

## ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

## WHAT DEAN STANLEY SAID AT THE ROYAL WEDDING.

The *Times*' correspondent supplies a report of the sermon preached by Dean Stanley on Sunday 18th January, in the English Church on the Quay at St. Petersburg. The text was the marriage at Canaan, on which the Dean discoursed most eloquently, concluding in these words:—

It is now nearly 800 years since the last nuptial alliance between the Royal Houses of England and of Russia; when, in the dim twilight between history and fable, the greatest and best of the early Princes of Muscovy, Vladimir Monomachus, wooed and won the love of the Princess Gytha, the daughter of King Harold, the last of the Saxons. How little could either Monarch then have pictured the world wide progress which each people would have made before another Prince and another Princess of either realm should cement by a sacred family union the union of the two countries? That the small island on the confines of the Western Ocean, struggling with difficulty to hold its own against invaders from every quarter, should have been made the mistress of the seas and hold the gorgeous East in fear; that the barbarous principality in the centre of the wild Slavonic forests should have grown up into the mighty civilised empire which now almost joins hands with the descendants of that distant Anglo-Saxon race, alike in the heart of Asia and on the borders of America! What a prospect of possible greatness, of infinite advance in the age yet to come, is suggested by that retrospect of the ages that are past! And in proportion to the grandeur achieved by the two nations which have thus once more approached each other is the importance of an event which permits this mutual understanding and love. They have known each other in war—both as friends and foes. With chivalrous respect they have seen and tried each other's strength besides beleaguered fortresses, and on hard won battle fields. They have each listened to the lisping accents of each other's literature and science. Their commerce and their enterprise have embraced the world; their churches have exchanged many a friendly message, and breathed many a kindly hope for the great "hereafter," which, if each be true to itself, assuredly awaits them both. And now comes that more general, genial, cordial union, which brings the two nations, as it were, face to face, and hand in hand, in the plighted troth of those whom each regards as its living representative. Had it been possible in those distant days for Rocco, the old sea king, first founder of the Russian Empire; or in the latter days, for Peter, its mighty renovator, to have chosen the future destiny of one of the daughters of their race, they would have rejoiced that the alliance should have been formed with a sailor Prince, the pride of that gallant profession which was to that early chief, and yet more to that wonderful creator of the Russian Navy, so deep, so delightful an interest. Had Alfred the Great looked onward for a partner who should cheer and ennoble the career of the first and only English Prince, the only one of all the lengthened lines who, coming to man's estate, has borne that glorious name—he, the wisest and best of England's kings, would have welcomed with no ordinary gladness, in this union of the West and the East, the advancement of those designs, which he acknowledged so far beyond his age, for bringing his Western Anglo-

Saxon realm into contact with the distant races of Asia; he would have blessed the day which would give an additional pledge of peace and good will among the foremost nations and the foremost churches of Christendom. May the blessing of England, as represented this day in this long established seat of English piety in Russia, descend on the union which we trust shall within this week be accomplished! May the touching farewells from the shores of the North be echoed by the cordial welcome from the shores of the Thames to her whose very bearing and continuance shall for ever remind us of the tender love which has watched over her in this her native land and will follow her in her adopted home! That was an affecting and all-sufficing consolation with which the Israelite mother in old times gave her "one only child" to the young traveller that came by an angel's guidance to seek his bride in an distant land. "Behold," she said, "I commit my daughter unto thee of special trust." Of special trust, indeed, is the treasure thus given to our honourable keeping. May every Englishman and Englishwoman whose hearts are touched by the thoughts of this week, feel bound, so far as in them lie, to do their utmost to make the future worthy of the promise of this magnificent beginning! May the benediction of both Churches and of both countries rest on the coming destiny of these two youthful lives henceforth, as we trust, to be united in the indissoluble bond of a common and ever increasing interest in the same works of noble and precious purpose; the same keen pursuit of all things pure and true, lovely and of good report; in the constant reaching forward after the high and holy purpose, whereby alone families are blessed, and kindoms established, and nations exalted.

