

IMPEACHMENT OF LORD STRATFORD.

In another fortnight Parliament will meet, after a recess covered with momentous incidents. It will be the lot of the Legislature to discuss the past and future campaigns, to examine the causes of success or failure, to suggest rewards for eminent services, or to demand inquiry into alleged errors. In such a course of proceedings we no longer admit mention of a subject which occupies the minds of those conversant with Eastern affairs. We have before alluded to the transactions connected with the siege of Kars, and to the comments made on the conduct of Lord Stratford, its chief, the British Ambassador at Constantinople. The great calamity which has befallen the Turkish arms has given to these events a vast importance, and we should but ill perform our duty if we concealed the fact that the neglect and abandonment of the British officers and the troops they so ably led, are spoken of and are attributed by persons well informed on the matter to personal feeling on the part of the Ambassador towards the English General whose name we so well know in connexion with a long defence of the place. The matter is notorious to all acquainted with the Turkish capital, and not entirely unknown to the world in general, although the formalities of political diplomacy in this have generally precluded any allusion to it in Parliament or the press.

It may be said, then, that it is the misfortune of Lord Stratford to live in a state of dissension with almost every man with whom he is brought into contact. Although his age and position are sufficient to merit respect, and, as a soldier, which he has no wish to be on other than amicable terms, yet few can hope long to escape some outbreak of his violent and groundless illwill. He lives in an atmosphere of anticipation, and, according to the reports of many years to intercourse with Turkish officials and to the deference of Levantine society, he is impatient of any demur to what he conceives his authority. The disregard of his advice, or even the differing from his opinion, may last for years. Such is the man to whom the British Government has committed the care of its interests in the East.

Turkish ways are not our ways, and a minister at home must naturally have all dealings with this unknown world through the representative and his staff of Orientalists and dragomans. A British ambassador can lay a war force attention to a request of his Government, or mark it out for neglect, but he can do no more. He can, before you do not say by my opinion of it, decide for yourselves" is sufficient to ensure the rejection or evasion of a demand even though it emanated from the Foreign-office itself, for the Porte will fancy that it was never meant to be complied with, and will, with ready duplicity, acquiesce in the stratagem. Hence it is evident that the whole power of the country he represents must be wielded personally by a representative in the East. Now, the statements to which we wish to draw attention are as follows:—General Williams, who had been formerly employed on the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission, and had some acquaintance with the people and language of Asiatic Turkey, was appointed British Commissioner to the Ottoman army in Armenia. The Turks had been defeated in five battles, and their force was completely disorganised. It was thought that the experience of General Williams might be serviceable to the re-constitution of the army and the defence of the threatened provinces. He was distinguished chiefly by a quiet, unassuming disposition, so much so that few of his friends gave him credit for the resolution and energy which he displayed in the defence and government of Kars. It is difficult, therefore, to conceive the grounds of the Ambassador's alleged dislike, except it be that General Williams received his appointment from the Foreign-office.

way assist the new British Commissioner, even in the most formal manner. General Williams had to go up to the seat of war unrecommended and unaccredited by the representative of his country. With men like the Turkish Commissioner, this was sufficient hint, and the General's difficulties were no doubt vastly increased. However, he applied himself to his task, took note of deficiencies, saw how corruption reigned in the army, and what was his intent on thorough form. His official position was strictly only that of an adviser; he could do nothing but by the Turkish Government, and his only instrument must be the representations of the Ambassador. He endeavoured to do this by entreating his assistance in laying before the Porte the impending danger and the necessity of action. The fact which we shall now state is almost incredible, but we believe that it is true beyond a doubt. The Ambassador would hold no communication with General Williams. He would not answer, he would not acknowledge the receipt of a single despatch. It is said that not less than 63 despatches and letters were sent by the British Commissioner, and he did not once receive the ambassador's reply. He would have nothing to do with General Williams or his affairs. Among the most pressing wants was that of ammunition. General Williams wrote, that it is said, repeatedly on this subject, but he did not receive any answer, and nothing was done. When Kars surrendered there was only three days' ammunition in the place, although it had to sustain no regular siege. This fact was successfully concealed from the representatives of the Commissioner. Lord Stratford ungraciously obeyed, corresponded formally with General Williams, but the requests of the latter were to the last inefficual.

