

The *Portsmouth*, sailing sloop of war, with a light battery, is absent surveying the Pacific ocean. Being engaged in a peaceful pursuit, she is unprepared for war, and in case of hostilities would be an easy prey to some one-gun steamer that could take position and cut her to pieces.

Four of the sailing vessels are store ships. The *Idaho*, built at an expense of \$500,000, is lying at Yokohama, Japan, good for nothing, and has been ordered sold, and the money turned into the Treasury.

Four of the sailing vessels are used as practice ships at the Naval Academy and as ordnance vessels; but none are in condition to go to war, for want of steam power; and although noted in the register as carrying a certain number of guns, they are, in some cases, not armed, at all, and in others have only unserviceable ordnance.

All the old ships of the line, once so formidable, are used as receiving ships. They are mostly gone to decay; are unfit for sea; and it would be unwise to expend money on them, as no officer would wish to command such vessels in time of war.

When Ericsson built his little *Monitor* and it was launched against the plated vessel *Merrimac*, all the wooden ships of the line went to cover, as sportsmen say, and from that day to this no vessels of that kind have been used for battle in foreign navies. All experienced seamen now how useless a sacrifice it must be to bring these ancient structures into action against the quickly-plated war vessels of the present day. Had we vessels of this kind now with steam power we should probably use them from sheer necessity, as we did unfit vessels during the war of the States, when the indomitable spirit of our officers undertook the most difficult enterprises and succeeded, to the surprise of all Europe, whose officers predicted certain defeat.

We have no right to ask men to sacrifice themselves when we deny them the means to insure success. Naval officers do not fight for pleasure, but from a stern necessity and the orders of their Government. The Navy was not made as an amusement for naval officers, but to protect the honor and interests of the Republic when assailed by foreign arrogance; and if we expect success we must give the Navy the means of accomplishing it.

We send our officers to school at an annual expense of \$120,000, and educate them to the highest professional standard; that is, we educate them to be killed in defence of their country and make them food for gunpowder. We expect them to conquer or die, and would be to the officer in command of a 5-gun ship who should be obliged to strike his flag to an enemy of four times his force! The nation, in its humiliated vanity, would never forgive him. We expect everything from naval officers, and yet deny them the means to accomplish the ends in view. It is like telling a man to walk the rope across Niagara Falls, and giving him a thread to walk on.

I will now refer to our iron clad Navy, of which so much has been said and so much repeated. Constant allusions are made to the great efficiency of this part of our naval force and the wonders to be accomplished by their formidable guns. There stand on the Navy Register 35 vessels of this class, carrying 121 guns, and were they really good vessels this would be a formidable force; but they were built without due consideration of what they were to accomplish.

Originally intended for coast and harbor defence, they have been made to do the duty of sea-going vessels, for which they are utterly unsuited.

A recapitulation shows that out of 121 guns named in the Register, we can count on fourteen guns now and fourteen guns more in four months' time.

Among the vessels reckoned available are twenty-seven tugs, such as you may see any day in the Delaware or New York harbor, tugging merchant ships to the sea. They vary in size from thirty to three hundred tons, and some are built of wood, others of iron. The *Polaris*, lost in the Arctic expedition, still figures on the Navy list, and other tugs are employed in towing vessels in and out, or running from the Navy-yard to the powder station. None of them are fit to carry anything larger than a howitzer, and few of them have any speed. For want of better vessel several of the tugs have been fitted as torpedo boats, and one or two used as despatch vessels at Key West; but such craft do enter into the number of war vessels, and their names on the Register only serve to delude people with the idea that we have an effective Navy.

