Great Britain's Strategic Positions and Her Efforts to Strengthen Them.

fortification and to improve their its base. strategic positions on what will be the second trade route of the world, if not the first. England has led the lowed suit at Martinique and Guadeloupe, and even little Holland has been spending a good deal of money on the defences of Curacoa and Surinam.

A glance at the map of the West Indies will show the position of Eng-Canal. Jamaica has always been the West Indies. From Jamaica she sent her fleets to fight the French the fortifications which surround it. and the Spaniards in the days Rodney and Nelson. Jamaica must necessarily be the central point any West Indian naval manoeuvres in which England is concerned. It happens by a stroke of luck for England that Jamaica is the strategic key of the Panama Canal. All ships going or coming through that waterway must pass within a short distance of Port Royal. The tourist who enters the smiling harbor of Port Royal is impressed by the perfect peacefulness of the scene. His ship glides swiftly through water as smooth as glass towards ranges verdant mountains sloping down to the water's edge. Nowhere is there the slightest sign of war or warlike preparations, yet few places

27

SO STRONGLY DEFENDED.

pressure of a button ashore would at present there is not a single blow up his ship, for the entrance battleship in this squadron. to the harbor is a network of sub- France is determined not to be marine mines. Nor does he know left behind in the race for power and Stakes at Newmarket. The total that those smiling, green-clad hills prestige in the West Indies. She has value of that year's winnings was contain a dozen masked forts, armed spent huge sums on the defences of \$134,095. Persimmon started in with guns, some of which are cap- Martinique and Guadeloupe, but the nine races only, of which he won able of throwing a shell ten miles or results have not been altogether sat- seven. Their aggregate value was

many years as practically impreg- pended was not made. But more value was \$39,265. Diamond Jubilee nable by British naval and military millions are to be spent, and this the most famous of all his Majesty's authorities, who call it the Gibral- time, no doubt, they will be more many famous animals, took six tar of the Caribbean. Many mimic carefully looked after. Meanwhile, attacks have been made upon it by the French squadron in the Caribland and sea, but it has always re- bean is being pelled the invaders.

Once the entire British North Ammade a sudden night attack. The Croix. ships were detected before they could get near the harbor's mouth. Twenty searchlights from the forts were concentrated on them, and the hills belched a hurricane of fire. In ten minutes, according to the umpires, every ship was sunk or crippled. Yet the British War Office and Admiralty are not satisfied with | ing on the subject with the captain Port Royal. Every month they are of one of the British warships then Melville, his colors being all white. Mr. Eells was asked how old a certo strengthen the fortifications. Two new forts are now being constructed at fresh points, four others are planned, and all are to be armed with the latest type of 12-inch disappearing gun.

These new forts are costing millions of dollars, and millions more will have to be spent before the present scheme of fortification is completed. Like all other Port Royal forts they are being constructed so that they will be invisible from the sea, and offer absolutely no mark to an attacking fleet. They are built right down in the earth and the enemy will have to batter down the hillside before he destroys the forts and dismounts the batteries.

The military authorities of Jamaica guard these forts rigidly and nobody is allowed to inspect them. Tourists who have tried to photograph them, or to bribe the sentries to let them inside, have often

GOT INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE and only escaped going to jail by audience. the intervention of their consul. It is commonly believed in the British German officers say, they seem to army that valuable ordnance secrets reckon on doing that," was the reare guarded in these forts, as all offi- ply. cers assigned to duty in them have A conviction prevails in the West to undertake to reveal nothing they Indies that Germany intends, within

outside. Ships coaling at Port Royal would in the Caribbean Sea. be surpensed and their efficiency con- of millions of dollars

