

Boyen (Eastern Prussia) remain under consideration, Schlestadt, Litchenberg, Lutzelstein, Munsel, Phalsburg, Bitcho and Dresden will be suppressed as fortified towns immediately. The places which are to be transformed according to the new system of fortifications are:—Metz, Diedenhofen, Strasburg, Vieux-Brisach, Mayence, Cologne, Wesel, G'ogau, Thorn, Posen and Konigsberg. Bramberg, hitherto an open town will become a fortress. The works for the aggrandizement of Metz and Strasburg are already commenced, those of Mayence will only be undertaken in the spring of the present year. As will be seen by the above indications, the plan of defence is concentrated on the Western and Eastern frontier, and on the coast of the Baltic and North Seas. The Ministry will not ask for any supplementary credit for the works of fortification, the present funds being sufficient for those commenced. At Mayence the expense will be provisionally met by the sale of ground. The cost of twenty seven new field batteries will be covered by the ordinary budget.

"It is announced that the Prussian government has definitely decided upon the construction of a canal which is to connect together the North Sea and the Baltic. Plans of the works required have been already drawn up, and a commission composed of German engineers and superior officers appointed to examine the plans on the spot, so as to make what alterations might be required. The members of the commission are expected at Kiel. Russia, it has been alleged, regards the project with considerable jealousy, as a means by which Prussian influence may be extended to the north of Europe. Evidently Kiel, which is the headquarters of the Imperial German fleet, is designed to assume great importance."

Forewarned is forearmed; and if England is caught napping, the shopkeepers that have brought her into contempt deserve to have their profits lightened!

The abdication of King AMADEUS was no matter of surprise to those who knew anything of the factions at the Spanish capital. It is quite probably the outcrop of those intrigues which will help to make Germany the arbitress of Europe, and the leaders of the Republican party will be used as the tools of the despot.

Complications likely to embarrass England may soon arise out of this change of Government in Spain. The Republican party there are in favor of a consolidation of the political power of the Iberian peninsula. The annexation of Portugal will, therefore, be attempted; and in order to prevent this a strong British squadron is ready in the Tagus. The reclamation of Gibraltar is another article of the political creed of those people; and a good opportunity would be afforded for Russia to forward her own schemes by another impertinent message to Earl GRANVILLE, while the "man of blood and iron" stands by as arbitrator! Altogether a fine chance is afforded for the illustration of the doctrines of the peace-at-any-price party, and it would be a pity to lose it.

The indifference displayed by the Spanish

people at the abdication of their Italian Sovereign proves that he never occupied any very prominent position in their esteem, while it is also evident that their natural character is not excitable, seeing that they have accepted the situation as an ordinary occurrence; and at the latest accounts the peace of the capital or country had not been disturbed. What a splendid chance it affords the astute German Chancellor and his Russian colleagues to outmaneuver the only power that stands "between them and anything else," Spain could be bought with the promise of Portugal and cession of Gibraltar, while the Treaty of Washington would become waste paper on the bait being held out that the Yankees might acquire Cuba. The opportunity is too tempting to be allowed to pass away without some steps being taken.

If it ended in abrogating the Washington Treaty, we might possibly benefit thereby, especially if it would lead to the revival of that iniquitous decision of the Kaiser respecting the island of San Juan. The residents on that island are in a peculiar position, if the following extract from an exchange is correct:—

"The British settlers on San Juan and adjacent islands until recently jointly occupied by the governments of Great Britain and the United States, but now in the undisputed possession of the latter, have been officially notified that unless they take the oath of allegiance to the United States by a given time, their property will be liable to be jumped by any American citizens whose covetous desires might prompt them to do so. The following is a copy of a notice, posted by authority in various conspicuous places on the island in question: "By virtue of a telegram dated Olympia, W. T., Dec. 25th, 1872. Public notice is hereby given, that all British settlers on the late disputed island, who wish to become American citizens, in order to prevent trouble about their land claims, are requested to meet the Clerk of the District Court of Washington Territory, on Monday, January 6th, 1873, at W. F. Taylor's, San Juan town, where the Clerk will administer the Oath of Allegiance, W. F. Taylor, acting N. R. N. B.—Persons wishing to have their Naturalization Papers made out in proper form can apply to Thomas G. Murphy, San Juan town." The British Columbia papers express some doubt as to the authenticity of this notice. They can scarcely believe that the United States authorities would attempt to employ any such sharp practice as that referred to, to compel British settlers on the late disputed islands to forswear their allegiance to their native land or run the risk of forfeiting their homesteads. There are on those islands upwards of one hundred such settlers, not including their families, some of whom have been on their lands for the past twelve or fourteen years, have made extensive improvements upon them, and all in good faith, believing that the territory belonged to Britain, that the rights they had acquired to their lands were secure, and that they would be protected in the peaceful enjoyment of them. The adverse decision given by the Emperor of Germany to Britain's claim to the sovereignty of the islands in question, would scarcely under the circumstances justify the American Government in employing any arbitrary means either to dispossess those

people of their lands or to force them to forswear allegiance to the British Crown.

The matter was brought up in the British Columbia Parliament on the 10th ultimo: an hon. member moved that the action of the United States authorities in this respect be brought to the notice of the Dominion Government. The Premier (Mr. DeCosmos) stated that this had already been done, and a memorial forwarded to Ottawa to be transmitted thence to England. The British Columbians, the next neighbors of the San Juan islanders, are naturally somewhat interested in the promises."

This is what Canada has reaped from the statesmanship of the Whig-Radicals and the Manchester philosophers!

The London Times, in its great anxiety to provide for the future welfare of British North America, has been a steady advocate of annexation to the United States. As a good many sentimental Republicans look on the constitutional regime of that country as the most perfect in the world, we would recommend to their careful consideration the peculiar phrase of political morality a pure Republic offers.

The Vice-President of the United States, who is also President of the Senate, has been convicted of taking bribes of so low a value as \$1200, and he is not alone; other members of that illustrious body are charged with the same crime, and a committee of the House of Representatives have advised the expulsion of two. One of those is Ames from Massachusetts, Brv. Butler's son-in-law.

If the Times and the clique it represents are enamored of the political institutions of Yankeeedom, they are perfectly welcome to their love—they are not admired in Canada. The following from a Montreal journal is about the true position of affairs:

"Our Republican neighbor's across the line now find it necessary to keep up a standing army of 30,000 men, and the various appointments and stations for it have just been arranged for the year. Formerly one of the blessings enumerated as accruing from a republican form of government was the non-necessity of keeping up such costly institutions, the militia and volunteer forces being depended on to defend the commonwealth in case of danger. Experience, however, shows that this fine theory will not bear to be put in practice. It is to be observed that the United States Army is not kept up through apprehension of foreign invasion, but as a precaution against outbreaks, the union of the States being no longer a voluntary one, and Republics not seeming to enjoy an immunity from intestine discord any more than monarchies or empires. Those reflections seem to have struck the New York Herald, and looking round at Canada it finds the latter has many blessings that the American Republic wants. No standing army or navy; taxes so small as not to be worth speaking about; a moderate revenue tariff; murderers and other criminals punished; judges incorruptible; cheap legislation and a public opinion that frowns upon corruption—such are a few of the advantages conceded to Canada by our New York contemporary, which allows that without an army we are just as safe as though we