

most astonishing bargain, and no European Power pursues any plans dangerous to peace. Moreover, were the three Northern Powers really intent upon schemes such as are falsely attributed to them in England, the mobilization of the British troops would be a very quixotic proceeding. But the Northern Empires are bent upon the maintenance of peace, and their negotiations are solely prolonged with a view to that end. France, too, has no idea of war, painfully excited as she may be by England's appropriating a canal for which the world is indebted to French enterprise and capital. Accordingly, the mobilization of the British troops is nothing but mere gasconade, and as such it must be confessed is in keeping with the tone of the British press. The French journals, however, may be right in suspecting that the commercial transaction intended to make England the mistress of the Suez canal will eventually lead to military occupation and to the degradation of the Khedive to the position of Hindoo Prince."

#### The Duke of Cambridge on the Army.

At an entertainment to the Duke of Cambridge by the Fishmonger's Company, his Royal Highness, alluded to army matters, said:—"We have before us a task of no small difficulty. We are called upon to make very great and important changes in all the institutions connected with the army. This has been going on now for a very long period. But it is to be hoped that the time may soon arrive when such changes may cease. All those questions connected with army matters have a great bearing on the financial position of this country, yet when other countries place their military establishments on a greatly enlarged footing compared with what they have been heretofore, it would be, I think, the height of folly, to use a strong term, if we did not try to go as far as we could, at all events, in our military reforms. However, we may all desire peace everywhere, but we cannot help coming to the conclusion that we have not arrived at that happy period when all the thoughts of warlike operations are to be put on one side. We are bound, therefore, to try and place our military and naval institutions—or perhaps I ought to say our naval and military, for we ought never to forget that the navy of this country is its first line of defence, and therefore in that respect precedes the army—in the most efficient position that we can place them. But there is nothing to be done without very liberal means being placed at our disposal. We want men and we must get them, and if we are to get them we must pay for them. It is often said, 'But why more money now than formerly?' How is it you could do formerly with so much smaller estimates than now? Gentlemen, I will give you one item, and after that I will ask you to draw your own conclusions. You see a great deal in the newspapers nowadays about a great gun we have been making—an 81-ton gun. Well, gentlemen, what do you suppose that gun cost? I have good reason to believe that gun will cost £15,000, and I have also reason to believe that every shot fired out of that gun will cost £25. Now, gentlemen, when you calculate that and when you go on to calculate, not merely what five or six or eight of these guns will cost, but what the whole necessary armament of such weapons will come to, I think you will admit that it is not very difficult to find out why our estimates are now so much higher than they used to be. We are told we do not get the proper sort of men—give

us more money, and we will try and find that sort of men. I don't say we shall be able to do it, because the country is so prosperous, and there is such facility for obtaining employment that it is almost impossible to get the men to come into the army merely on the chance of seeing whether they like the service. It is our very prosperity that makes it necessary to be more liberal, and I am quite sure that, such being the case, and the country being less prosperous than it was, I cannot conceive that the great bulk of the great country—people who are so sensible, so reasonable, and so prudent in all their dealings—will have the imprudence not to do everything in their power to support the authorities in their endeavours to make the army and navy as efficient as it is right proper, and desirable that they should be in an empire such as ours. We sometimes see the propriety of conscription referred to. My own idea is that it is absurd to imagine that conscription can ever be made to go down in this country. (Cheers.) The only question is whether it may not be, under certain circumstances, not only allowable, but desirable, for the militia. I am not at all clear that the militia service is not one in which, to a certain extent, conscription or the ballot ought to be at times employed. But that is as far as I can go. How can you have conscription in a service where a large part of the army must be continually abroad? Why, conscription under such conditions is an impossible thing, because it is only justified for the defence of a country at home. There you have conscription, and, therefore, I say it is an open question whether we ought not to have the ballot for the militia; but a conscription to send troops to India for eight or ten years, or to the colonies, is a thing which is indefensible, if not impossible; and, therefore, I hope it will never be attempted. Therefore, I am afraid, we must make up our minds to pay for the men; we must make it worth their while to come and serve in the army. Depend upon it there is plenty of good English pluck left in us. Every day and every hour shows there is nothing an Englishman cannot and won't do. (Cheers.)"

