

EUROPE AND AMERICA.

On both sides of the Atlantic—in Europe where there is war, and in this country where there is peace—the deliberations of the respective governments are, at the present moment, so highly and so closely connected with each other. Each waits with anxiety to see how its rulers and diplomatists will perform the work before them, and the affairs of one are turned round to the glory of that of the other. Never before, in the history of either, was the work before its rulers of a more momentous character, and never before presented than exists between each, both in the nature of the subjects, and in the nature of the affairs, and yet with the deliberations of each, the interests of the other are intimately blended. The Powers of Europe at war, and the Government of the United States at peace, are in fact—the one, in the approaching Peace Negotiation, and the other, in its Congress just organized, on the threshold of deliberation; the great interests separately to each, and jointly to all. And there is a hush, and a breathless waiting, as it were, on both sides of the Atlantic, to see how the diplomatists and legislators, on the one hand, and Republican diplomatists and legislators on the other, will enter at once on the gigantic tasks before them.

While in Europe the grand question for deliberation is Peace or War, the questions before our present Congress are more complicated, and of a more comprehensive character, from which ill-judged diplomacy and violent legislation can cause both civil and national war to ensue. The relations of the two countries are already beyond the subject of debate before the Senate. The points in dispute with Great Britain, relating to the Central American question, and the alleged encroachments of our laws, have formed the foundation for exciting speeches, and the same question will doubtless come before the House. With Spain, and with France, the relations of the United States are also part of the work of the present Congress. And last of these foreign matters of dispute comes the affair of the Texas Territory, which stands on the side of the work of settling these difficult, delicate, and exciting foreign questions, stands the equally grave and momentous task of settling the claims of the United States against the Kingdom of Great Britain, and the affairs of that Territory generally. Even into readiness has been just organized the "Irish Legion" for work, there comes a cry of "No more war!" and the Government, by instant harangue and energetic action on the part of the Government. And with these affairs of the present Congress will address itself to those of minor, although still of great importance. The Navy Bill, which has already engaged the attention of the House, and which being before the House is looked forward to with great interest. The decisions of the Board have not met the general approval of the country, and the action of Congress is demanded to reverse the wrong where wrong has been committed.

The Tariff, the Secretary of the Treasury, having submitted a plan for its modification, will also come before Congress, and the settlement by that body of the conflicting views on the subject, is a matter of great interest to the country. And last of all, and one of the important business that we need at present attention comes the momentous question of Utah and the Mormons. Is Congress to give that Territory, or not? Are he and the basely community, over which he rules, above the power of the United States, or are they not? The people of Utah are asking us this grave question—a so settled by Congress.

And thus, while Europe pauses at the present moment before the threshold of the Conference of Peace, and our people are waiting to see that the watching is one of deep anxiety on both sides cannot be denied, but that second Peace Conference, we believe, that will witness the negotiation of a Peace, and the signing of the last, we are firm in the belief, that our Congress will legislate for the best interests of the country, and the satisfaction of the people, both foreign and domestic, which seem so difficult of adjustment without violent resorts, will find at the hands of Congress a happy solution. We are firm in the belief, that our Congress require it.—With the Peace of Europe, and our progress advanced by the settlement of our difficulties at home and abroad, there would be no doubt, but that we should be on the other side of the Atlantic, a future, capable of being made one of unexampled advancement and prosperity, by following in the paths of a liberal and peaceable policy, and forming a happy end to the present anxious pause before the deliberations of European and American diplomatists and legislators.—*N. Y. Courier and Enquirer.*

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAMS, C. B.

The gallant subject of this memoir was born in Andropolis, Nova Scotia, in the

latter part of the year 1800, and entered the Royal Artillery (in which service his father before him had attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel) at the age of twenty-five.

For some fifteen years past he was employed principally, if not entirely, in the diplomatic duties, and had just successfully concluded the settlement of the Turco-Persian boundary question, when he went with Russia afforded to Lord Clarendon the opportunity to test his talents in a new sphere, by nominating him her Britannic Majesty's Military Commissioner to the Turkish Forces at Kars, and to the rank and retire of Brigadier-General.

How well General Williams acquitted himself of the trust reposed in him, and justified the sagacity evidenced by Lord Clarendon in his choice, let not England only, but the united voice of the cabinets and armies of Europe declare. In this instance, at any rate, "the right man was put into the right place," and rarely has history presented to our notice the parallel fact of a General more honoured in the circumstances attending his defeat, than it falls to the lot of most men to be in the achievement of the most complete success.

