

IMPENDING WAR.

The telegrams of the past few days give alarming intelligence. A general European war seems imminent. For some time past the political outlook in Europe has been most portentous. Now it appears as if the storm were about to break over that continent. Great Britain is preparing for a struggle which will tax her powers to the utmost; but which is in all probability, inevitable. The English Government has directed the powerful fleet, that lately rendezvoused at Besika Bay, to proceed to Constantinople; the North American squadron has been ordered to hold itself ready to sail at a moment's notice. Troops have been ordered out, and are already on their way to Egypt and India. Lloyds have received instructions to have ships prepared for the transport of troops whenever required. Even as we write, war may be declared between Great Britain and Russia.

The latter country, in its career of self-aggrandizement, is, for the second time within a quarter of a century, coming into contact with its great rival. Let us consider what causes have produced a result so much to be deplored.

To foment discontent and insurrection in the Turkish provinces, to throw obstacles in the way of reform in the Government of the Porte, and thus pave the way to the disruption of the Ottoman Empire, have long been the policy of the Russian Court. The final result sought was, of course, the conquest of European Turkey and its annexation to the dominions of the Czar. This policy of fomenting internal dissensions, with a view to ultimate conquest, has already been successfully practiced by Russian statesmen. She adopted the same course in dealing with the kingdom of Poland. In that unfortunate country the emissaries of St. Petersburg fostered and kept alive the spirit of discontent between the nobles and common people. They brought powerful influences to bear on the Polish National Diet in order to prevent the introduction of needed reforms into that body. They succeeded in dividing the nation against itself. Then it could do no more than hopelessly struggle against its dismemberment. Those who now lift up their voices in horror at the tales of inhuman atrocities which have been perpetrated on the Christians of Bulgaria, would do well to remember the systematic and unparalleled course of violence, outrage, and massacre adopted by Russia, carried out by Russian regular troops, towards the conquered Poles. They would do well to ask themselves whether the Christian population of the Turkish provinces would gain anything by being handed over to the tender mercies of that semi-barbarous power which, nominally Christian itself, was guilty of such barbarities towards Poland. Once Constantinople were in their hands, the great object of Muscovite ambition would have been gained; the road to the East would have been secured. The command of the Black Sea would then also have been acquired—a command long coveted by the Russian Administration. The attainment of these two ends would have the effect, in the first place, of almost shutting Great Britain out from her Indian Empire. Being thus isolated from the sovereign power, Hindostan, in the event of serious European complications in which England might be involved, would fall an easy prey to the Russian arms. In the second place, the command of the Black Sea would enable the Russians, who are the greatest protectionists in the world, to shut out foreign commerce from the Black Sea ports. Were this policy to succeed, a terrible blow would be struck at England's commercial and political supremacy. These are ends that Russia, notwithstanding her hypocritical expressions of amity towards Great Britain, most ardently desires to accomplish. Once the power of England were crippled; there would be nothing to oppose Russian advances in the East.

To counteract the schemes of Russian statesmen in this direction has become almost the traditional policy of England. For this purpose she has, for the last half century, endeavored to effect reforms in Turkish Administration. In this, though often thwarted by the insidious opposition of Russia, she has met with a fair measure of success.

The persistence of the two nations in their respective policies has caused the state of affairs which our telegrams indicate. It is impossible at this time to forecast what the result of the threatened contest may be. Of this, however, we may rest assured, that our mother country will prove herself worthy of her ancient renown. Were the struggle confined to the two great powers we would have no fear of the result. Though the English and Irish forces are inferior in number to their opponents, they yet possess that martial spirit which will not submit to defeat; which has borne them on to so many victories, before which the Russian soldiery have never yet been able to hold ground. But it seems probable that the struggle will not be so confined. There appears a strong probability that Germany will throw in her weight with Russia, that Austria may be forced to join the alliance, and that Great Britain supported by Turkey alone, will have to encounter their united powers. Should France be drawn in, she will likely join England. But even without aid, we believe, in the long run, that our fatherland will prove more than a match for her opponents. Moreover, though of late years, the Turkish troops have been somewhat despised; they have, during the present Serbian war, proved themselves to be war-like and well-disciplined forces. As soldiers, they have shown themselves far superior to their antagonists, while their generals have, in military strategy, been much more than a match for the Russian officers who direct the operations of the Serbian army. When well equipped and supported by an English contingent, perhaps re-organized and commanded by English officers, they will be able to offer no mean resistance to a hostile alliance. The war-spirit, too, is thoroughly aroused amongst the Turks, and it is not improbable that they will

ere long throw down the gauntlet to Russia, even without English support.

