

much more, but it is quite as likely to end in the relegation of Prussia to her natural place in European politics.

If the English people are fools enough to allow the return of GLADSTONE and his party to power, the results of their Eastern policy, measured by the past, will be most disastrous—if the present administration continues in office the plotters will be covered with signal confusion—already that event has been taken out of the catalogue of contingencies and made a certainty by the prompt dispatch of a British fleet to Biska bay, and the upsetting thereby of the diplomacy inaugurated at Berlin.

The financial question has been ably handled by the *Toronto Mail* in an article headed "The failure of Russian credit," which will be found on another page.

THE subjects of the Celestial Empire are practising the lessons taught by the "outer barbarians." The following paragraphs are copied from *Broad Arrow* of 10th June.

"The Chinese soldier appears in an entirely new light, if a statement which is published in the *Peking Gazette*—the official paper of the Celestial Empire—is strictly true. The number for the 24th of last March contains a curious memorial from Li Hungchang, reporting the completion of the fortifications at Sin-cheng, on the bank of the Peiho, between Takue and Tientsin, by which the Chinese imagine, doubtless, that the ascent of the river is effectually barred. The work has, we are told, occupied 10,000 soldiers three years. But what is most curious is the statement that the work has been achieved at the expense of the men, as well as by their hands. 'They have consented to submit to reductions in their pay, amounting to upwards of 500,000 taels, for the purchase of the material requisite, and thus without a single disbursement from the Imperial Treasury, or calling upon the people to supply a single labourer, this fortress of extraordinary size and strength, has been successfully completed.'"

"A China paper states that a gunboat, which was launched from the Mamoi Arsenal on the 26th of March, has been designed and built entirely by Chinese, without any foreign aid whatever. The same contemporary states that the two gunboats, *Füh Sheng* and *Chien Sheng*, which recently arrived from England, are still under British colours, owing to the refusal of the native authorities to pay the balance of purchase money. A trial trip was made on the 17th March. Both vessels started from Pagoda anchorage at about 11 a.m., and anchored at Sharp Peak—awaiting a Chinese gunboat which conveyed a party of native officers and European employees of the arsenal to witness the firing of the guns, which rumour had previously told them would be impossible without shelling the boats to pieces and causing every one on board to be drowned. However, the Chinese gunboat being present, no doubt to pick up the unfortunate in case such a catastrophe occurred, the Chin deputies, with their European companions, ventured on board, though seeing the Chinese could be seen not a few rather uneasy faces until after the first gun was fired. Very good practice was made with the guns, but the Chinese object to the mounting of the guns. They were ordered to work on a pivot, and they can only be fired straight ahead.

Another trial trip is to be had soon, with a view to settling the dispute. Should this fail, the gunboats will, the *Herald* understands, be ordered to Hong Kong for sale on account of the contractors."

"German papers report considerable quantities of Krupp guns to have been observed passing down the Danube in special boats, being destined, as it is alleged, for Bucharest. A vessel holding 32 such guns, with carriages to match, was observed passing through Passau on Saturday. Three vessels similarly laden had been seen passing in the preceding days."

"Colonel Molostow, the Russian military attaché in Vienna, who purchased from Baron Ertl, a young officer, important military secrets belonging to the Austrian War Office, left Vienna immediately after detection of the treachery. Instead of appearing at the trial to which he was summoned as principal witness, a medical certificate was forwarded by his relatives, stating him to be in Florence suffering from mental aberration. The *St. Petersburg Official Gazette* now states that Colonel Molostow is finally removed from his post in Vienna, and that Colonel Feldmann is appointed in his stead. He still, however, retains his dignities as colonel and aide-de-camp of the Czar—a circumstance confirming the report that Colonel Molostow's "insanity" was merely simulated to avoid the severe cross examination to which he would have been subjected."

The above is a shameless incident exposing the length to which Russian intrigues will go. The objects may be understood by the fact that Austria lies directly in the road between St. Petersburg and Constantinople.

