

But Mr. Rutherford was gone down the cliff to inspect the scene of the disaster.

"Begging your pardon, sir," said the butler, "it could not have been any gentleman stopping in the house, for the doors were fastened till the people came down to tell you of the wreck."

At this moment—half-past ten, a. m.—Mr. Tyrawley walked into the breakfast-room. He was got up, if possible, more elaborately than usual.

"Now, here's a gentleman, captain, Mr. Tyrawley, who has been all over the world, and met with some strange adventures. I'll be bound he never saw anything to equal the affair of last night."

"You'd a nearish thing of it, captain?" enquired Tyrawley, speaking very slowly. His manner and appearance quite disarmed any suspicion the captain might have had of his identity.

"Five minutes more, sir, and Davy Jones' locker, would have held us all. Begging your pardon, Miss," apologising to Constance.

The captain had already repeated the story a reasonable number of times, and was anxious to finish his breakfast. So Miss Constance gave it all for the benefit of Mr. Tyrawley, dressed in her own glowing periods.

Tyrawley made no observation upon her recital, but took a third egg.

"Well, Mr. Tyrawley," said she at last, "what do you think of the man who swam out to the wreck?"

"Why, I think, Miss Baynton,—I think," said he hesitatingly, "that he must have got very wet. And I sincerely hope he won't catch cold."

There was a general laugh at this, in which the captain joined; but it is to be feared that Miss Constance stamped her pretty little foot under the table.

Tyrawley turned, and began to talk to Miss Mellish, who was sitting on his right.

As he was speaking the door on his left opened, and Lady Grace Rayelstoke entered with the lady passenger. The lady heard him speak, and there are some voices which a woman never forgets, and the dangerous journey over the rope had not passed in silence.

She laid her hand upon his arm, and said, "Oh, sir, how can I thank you?"

Tyrawley rose as in duty bound, saying, "do not speak of it, I did not know when I came off, that I was to have the pleasure of assisting you."

But the astonishment of the captain was beautiful to behold.

"Why you don't mean to say— Well, I never;—dash my wig—well I'm—Here shake hands, sir, will you." And he stretched across the table a brawny hand, not much smaller than a shoulder of mutton.

The grip with which Tyrawley met his, seemed to do a great deal more to convince him of his identity, than the lady's recognition of their preserver.

The day was as wet as the preceding. Half-an-hour after breakfast, Mr. Tyrawley lounged into the back drawing-room. There sat Miss Constance Baynton, and by a singular coincidence which favours lovers or historians, she sat alone.

Now Constance has made up her mind that she was bound to apologise to Mr. Tyrawley for her rude speeches of yesterday; she had also decided that she would compliment him on his gallant conduct.

She had, in fact, arranged a neat, quiet, cold, formal, appropriate form of words in which she would give her views expression. And how do you think she delivered them? She got up, said, "O Mr. Tyrawley!" and burst into tears.

If a proud woman's pride is a shield to thee, O man, as well as to her, against the arrows of love, remember, that it ever she throws it away—after she has compelled you to acknowledge its value—you are both left utterly defenceless.

Frederick Tyrawley capitulated at once. They are to be married this month. And if Mr. Tyrawley does not at some future time, achieve a reputation which no mystery shall cloud, it will not be Mrs. Tyrawley's fault.

RUN ASHORE ON THE MARQUESAS.

Towards the end of August 1855, H. M. S. Nameless dropped anchor off Nuka-eva, the largest of the Marquesas group of islands. I never saw anything more lovely than the sea-view. Sunny little strands of white sand almost enclosed with black rocks; valleys stretching, as it seemed, into the very heart of the stupendous mountains, and perfectly done with vegetation; purple streams stealing down through the thick forests; and, above all, the perpetual summer which reigns over all things in those latitudes.

Nukaheva is the largest, Boninua and Santa Christina follow in order. Like the Society Islands, the conical shape, rising to immense mountains in the middle, shows their volcanic origin; and though belted in most places by coral-reefs, I, for one, never could bring myself to believe that such stupendous masses of earth and rock could be, at the most fabulously remote date, the work of the coral insect.

The trees, which in the valleys grow to an enormous height, gradually diminish in size as they reach the highest ground, leaving the summits of the hills barren and unclothed.

It is the rich valleys the natives inhabit; but so hemmed in are they by rocks and inaccessible precipices, that each forms a distinct, and often inimical tribe, meeting only to fight, and, as report says, devour each other.

