

of the century were among the most important of our possessions in the world. They have not receded, although it is sometimes thought they have. On the whole, they have stood still. But their relative position now is one which is microscopic as compared with our general situation in the world. The weak point, as was shown in his admirable paper, read at a meeting of the Colonial Institute on Valentine's Day, even by so pacific an authority as Sir R. Griffen, is that the means of the defence of the Empire have not relatively prospered at so rapid a pace as has the Empire itself. Our fleet is at the moment relatively stronger than it has been at some previous periods of our history, but it will not in the next few years possess the superiority of strength against a possible combination of powers which seems necessary in the case of an Empire possessing so many jealous rivals, and so dependent for its communications and for the safety of its capital upon the empire of the sea. Our military forces, which would be required for the purpose of bringing to a close even a successful war, are absolutely little stronger than they were a quarter of a century ago, and relatively to the forces of other powers and to the calls upon our own, may be considered to have decreased.—*London Graphic*.

Editorial Notes and Comments.

THE newspaper is absorbing not only the leisure hours but even the business hours of many people at the present moment. The teachers more than any class of readers require to take the newspaper into account in their daily programme. They must know the trend of thought in relation to so many things. The newspapers keep the teacher up to date in regard to geography, history, civics, literature, science and so forth. But it would be well to take the advice of Emerson in relation to this matter of reading, for he saw very clearly how much time might be frittered away in newspaper reading. Emerson wrote to a college boy: "Newspapers have done much to abbreviate expression and to improve style. They are to occupy during your generation a large share of attention, and the most studious and engaged man can neglect them only at his cost. But have little to do with them. Learn how to get their best, too, without their getting yours. Do not read