

We present to our readers the following extract, an article from the *European Mail* of the 1st November, on the San Juan question, and we claim their earnest attention thereto as the result of the opinion of a journal untainted with the bias of party in any sense.

It is the view of all British subjects zealous of their country's rights and honour, and commends itself to the calm as well as dispassionate judgement of every man acquainted with the interests at issue.

"While the judgment of the Emperor of Germany will be respected, there is yet room for regret that the circumstances were not placed before him in a clearer light. The facts are simple, though we should not have imagined that the solution of the dispute arising out of them was so simple as the Emperor of Germany has found it. Our readers would not thank us for recalling the embittered relations which were engendered between the two countries whose territories touch each other in North America for many hundreds of miles, by the then apparently irreconcilable difference of opinion as to what was the rightful boundary between them towards the western portion of the American continent. Suffice it to say that it was to remedy this difficult and dangerous state of affairs that in 1846 an attempt was made by Lord Aberdeen on the part of this country and President Polk on behalf of the United States to hit upon an amicable compromise. For the moment they succeeded; it being proposed and stipulated that the boundary should cross the continent—we quote the words of the treaty—"along the 49th parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver Island, and thence southerly through the middle of the said channel and of the Strait of Fuca to the Pacific Ocean." Some of our readers will be surprised to hear that not one, but three channels are interposed between Vancouver Island and the main land, known respectively as Rosario Strait, Douglas Channel, Haro Strait. Rosario Strait separates the continent from an archipelago or cluster of small islands, through which Douglas Channel runs more or less irregularly; whilst Haro Strait separates them again from Vancouver Island. In other words, of the three channels, Rosario is the eastern, Haro the western, and Douglas the central or middle channel. It would have been wonderful if, under these circumstances, harmony of interpretation had proved to be possible, and the moment that the commissioners met to mark out the water boundary with accuracy, the argument only now closed against us, commenced. The United States contended that by the treaty Haro Strait was intended if not indicated; Great Britain maintained that Rosario Strait more properly fulfils its condition, whilst it is obvious that jurists might find in Douglas Channel an escape from a difficult dilemma. It was against this third course that certain journals in the United States were lately protesting, thereby raising the suspicion that they were aware that such a verdict would not be incompatible with the terms of the reference. By those terms the Emperor of Germany had to decide which channel was "most in accordance with the true interpretation of the Treaty of 1845;" and the more we consider the matter the more disowned we shall be to wonder that His Majesty has arrived at so absolute a conclusion. Before the year 1846 Great Britain

owned the whole of the main land and the Columbia River, 120 miles south of Fuca Strait but in that year the boundary was altered in the manner we have stated. The object in making the line drawn by the 49th parallel of north latitude deflect "southerly" when it reaches "the middle of the said channel" was to secure to Great Britain a portion of Vancouver Island which stretches beyond that line; but whilst the British negotiators assumed that this evident intention would necessarily entail an interpretation of "southerly" and of "the said channel" in a sense allowing of a safe approach to the island in case of war between the two countries, the agents of the United States were well content not to correct an ambiguity upon which they have founded their opposite meaning. The island of San Juan, which was substantially the object in dispute is of immense strategic importance, and we are amazed at a contemporary of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet describing it as of minor importance, which way the question is settled. Now, that Haro Strait has been declared to be the southerly continuation of the said channel, that island has fallen to the United States; and being placed in possession of it, in command of Haro Strait, of which it is the eastern boundary, the Americans have now in their hands the key of British Columbia."

The *Mail* need not be at all amazed at any action of GLADSTONE and the Whig Radicals, if the Prussians under the Pious Kaiser, were marching on London, GLADSTONE and his organs would complacently prove that this was a matter of *minor importance*, and as long as Englishmen at home bow to a set of snivelling doctrinaires, so long will the Empire continue to be supped and undermined.

It need not be any matter of wonder to the *Mail* why the Kaiser made a decision against right reason and common sense. The Holy Alliance wanted the support or neutrality of what it and other English journals are pleased to call America, but which is properly known as the *United States*, and it has been bought at the price of San Juan Island.

The position assumed by England is just this. In the next European conflict, which can only be deferred for a year or so, she must maintain as large a fleet on the Pacific as on the Atlantic coast, to watch the movements of RUSSIA and C. S. A. dear friends, the *Americans*. Canada will deal with the question of interior defence; but it is a humiliating, and difficult position for a young country to be placed in by the imbecility of men whose claim to public consideration should rest on their thorough knowledge of every circumstance connected with the honour and prosperity of the Empire.

A good deal has been said and written on the value of *object teaching* to the knowledge and practice of military science. Within certain limits it is no doubt correct, and with peculiar national temperaments, it may be very valuable, but whether British soldiers are precisely the people to take kindly to *shams* of any kind, is greatly to be doubted.

The *Autumn Manœuvres* offered valuable lessons in tactics, (the less said about strategical developments the better.) It is not long since the late Duke of Wellington was reported to have said that no Brigadier General then in the service possessed sufficient tactical skill to take 5,000 men in or out of Hyde Park.

All this has been changed. The practice of moving masses of troops is nearly as frequent, as ordinary reviews in those past days of military experience, and the full value of the autumn manœuvres will be exhibited if England is again privileged to set an army in the field.

In another column will be found a humorous description of the game of *Kriegspiel* taken from the columns of the *United States Army and Navy Journal*, in which the operations of those great strategists, COSMIDAN and O'DONNELL are told with a raciness which would not disgrace the powers of the late lamented CORNELIUS O'DONNELL.

To the plodding student of abstract ideas such a mode of teaching may be useful, but to the practical man the whole art must be acquired by practical means and in a practical manner.

At one of the earlier Wimbledon contests the winners of the principal prizes was a London gentleman, he was asked by the late PRINCE Consort whether he had not acquired the art of rifle shooting by stalking deer in the Highlands. His answer was that he had practised rifle shooting for the purpose of exterminating cats, that were in the habit of frequenting the garden of his Villa at Brompton.

Now this was an eminently practical way of acquiring a knowledge of the art of shooting. It could not be done by pop guns, or miniature deer.

The Autumn Manœuvres bears the same relation to actual warfare, as the cat shooting at Brompton does to the deer stalking in the Highlands. Toys or pictures won't teach the practice of either.

If we are to judge the national determination by the want of intellect and ability on the part of the men mere popular clamour has raised to public importance in the State, we should be disposed to consider England in a very bad condition indeed.

That she has been cursed for a number of years with the rule of a lot of political fanatics and doctrinaires headed by a plodding pedagogue the exact counterpart of the great ELIZABETH's ambassador to ALEX. FARRESE, Doctor DATE, is beyond a shadow of doubt, and their action has left an indelible mark for evil and dishonour on her historical and constitutional record, it will, therefore, be nothing new to our readers to have the opinion of the "European Mail" on the position of parties in England.

"A contemporary, reviewing an article in the current *Quarterly* on the chance of a