

THE SOUND DUES.

The select committee to which the subject of the Sound Dues was referred in the last Session of Parliament has made its report—an able and comprehensive document, which treats the whole question in a large and liberal spirit, and gives an excellent synopsis of the evidence in the briefest possible space. This report, and the evidence which sustains it, may probably induce the British government to reconsider the decision at which it was said to have arrived a short time back when it refused to entertain the offer of Denmark to capitulate these dues with a view to their purchase in perpetuity, or in other words, to their absolute extinction.

It is evident, that the injury which these dues inflict on the commerce of the world, and more immediately on England, which absorbs so large a portion of the trade of the Baltic, is out of all proportion to the sums which are exacted, for while, as the report shows, the sums collected from British shipping do not exceed £70,000 a-year, the actual loss by delays, by the risks attending the navigation, by the temptation on the part of captains and sailors to neglect their duties after getting on shore, and various other causes equally potent, which are fully enumerated, may be fairly set down at considerably more than a quarter of a million.

That these Dues will enormously increase in amount in each succeeding year cannot admit of a doubt; and the cessation of the Russian war alone, with the Free-trade notions which now influence the Court of St. Petersburg, will go far to enrich Denmark at the expense of all the other maritime powers. Straws show how the wind blows. The Russian press, which deals so cautiously with all political subjects of an abstract nature, is now waging an amicable controversy on the genius of protection versus a free interchange of productions, the object of which is doubtless to pave the way for that extension of commercial enterprise to which the young Emperor is known to be devoted. But while under the new regime, so diametrically opposed to that of the late Czar, our trade in the Baltic is certain to be thus expanded, just in the same proportion will our shipping suffer from the enforced delay in passing through the Sound to collect the Dues, instead of sailing through without detention, and with such favorable appliances as cannot in the nature of things exist under the present system.

The United States, it is said, intend to make short work of these Sound Dues, and it is probably the uneasiness which has been caused at Copenhagen by this threat which induced Denmark to offer terms from which at some more favorable time she may feel inclined to recede. This, then, is the moment for us to take advantage of circumstances and turn them to account. We infer from the report, that it is not our intention to question the title of Denmark to these dues. On whatever grounds the United States may plead to ignore their validity and push them aside, Great Britain is debarred from taking such a course, and the next best plan is to purchase an exemption, and leave others to do as they like. We cannot see that any other plan is possible after the evidence which has been given, and the course which has been recommended by the committee. Lord Palmerston might fairly have assumed some credit during his Parliamentary stock-taking, on the night of yesterday week, when challenged by his rival, Mr. Disraeli, for the practical results which are likely to follow from this select committee on the Sound Dues—a committee the evidence given before which was of an eminently practical character, and which must effectually open the eyes of the commercial world to the evils of the existing system. These evils, bad enough as they affect merchants trading with the Baltic, are still worse as regards ship-owners and underwriters, whose property and risks are seriously jeopardized by the rules to which all vessels which now pass through the Sound are compelled to submit.

The Russians are reported to have declared that they will not surrender the fortress of Kars until the allied troops shall have entirely evacuated Turkey.

(From Wilmer's European Times.)

The war, whether it has brought us little or much of military glory, "used up" Russia, paralysed France, but left England unscathed. We were only warming to the work when peace was proclaimed. To do a thing well, we are assured, we must do one thing at a time, and for the last three sessions the "assembled wisdom" has confined itself to the solitary work of fighting and paying the bill. The sentiment which ruled Parliament has reigned in the nation. Politics in a party sense were dead. But all this is changed. Work of a different kind will now be looked for, but the country must not be too impatient. The next session will not be very industrious, for this reason,—that it will be the last of the existing Parliament. There will be more faction-fighting than work; for the political leaders will have an eye, in all they say and do to the hustings. There will probably be new combinations, new measures, new men; but we must wait patiently and see.

It was stated very confidently before Parliament adjourned, that the Queen, when that event took place, would make a series of continental visits—would be the guest of the King of Prussia and the young King of Portugal, and on her return home would look in at Cork, with a view of inspecting the lakes of Killarney. This was the Court gossip, put forth with a kind of semi-official air, and there was a look of probability about it which induced belief; for a Prussian alliance with Victoria's eldest daughter is understood to be a settled point; and the juvenile monarch who rules in Lisbon is a favorite with Prince Albert, and indeed a blood relation. But it now appears, that the head of the State does not intend during the present year of grace to go beyond the limits of Great Britain,—that, in fact, when she moves from Osborne it will be to her home in the highlands of Scotland. The movements of Royalty largely influence that volatile thing called "fashion," and in this view, they are always of more or less concern to an influential section of society.