sequently impaired. For this reason, it was deemed necessary by the recent Royal Commission on Coaling Stations to fortify the port of Castries, in St. Lucia. This place is also being very much strengthened now, but not so much money is be- King Edward Is a Great Sportsing spent upon it as upon Port Royal. Castries is a natural fortress which can be defended with little As the cutting of the Isthmian trouble. Castries Bay runs for sev-Canal by the United States became eral thousand yards inland, and the more and more probable in the last entrance is very narrow. One fort I'm years, the European nations could easily hold it. There are surholding territory in the Caribbean rounding positions on the land side, the most successful racing-yacht these slow animals is still adhered grain lands and timber along the Sea began strengthening the fortifi- held by small bodies of troops, cations of their chief strongholds which would render it exceedingly there at the cost of millions of dol- difficult for an enemy to get posseslars. Now that the United States sion of the harbor, except by giganhave decided to complete the Pana- tic operations which, naval experts ma ditch they are straining every say, could hardly be made by any nerve to complete their schemes of European nation so far away from yacht affoat. Many of the splendid phant' solves in a unique way the had perished in these forbidding

THE WEAK POINT

with each of these growing fortresses is that neither Castries nor Port way in this matter, France has fol- Royal is able to repair even a torpedo boat, let alone a cruiser or battleship. A warship coming there damaged from a naval battle could get coal, but she could not get repaired nearer than Bermuda.

The French possess a splendid graving dock at Martinique, where land in relation to the Panama the largest ship of war can be refitted in case of accident or damage her centre of offence and defence in in battle. Millions of francs have recently been spent on this dock and

> The British authorities contemplate providing Port Royal with either a graving or a floating dock, ance was at steeplechasing. A horse diture of time than would be re-000. It should be noted, also, that 1880. The money-value of the stake or mahout, is required for each elemany millions of dollars have been was \$2,100. It was not until nine phant, but human labor is so cheap spent within the last two years in years later that the royal horses as not to be a factor in the exstrengthening the fortifications of began their the dockyards and coaling stations at Bermuda and Halifax.

minor fortifications at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and that colony is to be garrisoned by British as well as local troops. The garrison at Barbadoes is also to be strengthened.

It is said that the British North American and West Indian Squadron is soon to be increased by onehalf of its present strength, when the ships now under construction in The tourist does not know that the British dockyards are launched. Just

isfactory, the Government alleging \$173,530. Florizel II. won eleven Port Royal has been regarded for that full return for the money ex-

CONSTANTLY STRENGTHENED. Even Denmark, like Holland at erican squadron, including a score of Curacoa and Surinam, is improving battleships, cruisers and destroyers, her forts at Christianstad, on St.

> Germany has no foothold in the stakes. Caribbean, but the opinion entertained by not a few persons that she means to make a bid for one sooner or later is shared by naval officers and residents in the West

Last January the writer was talk-

"There's no doubt," said the officer, "that the Germans want a coaling station here very badly. They have made a bluff of wanting one in Hayti and on the Isle of Margarita, but the place they really want is Guanta. You know it Well, isn't it an ideal spot for coaling station? It could be easily defended as Castries. A lovely harbor, perfectly safe, a good depth of water, and room enough for any fleet. The climate is excellent, supplies and provisions are readily obtainable, and the heights around the harbor could be easily fortified so as to make the place impregnable even with a small garrison. The strategic position is all that could be desired in relation to the Caribbean and the Panama Canal. Mark my words, that is the place the Germans have set their heart on trying to get sooner or later. They will have to fight for it at first," said the Captain to some one in the