It would not be the first, nor yet the second time, that Great Britain, single-handed, has faced Europe in arms. Readers of history will remember her position in the latter part of the last century. Then her American colonies were in open revolt. France and Spain were waging desperate warfare against her. The armed neutrality of the North were determined on her destruction. The prophets of evil foretold that her end was come. He was a hopeful man who then looked for victory against such odds. It seemed more like a struggle for existence than for victory. Yet she came through it all. She triumphed over her foes. The most powerful of her opponents was humbled. True, she lost her colonies. But her foreign enemies had reason to repent the audacity which prompted their attack. The odds were even greater than now. The contest was long and desperate. But the brave old land came forth victorious. We believe she will do so once more.

NOT THE ISSUE.

Why the Patriot, of all papers in the world, should, at this juncture, raise the question of Free Trade vs. Protection, we are at a loss to understand. We have a Free Trade Government. It is true that all the influence of the Administration was brought to bear in the election of Mr. Workman—an avowed Protectionist. It is also true that the Government raised the tariff to seventeen and a half per cent., and levied a heavy tax upon a large number of articles which, under Sir John A. Macdonald's Administration, were imported free of duty. Still Mr. Mackenzie declares his Government a Free Trade Government. Has not his Government killed a flourishing tea trade and banished the sugar refining business beyond the borders? Surely every merchant knows that it is in the variable practice of the Mackenzie Administration to protect the wrong interest! And, may it not, therefore, be termed a Free Trade Government? Then why should the Patriot (which, we presume, has confidence in the Mackenzie Administration) attempt to scare our people with the cry of Protection? So long as the Mackenzie Government is in power there is no danger of Protection. The petty partial election of a member to represent Queen's County cannot effect the question. Then why does the Patriot raise it? It is all very well for Sir John A. Macdonald (who is out of power) to discuss the subject; and to have his laugh over Mr. Cartwright's bungled tariff. It may be well for us to remind the Patriot and the people of Queen's County, that only so late as last winter Sir John A. Macdonald declared in Parliament that he was, and always had been, a Free Trader on principle—that, at the same time, he cited the opinion of the greatest Free Trader who ever lived—John Stuart Mill—that, under certain conditions, incidental protection was advisable—nay, was absolutely necessary to the prosperity of a State,—that, at the same time, Sir John A. Macdonald proved conclusively that just these conditions then existed in the Dominion. Bgl, why should the ultra Free Trader editor of the Patriot and the admiral of the Mackenzie-Cauchon-Huntington Government fear Protection—seeing that Mackenzie, Cauchon, and Huntington, flourish together at Ottawa? Would not the editor of the Patriot do well if he justified Mr. Laird for relinquishing his seat in the Cabinet without stipulating that another Islander should take his place? Is not the Hon. Daniel Davies a good man as Mr. Cauchon or Mr. Mills? Here is a "live issue" for the Patriot.

AN EXAMPLE.

The Patriot holds up the political conduct of the Hon. David Laird as "an example to the sons of Island farmers!" We have nothing whatever to do with Mr. Laird's personal or private character. It may be that Mr. Laird is just as perfect as the Patriot represents him. But his career as a politician is certainly one which should not be imitated by the ambitious sons of our Island farmers. It will be an evil day for the Dominion when any considerable number of our politicians adopt the tactics of Mr. Laird.

Of such stuff as Mr. Laird is composed are traitors made. An imitator of Mr. Laird, if elected to maintain Free Trade, would support a policy of protection, and for so doing would take a seat in the Government. If elected to oppose the building of the Pacific Railway, and Sir Hugh Allan, he would go on with the Pacific Railway, build the Georgian Bay branch, and hire Sir Hugh Allan to do it an advance on his original contract of one thousand dollars per mile—"because Sir John A. Macdonald might do the same thing." He would oppose sectarian free schools in the Provinces and he would support sectarian free schools at Ottawa. Or if elected for the special purpose of maintaining the independence of his country, he would steal off, under cover of the night, to sell his country to the neighbouring republic. And at the last, without consulting his deceived constituents or their interests, without so much as saying "by your leave," he would resign upon a Governorship and \$7,000 a year. This is the course an imitator of the example of Mr. Laird would pursue. We want no such imitators.