As I said before, we let go our anchor, and from the depth of the water, were enabled to do so within little more than a cable-length of the shore.

I was one of the lucky ones to be sent on shore for water; and having obtained leave to stay a few hours, and try what sport I could get in the shooting-line, three of us set off, and incredulous as to the unenviable notoriety gained by the islanders, who as yet were invisible. Having completed our watering, we—that is to say, two midshipmen and myself—set off at a brisk pace, so clad with being on terra firma again, that I for one am sure I must have given vent to my feelings by saying an impromptu pas, had not the eyes of the boat's crew and envious midly left in charge been fixed upon us. As it was, no sooner were we out of sight, than one of the trio, uttering a halloo peculiar to his own lungs, set off at a break-neck pace up the valley. Thoughts of school-days, of paper-chases, and Hunt the Hare, came over me, and, with a whoop almost equal to his own I followed, although not without a suspicion that the savages would perhaps join in the chase.

None of us were in racing condition—a cruise on the salt-water does not improve a man's wind; so we soon came to a halt, and throwing ourselves down, began puffing like so many grampuses. The spot we had come to was a green bank deliciously overshadowed by trees, and close beside a wide brook, in which the water sparkled and laughed, as if inviting us to bathe. We were debating as to the propriety of a dip, looking very anxiously, at the same time, for any trace of an inhabitant, when our attention was attracted by a slight noise in the brook, and turning round, we beheld, in the middle of the stream, one of the finest men I ever saw. He was above six feet, with a form that would have made a sculptor's pulses thrill. His clothing, which only consisted of a girde, left every limb displayed, and, in spite of the hideous practices all savage nations have of tattooing, he was a perfect Adonis. The ornament upon his head, composed of plumes, denoted his high rank; and in one hand he held a spear, while the other was laid on his breast, in token of peace.

For some moments we gazed at each other. Harry, who, tradition said, had an uncle devoured by the South-sea

islanders, though visibly paler, recovered his self-possession first, and rising made a low bow to the native. This was received with a ready smile, and crossing the brook, he walked up to us, telling us he could speak English, though I must say it was not a very successful attempt. Catching a glimpse of our guns, he threw himself beside us, and examined them carefully, uttering many ejaculations of wonder and admiration. Suddenly, a brilliant idea seemed to strike him; he tried to make us understand—but it was only after much excitement on his part, and merriment on ours, that we made it out that he wanted us to go pig-shooting with him. Nothing could have pleased us better: visions of boar-hunts such as we had read and dreamed of started before us, and we eagerly accepted him as a guide, shouldering our guns, and signifying that he should proceed.

Off he went, and on we followed into the thicket; presently he stopped, and held up his finger to order silence, and then the self-satisfied grunt a pig utters when rooting out our eager ears.

"No shoot; hide!" uttered our guide. We ensconced ourselves behind trees, while he bounded off into the brush-wood, through which we heard him crashing and yelling like some demon. Then came a wild "Halloo!" and out dashed an old sow, with a dozen porkers helter-skelter after her.

There was no time to lose, the Marquesas pigs rivaling the famous old Irish ones in their long legs and speed.

Pop, pop, pop, from our guns, and three death-squeals rang in the air, hastening the flight of the nimble parent, who seemed to think only of her own safety.

Before we could reach our game our guide was with us, laughing and displaying the wildest delight, patting the dead porkers, and praising Englishmen. Presently, he seized one of the carcasses, and, throwing it over his shoulder, rushed off without an explanation of any sort, leaving us in a considerable dilemma as to our next move. After a council, we decided upon making our way down to the shore, taking that most acceptable thing, the fresh meat, with us. This proposition was scarcely decided when it was put a stop to by the sound of many voices; the very woods seemed alive, and to teem with natives. On came the guide, leading a group of laughing, jolly-looking savages, who were evidently listening to a good story, which, I must say, I thought was at our expense. When they drew near, curiosity predominated over every other feeling, and they pressed round, gazing with open mouths and eyes, at first in perfect silence, soon, however, broken by a torrent of exclamations.

The guide now made us understand that we were expected to eat with them at a great feast, which took place that evening, and that he, being the chief invited us.

Such an invitation, or command, backed by above sixty able-bodied savages, did not permit of hesitation. There was nothing for it but to accept, and conduct ourselves in the most conciliatory manner we could.

Thus we signified how much we appreciated the chief's kindness, and allowed ourselves to be conducted in triumph to the temple.