"Well, from what I have heard the

see, even to their brother officers a few years, to make a very tempt- Pigeon, Rabbit, and Cat Show her ing bid for the Danish Antilles. By The West Indies are of enormous that time her navy will be greatly extent. A man who only knows strengthened, and if she can effect them on the map can hardly appre- the purchase, she might, so the ciate the vast area of sea they West Indians think, insist that the cover. The long chain of Windward Monroe Doctrine can not legitimately and Leeward islands, nearly all of prevent one European Power from which belong to England, are a full transferring its American possessions thousand miles from Jamaica. In to another. However this may be, time of war they would be in a per- the West Indies for centuries were Mabel to go down the garden with ilous position, if they relied on Port the cockpit of Europe. The navies her. Royal as the only fortified coaling of England, France, Spain and Holstation for the fleet defending them. | land battled for national supremacy | where a quantity of soot had been

have to work their way 950 miles to | European and military strategists | greenhouse, and the path in front windward before they could get to now in the Caribbean are of the of it. a point near these islands at which opinion that the fate of the world Mother asked each child if he or a naval battle would be likely to may be decided there again, when she had done it. take place, or before they could the West Indies are restored to more reach Martinique or Guadeloupe, sup- than their old importance by the Then she said : positor they had to blockade those construction of the Panama Canal. places in the event of a war with They hold that this is the obvious of my bedroom window !" Frances. By the time they got there inference from the strenuous efforts a large portion of their coal would of their position there at the cost "for I looked at all the windows

MAJESTY'S TROPHIES.

THE KING'S "CUPS," AND HOW HE WON THEM.

man and Has Won Many Valuable Prizes.

The famous cutter "Britannia," affoat. During the time she was in to. The sole use of the ox in a 226 races, and won 122 first prizes, draught animal. and 25 other prizes, of a combined cups which grace the royal sideboard | transportation | problem-always a are trophies won by this splendid vexatious one in lumbering operavessel; but all the prize-money, with | tions-he does more than that. The true kingly generosity, was divided stolid and slow moving ox can haul among the crew. The King himself a load from one place to another, has often been aboard his craft dur- but the load has to be made ready ing her most exciting races. At such for him in the first place, and after times Mr. Jameson, the designer, it has arrived at its destination it usually took the tiller. Captain Car- has to be unloaded. The elephant lin was in command of "Britannia" takes care of all these operations. at the time.

exhibit a more wonderful series of his driver, he picks up a timber, trophies won in different sports or carries it to the designated point, at various exhibitions and shows and then not only deposits it where than King Edward. From a money it belongs, but does so with prepoint of view, his winnings on the cision and comparative ease, accomturf have been the most considerable. plishing a result almost impossible The King's first win of any import- by hand labor, and with less expenwhile that at Bermuda, at a prob- of his called Magic won the Grand quired by a steam crane. able cost of not less than \$2,500,- Sefton Steeplechase at Aintree in In most cases an elephant driver,

CAREER OF SUCCESS

on the flat. Galliglet, a chestnut England is also starting some colt, came in first in a selling race at Goodwood, winning \$510. Later in the same year Shamrock II. won the Boveney Plate.

From that date onwards the successes of the King's stable advanced by leaps and bounds. In 1891 his horses won between them \$16,592, a sum which by 1895 had jumped to \$41,405.

1896 was a great year for the King's horses. Persimmon, Thais, and other horses, won the Derby, the Leger, the Jockey Club Stakes, and the One thousand Guineas out of twenty-two events. Their races out of thirteen starts, and won for his royal master the sum of \$145,915. 1900 was the greatest year of all for the Sandringham horses. Their winnings amounted to no less than \$158,030, which means that, since he started racing, his Majesty has made over \$500,000 in

One prize for horseracing was won by his Majesty acting as his own jockey. This was in a point-topoint race of a mile and a half. which was ridden on the Curragh, in

THE ROYAL JOCKEY

named Rupee.

with her famous Windsor cattle. Her ages aggregated 2,387 years. Isle of Wight sheep were also sucspecially commended on many octle followed up their successes by winning one first and two second

The Windsor gardens, too, have for many years been famous for fruit and flowers. That they will not lose their reputation in the preat the Royal Southampton Horticultural Society's autumn show last sent reign is proved by the fact that year seven exhibits won for his Maiesty no fewer than five first prizes. Among other prizes won by Sandringham stock may be mentioned two for pigeon-races, won under the rules of the National Pigeon-Flying Club.

