

light and along these stately avenues like the charming do-nothing dwellers of Watteau Land. And there was feasting in those silent rooms in those days, and merry talk echoed up and down the wide staircases, and small counts and countesses, princes and princesses, held mimic court in the dusty deserted nurseries. Now there is no sound to be heard in the length and breadth of the palace. The few pictures that are left on the walls are of no value, and look idly down on some pieces of cumbersome, worthless furniture. In the park, where the grass is as high as one's knees and the shrubs are untrimmed, nightingales still trill as sweetly as if the owners of this deserted paradise were within call of their songs, and not as if their sole audience consisted of dull-eared villagers passing quickly on their way to the fields, or open-mouthed tourists wondering what all the desolation means. One discovers at last that when Nassau was taken from the Grand Duke in 1865, he retired from this charming country house, from Palais Pauline at Wiesbaden, from his Jagd-Schloss on the Taunus Hills, as his quarrel with the Emperor was of such a fierce nature as not to permit him even occasionally to breathe the same air as His Majesty. They say that twenty years have cooled the heat a little, and that on the marriage of his daughter Hilda to the grandson of the Emperor he gave her this picturesque place, and she and her husband contemplate living here every summer. It is like a palace of the sleeping beauty, and requires but a touch from an enchanter's wand to set it in motion again.

For years the same pair of storks returned to the same chimney in the Kirchgasse, but a telegraph wire erected above their empty nest while they were wintering in Egypt or elsewhere, frightened the cautious couple from their old home, so they settled at Erbenheim, three miles off on the Frankfurt road, and are to be seen every afternoon on the swampy meadow outside the village teaching their young to fly—the only storks for miles round. One would like to know where these faithful birds live for the eight months spent away from German eyes. Did you ever hear of a Nuremberg scholar who wrote on a slip of parchment, "Pretty swallow, tell me where you pass your winter?" and tied it beneath the wing of a bird which had built for many a season so close against his window as to be quite tame, and which was just setting off again on its travels? And do you know that in the following spring when the scholar heard the twitter of his favourite and caught the little creature he found a new slip beneath its wing, on which was inscribed in Greek, "At the house of Glaucus, of Athens, the Vinedresser: who asks?"

WALTER POWELL.

Wiesbaden.

### THE UNITED KINGDOM.

SIR CHARLES DILKE concludes his five articles in the *Fortnightly* upon the "Relative Position of the Great Continental Powers of Europe" by the following analysis of the present condition of the British Empire.

WE have seen that England is past her fighting days unless moved by a very powerfully irritating cause; in the first place, on account of her admitted military unreadiness, and in the second place, on account of her strong desire for peace. It seems sufficiently established for any one who has followed my arguments in my preceding writings that it is impossible for the United Kingdom to adopt a policy of disarmament, or of effacement, without the gravest danger for her future. No doubt her chief Colonies are able to defend themselves; no doubt her carrying trade can be protected by naval means without a great resort to additional expenditure upon the services; but I cannot honestly pretend that England is in such a perfect position of defence at home as to be, under all circumstances, safe against the possibility of invasion. She has to face the fact that she is one of the least popular of the Powers, and that if she alone were attacked no hand would be raised in her defence. When I find myself compelled to write of England's unpreparedness for war I must at once admit that it is not in expenditure she falls short; she spends, indeed, more upon her war service than does any other empire in the world, and perhaps more, not only absolutely, but even relatively, in proportion to her enormous responsibilities. Considering, indeed, how much she spends, how little can she show for the money? Now, what is the most scientific foreign opinion with regard to her present military position? If we collect the statements of the leading foreign writers upon the subject we find that they point out that her colonial garrisons are singularly small; for example, in Trinidad there are 106 men (they take no account of volunteers); in the Bahamas, 93 (black); in Honduras, 226 (black). On the other hand, the French keep in French Guiana 1,000 soldiers (white men); while England keeps in British Guiana 163 (black troops). The French have in their West India Islands more men than England has in hers; and furthermore, the French have strongly fortified their chief colonial positions, Fort de France, in Martinique, and Dakar, in Senegal. It is also shown that, in now beginning to fortify her coaling stations, England seems to forget that they will require garrisons; that she is under an obligation to defend Belgium, but is, in fact, unable to do so; that upon her Indian frontier she will have to fight the Russians, and that it is impossible to prophesy the result of this inevitable struggle; that her army corps is sufficiently supplied with possible infantry forces to form eight army corps, but that not more than two such corps could be used abroad on account of the want of cavalry and artillery. Altogether the scientific summary of England's position is far from favourable to the views in the direction of retrenchment which have been expressed by the last three Chancellors of the Exchequer, although it is undoubtedly difficult to maintain that she gets at present the greatest possible return for her expenditure. England may regret as much as she pleases the progress of destructive weapons, and the fact that since she built her fortresses they have

