

was 57 killed and 92 wounded; of the Americans 52 killed and 58 wounded. The comparative force of the combatants was as follows:—

BRITISH.	
No. of Vessels.....	8
No. of Broadside guns.....	38
Weight of do.....	765 lbs.
No. of Crew.....	537
Size in tons.....	1426

AMERICAN.	
No. of Vessels.....	14
No. of Broadside guns.....	52
Weight of do.....	1194 lbs.
No. of Crew.....	950
Size in tons.....	2540

Both Sir George Prevost and Sir J. L. Yeo mutually charged each other with the miserable result of this action—the first never should have been entrusted with a command, and the second was perverse, obstinate, and richly deserved a halter for his share in this transaction—the expedition against Plattsburgh would have been successful without the co-operation of the fleet it was only needed to insure the capture of the American flotilla—and it was solely owing to the perversity of the Naval Commander-in-chief on the Lakes that the latter object was not accomplished—the refusal to give the required reinforcements and superseding Captain Forbis were the immediate causes of failure. At the same time no excuse can be found for Sir George Prevost's order recalling the troops from the attack of the American works. It may truly be said that it was neither British Statesmen or Generals which saved Canada to the Empire, but the indomitable spirit, her own militia aided by the incapacity of her enemies.

On 26th Sept. the British 74 gun ship Plantagenet, 37 gun frigate Rota, and 18 gun brig-sloop Carnation, while cruising off the Western Isles discovered at anchor in the roads of Fayal, (Maderia) the American privateer schooner, General Armstrong, of 22 guns, including a long 32 pounder on traversing carriage, and a crew of 90 men. The Plantagenet's pinnace was sent into port to ascertain to what nation she belonged, as strict neutrality was enforced the boat having closed the schooner was fired into, and, having broken the neutrality of the port, it was determined to cut her out. Accordingly seven boats with 180 seamen and marines were detached for that purpose to be covered by the Carnation brig, but owing to the intricacy of the navigation she did not arrive within shot of the Americans. At midnight the boats closed the schooner, but were received with a quick and well directed fire from the vessel, and a battery mounted with a portion of her guns on the commanding point under which she had anchored; they therefore had to beat a retreat with the loss of two boats, 3 officers and 31 seamen and marines killed, and 5 officers and 71 seamen and marines wounded. Soon after daylight the Carnation went into the roads to destroy the privateer, but she was set on fire and burnt by her own crew.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

A correspondent of the *Boston Journal* speaking of Queen Victoria, says:

"As a Sovereign she is the hardest worked woman in England. Her official duties commence at 7 o'clock in the morning, one hour before breakfast. Wherever she is, dispatches are sent daily in by messengers, who ride in first class cars bearing what are called baskets. The papers from all the departments are submitted to her. These baskets are dark morocco boxes about one foot in length. These are sent from Downing street, the Admiralty, the Home Department, the Head of the Army, etc. Each basket is locked by the Minister who sends it. A card hanging from the inside contains the name of the Minister. Every train to Windsor and Osborne, carries messengers with these boxes. The Queen and the Ministers alone can unlock them. All these documents have to be read by her, for she signs nothing which she does not read. Every bill, act, treaty, document, petition, or paper requiring her name, are subject to her personal attention. Her Majesty is admitted to be one of the best business women in the Kingdom. Each day's business is finished before the day closes. Usually the messenger waits and takes the basket, locked by Her Majesty, back to the Minister from whom it came. The Queen holds a ready pen and carries on her personal correspondence, which is very large. She pays her own postage like any lady in the land. She has always given personal attention to her children, and their religious training has been the object of much solicitude and care. Her favorite pastime at Balmoral is among the poor, the lowly, and the sick, with whom she talks, reads, prays and leaves medicines, food, money and little tokens of her regard."