The *Globe*, commenting on the Duke's remarks says:—"It is to be regretted that the necessity for strengthening our defensive position has arisen at this juncture, when any large increase of the military estimates must to a certain extent disturb the equilibrium of our finances. Nevertheless, nothing but irremediable harm could result from any longer blinking the fact that the safety of England imperatively demands a temporarily increased expenditure on armaments. In only one other way can we obtain that which the Duke declares absolutely necessary for security. By means of conscription an army can be raised at much less expense than by voluntary enlistment. The alternative, therefore, before the country—great outlay or compulsory military servitude. Which will it choose?"

#### The Old School and the New.

This is the time when the English farmers flock in thousands to London to see the great cattle show, and the *World* in comparing the modern agriculturist with the agriculturist of the old school, remarks:—"A difference of more than years seems to separate the two. They belong to different civilization, and nothing could more conspicuously proclaim the fact than their metropolitan demeanour. Their two social styles

are as distinct as their principles of farming, and not even the steam locomotive presents a greater contrast to the old stage coach than the farming and stock breeding systems as they existed twenty five years ago. Steam threshing machines, now improvements, artificial fertilization of the soil, zinc wire, and liquid manure—these things have effectually and completely transformed the occupation of the simple swain. Farming, which was once a mere empirical practice, has become a science. The farmer of today is a man of science and a philosopher, instead of being a rude experimentalist. He drains and ploughs his land according to elaborate rule, he feeds his beasts upon principles of pure reason, and crosses the breed according to the approved physiological precept of Professor Huxley. London is not to him as it was to his sires, the *terra incognita* of a thousand forbidden joys. His business requires a perpetual intercourse with town; he has his tradesmen, his agents, and his brokers in London. He has ceased to be the gentleman of Arcadian simplicity who falls an easy prey to the professors of the confidence trick. He speculates in cattle and crops, just as operators on 'Change speculate in stocks and shares, and when he is in London he leads much the same life. You may generally distinguish him by something of freshness and rubicundity, which tell of pure air and early hours. He will be heedful of his health, and he has exchanged the gross carouses of the cider cellars, which satisfied and delighted his sire, for the more critical inspection of dull dramas and vulgar burlesques."

#### Rifle Match between America and England.

The English team for this match, says the *Times*, will be selected by a most exhaustive competition. The following are the regulations adopted with reference to the selection of the British team.—1. It is proposed to take a team of eight, and four waiting men. 2. The twelve to be selected by two competitions, to be held in 1876—one in the course of the spring, and the other shortly after the Wimbledon meeting. 3. Each competition to last two days; fifteen shots each day, at 800, 900, and 1,000 yards. In case of bad weather, it shall be decided by ballot whether the competition shall continue. 4. Rifles, position, &c., to be as in the "Any Rifle" competitions at Wimbledon. 5. No sighting shots will be allowed nor any previous practice on the range within two clear days of the competition. 6. The twelve to be selected as follows:—(a) three best total scores out of the four made by each competitor will be taken as his aggregate, (b) the sixteen competitors having the highest aggregates will select the two first members of the team, (c) these two will select a third, the three a fourth, and so on. The captain (if not in the sixteen) and the adjutant will be *ex officio* members of each of these committees of selection. 7. The twelve men selected must be prepared to shoot together for two days after the competition, for accurate comparison and register of rifles, &c.

REMITTANCES Received to Subscription on THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 2nd inst:—

Essex, Ont.—Lt. Col. J. Murray, to May, 1876 \$4  
Montreal, Que.—Lt. Col. J. Martin, to Jan., 1877  
Peterboro', Ont.—Paymaster W. Chambers, to June, 1876..... 10