THE CONTESTANTS.

MESSRS. WILLIAM WELSH AND JAMES C. POPE are likely to be the candidates for the representation of Queen's County in the House of Commons. Mr. Welsh is, we learn, the nominee of a caucus which met in the Provincial Building, on Wednesday last. He has not yet publicly signified his acceptance of the nomination. Before doing so he will probably consider whether or not it is right to desert, so soon, the constituents who only a few weeks ago "did themselves the honor of electing him by an overwhelming majority." We think it is not right. We think the practice of representatives who resign the trusts committed to them by their constituents to take the first office which, in the mutations of political life, presents itself, or to fill the first seat left vacant in a more honorable assembly than theirs, is, decidedly, a wrong one. It is a practice which entails continual turmoil and great expense upon the country. It is a practice which involves a virtual breach of faith, on the part of the representative who resigns with the electors whose suffrages he has obtained. Every representative virtually contracts with his constituents to represent their interests and the interests of the Province at large, in the Legislature, until the end of the term for which he was elected; and he is no more justified in resigning without the consent of those who elected him, than the man who neglects to build a bridge which he has engaged to construct. Very few indeed will agree with the Patriot, that the example of Mr. Laird is, in this respect, worthy of imitation; and we shall be surprised and disappointed if Mr. William Welsh is Mr. Laird's first imitator.

The name of the Hon. J. C. Pope has been freely used in connection with the vacant seat ever since Mr. Laird ascended the gubernatorial Throne. The interests of our agriculturists are already very well represented by Mr. Peter Sinclair. It is conceded that our merchants and traders and the country in general cannot be better represented than by Mr. Pope. Those who lately opposed Mr. Pope on the School Question appear to be well pleased that an opportunity has offered to place him in a position where he will be powerless to interfere in its settlement. They feel too that they would be as foolish to reject the political services of Mr. Pope because of his views on the School Question, as the Synod of the Presbyterian Church to reject the suggestions of the Rev. G. M. Grant, because he thinks it advisable to introduce the Ontario system. Mr. Pope is the choice of the people. The indications are that he will pull an almost solid vote in the city; and from West London, New London, Belfast and other populous settlements, assurances of the warm support of his candidature have been received.

TEMPERANCE.—On Saturday evening, Oct. 21st., "Prince Edward" Division, No. 21, was re-organized at the old Division Room, Ahenamu building. The following officers have been installed into their respective chairs for the present term:

W. P. C. HARRIS, President; A. A. JAMES MCKIE, R. S. J. B. COOPER, A. S. S. THOMAS HICKARD, E. S. CHURCH, J. MORRISON, Treas.; J. W. MORRISON, Secy.; HON. JUDGE YOUNG, Con.; I. W. WADMAN, J. S. CHURCH, J. MORRISON, I. S., THEO. WIGGINTON, O. S., GEO. WIGGINTON, P. W. P. BENJ. WILLIAMS.

This Division starts out anew with good prospects.

MARK TWAIN ON OUR CIVIL SERVICE.

The abominable practice which prevails here and in the United States, and which has been perpetuated by the Davies Administration, is capably hit off by Mark Twain. In the course of a recent political speech he said:—

"Our present civil system, born of General Jackson and the Democratic party, is so atrocious, so contemptible, so grotesque that it would make the very goblins of Dahlgren, and the very devils of Smith who never lifted a sledge. We will not hire a school teacher who does not know the alphabet. We will not have a man about us in our business life, in any kind of a low, or high, or middle, who has served an apprenticeship and can prove that he is capable of doing the work he offers to do. We even require a plumber in doing anything to do with a pipe (by the speaker)—about his business, that he shall at least know what size of pipe is the inside. (Roars of laughter.) But when you come to the civil service, you get a man who has served an apprenticeship in a custom house into the hands of a fathead who does not know a bill of lading from a transit of Venus; (laughter and a pause)—never having heard of either of them before. (laughter.) Under a Treasury appointment we pour oceans of money and accompanying statistics through the hands of a traitor of Venus; (laughter and a pause)—never having heard of either of them before. (laughter.) Under our consular system we find ourselves all over the world with a foreign ambassador who is freed up all over with—with indiscreetness—(laughter) but we immediately send one in his place whose moral standing is a perceptible shade tint to it, and then we send another who is going to roar. We carefully train our naval officers and military men, and we ripen and perfect their capabilities through long services and experience, and keep a lot of those excellent servants through a just system of promotion. This is exactly what we hope to do with our civil service under Mr. Hayes. (Applause.) We hope, and expect to see that service as utterly from politics as in the naval and military service, and we hope to make it as respectable too. We hope to make worth and capacity the only requirements of the civil service, in place of the amount of party work the candidate has done."