A report from Rear-Admiral Warden on the cruise of the channel squadron in June last has been laid before the House of Commons. The squadron comprised eight ships. Rear Admiral Warden reports:—

"Of all these the Bellerophon is the readiest and most easily handled under steam, and she has the most powerful battery under the thickest armour. Under sail she is slow, and stows a small quantity of fuel, but is very economical in expenditure. Her principal defects as a fighting ship I consider to be, that the guns in her battery are placed too close together; the absence of upper deck armament, and the want of fire in the line of keel, under armour, as well as the inefficiency of the bow gun, which is on the maindeck.

"The next class to be noticed is the Prince Consort and Royal Oak. They were built to serve a particular purpose, at what was considered a critical period. They were generally viewed as a makeshift, and being merely wooden lire of battle ships cut down and armoured, they are not likely to be repeated. Nevertheless they have good qualities. They are armoured throughout, are powerful ships, handy under steam, from being short with good speed, and do sufficiently well under sail.

"I now come to the Defence and Pallas. The former is a very handy ship under sail, especially with her screw raised, is very economical in her expenditure of fuel, but an indifferent performer under steam. As the experiments now taking place on board the Pallas are to be made the subject of special report, I need not further advert to them in this place, nor do I think it necessary to say more about that ship, as her

qualities are sufficiently well known, and I do not suppose there is the least probability of a second ship of the same class being ever built.

"The Minotaur, the Achilles, and the Warrior are three very noble ships. The last named, however, I look upon as the least valuable of the three: her unarmoured ends, exposure of steering wheel, her rolling propensities (as compared with the other two) are defects which are not compensated for by any good qualities superior to theirs. The first and second, notwithstanding their great length, which of necessity carries with it some disadvantages, have many great qualities. They steam at high speed; the Achilles is, under sail, everything that could be expected in an armoured ship unable to raise her screw; and no doubt the Minotaur would do equally well if she were masted in the same way, which I consider she ought to be the first favourable opportunity. The Minotaur is more heavily armed than the Achilles, having four 12 ton 9-inch guns on the main deck, and two 6½ ton guns on the upper deck which fire in a line with the keel, under the protection of armour, being the only ship in the squadron which possesses this advantage, and is armoured throughout having 5½ inch plates tapering to 3½ in. These are great advantages over a ship in other respects so nearly alike, but in the great and all-important point of the capacity for fighting their guns, they are both alike, rolling as nearly as possible to the same extent, which is a minimum as compared with other ships; and in this respect of steadiness of platform upon which to fight their guns, I believe they stand out unrivalled and unsurpassed by any ship which has ever been built."

A Colonel of one of the United States regiments tells a singular story of the wonderful fulfilment of a dream. A man in one of his companies, named Joe Williams, dreamed that they crossed a river, marched over a mountain, and camped very near a church, located in a wood, near which a terrible battle ensued, and in a charge just as they crossed the ravine he was shot in the breast. "Several months after," says the Colonel, "on the ever memorable 7th of December 1862, as we moved at a double quick to take our place in the line of battle, then already hotly engaged, we passed Prairie Grove Church, a small building belonging to the Cumberland Presbyterians. I was riding on the flank of my command, and opposite to Williams, as we came in view of the house. 'This is the church, Colonel, I saw in my dream,' said he, I made no reply and never thought of the matter until evening. We had broke the enemy's line, and were in full pursuit, when we came upon a dry ravine in the wood, and Williams said: 'Just on the other side of this hollow, I was shot in my dream, and I will stick my hat under my shirt.' Suiting the action to the word, as he ran along he doubled it up and crammed it into his bosom. He had scarcely adjusted it when a minnie ball knocked him out of line. Jumping up quickly, he pulled out his hat, waved it over his head, and shouted, 'I'm all right!' The ball had gone through four thicknesses of his hat, raised a black spot about the size of a man's hand, just over the heart, and dropped into his shoe."

The present English War Minister dissents from the hitherto universal opinion that veterans, or old soldiers, are more desirable than new recruits. No inducements are to be held out for them to re-enlist. Raw recruits will be preferred.