The path, though wide and beaten, was so encumbered with blocks of stone, that in some cases it looked impassible; over these the natives jumped as quietly as if they were mere pebbles, while we found we were undergoing the same violent reducing system jockeys go through before a great race. On our way we had an opportunity of examining the appearance of the fair sex, many of whom now crowded round, chattering and laughing as they criticised our dress. These girls were in most cases really beautiful, and upon the whole we had an extremely fair chance of judging; as, excepting a sort of girde, or extremely short petticoat, the only dress they wore consisted of girlands of flowers, with which they decorated their heads, necks, and arms. They had beautifully tapering ankles and fiery-like feet; long glossy hair, falling in natural ringlets over their shoulders; and complexions such as Venus might have envied, and which I afterwards found were preserved by the constant use of a cosmetic compounded from the same, and kept roots.

We soon reached the palace, temple, or club, call it what you will, for it partook of all three, being alike the habitation of the chief, the tabernacle dwelling of the priests, and the rendezvous for the men of the tribe who, like their civilised brethren, seemed to find great delight in having a place of resort into which the gentle sex were not permitted to enter.

The places of abode in Nukaheva are very curious, the foundation consisting of a sort of pyramid of huge blocks of stone, though how formed, is perfectly unknown to the natives, who attribute it to the gods, and not, as others would be more likely to do, to some former inhabitants. These stones are placed at the sides of the valley, and form the basis of the dwelling, which is made of bamboo, interwoven with hibiscus rods, in a light and tasteful trellis-work, leaving free circulation to the air. The roof rises gradually from the sides, which are generally about five feet high, to a height of eleven or twelve. This is thatched with palm-leaves, and has a peculiarly picturesque appearance.

Round the building we now approached, a low fence of canes was built, and here and there strange little temples, fluttering with strips of the sacred white tapa. The women all fell back, it being a crime punishable by death for them to set foot within the tabooed ground.

Evident preparations for some grand event were going briskly forward. To these the chief pointed to with great glee, and led the way up the flight of steps conducting to his palace. Here he sat down upon a pile of mats, which were laid thickly about, covering the entire floor.

Clapping his hands with the dignity of an eastern prince, the chief ordered refreshments to be brought. These refreshments consisted of bread-fruit, prepared in different ways, one of which was a sort of gruel made of the pounded fruit, mixed with ground cocoa-nut. For my part, as soon as I learned to roll it into balls, and thus convey it to my mouth, all went well with me, and I could afford to laugh heartily at the attempts my companions made, daubing their faces over with the sweet sticky mess.

Whilst reclining after our light repast, we were much amused by the preparations going forward for the feast, and particularly by the cookery. The three porkers had somehow increased to fully three times their number, and I began to think the natives must be no mean sportsmen. These carcasses were passed through the flames, and thus effectually singed; they were then disembowelled; the interior arrangements were laid aside as particularly delicate morsels, and the body was then wrapped in a covering of palm-leaves, firmly secured by twigs. The embers being removed, this was laid upon the hot earth, a few sods piled over it, and the fire being heaped above and round, was left to cook at leisure. During the interval that elapsed, we enjoyed a quiet siesta, in which, it would appear, all the natives indulged, excepting only those who were superintending the culinary department. When we had dozed for about an hour, we were roused up to eat the "porkers"; and certainly a more delicious mode of cooking could not have been invented: the steam having been kept in the meat, it was very juicy and slightly flavoured with a nondescript taste imparted by the green palm-leaves; it was handed to us laid out in a curiously carved wooden trough. We found ourselves giving way to unequivocal sensations of hunger, which ended in the drawing out of our knives, and an onslaught on the bruised pork.

For some time the natives let us have it all our own way; then, with much humour, tried to imitate our method of carving, each failure making them laugh heartily. Finally, they had recourse to their own primitive mode, illustrating the old saying peculiar to the nursery "that fingers were made before forks."

When the bare bones of the porkers told our appetites, we began to think something to drink would be no bad thing. This request was happily forestalled by the chief, and five or six boys squatted down round a large bowl, each supplied with a coconut shell of water, to wash their mouths, preparatory to the mastication of the nut, from which the arao is made, and which they chew and spit into the bowl until partly full, when it is filled up with fresh water, well stirred, and when the heavy portions have sunk to the bottom, hand- round. I was very thirsty, and tried to drink it, but could not; not, I am obliged to confess, from any highly wrought delicacy as to the preparation, but simply that, in my own opinion at least, the taste was abominable.

