

the *Elementary Education Act of 1870*. This Act, while to a certain extent recognizing voluntary effort in behalf of education, provided for the establishment of "public School Boards" in all parts of the country, while attendance at school, with reasonable limitations, was made compulsory. In 1872 *voting by ballot* was made the law for all parliamentary elections.

43 In 1871 various matters of dispute between England and the United States were adjusted by the *Treaty of Washington*. Among the subjects thus disposed of were claims from the United States for compensation for damages done to American shipping by a Southern cruiser called the *Alabama*, which had been allowed to refit and obtain supplies in British ports. This point of dispute was referred to a *Board of Arbitration*, to sit at Geneva. When the Board met in 1872, it decided that a large sum was equitably due by the English Government, which, without allowing the justice of the award, promptly paid it.

44. In 1874, England was engaged in war with the King of Ashantee, in Western Africa, by whom our settlements on the coast of that continent were threatened. Under Sir Garnet Wolseley, our troops penetrated to Coomassie, the Ashantee capital, and destroyed it by fire. The object of the expedition was accomplished, and British power on the West Coast of Africa was placed on a firm basis.

45. The general election held in 1874 resulted in the defeat of the Gladstone Administration. Mr. Disraeli, shortly afterwards created Earl of Beaconsfield, became Prime Minister for the second time. The chief measures passed by this Government were the *Licensing Act* and the *Public Worship Regulation Act*. During this period Great Britain was engaged in two wars, which, though of no great magnitude, were very vexatious. These were (1) the *Afghan War* (1878), originating in renewed jealousy of Russian influence in Afghanistan; and (2) the *Zulu War* (1878-9), fought for the purpose of compelling Cetewayo, King of Zululand, in South Africa, to disarm and disband his army. Nothing occurred in the Afghan War which particularly needs recital; but in the war with the Zulus a great disaster befell the English at *Isandlanha*, where about one thousand men were surprised and almost entirely cut off. Cetewayo was defeated in the Battle of Ulundi, and shortly afterwards captured. A melancholy incident of the Zulu War was the death of Prince Louis Napoleon, only son of Napoleon III. At his own request, he was allowed to join the campaign as a volunteer. He, with a small company, was surprised by the Zulus, and fell pierced by their assegais. Lord Beaconsfield signalized his administration by having conferred on the Queen the title of *Empress of India*.

46. Public opinion was much excited in England during the Beacons-