

THE great army reformer Cardwell, has been lecturing before the ancient Druids at Oxford lately, and, of course, defended his policy by a labored speech, the most prominent portion of which was the boast that "any well educated boy may now present himself at a competitive examination and hope to receive the commission of his sovereign.

Sprinkled at convenient intervals throughout the speech were notices of Agincourt, Cressy, Poitiers, and other famous fields of England's glory.

It was, however, passing strange to find that no Englishman seemed to remember that those fields were won by officers who did not obtain their commission by competitive examination, but by the English aristocracy at the head of their retainers.

We look on the idea of providing leaders for an army by a system of scholastic training as the greatest folly ever attempted, and it is conclusive evidence that the control of the military force of a country should never be placed at the mercy of a faction therein.

Military science is not speculative or metaphysical, it is practical and inductive, and how a competitive examination is to qualify any "well educated boy" to become a military leader is a mystery known only to men of such great diversified and comprehensive powers as Cardwell, for in addition to the knowledge the future admirable Crichtons of the British army must possess, it will be necessary by some other mysterious process as yet undiscovered to endow them with the qualities which will make them respected and trusted by the men they would command.

As the Whig radicals have failed in procuring recruits for either the army or navy they should be called to show where the men those youthful pedagogues are to command are to be found. It is not at all likely they will volunteer for service under heedless schoolmasters, nor is it likely that the process of cramming which the competitive examination demands will develop qualities of courage and endurance so necessary to make a good officer.

It is evident that Cardwell has borrowed his ideas of competitive examination from the refined philosophers of the celestial empire, every office of which is open to the ambition of any "well educated boy" and the following is the result :—

"I remember seeing in Canton a military examination. A deep trench was dug in a circle, and two targets were placed at equal distances from the centre. The competitor mounted a very slow pony, who trotted round the trench; the rider then approached the target, and when close put the arrow against it, pulled the bow, and of course each time placed the arrow successfully in the target. Three times did he perform this wondrous feat, and then, kneeling at the governor's feet, was dubbed an officer. It was so ridiculous I could hardly believe it to be true. A number of English schoolboys transported to the spot would

have died of laughter."—*A Land Journey from Asia to Europe.*

We have succeeded in bringing out the military spirit of our people by the simple art of making our army a purely voluntary force, the officer must raise the contingent of his rank and be qualified to command it, the man who will not go to the trouble is not fit to fill the position, and it is not so valuable as to be a prize ensuring a livelihood to the successful competitor.

It will be utterly impossible to get soldiers to follow officers whose only claim to their respect is that they have won a commission as a prize. The old aristocratic system with all its abuses gave the rank and file officers they would follow, and it is not too much to assert that ever since the ranks of the army have been thrown open to indiscriminate promotion, the class of men required by the service have refused to enter it, and this evil will assuredly increase. If the English people are wise the Volunteer System should be the basis for their regular army, and the schoolmasters should be allowed to follow their proper vocations.

The Whig radicals will be likely to have their theories of National benevolence, universal philanthropy and peace at any price severely tested by their dearly beloved cousins the Yankees, the Treaty of Washington was held up as the *chef d'œuvre* of enlightened statemanship, the outcome of Christian philanthropy and the dawn of a new era of political intercourse; well the Whigs have got an arbitration and the following is likely to come of it.

"According to the *Morning Post*, our prospects with regard to the results of the American Arbitration Commission are anything but cheering. It is supposed that the United States Government intend to insist upon holding us liable not only for the alleged prolongation of the war caused thereby—a prolongation estimated as at least two years. As the war cost two hundred millions sterling per annum, our cotemporary calculates that if the Americans should succeed in persuading a majority of the Commissioners of the justice of their claims, we may look forward to having to pay an indemnity of some five hundred millions."

We shall find out whether even John Bright will consent to pay such a price for Yankee friendship, the prospect is not cheering for the Manchester school as it will very nearly double the National debt of Great Britain, we must confess that a feeling of thorough contempt for the insensate folly that makes such a result possible is the only one we possess. Our conviction, however, is that if the faction that now governs England will consent to accept the issue they will be scouted by the people. There is, however, the fact to be taken into consideration, that with the aid of those very same people they have left Great Britain without an army, and thoroughly disorganized her navy, besides, by their foreign policy of placing her in such a position that a con-

test would be her ruin. A political mistake is a crime and judged by that standard Gladstone's administration have committed a series of crimes against the Empire of the most atrocious character.

The prospect for the Manchester school is not pleasant and may lead to painful results, if the people did not suffer the cotton spinners would excite no pity.

From the time of the greatest king that ever filled the British Throne, William III., to the close of the life of the late Lord Palmerston, a period of one hundred and seventy years, English statesmen made the "balance of power in Europe," the first consideration in the foreign policy of the Empire. The pages of Macaulay's history of England are replete with instances of the ignorance of English statesmen of that era of what foreign policy meant, the great danger to the National existence incurred by that ignorance, the fortunate circumstances by which a deliverance therefrom was effected, and the cost in blood and treasure by which England's place among the comity of nations was assured. Since the death of the statesman and soldier king, the shores of Britain have not been profaned by the foot of the invader; and up to the advent of the Schoolmaster-Premier Gladstone and party, it was a matter of necessity that the opinion of England should be had on any Continental imbroglio, and it was a matter of anxiety to ascertain on which side she would range herself in the event of an appeal to arms. The peace at any price party have effectually changed all this. Palmerston is hardly passed away before the very states that dreaded and hated him, but like well trained hounds slunk down at his word, plot the future of continental Europe without having consulted the wealthiest and most powerful nation in it, whose very name he made them tremble at. In another page will be found an article from the *Northern Zeitung* entitled Germany and her neighbours, in which the existence of England is not recognized, and it certainly must be a pleasing reflection to the *Rhetorician* and his Whig radicals to find how effectually they have unloosed the labours of one hundred and seventy years, and put Great Britain out of the pale of the great powers.

We have repeatedly asserted that the honour of England had been prostrated in the dust by the Whig radicals and that since her destinies were confided to the Manchester school of politicians her downward course in national degradation begun, that those pitiful pedlars would sell every thing belonging to the glorious traditions and history of the past is beyond doubt, but that they would barter the heirlooms of the nation, what belongs to the future, remained in doubt; however, the last year has seen strange developments but nothing stranger than the following from the *Broad Arrow* of 6th January.