

sea, that being where her greatest weakness has heretofore existed. She proposes, to have a fleet sufficient to protect her Baltic seaboard and another strong enough to operate in hostile waters. Her ability to become a great maritime power may not now be easily checked. The government being an absolutism, it can do anything it pleases. Among its propositions is one to take entire control of all the naval shipbuilding business of the Empire. This means that this branch of preparation for war is to be pushed with all possible energy and dispatch.

In the coming war the Czar does not intend that Russia shall be placed in such a disadvantageous position as she was in during the Crimean struggle, if it can be obviated. While she engaged the combined armies of Great Britain, France and Turkey, in the vicinity of Sebastopol, Sir Charles Napier, in command of an English fleet, effectually blocked her commerce on the Baltic.

It is anticipated that there will be a commission appointed to adjust the Pamir affair, but it will be out of the question to do anything in relation to that matter until next spring, because it would be impossible to reach that region before that time. In the interim Russia will doubtless be busily engaged in establishing in that part of the world an important strategic base in case she should enter upon her long cherished scheme of the conquest of British India. It may be that next spring will witness the looked-for war between the leading powers of Europe. The operations of Russia certainly point to such an event as, to say the least, a probability.

THE ATTACK ON THE LOTTERY.

A DISPATCH from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, this morning, says that the United States grand jury there have returned eighteen indictments against the officers of the Louisiana Lottery company, for transmitting its advertisements through the mails contrary to the law of Congress, and that the United States marshal and several deputies are on their way to New Orleans to arrest the offenders, who include the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and directors of the company.

The charges seem to have been brought by the department at Washington in the form of affidavits. The explanation that the government officials give for choosing the court of South Dakota to handle the case is, that all efforts before the

grand juries of other States have been frustrated.

This is a remarkable confession to come from such a source. It does not mean that the love for this lottery concern is so deeply embedded in the hearts of the people that they will not permit it to be prosecuted. It is a fact that there is an overwhelming popular opposition to it in nearly every State in the Union. This has been demonstrated beyond all doubt by the repeated failures of that institution to transplant its headquarters to other localities. North Dakota, while almost starving for bread, rejected its bribes, and our neighbor on the west that makes no boast of its money or morals repelled the overtures of the lottery people with equal vigor and effect.

No, the infamy is not with the people but with its representatives. While a State might not be induced to sell itself for a million, some of the individuals who unfortunately find place in the management of the State will betray it to a public enemy for a much smaller sum. The lottery company could not buy a single State outright, but it has, upon the testimony of the Washington officials, purchased piece-meal nearly every State in the Union whose postoffices were wanted for the carrying on of its business.

The sale made in this fashion is not the most deplorable of the two evils named, but it is certainly appalling nevertheless. When a monster of corruption grows so strong that by legally withdrawing its private loans from the circulation it can effect the next thing to a money panic, it is an ugly thing to get along with. It has been said upon fairly good authority that the Louisiana Lottery company could do this, and the idea is not an unreasonable one.

But instead of thus exercising its power, it seems as a rule to prefer the safer method of employing its funds for corrupting small officials. Of course no one can predict the outcome of the present proceedings. But whether they result in sending a lot of millionaire corruptionists to jail or not, the investigation will bring facts before the public which they need to know.

BRITISH POLITICS.

DISPATCHES from London state that Gladstone has revised the proposed Liberal Home Rule bill, but as the Conservatives have an Irish local government measure before the House, Gladstone's bill will not be known in detail until the fate of the other is decided.

Gladstone's measure gives the Irish

Legislature fuller powers than the bill of 1885. The Irish Parliament will consist of two houses, the appointment of the judiciary will be vested in the Irish executive, and a larger representation from Ireland in the Imperial Parliament will be maintained. The control of the police is also settled.

Mr. Balfour is now first lord of the treasury and Conservative leader of the Commons. It was stated that he would retain the office of chief secretary for Ireland also, but that statement was groundless.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN NOT A SPIRITUALIST.

For some time past statements have been going the rounds of the newspapers that President Lincoln was a Spiritualist, and was in the habit of holding seances in the White House. The story was set afloat by a medium named Mrs. Calborn Maynard. Col. Bundy, editor of the *Religio-Philosophical Journal* in Chicago, offered what he termed corroborative evidence of Mrs. Maynard's statement. Bundy went so far as to say that Lincoln was advised from spirit-land to issue the emancipation proclamation. Bundy also stated that it was a spirit medium who first instructed Lincoln to proceed to the front, and ascertain by personal investigation the condition of the soldiers during the critical period of the war.

These reports received so much attention from newspapers generally, that the Washington correspondent of the *Chicago News* called on John Nicolay, the private secretary and intimate associate of Lincoln, for his views on the matter. Mr. Nicolay has recently published what is regarded a good biography of Lincoln. He is now about sixty years of age, lives in Washington, D. C., and is entirely engaged in literary work. In reply to the correspondent he stated that he dismissed the tales about Lincoln's spiritualism as idle nonsense. He was private secretary during the war, and resided constantly in the White House, and he was positive that no seances were ever held there. To his knowledge, Lincoln never attended a seance, even as a curiosity seeker. As to Mrs. Lincoln having openly espoused spiritualism after her husband's death, Mr. Nicolay attached no significance to that. It is well known that towards the close of her life Mrs. Lincoln almost completely lost her reason. She had to be kept under restraint by guards appointed by her family. What she espoused or advocated in this condition could have no