



TRYING THE LION'S TEMPER.

British Lion: "Now, then, Bruin, don't, I say don't, or—or——"

[The seizure of some British steamers by the Russian Volunteer cruisers, and the sinking of the "Knight Commander" by the Vladivostok squadron, have greatly exercised the temper of the British nation.]—Hindi Punch.

Punch is never low or scurrilous, but always—rem acu tetiget—touches the very spot. It will be remembered that Kuropatkin plotted the conquest of India, and that the Russification of the buffer states and of Thibet was part of the plan. This performance, however, has been indefinitely postponed. This makes all the more

galling to Russia the extension of the British sphere of influence over "the roof of the world."

British India has a Punch of its own, and is naturally a good deal interested in the attempts of the Bear to twist the Lion's tail by the seizure and sinking of British ships. But the Bear has found it expedient to discontinue the process, to disavow the acts of its pirate ships, and give orders for their cessation.



"NEUTRALITY."

Dame Europa—"Glad to hear, John, that you are not harbouring any of these pugilists on your premises."

Chinaman—"Bless your heart, ma'am, they've been fighting in my back garden for the last six months."—Punch (London).

China has a particularly difficult role to play in maintaining neutrality. She is like the grist between the upper and the nether millstone—ground by both. She wants to stand fair with both the great antagonists, however much her sympathies may be with Japan. To prevent the quarrel from sweeping into its vortex the nations of Europe is the supreme object of diplomacy. Punch again hits off the situation very well.

The beginning of strife, says Solomon, is like the letting out of waters, one can never know what flood of disaster may follow. The prophet who would have foretold that in eight months the Russian army and navy in the Far East would have been so thoroughly demoralized or destroyed would have been considered a very Cassandra. Yet our cartoon on the Russian advance indicates how liter-