

sideration, which justifies the prohibition of weapons suitable for, inflicting unnecessary damage, has led the European powers to prohibit, by a solemn agreement, the employment of certain explosive projectiles. Such is the object of the Declaration of St. Petersburg, 11th Dec., 1868, as follows:

DECLARATION.

"Upon the proposition of the Russian Imperial Cabinet, an international military commission having assembled at St. Petersburg in order to examine the suitability of prohibiting the use of certain projectiles in time of war between civilized nations, and this commission having fixed by mutual agreement, upon the technical limits at which the necessities of war should be restrained before the emergencies of humanity, the subscribers are authorized, by order of their Governments, to declare as follows:

"Considering that the progress of civilization should have for its object the reduction, as far as possible, of the calamities of war:

"That the only legitimate end which the States should have in view, during a war, is the weakening of the military forces of the enemy;

"That for this object, it is sufficient to disable the greatest possible number of men;

"That this object will be exceeded by the use of weapons which needlessly aggravate the sufferings of disabled men, or make their death inevitable;

"That the employment of such weapons will be from that time contrary to the laws of humanity;

"The contracting parties agree to mutually renounce, in the case of war between themselves, the employment, by their land or marine forces, of all projectiles of a less weight than 400 grammes which will be explosive or loaded with inflammable or fulminating material;

"They invite all States, which have not participated, by sending delegates to the deliberations of the International Military Commission at St. Petersburg, to accede to the present agreement.

"This agreement is only obligatory upon the contracting or acceding parties, in case of war between two or more of them, it is not applicable as against non-contracting parties or those who would not have acceded to it.

"It ceases equally to be binding from the moment when during a war between contracting or acceding parties a non-contracting party, or one who would not accede to it, is allied to one of the belligerents.

"The contracting parties reserve the right to a future understanding upon every occasion when a precise proposi-