The military reviews continue. Determined to keep up the martial spirits of the nation, the Queen has attended another review at Aldershot, where infantry and cavalry to the number of 20,000 were present. The manoeuvring of the soldiers was very fine; but except to a favoured few the whole affair was a kind of sealed book. The spectators on foot were not permitted to enter the charmed circle, were too far away to be able to appreciate the niceties of soldierly drill, and distance, instead of lending "enchantment to the view," obscured the "poetry of motion." There was one luxury, however, which went far to compensate the sight-seekers—the day was beautifully fine, the Heavens smiled propitiously, and the glorious country around, rich in the treasures of harvest, presented an appearance which delighted the eye and gladdened the heart. The present Sovereign, it used to be said, was always favored by the elements—always had what was called "Queen's weather," but latterly the elements have been less propitious to the "head that wears a crown," and it is pleasant to know, both for the sake of the Queen's soldiers and the Queen herself, that her former good luck has returned.

The dinner which the Sultan gave to the allied commanders, at Constantinople, was a very grand affair. Marshal Pelissier was present, but General Codrington was not. He arrived from the Crimea too late to be entertained. During the dinner a terrific thunder storm arose, which broke the windows of the dining-room, and silenced the music. The superstitious Turks who were present drew the most melancholy conclusions from this augury. "It is suggested to many," says one of the accounts, "the idea of Belshazzar's feast, and the handwriting on the wall."

Among the passengers by the Niagara to England was the famous Mrs. Beecher Stowe, who is said to be about publishing another book. Mazzini, it is said, has spent some days in Switzerland, and finding Italian aversion to his projects, has just returned to London.

The Paris correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes on July 28:—I have obtained permission to copy a letter that was shown to me yesterday, written by a very high-placed member of the diplomatic corps to one of his nearest relations. The writer has been travelling latterly all over Germany and the following is the part I am permitted to transcribe from his letter; "The late war has undoubtedly produced great effects in many parts of Germany, and effects which it is not difficult to render an account of to one's self. Along the banks of the Rhine, among such populations as are not purely Prussian—among, for instance, the Wirtemberg, Badish, and Rhenish Bavarian races—France has regained an immense ascendancy. The French army is looked up to as omnipotent; and if Napoleon III. wished to re-constitute the Rhenish confederation after the fashion adopted by his uncle, to place himself in the position of a kind of protector of the Rhine bund, he would find the populations I speak of ready to his hand. In Austria, on the other side, the leaning towards France and her present government is both natural and political; natural, because the Austrian is a military nation, and military government is what the Austrian likes and is used to; political, because it is essential for the rulers of Austria to have in France an absolute power, which cannot if it comes to the push go against Austria in Italy, and which may, by some circumstances likely to occur any day, find it advisable to go with Austria. In Prussia only, do France and her present ruler find national antipathy and political avoidance. The old wounds of the former wars have not healed; the Prussian soldier is prepared to fight against the French one with real and active animosity; the Prussian burgher is ready to applaud him, if things come to the uttermost; and, politically, the Prussian government draws back from an alliance with the empire, and regrets sincerely that a cordial alliance does not bind it altogether with England. Prussia is, strange to say, the only country in Germany, where England is not fallen from the position she formerly possessed, I wonder whether in England generally, people are aware of the effect produced by the late war upon the esteem in which their country is held throughout Germany. In Austria, the dislike which has been growing up within the last eight or nine years is now complicated by the affectation of a feeling certainly not calculated to gratify the English pride. The Austrians affect (for this is more affectation than reality) to pity England for the secondary and subservient position to which her alliance with France has reduced her, say they; and in the almost universal expression of this sentiment, they seem to find a kind of revengeful compensation for the sympathies so openly given to Italy by Englishmen. In the states of the confederation is shown, assuredly, no great respect for England; but there is little or no hostility; there is at most, neglect. They are at this moment solely preoccupied by France. It is an incontestable fact, that, at this moment, England, whose prestige is all but wholly lost in Austria and in the rest of Germany, preserves in Prussia only a steady admirer, and both national and politically, a friend." In another part of the same letter, the writer, who has had ample means for discovering the truth of what he states, gives the following notice of what is passing in Russia with regard to the French alliance: "After the communications made to the Czar Alexander by M. de Seebach, last winter, there can be no doubt of an ardent desire having sprung up in the Russian government for a close and warm alliance with France. The French alliance became the principle of Alexander II. and the peace of the 30th March was the first product thereof. The treaty of the 15th April has radically, and, I believe, irremediably, changed all this; and the reasoning of the cabinet of St. Petersburg is this,—Either according to his own version to Count Orloff, Louis Napoleon was forced to make this concession to the Parliamentary exigencies of England, or he voluntarily, deliberately, played us false, betrayed us, took us in. In the one case, he is not so powerful as we supposed; in the other hand, he is not to be trusted;

