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far the most secure in deep water? Only cables in shallow water, such as those of the Eastern and Eastern Extension Companies are exposed to the ravages of marine insects, and, in consequence, continually need repair and renewal.

Mr. Pender urges that in case of war it would be impossible to protect cables laid across the Paeific. I venture to enquire, void it not be infinitely more difficult to protect the cables and the land lines of the Companies represented by that gentleman? Look at the telegraph map of the world and judge of their respective security. The lines of the Eastern and Eastern Extension Companies have stations in two foreign countries—Egypt and Java—the one under the sovereignty of Turkey, the other of Holland. All, or nearly all, the cables of these Companies are laid in shallow water, and nothing could be easier than to drag them to the surface anywhere. From England to Egypt they skirt every country in Southern Europe, and are exposed at every point for the whole distance.

The Pacific cables, on the other hand, would not be so exposed. They would be far removed from every country likely to prove hostile to England, they would be laid in deep water, as the Atlantic cables are, and they would be laid under circumstances which would render it no easy matter for a foreign ship to find them.

Mr. Pender contends that the cables of his Companies would "be the special object of the vigilant care of the Royal Navy." If I may hazard an opinion, it is not improbable that the ships of the Royal Navy would have other work more urgently demanding their attention than standing sentry on every mile of the cables extending from England to Aden.

d Cape Verde Islands.