The present Queen, too, is well known for her love of animals, and she has exhibited frequently, and met with a fair share of success. At the recent Liverpool Dog, Poultry, Majesty exhibited some bantams, and had a fourth prize and a reserve.—London Answers.

HOW HE KNEW.

One day mother called Tommy and

She took them to the greenhouse, scattered all over the floor of the

Both answered in the negative.

"Oh, Tommy, I saw you do it out "That you didn't," said Tommy before I did it 1"

ELEPHANTS IN BURMAH.

Sometimes Work Without Immediate Oversight.

America presents varied scenes and contrasting methods in its lumbering industries, and while modern invention makes use of endless cables and improved log tramways, there can be found in identical camps

In Burmah the animal generally Not only is he a draft animal, but There are few men alive who can in some instances, at a word from

> pense. The elephant furnishes the labor which is paid for, and the driver is looked upon as a necessary, though not altogether desirable, concomitant, as the native helper is not so much to be relied upon as his big charge. Opium and the strong brews of native roots work on human frailty, but the elephant has no desire for these. In many big lumbering operations the elephants are seemingly "told" what they are do in the morning, and in some degree left to carry on the work during the day according to their own devices. Very remarkable are stories told of their sagacity. concerns lumbering, and tells of an elephant that was about to pick up deprivation. a log just as the great gong which phant was requisitioned, but the two the water problem. together failed to make any headway required resting place.

PAUPERS LONGER LIVED.

The Total Age of 34 Is 2,387

The wonderful old age to which paupers live has been demonstrated by an interesting investigation recently made by James Eells, superintendent of the Stephenson County,

He rode his own horse, an animal tain one of his inmates was, and this led to an inquiry as to the age Her late Majesty Queen Victoria of a number of others. He discovwon over a hundred and fifty prizes ered that he had 34 people whose

The ages of one party of seven cessful in gaining a number of people footed 600 years, the averprizes. For their wool they were age being a fraction over 88 years. Another party numbered seven, casions. These animals King Ed- and their ages aggregated 527 ward has inherited, and at the Is- years, the average being 75. There lington Show last year his fat cat- is still another party of from 18 fresh water daily. Even with this to 20 persons, whose ages average amount of water it is not expected between 60 and 70 years, and the that the mining population will have average of the whole bunch is over a drop to waste. They will have to 70 years.

farm, Illinois, has a large contin- \$1.50 to \$1.75 per thousand galgent of old people. Some of them lons at wholesale rates. are so old that it is impossible to fix their age to a certainty. Some will become self-supporting for of them move about over the prem- some time. The plant is to be ownises, a few being helpless.

Mr. Keyes says is at least 125 Even if the 50,000 persons to be years of age. She is an inveterate supplied should require the works to talker and singer, was born a slave, run at their fullest capacity the pipe and served different masters in line would hardly meet expenses. It Dixie. She talks continually of is believed, however, that an inplantation days, imagines that she creased production of the gold will is in a cotton field harvesting this be made possible by a good supply great staple of the south land. From of water and that the entire State take up the threads of some of the ers will be required in the field, and war days. She is tractable and machinery, come from the farmers gives less trouble than many others and merchants of Western Austraof lighter color.

REMOTE KIN.

Kind Lady-"How many are there n the family besides yourself?" Little Amy-"Four-mamma, papa, sister, and a distant relative."

"That is only three. The distant relative is not a member of the fam-

"Oh, yes he is. He is my brother. "Your brother? Then he isn't distant relative." ma'am—he is in South Africa."

the X. I. T. ranche in Texas.

lion acres.

WHERE WATER IS SCARCE

WILL BE CARRIED OVER 300 MILES TO A DESERT.