There can be nothing plainer than this. It fully bears out that which was said by "M. P." and The Mail. Mr. Mackenzie deliberately agreed to break the Carnarvon Terms to which he was a consenting party, to secure the accession to the Cabinet of a member of the Party, who in an outside independent position was making himself exceedingly damaging to the Ministry. If the circumstantial evidence was not sufficient to convict the Premier of treachery to a solemn bargain, the words of his Minister of Justice supply all that was wanting.

What, in the face of such a revelation as this, we ask, will be thought of Mr. Mackenzie in England? In this matter if not in others, Mr. Blake was consistent; it is a pretty exposure to go before Lord Carnarvon; it is a sorry addendum to the Governor-General's anxious effort to mollify the people of British Columbia. Baser treachery could not well be conceived.—Toronto Mail.

BRITISH TRADE UNION TROUBLES.

Intelligent people who would like to see Britain maintaining its pre-eminence as a manufacturing nation must be disgusted at reading the reports of the eternally recurring Trades Union troubles, which have already inflicted such deadly injury on various branches of British manufacturing industry. The people who control the action of the Unions seem either the most ignorant or the most reckless of human beings. They are either absolutely ignorant of the nature of the competition which British manufacturing industry has to sustain, and of the necessity to its very existence that the cost of production should be kept within moderate bounds, or, more or less of all this, they are reckless of confidence in their short-sighted selfishness. If these Unions would only act reasonably, contented with a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, and wages rising with business in prosperous and prices low, and sinking proportionally when the demand is light and prices low, and should they at the same time allow freedom of movement to genius, invention, skill and enterprise, Britain might long maintain its manufacturing supremacy. But they have done, are doing, and will do more of these things. They have been constantly playing into the hands of foreign manufacturers against the best interests of their own misguided members. And as they have done, it is presumed they will continue to do regardless of results; various influences are at work to neutralize Britain's manufacturing advantages, but the most mischievous of them all is Trade Unionism, and so far as we can gather, that influence was never more active, never more deleterious than at this moment. Late cable-grams furnish information on this subject.—St. John News.

CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

At a meeting held recently with the President, Hon. Mr. Childers, in the chair, a cable despatch says that the project of amalgamating with the Grand Trunk was duly considered, the proposition being finally rejected by an overwhelming majority. The proposition was that the Great Western should pay to the Grand Trunk the sum of \$25,000 sterling by way of rental for the use of the whole of the latter's line, west of Toronto, including the Buffalo, Lake Huron, the International Bridge, and St. Clair ferries. Mr. Childers, in a long speech, severely condemned a series of what he termed creditable acts of the Grand Trunk Railway Company; the report was finally passed unanimously. A second cablegram says: Richard Potter, Esq., M. P., has resigned the presidency of the Grand Trunk Railway, and Captain Tyler has been appointed to succeed him. There is an unusual stir in railway circles. Mr. Potter's sudden termination of his official connection with the road being the subject of a great deal of comment.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The Patriot intimates that Mr. Macdonald has not adopted Sir John A. Macdonald's scheme for the construction of the Pacific Railway. The Patriot may be right. We shall see. The Governor-General says:

"The fifty millions of land and the thirty millions of money to be provided by Canada under the bill (Sir John's bill) are ready."—Editors, I imagine, will be called for almost immediately. "Vide speech at Victoria."

HALIFAX AS A GRAIN PORT.

We are pleased to learn that after a large amount of talk of the claims and advantages of Halifax as a grain port, something of a more practical spirit has been manifested by a large house of that city, Messrs T. & E. Kenny, who have determined to ship a trial cargo thence at once. Several other Halifax merchants have besides agreed to ship three cargoes on joint account. We hope the enterprise will be entirely successful.

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FURTHER TESTIMONY.