After the chief and his friends had drained the bowl, we set off in the direction from which the loud noises indicated the centre of the entertainment. The music, if such it could be called, consisted of large drums, made of the hollowed trunks of bamboo-trees, placed upright on the ground, the upper end being covered with a shark's skin, tightly stretched, and tied down by bands of native oil. Behind these drums, a platform was erected, and on this the performers mounted, beating the head with their open hands, and causing thereby the most inharmonious din I ever had the misfortune of being compelled to listen to.

The crowd that had assembled was much larger than I had been led to suppose resided in the little valley, and presented an appearance at once striking and picturesque, the natives being all clothed in their gauds. This, in the men, merely consisted of necklaces of walrus' and sharks' teeth, or occasionally the half of an elaborately carved and polished drinking-cup, suspended like a breast-plate, the forehead being ornamented with a similar one, looking not unlike a mitre in a miniature; while, in addition to the belt we have mentioned as their only clothing, they wore gaily dyed scarfs of tapa, or native cloth; while many of those who boasted high rank had a sort of plume of white hair instead of feathers. This white hair was formerly the beard of an old man; it being a lucrative trade in the Marquesas to let the beard grow to a great length, and then cut it off for the above-mentioned head-dress.

The girls, though beautiful before, were now perfect Bacchantes, all wearing wreaths of flowers or leaves, with necklaces, bracelets and ear-rings of the same: their hair floating in wild glossy curls, almost concealing their figures as they joined in the dance; their dark sparkling eyes and cheeks glowing with mirth and happiness; and lastly, the robe or shawl of almost transparent tapa, which they managed in such a coquetish manner as to heighten rather than to diminish or conceal their charms. I had heard and read of the beauty of some of the islanders, but its reality far exceeded my most sanguine expectations; and can it be wondered when I relate that we fell over head and ears in love with the bewitching creatures, and bitterly regretted the parting-hour coming all too soon, and long before the mirth of the evening was over, dragging us back to shipboard and duty. Most cordially we promised to return, and enjoy a regular day's shooting, the chief offering to be our guide. The whole tribe accompanied us to the beach, loading the boat with cocoa-nut and bread-fruit: and with real sorrow we bade the kind natives farewell, having but vague hopes of being permitted to visit them again even should our stay admit of such a proposal.

The Marquesas are certainly the most gentlemanly savages I ever came across, and the way they obtained their evil reputation was, like many similar cases, from the bad conduct of navigators. A ship anchored off the island, and sent the crew on shore. These men committed all sorts of havoc—shooting down the natives, and burning their houses. That night the poor exasperated creatures swam out, and attached ropes to the ship. So silently and well was their work managed, that until the ship was drawn close up to the shore, there was no alarm given. Then it came too late, and only half-a-dozen men escaped to blazon forth to the credulous world such a tale of horror that for years people have spoken of the islanders with a thrill of disgust and fear, but with how little truth, my own experience convinces me.

Gleanings from late Papers.

NOTES FROM THE PROVINCES.

From Halifax to Truro, a distance of some sixty miles, there is a railroad, on the same line part of the way as the Windsor road. This railway, with its two branches, is the only one in the Province. It is a Government work, and bears the character of being a well constructed road. It is, undoubtedly, a great benefit to the Province, connecting, as it does, the two sides of the country, and forming, by way of Windsor, a communication line of communication from St. John to Halifax. The Truro branch is thus far a somewhat incomplete undertaking, and one which, to become profitable, must be extended. But, meanwhile, it shortens communication with the eastern part of the Province, and supplies a link which, ere long, will form a part of the great chain of communication through the British possessions. In the scheme of the International Railroad this was to form the first portion of the line.

