

Spain is the only other country which has any navy of importance, but it is very backward when compared with any we have mentioned. It has six iron clads only, and of these only one the celebrated *Numancia*, was built in Spain.

There are still four navies in Europe to be mentioned. Denmark, Turkey, Greece and Sweden are all naval Powers, although on a small scale. Denmark and Sweden have between them nine iron clads. Five belong to Denmark. Sweden has four monitors and fourteen unarmoured fighting vessels. Its navy is now undergoing an entire process of reconstruction, which is nearly complete. It is rather curious to remark that this little navy is manned by more than 34,000 men. Greece has a force of 32 vessels, which are chiefly of a small character, Turkey has ten ironclads, of which two have just been purchased by the Government. Altogether it has between 40 and 50 vessels and between 30,000 and 40,000 men. The navy of Portugal ought not to be omitted, though it is almost worthless as a power, and its thirty-four ships, which are manned by about 3000 men, are hardly fit to go to sea. We will conclude with just drawing attention to Brazil and Java. Brazil has a very good navy of sixty vessels; eleven of them are ironclads which did service in the late war with Paraguay. Java has a fleet of thirty vessels which are all unarmoured.

ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES.

The *Post* says:—"That our colonies should be alarmed by the tone which a loud, if not a large, party in England have been able to drive the Government to take with regard to the relations between the country from which colonial populations have emanated and the settlements which have been constituted by the emanation, is not surprising. It is rather, indeed, surprising that the rise of that party in England, and the advancing development of its opinions from the stage of theory into the stage of action, has so long remained unperceived, and the hitherto quiescence of the colonies can only be accounted for by the fact that the growth of the colonial theories now in favour has been exhibited in such strange and incidental forms that it might well, by colonists struggling with native populations for land and life, be easily overlooked. It had its beginning with the economists, not that class who huddle at little items in the estimates for washing the windows or floors of the Houses of Parliament, but with that more powerful and logical party who seek the reduction of our naval and military establishments to the dimensions of the Principedom of Monaco, because they are persuaded, wrongly or rightly, that upon them rests mainly the power of the Crown and the ascendancy of the territorial aristocracy. These politicians have lately been enabled to bring into co-operative action with them the school of philosophical political economists, who contend that extent of empire is a stumbling-block, and the established recognition of its advantages foolishness. Starting from very different points of view, and travelling by separate roads, these two parties have nevertheless come to a common conclusion, and am at an identical result. They desire to reduce the empire to the island we live in."

The *London Spectator* says:—"We are assured that the idea pervading England is exaggerated, that the colonies are open to negotiation about their tariffs, that in return for a deemed and satisfactory position they would be induced to abandon their high tariff policy; that they would agree, for example, to fix a maximum beyond which

duties on English goods should not be raised; that if money were lent to New Zealand, she would agree to pay its interest by direct taxation, or, at all events, by taxation not levied upon the import of British goods. If there is any truth in this view, such treaties might be invaluable, and at all events the possibility of obtaining them is subject for negotiation. Add to these offers the greatest of all, that Britain shall continue to be and to be considered an empire and not a big Holland—shall, that is, have a place in the world which compels every politician within her borders to cease to be a vestryman, to consider the interests, and the affairs, and the progress of humanity, and not merely of the two little islands, and our readers may possibly think, as we do, that even judged by the nineteenth century standard, by the test of the strictest political realism, the colonies have enough to offer to make their position a worthy subject for diplomatic negotiation, for a discussion as between ambassadors, and not as between Colonial Office clerks and so many blackbeetles."

NEW GUNNERY AND MUSKETRY PRACTICE.

