

The oldest diplomatist in the Russian service, he has devoted many years to the preparation of this field, is fertile in expedient and knows every weak spot in the Turkish Empire, as well as every foible of his European colleagues.

GERMAN IMPUDENCE.

A semi-official German paper, the *Zeitung für Nord Deutschland*, threatens England's naval power in a remarkably impudent way. It says:

"In England people look with philosophic calmness on the struggle of continental nations. They believe they are in no danger of invasion. * * * Germany not being a naval power. But let them not forget that we are well aware of our weakness on the sea and that we are striving with the utmost eagerness to remedy this defect."

The writer then argues that there is nothing to prevent Germany from making her fleet equal to that of any other power in a few years, and proceeds as follows:

"In 1864, Alsen was no obstacle to the progress of our victorious army; and the time will come when neither the North Sea nor the British Channel will stop us. On a German sea, near the mouth of the two German rivers, lies a German island" (Heligoland) which was torn from us by force in the days of our weakness; and its possessor is that same England which now wishes to prevent us from recovering what was ours on the Rhine. We must recover that piece of ground too. That its possession is of great importance to us has been shown by the present war. If Heligoland had belonged to us, the French fleet could not have found a shelter or pilots to lead it into the harbors of the North Sea."

Suppose, however, good contemporary, that it should happen that Prussia should be crumpled up within a short time. Has it ever occurred that the hand has been stretched out too far, and cannot be withdrawn? That a few defeats of the army around Paris would roll back the war into Prussia, and frightful would be the retribution for the savage conduct since Sedan? It all depends upon finding a genius in a general and there is a pretty strong belief that Trochu is the man.—*Court Journal*.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S LADIES IN WAITING.

An English correspondent writes:—With one exception, all Queen Victoria's "ladies in waiting" are widows. Since her husband's death her Majesty has always selected ladies similarly bereaved. They receive £800 a year, which is a very acceptable addition to the jointure of an Irish peeress. They are always wives or widows of peers.

Young ladies are not considered eligible as "maids of honor" unless they are granddaughters of a peer, not of lower rank than an earl. They are almost invariably selected from among the daughters of the daughters or younger sons of peers, and are in a position which renders their salary of £800 a year an object. The life of a maid of honor at the court of Queen Victoria has been as free from all temptations to stoop to folly as that of the young ladies whom we read of in De Grammont's *Memoirs* was full, and "la belle Jennings" and the other two charming subjects of Lely's pencil which have been handed down by him to posterity, would have been dreadfully bored by the Windsor of to-day, which, never lively for young ladies during the present reign, even at the best of times, is now duller than ever.

The maids of honor retain their title of "honorable," which they receive on appointment, after they marry, but it is notable that their position is not considered to advance their prospects of making a good match, and in fact, in a worldly point of view, they rarely marry well.

The Queen generally presents a maid of honor with a handsome present in money on her marriage, besides the hundred guinea cashmere shawl which is her Majesty's almost invariable gift. Many of them retain their positions long after they have reached middle life, and one lady, now retired, who was removed, turned a deaf ear to repeated intimations that her resignation would be accepted, was old enough to have been her Majesty's mother. There are always numerous applicants for all the positions about the court, but at the same time many of those whom the Queen would particularly like to have about her, decline, and indeed, unless money is a decided object, there is little inducement to persons in a high position to undertake such duties. In former days a close connection existed between court places and politics, and it is a matter of history that the late Sir Robert Peel, at an early period in the present reign, declined to form a government because the Queen refused to part with certain members of her household "friends of her youth," whose influence Sir Robert considered would frustrate his own. Now, however, except in the case of the mistress of the robes, which is a high office of state, a Minister very rarely raises objection to the presence of any particular lady, although no doubt if he did so she would be obliged to resign.

In London the ladies in waiting do not actually live at the palace, but are fetched and carried according as their attendance is required, by a royal carriage placed at their disposal; but the maids of honor live at the palace both in town and country. The Queen always shows kindly recollection of old servants deserving it, whether of high or low degree.