"M. P." and ourselves were engaged a few days ago in showing that Mr. Mackenzie had abandoned the Vancouver Island railway, not because of the defeat of his bill in the Senate, but because of a concession which he was compelled to make to Mr. Blake as a condition precedent of the member for South Bruce's entry into the Cabinet. The newspaper published in this city, which is faithfully doing all the dirty work of Ministers, characterized our showing as a "contemptible fiction." Well, let us see. The Halifax Morning Herald had been looking into the matter about the same time, after it came across the speech which Mr. Blake delivered before his constituents on 24 June, 1875, when as a Minister, he went back to re-election. On that occasion he said, as reported in the Liberal newspaper of the following day:—

"He would not touch upon a question with respect to which he had not been entirely in accord with the gentlemen who were conducting the affairs of the country. He referred to the settlement attempted to be made through the Earl of Carnarvon with British Columbia. He had been of opinion that that settlement was more onerous to this country than it was advantageous to agree to, and he was happy to be able to say that previous to his accepting office discussions had been entered upon which had resulted in an agreement upon a policy satisfactory to himself, and which, when developed at the proper time and place in Parliament, would, he believed, be satisfactory to the country."

There can be nothing plainer than this. It fully bears out that which was said by "M. P." and The Mail. Mr. Mackenzie deliberately agreed to break the Carnarvon Terms to which he was a consenting party, to secure the accession to the Cabinet of a member of the Party, who in an outside independent position was making himself exceedingly damaging to the Ministry. If the circumstantial evidence was not sufficient to convict the Premier of treachery to a solemn bargain, the words of his Minister of Justice supply all that was wanting.

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SOUTHERN INTIMIDATION.

ARREST OF PROMINENT INTIMIDATORS.

COLUMBIA, Oct. 13.—Thirty-two persons have been arrested in Aiken and vicinity, of whom 26 have given bail. The charge against all the parties arrested, is intimidation of voters by threatening them with violence if they voted for the Republican Presidential electors and candidates for Congress. There are over 100 more arrests to be made in that section, and the district attorney and United States marshal will remain there to consummate their work in Barnwell, Edgfield and Aiken counties. GEN. SHERMAN IN CONSULTATION WITH SEC'Y CAMERON.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—Gen. Sherman who returned to Washington to-day, has been very busy in the War Department attending to his routine business accumulated during his absence. He had a consultation with Secretary Cameron, and was visited by several prominent Republicans from South Carolina, who had also been in conference with the Secretary of War upon the subject of the existing condition of affairs in that State. It does not appear that any representations concerning the necessity for troops were made, either to the Secretary or to General Sherman, in addition to what heretofore have been presented for consideration, but an urgent appeal is being made for stationing army officers throughout the State in such a manner as will prevent all possibility of disturbance of peace during the campaign and coming election. The opinion in the army circles here is that there is already a sufficient number of troops stationed in South Carolina to protect all citizens in their rights. It is probable, however, that the statements of the delegation from that State will be considered at the Cabinet meeting Tuesday next, at which Attorney General Taft will be present. The views of the Government at least up to this time, have been that every necessary precaution has been taken for the protection of voters in sections of the Southern States where their rights are in danger.

A CASE OF BIGAMY.

Some time during the past summer, a Norwegian came over from P. E. Island and took up his residence at Douglas-town. In a very brief space of time he made the acquaintance of a young woman in the place and after a short courtship, proposed, and was married to her. Upon the conclusion of the ceremony the happy pair removed to Newcastle and set up house keeping on their own account. For a time all went merry as a marriage bell, but one fine morning the groom quietly took his departure for parts unknown, leaving a number of desolate creditors as well as a sorrowing bride to mourn his loss. A few days after his disappearance a young woman arrived from P. E. Island and claiming him as her husband, but upon hearing the story of the man who she was very decidedly of the opinion that he was not her husband, and she was accordingly sent home in a few days after leaving her home in the Island. The unfortunate number two was philosophically decided to depart for the home of her parents, which is somewhere down the coast.—Chatham Gleaser.

"THE BALANCE OF POWER."

(From the Pall Mall Gazette.)

