europe has been stirred by the fear lest this act is only the entering wedge to the attainment by Russia of her long-cherished design of capturing, not only the waterways, but the dominions of the Sultan.

No doubt the event has given a more warlike aspect to European affairs. It remains to be seen what action the powers will take, and whether Great Britain will interfere, as she has done before, with the progress of Russian encroachments in south-eastern Europe.—*Youth's Companion*.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

SPEAKING OF PRODIGIES.—They forget that no one can be taught faster than he can learn.—*Samuel Johnston*.

THE FLAPPING OF A FLY'S WING.—The slow flapping of a butterfly's wing produces no sound, but when the movements are rapid a noise is produced, which increases in shrillness with the number of vibrations. Thus the house-fly, which produces the sound F, vibrates its wings 21,120 times a minute, or 335 times in a second; and the bee, which makes a sound of A, as many as 26,400 times, or 440 times in a second. On the contrary, a tired bee hums on E, and therefore, according to theory, vi-

brates its wings only 330 times in a second. Marcy, the naturalist, after many attempts has succeeded, by a delicate mechanism, in confirming these numbers graphically. He fixes a fly so that the tip of the wing just touched a cylinder, which was moved by clockwork. Each stroke of the wing caused a mark, of course very slight, but still quite perceptible, and thus showed that there were actually 330 strokes in a second, agreeing almost exactly with the number of vibrations inferred from the note produced.—*The School Newspaper*.

A SCHOOLMASTER sends us a small contribution which he hopes may serve as a nest-egg, to the discovery