Western Australia Is Building a Pipe Line to the Gold Mines,

Western Australia is now one of which his Majesty, while still Prince with these the most primitive power the largest gold producers in the of Wales, owned for upwards of five of skids and steers. Even more than world. Twenty years ago the great years, was for her first two seasons most persons realize, the use of desert east of the fringe of fertile sea was not supposed to be worth the King's possession she started in lumber camp, however, is that of the a cent a square mile. The desert was wholly unknown, except that a few explorers had made their toilvalue of \$49,765. This record has used in lumbering operations is the some way over the immense expanse never been equalled by any other elephant. While "my lord the ele- of sand; a few others less fortunate wastes.

Then it was found that this Sahara was really to be the treasure house of the colony. The precious metal dug out of these sands has made the gold product of Western Australia equal to that of all the other States in the Commonwealth. Gold has helped this division of Australia to become one of the lustiest members of the British colonial empire.

Around the great mining center in the desert 50,000 people are living. It's natural to ask how they get water to supply their needs. fact is, water is an extremely scarce commodity there. It probably does not bring so high a price in any other part of the world. Salt water is obtained without much difficulty by digging, but the cost of condensing it to procure fresh water is so costly that every pint must be carefully used. There is

AN OCCASIONAL SHOWER, and every house and tent in the mining district is supplied with tanks to catch the rain water; but it is an unreliable source of supply. The result is that every drop of water must be husbanded.

We have no idea here, where was ter seems almost as free as air, how careful they are in the mining region of Western Australia to put every drop to the best use. It is not comfortable to be compelled to use water as though you never expected to have another pailful. The inconvenience and discomfort due to the this cause are a terrible drawback to that region, and nothing less of these stories, vouched for as true, than the greed for gold would induce any one to submit to the incessant

To-day Western Australia is hard signaled the close of the day's work at work to remedy this great need was sounded. To the surprise of the and to supply the Coolgardie and mahout, the log, only a little larger | Kalgoorlie mining districts with than others which had been carried, good supply of water. The total proved too heavy for the elephant to cost of the work will be not less lift from the ground. Another ele- than \$15,000,000, but it will solve

About 25 miles northwest o with the heavy timber, and the at- Perth, near the sea and the capita tempt was given up. In the morn- of Western Australia, is the Green ing the first elephant went imme- Mount Range. The Helena Rive diately to the timber, lifted it with crosses this range through a deep apparent ease, and carried it to the valley. A dam 100 feet high ha been built across the river and the reservoir thus formed is seven mile in length and will hold 4,000,000, 000 gallons. It is necessary to lif the water 2,700 feet to the top o the mountains in order to give sufficient headway to reach the gold camps out in the desert. The distance to Kalgoorlie, the furthes camp to be supplied, is 328 miles The water is to be raised to the mountain top by means of eight pumping stations, the machinery for which has been purchased at a

COST OF \$1,500,000. At the summit of the mountains the pipe line begins. It is thirty inches in diameter and is laid a lit tle under the surface along the railroad track, except that in crossing various salt lakes on the route it is supported on piers. It is hoped to deliver from the reservoir to the mining camps 5,000,000 gallons o pay a good price for it. The charge Supt. Keyes of the Kane County to the miners, for example, will be

It is not expected that the project ed by the State, and the deficit must There is one colored woman who be paid out of the general taxes. her disconnected talks one is able to will thus be benefited, for more minmost interesting epochs of the ante-practically all the supplies, except

RAT SCORED.

A young man entered an inn with a dog, and attracted a good deal of friendly interest from an Irishman, who inquired what kind of a dog it

The owner looked the questioner insolently up and down, and then replied with a drawl: "It is a cross between an ape and an Irishman."

'Faith, thin, we're both related to it," was the ready refort.

Magistrate (to defendant)-"You are accused of having terribly beaten two night-watchmen last night. What tempted you to do this ?" The biggest farm in the world is Defendant-"My feeling of humanity, Its your worship, because for one nightproperties cover nearly three mil- watchman that beating would have been too much."