At Truro you have recourse to in whatever direction you desire to proceed. My destination was Pictou, which is situated on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, at a distance of forty miles from Truro. A few miles after leaving the latter place we entered the forest, which continued almost unbroken till after we had crossed the height of land and begun to descend to West River. Here we refreshed, after the fashion of the country, at Nancy Stewart's, the first human settlement after emerging from the woods. Nancy came to the country in the year 1801, from the North of Scotland; but, notwithstanding her years, neither her natural strength nor her Gaelic have yet abated. We shortly after changed horses at West River, and remembering Mr. Cozzon's malediction on the owner thereof, we did not risk experience of his hospitality. Where would have been the use, had he been ever so hospitable, for both had not an edict gone forth in this parish of Pictou and the adjoining one of Colechester that no spirituous liquors shall be retailed on the premises? Even so; there are no licences issued now in these parishes, with what effect on the drinking habits of the population remains to be ascertained. One thing is certain, the liquor can be obtained without difficulty, just as in Maine, where the principal effect of the law has been to transfer the bar-room to the back of the House. When the law comes in at the door, drink does not by any means fly out at the window, it is only removed to another part of the hotel, where the consumption of it escapes observation. During the three or four years I was in the Model State, I did not happen to see liquor at any of the hotels, but, wherever I went, I learned that it could be had as readily as if it were exposed to view without reserve. What the state of matters may be in that part of Nova Scotia, of which I am now speaking, my limited opportunities of information do not enable me to say. Considerable heart-burnings have been caused by the edict of the local magistrates, who in this case have set up an imperium in imperio that see us open to question, in a legal point of view. It appears strange that a board of magistrates should refuse to issue any licences whatever, much the same as if a teetotal customs officer should on conscientious grounds refuse to sanction the importation of brandy at his station. The office of Clerk of Licences still survives, and at Truro, for want of any other object on which to resent their dissatisfaction, the uncontented cropped the ears of the Clerk's horse, and shaved his (the horse's) tail.

The valley of the West River for twelve miles above Pictou presents one of the finest scenes I have witnessed in the Provinces. It is entirely cleared—and those offensive stumps that spoil the effect of new countries are no where to be seen. The country indeed is rather bare of wood until the eye reaches the distant heights that bound the valley. In the fields, in the herds of cattle, and in the farm buildings there is every appearance of prosperity. This district is almost entirely settled by a Scotch population—and let Mr. Cozzon, and travellers of his stamp, say what they please, it is no small credit to our countrymen that the county of Pictou produces

more wheat, barley, and oats, more cattle, horses, sheep, and swine, than any other county in Nova Scotia. Though not equal to the marsh lands for the production of hay, the soil on this side of Nova Scotia is very fertile for nearly all kinds of crops, and in turnips, oats, and potatoes, it is remarkably prolific.

Pictou, however, possesses resources of far greater value than its agriculture. It has a coal field of great richness, ironstone of fine quality in unlimited abundance, limestone, and a fine sandstone, which is used for building, and is exported for that purpose to the States. The main seam of coal, which is altogether 41 feet in thickness, though not available to that extent, is extensively worked by the General Mining Association at the Albion Mines, near New Glasgow. The ironstone and lime have not as yet been turned to any account though why this should be the case, considering the ample facilities there are for shipment, it is difficult to understand. The proper mode for smelting the iron ore that is found in the Eastern Provinces seems not to have been as yet discovered, or at least not sufficiently established for commercial purposes. The ore is said to be too fine to be smelted in the usual way, and it is found more convenient to manufacture it into steel by a direct process than to make pig iron. There are works for this purpose in the County of Colchester, and also at Woodstock, in New Brunswick. Very little attention has hitherto been turned in this direction, but there can be no doubt that, sooner or later, as the iron seams in England and Scotland begin to fail, which will probably not be long, these valuable deposits will attract the attention of capitalists, and, in situations like Pictou, where coal and lime are abundant for smelting and the water carriage accessible, a large population will be brought into existence in connection with the working of this important mineral, which, as a source of wealth, is more valuable than gold itself. Most of the iron deposits of America are unavailable for export on account of their inland situation, an insurmountable obstacle that does not exist in the Provinces.

Near Pictou there has recently been discovered by Mr. J. D. B. Fraser, a seam of parrot or gas coal of great value, which is now being worked. Oil coal it might be called, more properly than gas coal, as it is used chiefly in the manufacture of paraffine oil. The manufacture is carried on in Boston, and the oil, which is yielded in great abundance, is of very superior quality. Is this mineral coal or not? The same question was discussed at great length some years ago in Scotland, in connection with the Torbanehill case in the Court of Session, and may perhaps be discussed there again before long. In the Pictou coal bed, evidence might be found which would throw some light on the subject. There are a great many different seams, ranging in quality from the common household coal up to this fine gas or oil coal.

Mr. Fraser afforded me an opportunity of observing the gradation. Next to the common coal, which I saw burning in the grate, was a gas coal of average quality, a piece of which could be lit at the fire much like a piece of hardwood. Then came another gas coal with higher bituminous qualities, which ignited on being held to the lamp. Last of all was the oil coal that burned and fell away in oily, earthy flakes, which continued to burn in a heap after they had fallen down.