General Williams, making the best of his narrow means, fortified the two chief points of the town, and took possession of Kars, the frontier fortress of the province. Men, provisions, ammunition, were alike deficient,—the troops were in a miserable condition. One of the matters urged on the Ambassador by General Williams was a payment of £20,000 to be distributed due to them. These in Kars had not received a piastre for three years when in the place fell, and their clothes were worn out long before their stomachs were pinched. The request, it is needless to say, was not only refused, but regarded as a contempt, were much cast down and discontented as far as it is in the nature of the Mussulman to be. But when Mouravieff surrounded the place the energies of both Englishmen were put to the test, and the result, as we said, abandoned, General Williams determined to resist to the last. His officers stood staunchly by him. That these brave men should feel no pang of resentment towards him whose causes and animosity they were fighting for, is a fact which we believe may be perhaps more rare to be hoped from human nature. If anything, however, could add to their indignation, it would be to find that after the place was invested, after a payment of £20,000 had been requested, sympathies and rouse the admiration of the world, the Ambassador suddenly changed his tone, gave an air of cordiality to his despatches, expressed his commiseration for the unfortunate General and his Staff, and, in the most unbecoming manner, urged their safety! But we have said enough. An inquiry into these things must take place at an early day. The correspondence since the autumn of 1854 will, no doubt, be made public, and will, we believe, be the matter, in the full hope that justice will be done.—*London Times.*

When Sir C. Campbell left the Crimea Marshal Pelissier is reported to have said "I have never seen a man who has given me greater grief; he was the man of the English army; such was my esteem and regard for him as a soldier, that I felt inclined to embrace him when ever I met him."

THE CHINESE.

The following extract from "A Journey through the Chinese Empire," by M. Huc, a French ecclesiastic, exhibits an interesting phase of the Chinese character. There has been much joking about the manner in which the Chinese soldiers behaved before the English troops. After firing their pieces once, they threw them down, and fled as a flock of sheep might do if a bomb should burst in the midst of them; they were essentially cowardly, deficient in energy, and ineapable of fighting; but the judgment appears to us very hasty. In these circumstances the Chinese soldiers simply showed their good sense. The means of destruction employed by the two parties were so entirely disproportionate, that there could be no room for the display of valor. On one side arrows and matchlocks, on the other good muskets, and cannon loaded with grape. When a maritime town was to be destroyed, the Chinese would send the war-ship. An English frigate had only to leave-to-at the proper distance, and then, while the officers, seated quietly at dinner on the poop-deck, manœuvred the *Chamango* and the *Medeira*, the sailors methodically combed the water with their wretched cannon, could only send a few balls half way to the enemy's vessel, while their houses and public buildings came tumbling down on all sides as if struck by lightning. The English artillery was for these poor people so terrible, as to be general a thing, that they at last believed they had to do with beings more than mortal. How could they be expected to be brave in so unequal a contest? An enemy whom they could not see, who was blowing away at them quite at his ease, what could they do then but run away? They did so, and in our opinion they showed their wisdom in so doing. The government alone was to blame, for driving thousands of men almost to starvation and death, and to a certain and useless death. The English are decidedly very brave, but if ever, which God forbid, they should have to defend their country against an European army, with nothing better than the Chinese to rely on, they would be taken from the Chinese, they would soon be convinced, find some of their valor oozing away.

It may be that it would be possible to find in China all the elements necessary for organizing the most formidable army in the world. The Chinese are intelligent, rapid and docile. They comprehend rapidly whatever they are taught, and retain it in their memory. They are persevering, and automatically will choose to submit themselves, respectful to their superiors, and obedient, and they would easily accommodate themselves to all the exigencies of the severest discipline.

The Chinese possess also a quality most precious in war, and which we scarcely found so well developed among any other people, namely, an incomparable facility at supporting privations of every kind. We have often been astonished to see how they will bear heat, thirst, heat, cold, the difficulties and fatigues of a long march, as if at mere play. Thus, both morally and physically; they seem capable of meeting every demand; and with respect to numbers, they might be enrolled by millions.

