

battle was now continued, although with less fierceness.

The trouble now is the concerning consular and foreign diplomatic service. The Norwegian radicals insist that the country is under disadvantage as long as these are common with Sweden, a statement all the more peculiar, when it is considered that a great many of the consuls and diplomats are Norwegians who represent both countries. Years ago Sweden declared herself quite willing to consent to a reorganization of the ministry of foreign affairs upon condition that Norway would consent to take an equal share in the defense of the territory of the two countries. But this Norway refused. She wants, it appears, to manage her own foreign policy and defend partly on Sweden for her defense, a condition to which the Swedes object. The last propositions made by Sweden were rejected after twelve days of stormy debate in the parliament, on the 17th of March this year, and the quarrel is as far from a settlement as ever.

### PEACE WITH A STRING TO IT.

The most magnificent naval display which mortal eye ever rested upon was that at New York a week ago. On no similar occasion were there ever so many nations represented nor so many first-class ships in line; while the expense incurred in various ways must have aggregated a large fortune. It is estimated that the cost of the powder exploded in the great guns when President Cleveland stepped on board the Dolphin was \$15,000! As several such salutes were fired, it is a reasonable calculation that the total cost for powder alone was enough to give a good start to our longed-for and needed road to Deep Creek. But, of course, better spent thus, with the loud-mouthed cannon belching forth a friendly greeting than vomiting balls and scraps of iron in front of the smoke and flame with deadly and destructive intent.

It was a spectacle in some respects worthy the age and the people. The "implements of war and subjugation," not curtailed in any measure or degree of their deadly power nor yet leashed like dogs of war, but obedient to the will of man, become as so many majestic, admirable, picturesque settings in a grand international spectacle. This does, however, but suggest that the peace of nations is an imaginary quantity held in place by diplomacy, interest and fear; that while one extends to another the right hand of friendship, it keeps the left upon a weapon ready for use at an instant's notice. Thus considered the display in Hampton Roads and on the Hudson amounted to a comparative examination of the nations' respective abilities to cripple if not destroy each other completely. The lions and tigers are behaving unusually well, but the iron bars are all in place and none of them is broken or defective.

The display brings us at once to the question as to what it is those ships which paraded so splendidly and peacefully were built for. Certainly not for that purpose, but for one as different as a gentle spring shower is different from a destructive down-pour of hail and sleet accompanied by

a howling blast—as the flight of a dove is different from the flight of a bombshell. Brought down to the last analysis it is shown that they were intended to aid in the oppression, robbery and murder of one community by another, or to prevent the attempts with such ends in view being consummated. In remote times, when every man's hand was against every other man's and such intercourse as occurred was guarded and watched with zealous suspicion, how much superior was man to the brute creation? And yet, on a scale commensurate with our education and experience, this naval display was simply a reproduction on a grander scale of the old-time tactics, a display—unconsciously perhaps but still a display—of the ancient but not honored methods by which our race was controlled.

It may be pointed out that warships are still a necessity, and by the same logic that a militia system is also a necessity because there are certain human weaknesses which time and experience have not yet erased and to maintain public order these must sometimes be overcome or at least over-awed by force. But, as has been shown many times, there is really no necessity for nations to go to war any more, if indeed there ever was any such necessity. According to human standards Great Britain might eventually have overcome the colonies, but there were those in high places in England who realized that it was not right to do so and the discouragement which they created eventually led to peace and our independence. So it might be on all occasions. If the cabinets of the nations contained each but one firm, influential, justice-loving, cool-headed man, it is a matter of doubt as to whether proclamations of war would ever be issued. Then might the armored ships and ponderous engines of conflict pass into that condition of disuse out of which comes no other harm than a recollection of money thrown away.

Still, after all is said and done, there is a ray of comfort in the thought that a hundred years ago no such peaceful display as that alluded to could possibly have been given. If not actually at war, several nations were in a condition of armed and hostile peace, ready at any moment to clap hand on sword and let loose the murderous roar of conflict. If in one century the world has made so much advancement, may we not hope that at the end of another there will be no such thing as warships at all?

### THAT OLD OLD SONG.

There is a question before the house and it does not require the testimony of an expert or the opinion of one deeply versed in the philosophy of human nature to answer it. It is this: Is not the man who persistently refuses to recognize candor in others, who puts a false motive behind every public act of others and who labors with the language to create perversion and misconstruction of another's words (unless such things happen to be for his own or his friends' benefit) himself deficient in candor, lacking in honesty, and a verbal contortionist whose utterances if not those of a knave are so very much like them

as to be taken therefor by fair-minded people? The answer is yes in each and every case and the answer is irrefragably, solidly and eternally right.

No matter what occurs in this community, of public or of private interest, if there shall be the slightest opportunity to give it a political or religious cast out of which capital for a certain clique of croakers can be wrought, that thing is done every time, and when not overhauled early enough it is harped on, distorted, drawn out and every conceivable as well as some inconceivable changes are rung upon it until it becomes sickening. Premises are assumed when the semblance of a foundation is not apparent, and barangues, diatribes and jaundiced jargon are built upon them for the delectation of the writers and speakers referred to and their rapidly dwindling following. This kind of thing long continued becomes second nature, and whatever of honesty and good will the devotee of it may possess as native qualities, become so warped, so "jangled, out of tune and harsh," that the possessor is apt to be a harder man to deal with than an original all-round tough of the last degree. It is impossible to get along with such people on terms of amity or cordiality; they themselves elect that it be otherwise. Through the most unblushing falsehoods, the most rascally perversions and a stolid resistance to the logic of events as they come, white is made to appear on the surface at least a dingy brown, a spade becomes a cart-wheel, and Holy Writ is presented as a companion-piece to Aesop's Fables. It is a waste of time to reason with them for their points in any game are not made by reasoning but by indirection, tergiversation and deviousness. They have not yet declared the ninth commandment unconstitutional, but at the present rate of progress this should not be very far distant.

The capital that is sought to be made out of Delegate Rawlins's resignation is enough to excite ridicule where it does not create contempt. According to the gentry spoken of, every Democrat has a drooping lower jaw and the party feels itself immersed deeply in despair, while the "Church people" are utterly bewildered. Perhaps the Democrats do feel a little annoyed, not to say embarrassed, over the man they trusted, honored and relied on vacating his post without giving the slightest warning; almost any party, great or small, would feel that way. And we are quite willing to admit that the Church people feel, in common with other quaying, public-spirited citizens, a certain measure of chagrin that for the first time in the Territory's history an important post has been deserted without sufficient cause and at expense and annoyance of filling it again must be incurred. Suppose the next Delegate, in a fit of petulance or what not, should also resign and still more expense and bother would result, would not others as well as "Church people" complain? We should think so; and beyond this the Church does not go.

The meanest part of it all is the slimy though transparent attempt to make it appear beforehand that however the special election for Delegate may go, the Church will so ordain it. Naturally (meaning that if the Church