In this case where is science to draw the line? Which is coal and which is not? The truth is that in connection with this subject men of science have attempted to make definitions to suit the case. The Pictou gas coal bears a considerable resemblance to the Torbanehill or Boghead coal, but it is even duller in color. There were some witnesses, I remember, who said that this dullness was against the theory that the mineral was a coal. In the Albert case, which was tried some years ago in New Brunswick, the contrary was maintained, and it was alleged that the substance under dispute was too bright to be coal. In the latter case there was more reason than in the former, and there were geological as well as mineralogical grounds of a very strong description against the coal theory. The Albertine, as it is called, is now successfully worked by a company from the States, and is sold by them for \$15 per ton. Another seam, somewhat different in character, has also been recently discovered in the same neighbourhood (county of Albert, N. B.), and is being worked by a company belonging to the Province. The Boghead coal brings 40s. a ton on board at Glasgow, and last year, I understand, the lessee, Mr. Russell, turned out nearly 200,000 tons. As some of the pits are worked at a contract price of 5s. per ton, the lessee is amassing a fortune. The proprietor of the land may grumble at this and go to law about it; but there can be no doubt that, but for the enterprise and energy of the late Mr. Russell, the coal would never have been brought into the market at all. The extent and value of the seams of gas coal near Pictou have not yet been fully ascertained, but the richness of the principal seam in oil is well established. The lessee in this case, Mr. Fraser, deserves credit for the sagacity and perseverance with which he has investigated the minerals of the district, and it is to be hoped he will reap the reward he is entitled to in a practical and substantial form.—Scottish American, Nov. 5.

The following is an extract from a paper, which appeared in a late number of the Dublin University Magazine, and as it is from the pen of Judge T. C. Halliburton, the author of The Clockmaker, &c., we transfer it to our columns:—

"Louis Napoleon's preparations for war are not confined to France—he has a greater military force at Martinique and Guadaloupe than we have in all our West India Islands put together. He has fortified St. Pierre and Miquelon, which lie between Newfoundland and Canada, contrary to the express terms of the treaty, and, under pretence of meeting at Cape Breton the French mails, conveyed by the Cunard steamers, he sends men-of-war thither, who return to those places heavily laden with coal from the Sydney mines. This is pretended to be for the use of the ships themselves, but every now and then a sailing vessel takes a cargo on account, it is said, of the merchants there, but in reality for the Government. He has an immense store of coal there, and every vessel laden with fish, that sails thence to the French West India Islands I have named, quietly conveys a certain portion of this fuel to form a depot there also, for his Atlantic fleet."

The Island of Cape Breton is one vast coal field, and was conquered from the French. Its capital, Louisbourg, was taken by General Wolfe. Most of the inhabitants of that country remained there after its formal cession to England, and their descendants are, to this day, a separate race, speaking the language of their forefathers; they are mainly occupied in the fisheries, and are excellent pilots. Their descent, their religion, their traditions and their sympathies naturally incline them to think favorably of their mother country; and though not actually disloyal to England, they are not unfavourably disposed towards the French. It has been observed of late that their friendship has been systematically courted by the latter. The coal mines are wholly unprotected, and could be either held or rendered useless at the pleasure of an aggressor. What renders this more alarming is, that Halifax, and the whole of our squadron at that station, are entirely dependent on these very mines for their supply of coal; so that in six and thirty hours sail from St. Pierre one ship of war could reach Sydney, and render the English fleet utterly powerless to move from their moorings. On every foreign station, whether on the Atlantic or Pacific side of America, or in the East, the French naval force has been quietly and unobtrusively increased, so that if war were to break out they would be in the ascendant in every quarter. In those days of telegraphic communication, when news of hostility can be transmitted, with the rapidity of lightning, it is not too much to say that the Emperor, by his foresight, judicious preparations, and well-concealed plans, could sweep the commerce of England from the sea in six weeks."

A very important measure for manning the Navy was introduced into the British parliament during its last session, which came into operation on the 1st January next. The object of the Bill is to secure, whenever required, a reserve force of Royal Naval Volunteers, in sufficient numbers to meet any emergency, however great. This, however, the Bill will effect, but at a very large annual expense to the nation—an outlay only warranted by the extensive warlike preparations of the Emperor, and the dangerous spirit manifested by our friends across the Channel. The Volunteers must be over thirty-five, and during the previous ten years must have been at sea five years—one year of that time an A. B.

The men will be permitted to pursue their ordinary occupations, but they must present themselves for a month's drill every year, at their own convenience as to time and place, for which service they are to receive an annual remuneration.