It is quite clear that the "balance of power" deserves to be regarded as a foolish superstition. Mr. Bright has long been of opinion that it does, and a few years ago Mr. Olney succeeded in getting the words struck out of the preamble to the Mutiny Act, which till then was wont to enumerate the necessity of preserving the balance of power as among the reasons for maintaining a standing army. And in a recent speech Mr. Lowe has echoed the views which were once considered the peculiar property of the Manchester school of politicians. England, according to Mr. Lowe, has always had a pet bugbear; now it is Russia, once it was France, and in a former age, Spain, and yet a dispassionate student of history might well come to the conclusion that the English of the sixteenth century had some reason to view the power of the House of Austria with alarm. Philip II, may not have aimed at universal empire, but our ancestors can scarcely be blamed for having thought otherwise. At the present day when England is perhaps a hundred times more powerful than she was under Elizabeth, we should probably deem it necessary to increase our naval and military estimates if Alphonse XII were at once King of Spain, Portugal, the Two Sicilies, Holland, Belgium, Burgundy, the whole continent of South America, and Mexico, and if his uncle were at the same time Emperor of Austria; if both, moreover, were absolute monarchs and zealously engaged in burning Protestants within their respective dominions; if Russia and Prussia were fourth-rate Powers; and if the most formidable fleet of iron-clads ever yet mustered were riding at anchor in the Tagus, ready to convey an expedition destined for the conquest of England. Even after the destruction of the invading armament both Conservatives and Liberals would probably be unanimous in thinking it desirable to favor any European state which could act as a counterpoise to the Austria-Spanish alliance.

The power of France in 1688 may not have been relatively so great as that of Spain in 1588, but it was assuredly sufficient to make every patriotic Englishman tremble for the future of his country. No King or Commonwealth could vie with Louis XIV in military or naval resources, or what are emphatically termed the sinews of war; while as if to prepare the world for the idea of a French hegemony, the French language had been generally adopted as the international medium of communication. Holland was almost the one free State left in Europe; the King of England was a pensioner and a tributary of his cousin; Germany and Italy were hopelessly divided; Russia was still considered (and justly) without the pale of civilization; Spain was in a state of dry rot. It is very true that before the death of Louis the prospect had completely changed, but not from the action of a peace society, or because the Court of Versailles had acquired more enlightened notions of self-interest. Hard blows—Ramilles following upon Blenheim, and Malplaquet upon Oudenarde—had restored the equilibrium of power which English statesmen then held to be indispensable to the safety and honor of England.

Coming down to a time within the memory of the present generation, we find that England had to deal with some more stern foes, among which was the Empire of Napoleon. The new Empire at one time included France with the Rhine for its frontier, the remainder of Holland and a large slice of Germany, as far as the Elbe, with Northern Italy, inclusive of the States of the Church. All Germany, with the exception of a diminished Prussia formed a protectorate under the Emperor, one of whose brothers was at the same time King of Spain, another King of Westphalia, while his brother-in-law was King of Naples. For the first fifteen years of the present century he would have been a bold man who should have ventured to assert that the "balance of power" was not worth preserving, or that England could safely afford to let it take care of itself. From Pitt and Fox and Burdett and Corbett, all would agree that the ambition of Napoleon was fraught with danger to the liberties of Europe. Radicals only differed from Whigs, and Whigs from Tories on a question of degree, some statesmen being ready to go to greater lengths than others in their exertions to curb the powers of the common enemy.

Nor does there seem to be any reason to suppose that thoughtful politicians, or, indeed, the English public at large in the present day have really lost sight of the idea implied in the expression that it is necessary to maintain the balance of power. A phrase may be discarded, but the reality it once clothed will not disappear to suit the views of optimist philosophers. In truth it is rather because the reality exists, because the wars of a hundred years and the deliberations of statesmen have not been absolutely without fruit, because something very like a balance of power has at length been established on the continent of Europe that some people have begun to fancy that they have no need of it, and could very well do without it. It is said we never know the value of anything till we have lost it, and this is often eminently true of a political advantage. It will be conceded that no one of the six great powers could venture wantonly to attack another without exposing itself to the greatest danger. France is far from depending for her safety on the forbearance of Germany. Still less does Germany place her sole reliance on the pacific intentions of France, Austria and Italy, again, have reason to believe that they would not be without allies under the only circumstances which would be likely to involve them in hostilities with their neighbors. England and Russia know each other's strength. Any one power, however, might have good reason to dread a conflict against a coalition of two of the others with the three remaining ones standing neutral, which is tantamount to saying that any nation would find its security imperilled by a disturbance of the balance of power. Italy attacked by France and Austria, and unsupported by the Allies, would be at the mercy of the invaders. There is happily not the remotest probability of such a consummation taking place, but that is because certain battles and treaties have nicely adjusted the interests of those who might otherwise have been enemies. England has perhaps less reason than any State in the world to dread a coalition, so far as the security of these islands from invasion is concerned; but she has weaker allies and countries depending on her for protection, whom it might be hard to defend if the balance of power were as completely upset as it would be by a combination, say of the two great military empires against her.

