

of the army are good, but the administration of Turkey is much more corrupt and venal even than that of her northern neighbour, Russia. The small principalities which form the kingdom of Rumania have an army which is not to be despised. They could put in the field 80,000 men, and these not at all bad troops.

## GERMANY.

It is Germany which is universally considered at the present time to be the first military power of Europe, and toward it all eyes are directed. The German army has proved itself to be a most admirable military machine. Most armies after such successes as those which have attended the German army would have got idle and claimed the right to rest on their laurels and enjoy luxury and ease, but it is a notorious fact that the German officers, high and low, have been working harder, perhaps, than they worked before the late war in order to keep their army from retrograding and to bring it steadily forwards. The opinion of those who witnessed the late German manoeuvres is, that at no time has the German army ever been in such a first-rate condition as it is at the present moment. Not content with the needle-gun, which showed an inferiority to the Chassepot during the French war, experiments have been instituted and a new arm has been adopted, which, it is confidently asserted, will be much more superior to the Chassepot than even the Chassepot was to the needle-gun. It is believed by the best judges that the German army now is the best armed force in Europe. As to the organisation of the army there can not be two opinions; it has passed through the fire of three wars, and has proved its capacity. The empire could, at the present time, put 1,200,000 fighting men in the field in case of actual necessity, and the re-organisation of the Landsturm will increase that force to perhaps 1,600,000 men.

## DANGER OF WAR.

It has been said that the danger of war between Germany and France does not appear considerable, because of the impotence of the latter at this time. It may be regarded as almost certain that unless France should provoke Germany, to the utmost she would be content with guarding her newly-acquired acquisitions, and not again cross the Moselle as an invader, nor attempt to dictate a new peace at the gates of Paris. On the South matters hardly appear to be so entirely satisfactory. The inhabitants of Austria at large have almost forgotten the war of 1866. The benefits which accrued to their country from the results of that crushingly rapid campaign have been so great that they have blotted out the sense of soreness that sprang from the defeats which the Austrian army suffered. But though antagonism against Germany has ceased among the people composing the Austro-Hungarian empire, it still lurks between the Cabinets and Governments of the two countries, and on the Austrian side not only does there appear to be a feeling of personal resentment against the Cabinet of Berlin among some of the advisers of the Crown, but it is almost universally believed that the head of the State has a deep personal and individual grudge against his northern neighbour, and refuses to meet even half way, or perhaps in any way, the advances which have often been made to him from Berlin. This fact, if not clearly ascertained, is at least thoroughly believed north of the Giant Mountains, and the belief leads to a feeling of distrust on the part of Northern Germany towards Austria. It is this attitude of the Austrian Court which is one of the prime reasons why Germany keeps up her great and expensive armament. But this state of things cannot always endure. Throughout the Fatherland there is a feeling that it must come to an end, and that the only way to reduce these enormous armaments to a footing proportionate to the capabilities of the people is to force on events, and somehow or other disarm those on account whom these military preparations are necessary.

## ENGLAND'S POLICY.

What role would England take in case of a great European contest? The general answer will doubtless be—that of neutrality. But is it possible that neutrality can always be maintained? If the British realm were confined to the two small islands which constitute its heart, it might be true that it could keep out of war, but with wide-spreading colonies and foreign entanglements it would be almost impossible for England to avoid taking part, sooner or later in the struggle. How, then, is she prepared for the emergency that is almost sure to arise? The navy is apparently in good order. The numerical strength of the British fleet is larger than that of any other power, and English sailors have not deteriorated. But a large part of the navy is composed of vessels built since England was engaged in a great naval war. Their construction, to a great extent, has been experimental. Suppose on going to war it should be discovered that the navy had been built on faulty principles? The result might be to nullify that arm of the national defence, and uncover the coast of England to any powerful nation intent upon invading the country and laying it under tribute. The enormous wealth accumulated in London is a bait to avarice, which must be ignored in consideration of the possibilities of hostile invasion. Suppose the coast should be defenceless, what kind of an army could England oppose to the magnificent troops of the Continent? The militia and volunteers would be useless. The regular army would be effective as far as it goes, but at most it would be 60,000 strong. What could this handful do against the tremendous hosts of Germany, Russia or France? If England will save herself she must be willing to spend her money freely to maintain a large and efficient regular army. If Englishmen will not serve their country in person, they must be prepared to pay the price for that immunity as for any other luxury. That price is not so great as that which might be assessed by a committee of Continental bankers, in session in captured London.

The presence of fowls in an orchard is said to be one of the best preventives against the ravages of insects.

**QUICK RELIEF FOR BURNS.**—Apply a layer of common salt and saturate it with laudanum. Hold it in a position a few hours with a simple wrapper. The smarting disappears almost instantly, and the sore gets well with incredible rapidity.