"The events of the last ten years have caused the military Powers of Europe to recognise very clearly that in future success in war will depend very largely upon the amount of care which has been bestowed during the preceding years of peace upon the preparation and organisation of each of the separate parts which when combined form an army; and also, that this thoughtful provision must embrace not only the field armies destined to undertake active operations, but must be extended also to the more sedentary forces, which are to carry out the more immediate and local defence of the country. And it cannot be doubted that this truth applies to naval just as much as to military warfare. Fleets and maritime defences can be no more improvised in the hour of need than can armies and territorial forces. It is therefore passing strange that we in England, relying as we do for the defence of our shores mainly upon our maritime forces, should go on from year to year without making any attempt to organise, and to render available in case of necessity, resources which exist in abundance, and might be made to contribute a most formidable addition to our defensive arrangements. It has been pointed out over and over again, and perhaps never more clearly than last week by Captain Scott in his lecture at the United Service Institution on "The Maritime Defence of England," that in our coast population we possess an ample personnel for the formation of a defensive coast force. There are our yachtsmen, consisting of the flock of English sailors and fishermen, and lumbering not far short of 5000 men, while in every seaport, in every fishing village, we have numbers of fishermen and boatmen intrepid, bold, and accustomed to the sea. On every river again which flows into our seas we have numbers

of fast steamers which in time of war might well be employed as torpedo craft, and steam tugs which might do good service as rocket boats, and be in readiness to ram and run down an enemy's transports and boats. There is no lack therefore either of personnel or materiel for providing an efficient local coast defence. Organisation only is wanting. The men should be enrolled and exercised in the use of modern weapons of war. They should be told off to the stations to which they would have to repair in case of war, and mustered there occasionally. The stations themselves should be selected and connected with one another, and with London by telegraph. In a word, a plan and system for the local defence of our shores should be worked out. Unless this is done, and done by times, we shall, should the hour of need come, derive no more advantage from the seafaring habits and nautical instinct of our coast population than France did from the military spirit which animated the hosts of armed men who rallied round the standards of the relieving armies during the last desperate struggles of the Republic against the Imperial forces of Germany."

We copy the above paragraph from *Broad Arrow* of 24th June because it is applicable to our own condition as it is to England.

We have everyone of the advantages enumerated except perhaps the "yachtsmen," and have hitherto made no use of the materiel.

It is true we are rather crippled just now for money, but more than would be necessary has been wasted on useless theoretical speculations, the fruits of which no provision has been made or can be made to realise.

The cost of enrolment of the reserve force has become too great for the country to bear, at least the economists say so, but they will not see that double its possible amount is involved on what does not, nor never will pay.

We have given our reader a pretty fair history of the *Torpedo*, and our opinion of its value as a weapon is confirmed by the results of every succeeding experiment. The following from *Broad Arrow* of 24th June, is a fair specimen of its value afloat—the *Vesuvius* was disarmed by the accident. It would be very convenient for the enemy.

"*Vesuvius*, double-screw iron torpedo vessel, Captain Morgan Singer. A shocking accident occurred on board this vessel at Portsmouth. She is an iron twin screw torpedo vessel, and has been specially fitted up for practice with the Whitehead or fish torpedo, which is discharged through a tube in the bows below the water-line, and is afterwards forced through the water by means of its own propeller. The compressed air, by means of which the torpedo is expelled from the ship, is pumped into a reservoir by means of pumps working inside a water tank. On the 21st inst. she went out of Portsmouth Harbour for torpedo instruction in the Solent, and while the reservoir was being filled with compressed air the tank suddenly exploded with great violence, killing Matthew Blank, engineer and instructor, and seriously injuring James Hook, the engineer in charge of the machinery. At present the cause of the accident is involved in much mystery. It is evident that the water tank was subjected to great pressure, and it is supposed there must have been a leakage in the air pumps, which are capable of exerting a pressure of