To take a supposition, which is happily a wild one, it will be admitted we fancy by the most advanced Radical, that were Russia, on the conclusion of a victorious war with Turkey, to propose the annexation of the Sultan's dominions, it would be necessary for England to do something more than speak very plainly. Again, we are bound to maintain the integrity of Belgium. But it may be asked, did we pledge ourselves

AN AUTUMN SESSION IN ENGLAND.

The following is Mr. Lowe's letter to the Times:—

Sir,—Parliament has no opportunity before it separated of forming a distinct opinion on the policy to be pursued towards Turkey. Since then two Ministers have severally announced their intention of adhering to a line of policy as regards the Christian race in Turkey, in which the Prime Minister says he is not backed by the country. He proceeds to say that a great portion of the people of this country have arrived at a conclusion which in the opinion of the Government would, if carried into effect, be injurious to the permanent interests of England and fatal to peace, and he denounces those public men whose opinions coincide with the country and are against the Government as worse than the authors of the Bulgarian atrocities. On the showing of the Prime Minister, no opposition can be more sharp than that which exists at the present between the Government and the people. How is this opposition to be reconciled? The answer of the Government is that they are to do as they like and the people are to tamely submit. I do not say that such a course is beyond the power of the Government. Had Parliament been sitting, Parliament would have decided, but as Parliament is not sitting the Government can do as they please. The confidence of the country has placed the Government in a position to thwart the desires of the country, and they can, as they now propose, repay that confidence by taking advantage of the absence of Parliament to do what Parliament, if in session, would assuredly prevent them from doing. It appears to me that in so grave a juncture it is the duty of those whom Government admit to be the great majority of the nation—a nation not wont to tamely submit to the domination of a minority—to make a last effort by an appeal to the Crown to interpose between us and those who aspire while acting in our name, to make us party to transactions which we repudiate. The question whether we shall or shall not adhere to our traditional policy as regards Turkey is no doubt of vast importance, but it is even more important that we should not exhibit ourselves in the eyes of the world as submitting to be deprived by mere chicanes of those rights of self-government which we have, and which cannot wrest from powerful Kings, but cannot wrest from Ministers, the creatures of our own creation.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 18, 1876.

"Quiet reigns in Warsaw." After the intense excitement caused by the Ohio and Indiana elections it is surprising to see what an air of quiet contentedness the city has assumed. This quietness was disturbed for a few hours early last evening by a fire originating in the most thickly settled business portion of the City. It has long been held an axiom that in every event that occurs from the most trivial to the most important, a woman is at the bottom of it; and now I think it equally true that for every fire that occurs, coal oil will be held accountable. Such was the case last night. A clerk in the large wholesale and retail grocery store of Mr. Baruch Hall, on 7th street, near Penn Ave., in attempting to draw some coal oil, inadvertently held his lamp too near, and an explosion was the consequence, setting fire to a large quantity of bacon and threatening the destruction of the centre square. Several casks of coal oil were in the cellar, but happily the flames did not reach them. The firemen were promptly on the spot, and in an incredibly short space of time the flames were extinguished. Our Fire Department here has the credit of being the best in the world. I can't say how this may be, but their promptness to be upon the ground at an alarm of fire is almost magical. Senator Patterson accompanied by a delegation had an interview with the Secretary of War, yesterday, for the purpose of representing to him the necessity of sending more troops to South Carolina. Gen. Sherman returned to the city this morning, he is of the opinion that no more troops are needed, and seems to be averse to having U. S. soldiers turned into policemen to be used for party purposes. A Mississippi delegation also had an interview with Secretary Cameron with a view of urging a like necessity in their State, but no steps will be taken till the return of the President. At the session of the American Institute of Architects in Philadelphia the day before yesterday, Mr. Stone, of Providence, Rhode Island, introduced resolutions declaring the National Monument at this place unworthy of the architecture of the age, deprecating its completion—and resolving in case of failure of their efforts to effect a stoppage of the work—to issue an address advising the people of the United States to withhold contributions. The matter was referred to a committee. Now, I don't know Mr. Stone, but I will venture to suggest that his resolution stamps him a conceited ass, deeply tinged with avariciousness, and vainly hoping to offer some plan of his own for a monument. Perhaps the design of the Capitol and other public buildings here may not suit his cultivated and fastidious taste, and he would like to have them pulled down and something erected to suit his ideas of propriety. The Washington Monument was designed by a man whose shoes Mr. Stone was or is unworthy to unlatch, and whose name will live when Mr. Stone is forgotten. The present design as shown by the model in the City Hall, has been universally admired and has been carefully inspected by architects of world wide celebrity, and received their highest encomiums. As for Mr. Stone's threat of donating the people not to subscribe or contribute to the monument, it certainly does smack of brazen presumption and overweening egotism. In short, hanging is too good for him, he ought to be kicked. The course of Virginia has been severely commented upon, and she is accused of lack of patriotism in declining to take part in the Centennial; but Virginia is too true to herself and too mindful of her honor to undertake anything that is not strictly high minded and honorable. The State is insolvent; she cannot pay her creditors, and at the very time when she was called upon to decide whether or not she would appropriate money for a representation in the Exhibition, she was asking her creditors to accept a compromise. It is said Governor Kemper might have appointed a State Day, but with no Virginia buildings on the grounds he would have had to borrow a house in which to receive his friends. This was never the style of Virginia. She sent them a skeleton the fittest emblem of her present unhappy condition. The three Hundred and Eighty-fourth Anniversary of the discovery of the New World by Columbus was commemorated by the Americans of Italian origin, yesterday by unveiling the statue of the illustrious navigator, on the Centennial grounds at Philadelphia, on the 12th inst. The ceremony was attended with appropriate exercises. Italian societies from all the leading cities were represented.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Greece is putting her army on a war footing.