The following alterations and additions have just been made, in an order of the Lords of the Admiralty, to the Gunnery Manual, 1868. In future any alterations or additions will be notified in a memorandum to be issued every six months:—

HEAVY RIFLED GUN EXERCISE.—In iron-clad ships the guns are to be loaded with battering charges and the Palliser projectiles. At 10 inch guns, 3 and 4 clear away front securing screws, 7 and 8 clear away rear securing screws, and 9 and 10 the carriage screws; 13 and 14 ship training wheel handles. When firing the sponges should be wetted. At guns vented at the side 2 serves the vent. The powder man gives felt wad to 3, who enters it after the cartridge, hollow side inwards. At guns vented at the side 2 pricks the cartridge. At 10-inch guns 9 and 10 assist to throw the guns on the rollers. 1 and 2 attend the pauls on rear rollers. At 8 inch, and all guns above that calibre, where winches are required to run out a wad, gun with a steady heel the rear number on the winches will attend the pauls. At 10-inch guns 13 and 14 assist on the winches. Whenever winches are used for running in, the gun is, on no account, to be put on the rollers, or the compressor eased until the running in ropes or chains are taut from the winches. When ship has much rolling motion, or a steady heel towards the object, 6 attends right nipping lever. At eight inch and all guns above that calibre, when the winches are required to run in a lee gun with a steady heel, the rear number on the winches will attend the pauls. The importance of lowering the port on recoil should not be lost sight of in exercise. In casting loose or securing with diminished crews, the right rear man always clears away running in and preventer ropes. The men who attend the levers always clear away side ropes. The men who attend the training tackles always clear them away. The numbers next in rear of the men who attend the levers always ship winch handles. (Note.—With nine men, No. 2 will ship the right winch handle.) With fourteen men or under, the left rear man always clears away shell Burton after assisting No. 5 with the projectile. The numbers on the rear of the winches will hold the handles up whilst the ropes are being disengaged. Nos. 7 and 8, when the gun is in coil, down the running in

ropes in line with the compressor, and 3 and 4 attend them when the gun is out. With thirteen men and under, if it is required to train the gun when at the "ready" the number required to heave on the winch will quit the preventer rope, returning to it at the order "well." With eleven men and under 8 attends the tripper. At 10 inch guns, 7 assists 11 on the left training winch, and 7 and 8 attend stops of training gear.

REVOLVING GUN EXERCISE.—When necessary to use side tackles as preventors in traversing, they will be hooked on at the order "shift" by 5 and 6, and the men who attend the levers, using them alternately with the training tackles.

MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION.—In individual firing the standard has been raised from 30 to 35 points for passing into the 1st class, and from 20 to 22 points for marksmen. In the judging distance practice, 8 answers are to be given instead of twelve in each period; 10 points are to be obtained instead of 14, to pass into the first class.

FIELD EXERCISE.—The revised platoon exercise as published for the Army has been adopted. The following are the principal alterations:—The "ready" in four motions substituted for the "load" and "ready." The "present" to consist of three motions only; the men after firing removing the cartridge and closing the breech, remaining steady at the "ready" position, without loading, waiting for the next order. Loading and firing in two ranks has been revised throughout. The two front ranks are to kneel on the caution "prepare for cavalry."

PISTOL PRACTICE.—The pistol practice has been slightly altered in order to assimilate it with the revised platoon exercise for the Army. A helmet resting on the shoulders has been substituted for the mask in Denayrouze's apparatus, and is found to be a decided improvement. Palliser shot are now painted black, and Palliser shell have the apex painted white. All case shot will in future be painted black.

The Indian field equipment committee of England have recommended the adoption of the modified French rifling in place of the Woolwich rifling originally proposed. Two riflings were in competition, the first being a modification of the French groove, the other that form of groove known as the "Woolwich." The French groove gave slightly better accuracy and a somewhat lower trajectory, but it was thought that the wear of the guns after continued firing was somewhat greater with the French rifling. And as the question of wear is one of importance, the committee in their preliminary report recommended the Woolwich system, but when the two guns came to be exactly measured to the thousandth of an inch, it was found that the modified French groove had really worn less than the Woolwich groove, and the guns will therefore be rifled in accordance with this experience.

The 200 Martini-Henry rifles which are about to be issued to the British troops for trial will, it is stated be disposed of as follows: One hundred shall be sent to India, to be divided among the three Presidencies; fifty will go to Canada, as the station which as regards climatic conditions, stands in the most direct opposition to India; and the remainder will be issued to the troops at home. The arms will be fired as much as possible, moved from one station to the other, taken on the march, passed from regiment to regiment and subjected to as many of the vicissitudes of actual service as can be imitated or produced in peace time.