The *New York Journal of Commerce* protests, in a well condensed and timely article against the proposal to repeal the bonding privileges conceded to Canada, and says: "She has not to go far to find a screw, the turning of which would press severely upon our western commerce. It is the Welland Canal, through which much of the trade of the lakes passes to Canada and the Atlantic Ocean. The American traffic through this canal for the year ending June 30, 1870, was 2,884 steam and sailing vessels, with a capacity of 763,742 tons. For Canada to deny to the commerce of Chicago, Cleveland, &c., the use of this outlet would occasion great loss to that interest. Of course, too, it would be a damage to Canada; but the evil spirit of retaliation does not stop to reckon up that; if it did, reprisals would cease to be inflicted and wars to be waged the world over. A despatch from Ottawa indicates that the Dominion Government are thinking over this matter of retaliation as seriously as the Washington Cabinet are contemplating that suggested by the President. We have little fear that the threat will be executed by either party. The American people do not respond with the least heartiness to the President's imprudent recommendation. We cannot believe that the bonding privilege will be repealed by Congress, or Canadian ships turned back from our ports, or the Welland Canal locked against our vessels; but confidently trust that the better sense of the two countries will insist on a friendly and mutually advantageous settlement of all outstanding questions between

them. The more retaliations are threatened by each, the more will, or should, each see the folly of allowing the dispute to go beyond the buncombes of messages and the loose talk of reckless party journals and demagogues. If not *bullied by Congress*, the public opinion of Canada will probably not disapprove of removing the peculiar hardships of which American fishermen complain. It then virtually goes on to show that our canals are essential to the development of the trade of the Western States; inasmuch as it is impossible to deepen the Erie Canal, the chief difficulty being the insufficiency of the water supply. "In a dry season like the past the water is so low that ordinary canal boats are obliged to lie up at times—the river feeders along the line failing to give the needed depth of water. *With every inch of deepening and widening the canal this difficulty will be increased*; and the State or the general government may well pause before entering upon a work so arduous and doubtful of results as cutting a ship canal between Lake Erie and the North River." This is a grave admission; it fully accounts for the preposterous pretensions set forth with regard to the navigation of the St. Lawrence in the President's last message.

THE MARTINI-HENRY RIFLE.—We should be very glad to confirm the announcement in the *Times* that a first step had been taken towards the rearmament of the British infantry with a superior weapon by the issue to the 2nd battalion 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the men of the various depots attached to the general depot battalion at Chatham, of Martini-Henry rifles. Unfortunately, this announcement, like that of the *Army and Navy Gazette* respecting the definitive adoption of the weapon (which our contemporary repeats in his last issue), is premature. The Martini-Henry rifle has not been adopted; and as for its alleged issue to the troops at Chatham we believe that only twelve Martini Henry rifles of the proposed pattern (with the "short chamber,") are in existence. It is probable that the *Times* correspondent has mistaken the issue of one or two of these rifles for experiment for a general rearmament of the troops. We are afraid that many months must elapse after the rifle is finally adopted before a supply will be ready for issue to the troops; and we believe we are correct in stating that it is impossible, under any circumstances, that the manufacture of Martini-Henry rifles will commence before the vest of April next if so soon.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The Legislative Assembly of Quebec was prorogued on Saturday by the Lieutenant Governor. His Excellency, after thanking in Her Majesty's name her loyal subjects for their benevolence, expressed his satisfaction with the work of the session, particularizing the Act granting liberal aid to iron and wooden railways, which he was confident would be the means of developing the commerce of the Province and attracting immigration, the Civil Procedure Act, and the Acts respecting public instruction and agriculture. The careful examination given to the correspondence relating to arbitration received the warm approval of His Excellency who has no doubt that the country would sustain the Legislature in their determination, unanimously expressed, "to obtain justice for the Province." This being the last session of this Parliament, His Excellency counselled moderation at the approaching elections.