

her effective strength every way by arming her heavy merchant steam fleet with guns of a calibre that would make a good many of the cruisers of other countries keep at a distance. We do not think the "Battle of Dorking" is imminent, but blundering diplomacy, which has been a characteristic feature of the late administration, may make it possible. Our contemporary *Broad Arrow* says:

"We all remember the thrilling episode in the 'Battle of Dorking,' in which the British fleet is depicted as being destroyed by German vessels of marvellous construction, which had been secretly prepared in the dockyards of the Baltic. The first step has been taken towards the preparation of these terrible engines, inasmuch as Prussia has actually achieved the task of building an ironclad entirely without assistance. It is true that this wonderful ship is only of about the fourth rate, but as the famous battle which is to shatter England's power for ever, is to be necessarily preceded by the building and equipment of a much more powerful fleet than that which we now possess—which may be assumed to be about twenty times as strong as that of Prussia—it must be allowed that the progress made by Germany is not very rapid in her assumed design of extinguishing Great Britain. Perhaps by the time Bismarck is ready with his fleet we may be ready with our army!"

A few more "heroic" achievements of the style that permitted the abrogation of the treaty of Paris, by having it torn in pieces and flung in the faces of the English Ministry, with a Treaty of Washington and a Geneva Arbitration or two, will prepare the way for the "thrilling episode" which the paragraph alludes to, while the abstraction of English statesmen from meddling in European affairs and allowing the country to abdicate its proper place in the Council of Nations will be the readiest way to realize the dream of Pesimiam.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the British Army has always maintained the reputation of being a particularly cool hard headed practical man, who thoroughly understood his business, and whose unflinching honesty, as well as patricianism, was the great barrier to Mr. (now Lord) CARDWELL's heroic efforts to destroy even the vestiges of the British Army. It would be far more reasonable to suppose that in every case affecting its interests his opinion should be the guide and rule by which improvements ought to have been made, but it is evident from the tenor of his addresses that every possible panacea was adopted to meet contingencies which he thoroughly foresaw and understood.

On the question of a supply of recruits for the Army he has pointed out in the following speech the proper and only method to overcome the difficulties surrounding that problem for which he is better entitled to the gold medal of the Royal United Service Institution than Captain HOME:

"On Tuesday evening the Master and Wardens of the Saddlers' Company, entertained, at a banquet at their hall, in Cheap side, a distinguished party of noblemen and

gentlemen. Mr. Deputy M'Dougall, as master, presided. During the progress of the banquet the band of the Grenadier Guards played a selection of music.

"The loyal and military toasts having been given,

"His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge was cordially greeted in rising to reply for the army and auxiliary forces. He said: I am much flattered with the reception you have given to the toast this evening, and by the manner in which my name has been connected with it. It is not the first time that I have experienced the hospitality of this company. On two occasions I have been here on business—business, I may say, connected with the immediate interests with which this company was originally associated. The company has done us the honour to take an interest especially in the proceedings of the army. It has given a prize for purposes that I conceive to be of great advantage and value. It has been very liberal in what it has done, and last year and this the masters have requested me to come amongst them to see the result of their action. I was delighted to do so, and was received with that cordiality which I was sure would be extended towards me. I regret that the results of the company's generosity have not been so far quite satisfactory, that the models produced here did not come up to your requirements—that is no fault of the company; on the contrary, it has been caused by the judgment shown by the authorities in selecting that which was so good that it was difficult to find anything better. You have the best model of a saddle for the army. One better cannot be produced, and the prize was therefore not given. This is complimentary to the Service. I am glad to be able to point this out. I hope it will show that "we authorities"—who are constantly told that we do not know our duty—sincerely alive to the interest of the profession. I do not speak so myself, but those of the Board of Admiralty I see here to-night will endorse what I say—that we are told, on the one hand, that we are most ignorant, and on the other that we are most incompetent. But I am not sure that we have not our common sense about us. However, I am pleased there is to be another competition for a prize for the manufacture of a saddle, and that on this occasion the award will be competed for by saddler sergeants of the army. I thank the company for the great interest they have taken in this matter. The fact is, we live in times when everybody thinks he has a panacea for everything—every inventor has his hobby, and he rides it to death. And it was thought the authorities should be moved by the same spirit. I think they do try to keep pace as well as they can with the movements of the age. I don't know what would happen if they were to run riot, as some thought they might, in all directions. All were disposed to find fault, but they do not care to pay for public purposes if they can avoid it. The authorities, while they recognise the spirit of the age, do not forget that the public purse was not to be put out of consideration. Now we can manufacture almost anything; but there is one thing that we cannot manufacture, and that is—men. You are so well off that you give men plenty of employment. I am very happy that it is so, for it is that which makes this country rich and prosperous. But I must confess that you should not hang back in paying for that article which makes you great and powerful, and that article is man. That is what is required for the Services—whether for the army or navy; and unless you got good men neither Service

can be properly constituted. Now, the question of getting men is a question of money. Men cannot be encouraged unless you choose to pay for them. If your wages are good, men will remain in the labour market, and not come to us. The more this is understood the easier will be the solving of that problem which seems to many so inexplicable. The question really is whether that money I have alluded to would be well spent on men for the Service. I think it would. Is it for purposes of war that I ask it? No; for purposes of peace. How, you will ask. Well, I look on this great country as so powerful that it ought to have great weight in reference to the events, the politics, of the world. Moral power is nothing without physical power. If you have physical power you have moral power. You are making the very best possible investment by putting yourself in a position to carry weight in the councils of the world. I firmly believe that there is nothing more likely to conduce to the possibility of peace—I say possibility, because we live in singular times—than it being known that England's power could be thrown on one side or other in the event of an emergency arising. If you spend your money in the way I have indicated, you uphold the greatness and power of the country, while at the same time you contribute to the peacefulness of the empire. I hope that these opinions will not only be felt by me, but that they will be shared in by every Englishman. After a few more observations, in which his royal highness adverted to the Volunteer force, he resumed his seat amidst the warm plaudits of the company.

"For the navy, Admiral Sir H. Codrington replied."

The lesson thus conveyed is worthy of serious study—not only in England, but here—we under-pay our recruits, our volunteers, and every man connected with our military force, and at once a cry is raised, we must improve the Militia Organisation—we must fall back on compulsion. For what? Because our neighbour will not give us his time for nothing and endanger his life in the bargain. The DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, as a sensible business man, says, *pay for your men* and you will have them—and we say so too.

"GENERAL NEUMANN, Inspecting General of the Prussian Engineers, has recently published some observations on the modern system—first developed by the Germans—of fortifying large places by distant lines of detached works. His criticisms, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, are in the form of a letter addressed to Baron Troschke, who is bringing out a work introductory to the study of military history, and, with a view of getting his advice as to the engineering questions, has sent proof sheets to General Neumann. The letter takes the occasion to emphatically warn his comrades throughout the army against the vital defect he conceives to lie at the root of the present fashionable use of detached works by military engineers. It is true, he says, that the additional ground gained by pushing these forward from the place throws the limits of protection under the former system into insignificance. But there is this inherent objection to that view: it is impossible to concentrate in one detached fort anything like the defensive means that may be collected in a large fortress. It is only necessary for the enemy to appreciate this truth thoroughly, and lay vigorous siege to a single one of the detach-