

system—men who neglect their private business affairs and go to a distant point at their own expense and work together for days without other compensation than the consciousness of having done their duty as citizens. It is food for reflection to the members of those concerns which are bent upon "gayneful pillage" too, if they were only discreet enough to seize the opportunity and profit by it. The people cannot be imposed upon forever without at least a protest.

### WAR PREPARATIONS.

THE Belgian philosopher, M. Emile Laveleye, has a level head, and is the man to whom the King of Belgium chiefly looks for counsel. To him belongs the credit of many projects which have helped to preserve the integrity and independence of this little European monarchy. Under his direction, Belgium has recently become the most strongly fortified country on the continent. This has been accomplished very quietly, and M. Laveleye has shown his wisdom by doing instead of bragging. It is a great gift to be able to keep silent when talking is disadvantageous. If there were more work and less gab it would be of great good in parts of the world quite remote from Belgium.

During the last two years forts have been constructed which in the event of European hostilities will probably serve to preserve that neutrality which is essential to Belgian independence. That country is rightly denominated the gateway to Europe, and these fortifications may be regarded as the bars of the gate. They are built of concrete and described as being "about one hundred and fifty feet in length and about ninety feet in width. They extend thirty to sixty feet below the surface and are built on elevated ground, but never extend more than a few feet above the surrounding surface. Each one presents the appearance of huge, depressed ant hills, surmounted by a cap of artificial stone placed flat upon the ground and at a short distance scarcely visible. Near the center of this cap are three armored revolving turrets, each with two heavy guns. These turrets can be raised or lowered rapidly at pleasure. Even in time of action they can be kept out of sight except at the moment of firing. At suitable places there are armored points of observation from which elec-

tric lights may flash if necessary to watch the movements of the enemy. Below the surface the earth is hollowed out in the form of a huge cistern with armored sides, which is divided up into sections, one part for provisions, one for ammunition and another for machinery which includes the dynamos for the lighting of the whole fort and engines for the moving of the turrets. Communication with the outer world is made by a subterranean gallery and this in turn is fortified by armored doors and mitrailleuses. Only thirty or forty men are necessary for the working of each fort. The cost of each fort is nearly a million dollars."

The object of these military precautions will more clearly appear when the views of M. Laveleye in regard to the war prospects of Europe are understood. He believes the coming collision of nations will involve England and Italy. He thinks an anti-Russian and anti-French alliance is being formed among the powers and says:

"It will not be a mere repetition of the tame Crimean struggle, but a war to the knife with immense spoils for the victor. Germany will attempt to restore Finland to Sweden and thereby reward her for her alliance, but will take Russia's Baltic provinces, where the German language already prevails and annex them to herself. Three hundred thousand Russian soldiers are now necessary to hold Poland in subjection. This vast slice of Moscovite territory will be cut away and formed into a separate state, under Austrian control, and serve as a kind of buffer-state between strengthened Austria and Russia, then thrown back beyond the banks of the Dniester. Further east Bessarabia will be restored to Roumania which will form another bulwark against the bear and dash its last hopes of ever reaching Constantinople. Concerning the Balkan peninsula, Austria really aims at nothing less than the conquest of the entire country for herself. Her aim is to dominate the whole, from the shores of the Adriatic to the Black Sea, not by territorial conquests, but by the triumph of her political and industrial influence, already increased by the new eastern railways which run through Pesth, and by encouraging the home rule of the Balkan States, as opposed to Russia's greedy policy."

There appears to be a pretty general opinion that the peace of Europe is about to be broken and that the conflict of nations will be general. That a most awful war will rage, as one of the events to precede the advent of the Son of Man, is certain to those who believe in ancient and modern revelation. It is foreshadowed in the prediction of

the Prophet Joseph Smith on the American civil war. That portion which has come to pass has been fulfilled to the very letter. The remainder will not fail of accomplishment. It will be the greatest and most sanguinary struggle that has ever convulsed the earth, and will fairly cause this globe to tremble. How soon this conflict will be commenced and how precipitated we do not pretend to know, but that it will be a terrible fact in the not distant future, is as certain as that darkness will follow the setting of the sun.

The wise will be prepared for the things that are coming on the earth. In his way and according to his station, M. Laveleye has been preparing. And his forecast and wisdom may be imitated, though in a different way, with profit by believers in the word of the Lord. He has said that His disciples should stand in holy places and be not moved, when the tribulations of the latter days shall shake terribly the earth. This is both an injunction and a warning, and it should have due weight among those who have gathered to the mountains to prepare for the grand consummation.

### SHARP PRACTICE.

THE President has appointed a new Governor and Secretary for Dakota and they have been confirmed. Pending statehood this was all our neighbors asked for, and still they are not happy. The outgoing executive—Governor Church—and the Legislature have been unable to agree or to get along in any kind of way that was mutually satisfactory, and so greatly at loggerheads did they get to be that a delegation went back ostensibly to see the inauguration but really to bring a pressure to bear upon Mr. Harrison, having in view the conversion of the Governor into a *functus officio* right away; of course the efforts in that direction were also made applicable to the Secretary, and on Tuesday last the guillotine was put in operation and the official heads of those two gentlemen rolled into the basket.

During all this time, while the plotting against him was going on, Governor Church was doing a little something on his own account in the way of counterplotting. Being well assured of the fact that he must go without being permitted to stand upon the order of his going, he has used the time of the past few days filling the offices made appointive