The annual dinner of the Royal Colonial Institute took place on December 15th, at the "Criterion," in Piccadilly. The chair was occupied by the Duke of Manchester. The gathering was essentially colonial, and there was hardly a colony in the Empire but could claim some one among the guests who could speak with authority upon its resources and influence. The chairman had just returned from Canada, and he was loud in its praises. In British North America, as in many other of our colonies, there was ample room for the willing and industrious surplus population of this country. Land was cheap and the roads, formed as they were in many parts of snow and ice, were hard and good. But what they were when the sun was strong enough to thaw them, may be more easily imagined than described. However, to the hardy and strong man the climate of Canada is but one remove from that of England; still, there are others to whom the more genial climate of Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa, would be more acceptable and life giving. The integrity of the Empire occupied the attention of more than one speaker, and a grand Federation of the whole of our colonies was glanced at. But before this desirable federation could be achieved, it was thought that the initial step in this great work should be begun by the colonies themselves. It was suggested that Australia, for instance, should endeavour to cement an union similar to that which obtained in Cznada, where all the provinces were banded in a federal bond of union, and then would follow a real Council of the Empire, which could not but strengthen the hands and consolidate the power of the mother country. This institute is doing much to make our colonies known, and nothing but

good can result from a wholesome and temperate discussion of their extent and resources. Mr. Horsman, in addressing his constituents at Liskeard the other evening, held that England owed her greatness to her foreign policy, and the expansion of her colonies. He characterised her foreign policy as one of perpetual watchfulness, of perpetual international intervention, perpetual international intervention, that was, in the international affairs of Europe, with religious abstinence from interference with their internal affairs. England has been enabled to play her part in the world's history because her wealth flowed from commerce, and her commerce mainly depended on her colonies, and yet the Manchester school of economists were for giving the colonies up. Napoleon knew their value better. If it cost a million to protect Australia and South Africa, they paid thirty millions back in the promotion of commerce and of trade. And then it is easy to see how Canada is always standing by England when difficulty with America threatens. So with India. Colonies are the best investment England has, and the policy which has served England so well in the past should be continued in the future.

From *Broad Arrow* we learn that a number of experimental 9 pounder field guns have just been completed at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, England, in order to determine the fitness as the arm for the Royal Horse Artillery. They are manufactured on the same principle as the weapon at present in use, by encircling a steel tube with a wrought iron coil. Their novelty consists in the fact that they weigh only 6 cwt., being 2 cwt. less than the weight of the 9 pounder guns at present in use by the Royal Horse Artillery, although they will be of the same length and fire the same ammunition as the heavier piece. The carriages for the new guns are being made in the Royal Carriage Department in the Royal Arsenal, of wrought iron, and will weigh about 1 cwt. less than the present service carriages—9 cwt. 25 lbs. At the Royal Carriage Department, Woolwich, Colonel G. T. Field, R. A., the superintendent of the department, has received an order from the War Office to prepare iron carriages and wagons for the Indian Artillery, the axle trees and other parts of the same being of an entirely new pattern. A number of artisans have been engaged in England to work in the arsenal at Calcutta. A traversing gun carriage, lately received from Sir William Armstrong's factory at Elswick for experimental purposes, has been fitted up in the mounting ground of the Royal Carriage Department, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. This carriage, on which is mounted a 68 pounder smooth bore muzzle-loading gun, is designed to lift the gun to fire over a parapet *en barbette*. The gun, which is supported at the trunnions by two powerful arms, is lifted by means of an hydraulic pump placed beneath to deliver its fire, the coil bringing it back to the loading position.

NEW RAILWAY.—Applications will be made next session for an Act to incorporate a company with full powers to construct a railway from some point on Shunder Bay to Winnipeg either in a continuous line or with power to utilize the navigable waters along the route. An application will also be made to Parliament next session for an Act to authorize the construction of a Railway from the Nipissin terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway to or near Muskoka, to be used by all railways there converging exclusively and in common for a certain period, as a neutral link between said points.