The equipment of this immense army would also be no very hard matter. There would be no occasion to have recourse to foreign nations. Their own country would furnish in abundance all the material that could be desired, and at a trifling cost, not to number, quick at comprehending any new invention.

China would present also inexhaustible resources for a navy. Without speaking of the vast extent of the coast, and of the numerous population spaw the greater parts of their lives on the sea, the great rivers and immense lakes in the interior, all covered with fishing and trading junks, might furnish multitudes of men, having their feet and hands trained by a nimble, experienced and capable of becoming excellent sailors, for long expeditions. The officers of our ships of war that have visited the Chinese seas, have often been struck by the courage and firmness of their fishermen braving the tempests, and guiding their miserable vessels in safety

over enormous ways that threatened every moment to swallow them. The Chinese would very soon be able to build vessels on the model of those of Europe, and a few years would enable them to put to sea with steam fleets as has never been seen.

What China wants is a man of genius, a man truly great, capable of assimilating the power and vitality of this nation, more populous than all Europe, and which counts more than thirty centuries of civilization of the West. We believe that the work of re-organizing and directing such rapid strides, and that perhaps those Chinese who now appear such a very ridiculous people, might be thought of somewhat more seriously, and even occasion mortal uneasiness to those who covet so eagerly the spoils of ancient nations of Asia.

DIPLOMACY OF WOMEN.—There is a trait in the lives of great diplomatists of which it is just possible some of our readers may not have heard, which is, that none of them have ever attained to any eminence without any attachment;—we can find no better word for it—to some women of superior understanding, who had acquired within herself great talents for society with a high and soaring ambition. They who only recognise in the world of politics the dry details of ordinary parliamentary business, poor-law questions, sanitary rules, railway bills, and colonial regulations, may, from a scanty notion of the excitement derived from the high interests of party, and the great game played by about twenty mighty gamblers, with the whole world for the table, and a prodigious fortune for counters. In this grand *role vuote* world, where the game is so, it were not too much to say that there is a very motive-power of the whole vast machinery.—*Dublin Union Magazine.*

A THORNY CONCERN.—One morning last week (says a Gloucester paper), as a young man of Amberg was journeying homeward through the dreary waste of Minchinhampton-common, his attention was arrested by several extraordinary-looking men. On approaching nearer to get a better view of the apparition, he found a semi-naked man *en chemise d'homme*—kicking and writhing about to extricate himself from his thorny bed. "Halloo, what do you do here," inquired the young man. "Oh, dear," responded the helpless fellow in the bush, "where be I?—where be my old woman?—I be nearly starved—I can't get up." "Get up! no I should think not," said the young man, "what came you to get down?" "Oh, help I do, what you see," he continued, now quite aware of his situation under the influence of the north wind, "I had a drop of drink last night, and I made sure I was safe at home, so I did strip and get into bed. But darn me if I like such a bed at all. I be tanned and scratched. I seemed all cosy enough till towards morning, when I did kick, and were pricked, and did kick again; and I did give all sorts of knives and yorks were driving into me, and I said, 'Why, you see, Darn me, I be glad I be out of it,' as the other managed to help him out. "Why, you are pricked like a pincushion," said the young man; laughing outright. "Well, what do you say?" replied the other object. "What a thing a drop of drink would be sure!" His friend having helped him up with his clothes, they both proceeded to Stroud, the Bachelmann, we hope, a wiser doctor than man for his comfessed bed on a December night.

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.—A Paris correspondent writes,—"I have been talking with a man, who arrived last night from St. Petersburg, and who has had a long conversation with me;—" Certainly those who thought the Empress Marie the predominant power were right; she is so. She reigns in Russia! she governs the destinies of the world, she is obeyed by the nation she governs the Grand Duke Constantine completely; she is the superior, the dominant influence; but those who thought her inclined towards peace were quite in the fault. "What she may have been some months back, I do not know; but now the Empress Maria is warlike."