

of her ambitions may exist, and sweep them out of the way.

The occasion of the combined war and railroad supply ship passing through the Dardanelles was a part of the preparation for the grand military and naval programme of the future. The railroad for which the men and supplies were forwarded will give a fairly adequate seaboard to Russia, as overland facilities will cause the necessary ports to be established. These, situated on the Sea of Japan, will be no great distance from the Indian Ocean, through which the British eastern possessions are of easy access.

Doubtless, since the incident of the other day, the Sultan has been in close diplomatic connection with Great Britain, and by this time an understanding has been reached by which the Sultan will be governed should Russia—encouraged by the permission to have the vessel in question pass through the inhibited strait—take another step of the same character. Should the Porte decline to allow the Muscovite power to commit another innovation of the treaty of 1841—by provisions of which no foreign power is permitted to send vessels through the Dardanelles without the consent of Turkey—such an enforcement of the restriction would doubtless cause the bear to growl, the lion, in retaliation to the latter, to show his claws and some of the other five treaty powers to make a demonstration. France would, of course, take issue on the side of Russia. But it is doubtful that an immediate violent rupture would ensue, the preparations on neither side being complete. It may be taken as a fact, however, that Russia is getting a "good ready." Her condition will soon be more menacing to the peace of the world than at any time in history.

There is a memorable incident connected with the passage of warships through the Dardanelles. It was associated with the last Russo-Turkish war, when the late Lord Beaconsfield was Premier of Great Britain. The Russians had made powerful headway toward the subjugation of the "Sick Man," who proved himself, however, to be, considering the odds pitted against him, possessed of a pretty strong fighting constitution. The Muscovite armies were directed toward Constantinople. If we recollect aright they got as near to that city as Philippopolis. In the meantime, a British fleet had been, by Lord Beaconsfield's government, stationed in the Aegean Sea, close to the mouth of the Dardanelles, with orders, in the event of Constantinople being threat-

ened, to steam up the strait into the Sea of Marmora. The critical moment came, and on went the fleet, according to directions. This meant that Great Britain would at once take part in the struggle unless Russia receded. The latter weakened. The result was the famous treaty of Berlin, which was virtually dictated by the British Premier. He was asked what he proposed to do providing his points were not conceded. His reply was brief—"Fight." He prided himself upon his "spirited foreign policy," "peace with honor" being one of his mottoes. It was in this direction in which he stood superior to Mr. Gladstone. Had the latter been at the head of the government at the time the Russians were heading for Constantinople, it is probable there would have been a British disaster and consequent humiliation.

Great Britain is the most formidable obstacle in the way of the onward march of the Russian traditional policy. It is difficult therefore, in contemplation of a great European war, to disassociate these two powers from the chief positions in the "coming struggle." There is a suspicion that Russia is in some way connected with the incipient revolt in British India. The natural effort of the Muscovite government would be, as a preliminary process connected with war with England, to create disturbances in the latter's distant dependencies, in order to compel her to divide and distribute her forces. The liability to be affected by this process is the weakest feature of the British Empire.

The times are portentous. The spirit of war is abroad, and it may not be a great while before Great Britain shall be compelled to "call upon other nations," to aid her in defending her interests against invasion by other powers.

#### AMERICAN WARLIKE PREPARATIONS

IT MAY be supposed that because President Harrison is making a junketing tour through the country, and because Secretary Blaine is affected with that aristocratic complaint, the gout, that nothing is being done to meet the Italian Navy, should it venture to cross the Atlantic. Yes, there is much being done, and probably New York is not as unprotected as it is imagined.

The New York *Recorder* has a long article showing what is being done at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Everywhere that a man can be put to work, he is working. The battleship *Maine* is fast arriving at completion. Her turrets are well under way, the moulds for her plate armor are finished and on their way to Pittsburgh, where not a

moment will be lost in casting the plates. The cruiser *Concord* will be ready for the sea in a day or two. The monitor *Miantonomoh* will be soon finished. Her dynamo is on the ground, and her guns and carriages ready for mounting.

The cruiser *Cincinnati* is nearly completed. Work on her launching ways has commenced. The *Terror* is being rushed ahead. Her air compressing machinery has been put in. The moulds for her plates will soon be finished. The *Puritan* is alive with working men. Her bulkheads are being fitted out. The *Bennington* already completed, is under process of preparation for naval warfare, and in a few days will be ready for action. The dynamite cruisers *Vesuvius* has been coaled and repainted, and is now spolling for a fight.

The tugboat *Aina*, recently damaged at Vineyard Sound, is now being repaired at the granite dock. The cruisers *Boston*, *Chicago* and *Atlanta* are in the Norfolk Navy Yard, and are being overhauled and repainted.

In San Francisco navy yard work is also in active progress. The *Monterey*, a harbor defense boat, will be launched in a few days. There are some other ships there also in active process of construction.

In gun factory work there is a great deal being done. The Watervliet arsenal has been supplied with a new electric plant, and is operated night and day. Experiments in projectiles of all kinds are being prosecuted. In a few days a test of the *Destroyer's* new submarine gun will be made at Newport. If this piece of ordnance performs what is expected from it, it will perforate the strongest steel armor and netting ever made. It is the invention of the late Captain John Ericson.

The schoolship *St. Mary's* will go on a cruise very soon. The Assembly of New York has appropriated \$20,000 to enable her to give the young lads an active sea training.

Gatling, of gun fame, is again at work producing something that is said will eclipse all former productions in the projectile line. Brown and Crozier, two gun-inventors, are also working, and some of their weapons will soon be tested.

In the engineering and ordnance department work for the defence of Boston, New York and other sea coast cities is going on. Sites are being selected and the construction of gun and mortar batteries is being carried on. Proposals have been invited for forging the 8, 10 and 12 inch guns, for which the last Congress made appropriations. Uncle Sam is not asleep, and probably Rudini may find something upon which he has not calculated.