Russia proposes a national loan of three hundred million rubles.

Warlike demonstrations by the populace of Athens still continue.

The St. Petersburg National Bank has stopped payment of its bills in gold.

The influx of Russian soldiers into Serbia is assuming most serious proportions.

England, Italy, and France have pronounced in favor of the five months' armistice.

Schir Pasha, one of the Turkish commanders, has driven off the insurgents and routed Bilek.

The Indians at Standing Rock have signed a treaty relinquishing the Black Hills country.

Great distress is prevalent in Deccan and Southern Marhatt, in India, occasioned by the failure of the crops.

The influx of Russian officers and troops into Turkey increases, and is assuming a more serious aspect than ever.

The last surviving native of Tasmania is no more. She was a Queen, and her name was Lidgwidgee Tannamoon.

Rumors are current in Vienna of an alliance being on the point of conclusion between Russia and Austria.

The plague has broken rear among the Serbian soldiers, owing, it is thought, to the unseasonable heat of the weather.

The Turks talk calmly of their determination to fight Russia single handed. Russia is concentrating troops in the Caucasus.

Count Von Arnim's sentence will involve the forfeiture of his title and the sequestration of his property.

Some Turkish creditors have made a seizure of 295 Krupp guns that were being shipped from Antwerp to Turkey.

The resignation of the Duke of Abercorn of the position of Viceroy of Ireland is confirmed, the Duke of Marlborough succeeding him.

Orders have been issued for the immediate raising of all fortifications in the Eastern provinces that are not occupied by Spanish troops.

Constantinople despatches report great uneasiness there, and little hope of averting war. Popular feeling against Russia is very bitter.

Serbia and Montenegro have both rejected the proposed armistice, and the latter has issued another scheme of reform, chiefly legislative.

The Times correspondent at Belgrade says that relief is general there that a great war is impending, and is likely to commence almost immediately.

The London Times says the tone of the Turkish note is most conciliatory, and contains nothing at which Russia or any other power could reasonably take offence.

Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet on the Bulgarian atrocities reached a sale of 7,000 within a few days of its publication, the gross receipts from its sale being about \$8,750.

Germany's attitude is not understood by the diplomats. Bismarck is supposed to be bidding his impending end, and is likely to commence almost immediately.

Berlin despatches say that Russia's objections to the Porte's proposal are made in such a manner as to indicate a desire for negotiations on her part, and no fear need be entertained from immediate collision.

The Toronto Mail has an article signed M. H. charging that Mr. McKenzie abandoned the Esquimaux and Nanaimo Railway in order to secure Mr. Blake's entrance into the Cabinet in May 1875. Mr. Blake would enter the Cabinet on no other condition.