of neutrality is usually set up by a State when acting the part of a neutral from when it is acting the part of a belligerent. But there is something rather childish about these complaints of conduct which you have before defended and pursued. They give an impression of sensitiveness and feebleness, without doing the slightest good.

Lord Elcho has given up urging that the Volunteers should be armed with Sniders, for the very excellent reason that of the 300,000 which Mr. Cardwell stated to be in store, it seems that nearly 200,000 are in store *in Canada*. Lord Elcho takes his disappointment very calmly, and says he is sure no British subject would wish to rob the Canadians of a weapon which they have used so gallantly under invasions the danger of which has not yet disappeared, and he is even weakly grateful to Mr. Cardwell for his promise that "in the event of the Volunteers being called out for active service, no portion of the force will be sent against an enemy without previously being armed with breech-loaders,"—which appears to mean that the Volunteers will not be used, however much they are needed, if there are not breech-loaders to give them. What does not seem to have struck Lord Elcho is the ignorance,—for we cannot suppose for a moment Mr. Cardwell knew where nearly 200,000 out of the 300,000 Sniders were, when he spoke of the 300,000 in store,—of facts of the first importance betrayed by Mr. Cardwell's paper figures. Mr. Cardwell might just as well say that we had commissariat stores for 300,000 men, only that two-thirds of them consisted of Australian beef and mutton not yet shipped to England. No doubt General Le Boeuf had, in this new sense, an ample number of Chassepôts for the French Army,—though the troops could not have them. Can't we get a War Minister who is not content with paper figures, and has a preference for facts?

The *Lancet* of this week has a very caustic paragraph on the Queen's health, congratulating the nation on the complete health which enabled the Queen to travel on Tuesday from Osborne to Windsor, to hold a Council on Wednesday, and to start the same evening for the Highlands, a distance of more than 600 miles, to be performed in eighteen hours of almost uninterrupted travelling. Englishmen will rejoice, says the *Lancet*, at Her Majesty's ability to undergo both mental and physical fatigue from which many of her subjects would shrink with dismay. And it adds, "If Her Majesty's restored powers and recovered energy had been displayed entirely in her devotion to the cares of State, we might perhaps fear for the permanence of the improvement, and might tremble lest a high sense of duty were prompting her to a sacrifice which we might afterwards have occasion to deplore. But the great value of the evidence to which we point rests on its being yielded, partly at least, by exertions from which it would have been possible to refrain,"—a very neat form of reprimand. But why should there be any scruple about expressing openly the opinion that in going to Balmoral in the very crisis of a great war, and taking the Prime Minister after her—Mr. Gladstone is to follow on Monday—the Queen seems to be, what she seldom is, thinking more of herself than of the public welfare?

The Liberals of Plymouth and the Attorney-General, Sir R. Collier, have been acting together a delightful little farce—the former affecting the greatest jealousy for Sir R. Collier's devotion to his Parliamentary and other duties, and Sir R. Collier in return affecting the greatest deference for the judgments on this point formed by his constituents. The occasion was this. Sir R. Collier, following the example of former Attornies-General, accepted a little addition to his official income in the form of the Recordership of Bristol, worth, we believe, £600 a year; having first, as he says, carefully considered whether his health and strength would permit him to discharge his new duties without injury to the efficiency of his present duties as Attorney-General and Member for Plymouth, and having decided that they would. Thereupon, a meeting was held by a knot of his constituents, who passed a resolution approving of his political consistency, but disapproving of his acceptance of the Recordership of Bristol while holding the honourable and lucrative office of Her Majesty's Attorney-General. On which Sir R. Collier, who had already vacated his seat by accepting this new appointment, declares his intention to resign the appointment, and is re-elected without opposition, after incurring the usual fine. "It was quite enough for him," said Sir Robert, "if any number, large or small, of his old friends and supporters, who had fought with him in former times many a hard battle, and whose good opinion of him he was most anxious to retain, entertained an objection to his holding the appointment." Well, that carries deference for constituents a long way indeed. We could quite understand Sir R. Collier's saying he did not care to lose his seat, and as there seemed some risk of it, he had given up what he held it quite right to accept. But, for anything we see, what he did say would go to justify deference for the opinions of his constituents on his choice of an autumn tour or of the furniture of his drawing-room. We do trust we are not entering on that very unpleasant political phase,—minute demagogic tyranny and members' subservience.