and in either case, whether dependent or dishonest, he is not an ally to be coveted. Here is, I believe, a precisely correct exposition of Russia's inflexible opinion upon the French alliance. She is, perhaps for the moment, not so much occupied however with the exterior as with the interior. Externally she sees no ally but Prussia upon whom to count, and upon her she does not count entirely. Prussia, meanwhile, is making ready for every emergency, in the intimate persuasion that all her efforts will be called for ere long."

JUSTICE IN THE STATES.—We have news from Washington, of the acquittal of Herbert, on his second trial for the murder of Keating. As far as regards the individual himself, the fact is as indifferent to us, and, we presume, to all citizens of the United States, as if Keating had been acquitted upon an indictment for the murder of Herbert; but an event of some importance at any time—it has, at the present day and under the peculiar circumstances of the case, a grave significance. It is a matter of no small consequence, an arguery which claims serious attention, that one man can put another to death, as Herbert did Keating, and be clearly acquitted of all crime whatever in doing so;—and this at the Capital, the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive metropolis of the country.\*\*\* It is not the machinery of justice in Washington, before Herbert's trial itself, as an exponent of the moral sense of a community, with which we have to do, and of which we have to complain. With regard to the principal facts in this case,—those which determine its character,—there is no dispute. Herbert killed Keating, in a quarrel which he (Herbert) himself had provoked, and with a concealed weapon: Keating having provoked his slayer's wrath by the mere discharge of his duty. Placed on his trial for this act, he is solemnly and absolutely pronounced not guilty.—Not merely allowed to escape extreme punishment because the crime was, as the Scotch law permits jurists to say, not proven; that could not have been, even were the much needed terms of such a verdict known to our law, for the act as we have stated it was completely proven; there was no lack of evidence, although some that ought to have been forthcoming was not. He was not even declared guilty of the minor crimes, conviction of which, in tender consideration of the lives of culprits and the consciences of juries, our law permits under indictment for murder: his killing of Keating is passed over entirely, and he is sent forth from before a high tribunal in the seat of government of the United States—"the very siege of justice" it would else have seemed—as being absolutely guiltless of all crime in this matter, an untarnished, nay, an injured man, and one fit to take his place, not among the lawbreakers, but his seat among the law makers of the nation.\*\*\* And now after this trial, and that of Brooks, the question must occur,—What safety is there in Washington except that secured at the pistol's mouth? Before our law there is no distinction of persons, and before a Washington Judge and Jury, there is but the distinction between slave-propagandist and non-slave propagandist, a distinction that works only harm to the latter. Had Mr. Sumner successfully resisted Brooks' attack, which he would doubtless have done, had he not been taken unprepared and and at disadvantage, we have the latter's own admission, almost in words, that he would have killed his victim. And in that case, what would have been the verdict of a Washington Jury? Probably that of the old story:—"Served him right!" The result of those two trials will not admit of any other conclusion. Acts of brutality and manslaughter seem to have secured at least immunity from punishment at Washington if perpetrated by Southern men, in the interest of the slave-propaganda, and in violation of the rights dearer to freedom.—*New York Courier*.

On Tuesday morning a second despatch of Minie rifle ball-cartridges was forwarded from Woolwich to London and Chester for embarkation to the Cape. This despatch consisted of about 100,000 rounds.