In the above statement you have the facts, which can easily be verified by a reference to the reports of the Secretaries of the Navy since 1861, in which all these things are set forth, and they are particularly noted in the report of the board of which Rear-Admiral Goldsborough was president in 1861-'62. It is a humiliating story to tell, and it looks as if some one had neglected his duty, but as Congress has made no appropriation whatever for the repair of these vessels, or to supply their places, we must conclude that the Navy Department is not to blame; but the blame is with us. The magnificent bubble of one hundred and sixty-seven ships and twelve hundred guns has been pricked, and the indisputable fact remains that we have only a Navy on paper, and it has required herculean efforts on the occasion of the Cuban imbroglio to get a few ships to sea to maintain the honour of the flag, which is on the ocean in the keeping of our Navy. Out of all our ships afloat when these troubles broke out we could only command thirty seven vessels, carrying 530 guns, in the European, North Atlantic, and South Atlantic waters, to recall which would leave our commerce in case of war at the mercy of the smallest privateer the Spaniards could send to sea.

PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH ON THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

In the session of the Trades-Union Congress, held at Sheffield, England, on Jan 14, Prof. Goldwin Smith made the following remarks in the course of a long address:—I can tell you what has fallen under my observation as a resident on the other side of the Atlantic. If there are any gentlemen here who met me the other day at Bradford in a small private conference, they will excuse my advertising again to the circumstances which I mentioned there. I am a professor in the university founded by Ezra Cornell. The university was founded for the special benefit of the working classes, in the hope that it may form the ladder by which the sons of toil may mount from manual labour to the higher work of the intellectual world. When I had nothing more to do here I felt that I could not devote my labour to any better object than that. I have had several applications from young artisans in this country who wished to emigrate and enter at the Cornell University. I have not ventured to encourage those aspirants, and for this reason, that the fact is the intellectual traders are very much overstocked in the new world. That was my reason, and not

because I had the slightest doubt they would receive the warmest welcome, the kindest treatment, in the university founded by Ezra Cornell. Mr. Cornell had a scheme very much at heart for the combination of manual labour with university education. That scheme has not borne so much fruit as he expected, though I confess it has borne as much fruit as I expected. It has not failed, but it has succeeded in a lesser manner than its founder hoped. The reason of its partial failure is not that there is any feeling whatever against the combination. Whatever may be the faults of our society in the new world, labour there is sincerely honoured; there is no man in the highest society of the United States or Canada who does not feel proud of having sprung from the ranks of labour, and glad to point to it as an escutcheon. At Cornell University I have had students at my history lectures in their working dress, and when they have taken honours at the university I have observed with pleasure that they were greeted by their fellow-students with enthusiastic applause. The reason why the scheme did not succeed to the full extent intended is simply this—that you cannot, except in very rare instances, effectually combine hard manual with hard intellectual labour. Labour of all kinds draws upon the same fund of nervous energy, and when you have exhausted yourself by working with the hands you need recreation. You cannot pass to the superior work of the brain. Still the scheme has left its impress at Cornell University. It gave to us a distinct complexion, of what I, as one of the professors of that university, am proud. The rich do not come to us with their luxurious tastes and idle propensities. It is a poor man's university, and there is no university in the world where the poor man can get his education at so small a cost and at so little expense to his feeling in the way of humiliation. Therefore, I am glad to call myself professor of this university, and feel that in devoting myself to its prosperity I am carrying out that which, in company with my friends here, I pursued during my residence in England. These are the facts. I wish to mention, in the year after my arrival there came to me a party of fourteen English artisans and their families. I did not invite them. I should never venture to take upon myself to invite any of them to emigrate, because I know too well that emigration, though its result may be most excellent, at first brings a man into hardship and disappointment. I know the first hours, weeks and months of the emigrant are often hours, weeks and months of dispondency and for longing for his own home. Therefore I did not venture to invite these artisans; but Ezra Cornell came into my room one day with newspapers and said: "I see that owing to the distress in the building trades a number of men in these trades are out of employment in London. Write and tell them there is work for them here." I wrote accordingly mentioning a smaller number than he had told me, rather fearing the result, but still feeling that I was bound to carry out his beneficent intentions. The result was that fourteen artisans agreed to come out to work on the buildings of that university. Before they started from England a breakfast was given to them, at which was present Mr. Mundella—a man who is always to be found where kindness is to be shown and honour done to labour; a man who is not like many men who made their fortunes by labour, who separated themselves from the labour by which they rose and passed into the lower ranks of the aristocracy. He remained in the heart a true workman.