The Member for West Surrey, Mr. Briscoe, is dead, and all the papers, following Dod, are speaking of him as a moderate Liberal. In fact, however, he was returned in 1868 by the Conservatives to oppose Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy, which he did very consistently, and not only the Liberal Irish policy, but the Liberal policy on other great questions, like the University Tests' Bill for example. In a word, Mr. Briscoe, though a Palmerstonian Liberal, was in no sense of the word a Liberal since his last election, and was returned precisely because he was not one. If, however, the Liberals now choose to contest the seat, they should put forward a better candidate than Mr. Pennington, who has no local influence in the constituency and no external prestige to make up for the want of it. The Conservatives are exceedingly strong in West Surrey, and Mr. Pennington only polled, in 1868, 1,757 votes, to 2,826 given for Mr. Briscoe.

The Americans have taken the defeat of their countryman's yacht, Dauntless, by Mr. Ashbury's yacht, Cambria, in the great Atlantic yacht race, with their accustomed good-nature, though they found it so difficult to believe that their champion would be beaten that they prepared a national welcome for the English yacht the moment it was seen in the offing, under the fixed idea that it must have been their own. The difference of time was only an hour and forty minutes, after all, not a great matter for an Atlantic race; but enough apparently to give a sensation of joy to a good many Englishmen in New York, and one of regret to the mass of the people of New York. In that long voyage a difference of 100 minutes must have been pretty nearly as much a matter of meteorological accident as it would be which of two feathers thrown up into the air by an Englishman and American on the west coast of Ireland in an easterly wind, would reach the other side of the Atlantic first. But both English and Americans have got competition so keenly in their blood, that if that *had* been the issue, no doubt it would have caused regret to the English if the American feather had won, and to the Americans if the English feather had won. Fortunately, however, these sorts of regrets do not leave soreness behind them.

We give the following curious evidence that the mitrailleuse is only a revival of an old invention, from "Grose's Military Antiquities" (1801), vol. ii., p. 165:—"A patent was granted by King Charles I. to William Drummond, of Hawthornden, in 1625, for the sole making and vending, for the space of twenty-one years, of the following machines and warlike engines invented by him; the patent is printed in his works. . . . . The third is a sort of machine of conjugated muskets, by the assistance of which one soldier or two are enabled to oppose an hundred guns, which machine, from its effect, is called the thundering chariot, and vulgarly the fiery waggon."

The young rhinoceros at the Zoological Gardens in using its horn to root up the barrier between its stall and that of the female, as it would use it to root up trees in the forest, broke it off, on which there was a considerable loss of blood, and the animal roared lustily for a few minutes, when it quieted down, began to take its food as usual, and seems no worse for the accident. On this it is remarked, that the fact that the animal should "of his own accord injure himself to such an extent is another proof, if one were wanting, that the sensitiveness to pain is not so great in animals of low cerebral organization as in man." We are not in the least aware whether a proof of this thesis is wanting or not, but this does not appear to us to show it. Of course, the horn itself itself has no more sensitiveness than a boy's tooth, and it was only the breaking it out and the exposure of the root which gave it any pain. Might not the rhinoceros, if it had the sense, make precisely the same criticism on the proceedings of any boy, who, in cracking a hard nut, broke out his tooth at the root from the gum, and, after bleeding and crying a little, quieted down, and began to suck lollypops as usual? Would the fact that the boy should "of his own accord injure himself to such an extent be another proof that the sensitiveness to pain is not so great in animals of high cerebral organization as in the rhinoceros"?

Consols were on Friday evening 91⅜ to 91¼.