

obtain freedom from their own Sultan. I compare our condition again with the efforts which since 1789, France has made in vain to combine liberty and order. I compare it with the state of Germany, and I ardently wish success to her now institutions, while I have some fear that her liberty may be stifled by a surplus of kings, princes, lords, and squires.

"In the midst of those examples I wish to see England made impregnable, with the motto of our Volunteers, *Defence, not Defence.*—Your obedient servant,

Dec. 19. RUSSKIL.

The following extract furnishes a lesson which should not be lost sight of by our Militia Department; we have repeatedly urged the formation of a staff corps which need cost the country nothing beyond the price of the parchments on which the commissions were engrossed and the expense of publication in the *Gazette*. The material for such an organization already exists in the Civil Engineers and Provincial Land Surveyors in the Provinces. The mode of instruction and how far it should be carried to qualify them for their particular duties would not necessarily entail extra expense, at present our army not being organized with a view to foreign conquest, all the requirements of this service would be met by men having the necessary training as qualifications for the professions named; because it would be their local knowledge which should render their services of value and their organization should be especially directed to the arrangement of that knowledge with the best means of rendering it available for future use. Existing township maps with the topographical and other information placed thereon, by persons practically acquainted therewith, under the direction of an intelligent chief, could be easily procured and the country would be in possession of information of inestimable value. We request the attention of the Militia authorities to the following which proves the position we have taken:

"The story that went the round of the press some months ago to the effect that some very distinguished Prussian officers had, before the declaration of war, been travelling incognito in France, spying out the nakedness of the land, was probably no mere invention. A writer who professes to be thoroughly conversant with the subject of military education in Prussia says that the cadets in the Staff Colleges are habitually sent many miles away from their headquarters, and are expected to bring home with them against a day specified, reports of the condition of the country traversed, its roads, its villages, its towns, its rivers, its plains, its hills, its aptitude for the movements of cavalry, infantry and artillery, separately, and of all three in combination—in a word, all its military features, not forgetting its capabilities for furnishing means of subsistence both to man and horse.

The reports thus made are carefully inspected by competent officers, and those who give a proof of more than ordinary aptitude in this matter are then sent into foreign countries, through which they move with their eyes and ears open, and upon which they make, in the guise of traveller's notes

memoranda that are of the greatest possible use for war purposes. It was, indeed, from the travelling notes of staff officers that the Prussians acquired that intimate acquaintance with all the lines of railway in France, the high roads, by-roads, tracks through forests, fords and bridges, and the localities of towns and villages which so much astonished the French people in the present campaign, and gave to the invaders such a prodigious superiority over the French armies.

It seems to be established that France has not stood alone as the subject of these secret investigations. Austria has, all unknowingly, received similar polite attention, till it is said, more is known about the military resources of the latter in Berlin than at Vienna, and a similar allegation is made in respect of Italy. It will, therefore, be no matter of surprise to have it asserted, on most reliable English authority, formed "on such evidence as sets doubt at defiance," "that with every pathway in England, every hedgerow and village, not to speak of forts, arsenals and dockyards, the Prussians are familiarly acquainted." These facts show that the Prussians have gone further than any other nation in the study of the science of war, endeavouring to give perfectness to its minutest detail. The result of this wise policy has already been made evident in two of the most brilliant campaigns ever recorded in the annals of European history.

#### A HARMLESS DELUSION.

Some of our Canada contemporaries are making much of an article in the *New York Tribune*, which advocates the acquisition of Canada by force of arms, or what is equivalent to it—giving Britain formal notice to quit this continent, which would, of course, be resisted with all the power of the empire. Those journals are probably not aware that under certain circumstances the *Tribune* newspaper is suffered to edit itself, and that during Mr. Greeley's absence nothing which appears in its columns need be regarded as of special value or moment. The *Tribune* has more than once during the last few months stated that Canada ought not to be forced into annexation, and we have no doubt that that is the view of its editor at the present moment. It is evident that President Grant under the tutelage of Butler, believes that Britain can be bullied or cajoled into giving up Canada. It is also reasonably plain that he thinks an attempt in that direction may help him in his canvass for the Presidency in 1872. Let him try to make the proposed arrangement in London, and see what a rebuff he will get. Let him try, if he so pleases, any means of pressure upon Canadians which lie within his reach, and see what he will make by it. He will only show how little knowledge of politics and of the world he possesses, and render more sure the triumph of the Democratic party in 1872. If Congress will give him *carte blanche*, he may have war with Britain, or the lesser evil of the destruction of trade with Canada, which the United States can ill bear; but he cannot obtain one inch of Canadian soil, nor even ground-work for a hope of obtaining it. We have no doubt that there are Americans in Canada ignorant enough of the country to imagine that annexation is possible, and that the President's ears are tickled with their reports and the sketches of the Bohemian correspondent of the *New York Herald*. A wiser politician than President Grant would detect the fallacies of these people. The patriotic feelings and the interests of the people of Canada are all opposed to annex-

ation, and no power now in existence can drive them to it. The Americans will find this out in time, and in the meantime President and printers may be allowed full swing in the promulgation of the illusion, so dear to their self-love, that all the people of North America are dying of admiration at their private virtues and the purity of their Government.

#### FISHERY RIGHTS.

The *Chicago Tribune* is sensible enough of the difficulty Mr. Schenck will feel in diplomatically defining and finding fault with mere "unfriendliness." Are present treaties enforced? Is their enforcement the cause of this alleged unfriendliness? Then why not go to the cause at once, and take measures to have those treaties abrogated, and others substituted in their room. "If," says the *Tribune*, "it is thought a grievance not to have the right of fishing up to the shore, why not say so? And why not get a general international law abolishing any exclusive rights to the coast-waters of any country, and, of course, those of the States as well? And then, if all are on a level in fishing rights, surely," argues the *Tribune*, "all ought to be on a level for a market. The British fishermen ought to be allowed to bring his fish to the American market as free of duty as the other. Otherwise a duty of 20 per cent, will be paid simply to the Gloucester fishermen above a fair and living profit. This is all very well, but neither Canada nor Britain has the least intention to abandon the right to the three-mile limit, as will be made more and more manifest as time goes past.

London newspapers bring some facts as to the eclipse of the sun as recently seen there. A snow storm had lasted for some hours, ceased just before the time of the obstruction of the sun, and a thin veil of fleecy clouds passing swiftly before the luminary served instead of smoked glass to enable ordinary eyes to see the phenomenon. The sun was perfectly visible, says one authority, at the time the largest portion of its disc was hidden, and presented the appearance of a brilliant crescent with the horns turned to the earth. There was but little of light; in fact so little that those who did not look at the sky would hardly have believed that four-fifths of the sun's surface was concealed. Accounts from the continental observers have not yet come to hand.

The Spanish Government on Thursday paid to the United States nearly nineteen thousand dollars in gold for damages and demurrage in the case of the steamer *Lloyd Aspinwall*, seized last winter on suspicion that she had been fitted out to aid the Cubans.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *CIVIL SERVICE GAZETTE* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately favoured beverage which saves us many heavy doctor's bills. Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., and  $\frac{1}{8}$  lb. un-janed packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, England.