virtually gone out of date, and may lament the growth of the military power, and of the rapidity of mobilisation of her neighbours; but it is a fact that, quite apart from her obligations in India, in Asia Minor, and in Belgium, she probably may have to increase her expenditure upon home defence. Her commercial ports are at present virtually undefended, even against the lightest of light attacks, and she is far indeed from having reached a point at which the assurance of her national existence can be looked upon as complete. It being assumed that for the moment England has to give up all idea of acting upon the Asia Minor Convention, or of defending Turkey in any manner upon land, and that she is to put Belgium out of sight and think only of the defence of India and of England, and the protection of her colonies and her trade, it is nevertheless the case that, even upon this reduced estimate of her responsibilities, in the opinion of all competent men, she falls short of the power to accomplish her task.

Less than five corps in all, prepared to take the field, appears to constitute the actually available army upon which nearly forty millions sterling are expended by the Empire, for only a small portion of this forty millions is expended upon the militia, yeomanry, and volunteers; and the volunteers, without the support of mobile field artillery, are not much more useful than the inferior Indian troops.

It is a little difficult to make an exact comparison of the expenditure of each Great Power upon its army. Germany spends about eighteen millions and a half; Russia, rather more than Germany and Austria together, and France comes next, but none of them are spending anything like the enormous sum of fifty-two millions sterling, which represents England's outlay, not including the local expenditure of the Colonies; in spite of which vast sum, however, she has not kept pace either with France or Germany in the introduction of repeating rifles, or of new shells. The reduction of the horse artillery and the want of ammunition columns are serious defects in the present military management.

It is only, however, by comparison with the army that I think the navy in a sound position, and I do not admit that it is sufficiently satisfactory to give no cause for anxiety. As long as France remains at peace, and spends upon her navy such enormous sums as she has done during the last few years, she will be sufficiently near England, as a naval power, to make her position somewhat doubtful, to make it depend, that is, upon how the different new inventions may turn out in time of war. It would be as idle for England, with her present naval force, to hope to thoroughly command the Mediterranean and the Red Sea against the French without an Italian alliance, as to try to hold her own in Turkey or in Belgium with her present army. As against a French and Russian combination she is weaker still. Englishmen are hardly aware of the strength of Russia in the Pacific, where, if England is to attack at all, she must inevitably fight her. While talking about their European fleets the Russians are paying no real attention to them, and are more and more concentrating their strength in the Northern Pacific.

If the British protection of Belgium has gone, how much more has that of Turkey disappeared into the background? The occupation of Cyprus was considered at one time as a material element in maintaining the independence of Asia Minor; but the fact is now only too patent that England is unable to reorganise an army to defend Asia Minor for the Turks, even if her people wished her to do so. It is certainly necessary for her at any rate to defend India, which is not, under present circumstances, a much easier task. India, I shall venture to assume, is worth keeping at all hazards, for the sake both of its people and the British nation. To hold her own upon the Afghan frontier, and to carry war into Russian territory by an attack upon Russia's Pacific shores, is the most she can expect to achieve. What hopes are there that England will be able to carry out this design? I am sorry to say that the more inquiry one makes, and the more time one spends upon the army and navy estimates, the more is the belief—nay, I might almost say the certainty—forced upon one that, while England has a small efficient white army in India, even in India the greater portion of the troops she nominally possesses are non-efficient, and in England, with an equal expenditure, her army, in a modern sense, may be said to be non-existent. It seems necessary, therefore, to consider of a system which will give her a better return for her expenditure than that pursued at present, as what England has mainly to look to is the defence of India, the defence of England, and the supply of a possible expeditionary force. Instead of trying at one time to imitate the Prussians, at another time the French, she should strike out a thoroughly national system for herself. If the theory on which her existing army system is based had any relation at all to fact, there might indeed be much to say for it. When, however, we find that, after years upon years of reorganisation and years upon years of fabulous expenditure, she is virtually without an army, and that England and India together, with an expenditure greater than Russia, can put into the field a force capable of fighting against European troops only equal to the force of Roumania, surely the time has come when revolutionary measures should be tried.

Just two years ago a hope was expressed by a distinguished military writer that a federation of the British Empire might be formed for general defence. The Colonial Conference which has been lately held with that view proved that the chief strength which can be gained from England's possessions for general imperial defence must come from Australia. As regards Canada, the predominant feeling is friendly; but it is useless to disguise the fact that there is a good deal of separatist feeling in Canada, and that there are at times dangerous ups and downs in Canadian sentiment about the Empire and its advantages. Moreover, Canada has an overshadowing neighbour of enormous power in the United States, with whom she has, from time to time, causes of sharp difference. The South