## CHANGE OF MINISTRY.

THE Press Agency is responsible for the following:—The members of Sir Julius Vogel's Government tendered their resignations to the Governor on Saturday. His Excellency having accepted the same, entrusted to the Hon. Dr. Pollen the task of the forming of a new Government, which that gentleman has constituted as follows:—Premier, the Hon. Dr. Pollen; Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Dr. Pollen; Colonial Treasurer, the Hon. H. A. Atkinson; Minister of Immigration, the Hon. H. A. Atkinson; Minister of Crown Lands, the Hon. H. A. Atkinson; Native Minister, the Hon. Sir Donald McLean; Minister of Public Works, the Hon. E. Richardson; Postmaster-General, the Hon. Sir Julius Vogel; Commissioner of Customs, the Hon. W. H. Reynolds; Acting Postmaster-General, the Hon. W. H. Reynolds; Minister of Justice, the Hon. C. Bowen. The new Ministers were sworn in to-day.

As some doubts were expressed whether or not the Government could meet the Parliament constitutionally in the absence of the Premier, it was considered expedient, after due consultation, that the members should resign. His Excellency quite approved of the step taken. The Government, as reconstructed, admits of no question.

We understand it is the intention of this new Government, immediately on the arrival of Sir Julius Vogel, to again resign, so as to permit him to resume his office of Premier, and appoint his own colleagues anew.

The special correspondent of the 'Guardian' says:—The resignation of Sir Julius Vogel, which carries that of the Ministry, was forwarded to the Governor on Saturday, and accepted. The Marquis of Normanby asked Dr. Pollen to reorganise the Ministry, as the resignation had not been brought about by any political action, but simply through the constitutional difficulty of meeting the Assembly in the absence of the Premier, who is detained in England by illness. Dr. Pollen has undertaken the task, and submitted the names of the reconstructed Government the same day, with which—on Monday—his Excellency expressed himself satisfied. A 'Gazette' will be published this evening announcing the changes. The personality of the Government will be unchanged. Pollen will be Premier and Colonial Secretary; Atkinson, Treasurer. These are the only changes. Vogel will be gazetted Postmaster-General and Commissioner of Telegraphs. On his return it is understood he will again assume the Premiership. The Ministry held Vogel's telegram authorising them to send in his resignation at their discretion, in view of a constitutional question which was without precedent being raised in Parliament.

The Government have all their bills prepared, and are sanguine of success. Their financial policy is intended to be safe. They will start with a large credit balance in the Treasury, and unlike the impetuous Provinces, need not draw on futurity.

## GERMANY.

*Calendar of the German Culturkampf.*—Under this title the 'Frankfurter Zeitung' publishes periodically a short list of the occurrences arising out of the conflict between the Prussian Government and the Catholic Church. The following is a specimen of this *chronique*:—

March 26, Kulm.—The Curate von Laszczewski, for transgression of May Law; 1,650 marks (£82 10s.), with alternative of five months (imprisonment).

—Thomaszurski, the Editor of the 'Przyjacieli Ludu,' for offences against the press laws, 4 months (imprisonment).

—Ravensburg.—The parish priest Meyer of Eberbach, convicted and sentenced to 6 months' detention in a fortress for injurious language against the German Emperor.

—Meppen.—Lüker, the Editor of the 'Papenburger Emszeitung,' and Wagner the printer, to 3 months (imprisonment) for publication of the Encyclical.

24, Thorn.—The property of the vacant parish Papowo, sequestered.

—Bonn.—The priest and student Heider, expelled from the city of Bonn and the district of Sieg (for saying Mass privately for his own devotion).

—Posen.—Rev. Konopinski fined 45 thalers, for having performed some clerical function in a conventual church.

—Oppeln.—The faculty of giving religious instruction withdrawn from the parish priest Wontropka.

—Fulda.—The parish priest Walter, of Anzefahr, already sentenced to imprisonment for offensive language against Prince Bismarck, dismissed from his office of inspector of the parochial schools.

25, Gnesen.—Two former students of the ecclesiastical seminary, examined judicially, *in re* the delegate Apostolic. A police search and private inquiry had been previously made at their lodgings.

—Stuttgart.—The appeal of the Editor von Hasenkamp rejected. He will consequently have to undergo the 3 months' imprisonment, to which he was sentenced for offensive writing against Prince Bismarck.

26, Posen.—The district court decides that the Deans who refuse to give evidence *in re* the Apostolic delegate shall be kept in prison for an unlimited period.

—Erlangen.—The town magistrates dissolve the Social Democratic electoral union.

—Jastrow.—The Catholic landowners and peasants of the parish of Zippnow pledged themselves not to carry any goods to the market of Jastrow; because when their Provost was being led to prison the inhabitants of Jastrow opposed a demonstration in his favour.

—Bochum.—The former editor of the 'Westfälische Volkszeitung,' Joseph Blum, escapes to foreign parts.

—Hanover.—The 'Hannoversche Zeitung' of 23rd March confiscated.

27, Frankfort-on-the-Mayne.—The Social Democrat, Klein of Elberfeld, accused of having endangered public order by a speech; he is acquitted. The State prosecutor had asked for one year's imprisonment.