Whatever human skill and forethought, left to its own resources, could plan, whatever the highest order of moral courage and of physical endurance could achieve—it will be readily granted to General Williams and the heroic garrison of Kars (Turkish, Polish, and Hungarian, as well as British) that in each and all of these qualities they were severally and pre-eminently distinguished.

How is it then, that the honours of the Bath, so lavishly dispensed in the Crimea, should in the case of General Williams, up to the present time at least, have been withheld, his services (and the corresponding disparagement of others) the only British General engaged in this present war upon whose judgment, tactics, and bearing, and sufficiency for the position in which he was placed, "best as that position was by fame as well as by foes, the national verdict of approval has been pronounced, without the slightest admixture of censure, from first to last?

General Williams has four sisters living—three in British North America, and one in the United States. He has also a daughter, Winchester, married to Wm. Lieut.-Colonel O'Halloran, of the Winchester Depot Battalion.

It only remains for the writer to add that his public qualities as a diplomatist and soldier, severely tested as they have been, prior to receiving the impress of nation's gratitude and admiration, are at least equalled, if not surpassed, by the upright and benignant character of the man.

Letters from General Williams, dated Erzurum, Dec. 14, have been received at Constantinople. The journey from Alexandretta was accomplished in five days. On the second and third day the country, mountainous and grand, was well wooded and covered with vegetation; on the fourth and last, they travelled over a plain, the mud retarding considerably their progress. The General is enchanted with the climate of Tiflis, which he says is equal to that of Italy. He and his staff enjoy the most robust health, and continue to receive from the Russian authorities every mark of attention and courtesy. Orders were expected from St. Petersburg relative to their ulterior destination.

By the last steamer from Constantinople we learn that General Williams has been sent off to Moscow, where he will remain a prisoner, most probably, till the preliminaries of peace are signed.—Illustrated News.

THE ASYLUM FOR INSANES.—A petition is before the Legislature for the establishment of an asylum for insaniates, wherein they may receive such treatment as shall restore them to a sound mind, or afford such relief as shall render the asylum a self-supporting institution, for the most miserable victims of intemperance. The object of the petition is to amend an Act of 1854 petitioned the Legislature in behalf of the State Reform School for Girls. The object of the petition is certainly a good one, and there is reason to believe that it will be granted, if feasible. Institutions for insaniates exist abroad, and it is said to have been attended with success in Sweden, hospitals exist where insaniates are cured by the simple process of giving them their favorite drink to the exclusion of every other beverage, and the use of a certain article of their food, until the taste and smell of gin, rum or brandy, as the case may be, becomes nauseating that the disgust can never be removed, and their craving for it is entirely satiated. It is not uncommon for physicians in England to make the care and treatment of the insaniates a speciality, and one of the most talented of English physicians, who deceased, was during the latter and most useful years of his life a living monument of the benefits of judicious and judiciously administered wine which was used, he was utterly incompetent to master. "We hope the prayer of the petitioners for an asylum for insaniates will be fully considered by the Legislature, and that the expediency of establishing such an asylum care fully investigated. Even if it should not be found to be the best mode of relieving the finances of the Commonwealth to make an appropriation at once for this object, the benefits which would be likely to result from such a course, and the care which should be subject careful inquiry, and the facts given to the public in a report, which would draw attention to the necessity of making provision for a class of our population, who have been called "insaniates," "insaniates for a mind diseased," by an appetite for strong drink, an asylum for its indigent maintenance would be of incalculable benefit to the community.—*Est. Jour.*

The London Times has a remarkable article upon the difficult relations of the United States and England, in relation to Central America, and practically concedes that the American interpretation of the Clayton and Bulwer Treaty is the correct one, and that the British pretensions in that quarter. The Treaty says:

"Let us take our stand on the liberal construction of the Clayton and Bulwer Treaty, which accomplishes for all that we can reasonably in Central America. Let us frankly give up the question of a right to the Mosquito protectorate, and the claim of Guana, and in way of delivering ourselves of the whole embarrassment at once and forever, throw the weight of our arms on the American Government not only to waive its portion of the treaty, in respect of which we have hitherto had nothing to do, but to waive its claim of piracy and murders who have taken forcible possession of the State of Nicaragua, and nothing to do with the United States in that country. Such an example would do more to carry out the intention of the treaty than any amount of protestation of restraint savings or occupation of worthless islands."

THE ROBES OF TABLE MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA. The *San Francisco Bulletin* says: The *San Francisco Herald* says, Turner & Co. engaged in work on Montezuma Flat, at the base of Table Mountain, lately struck upon the richest lead ore in the world. The gold is found in California. Some time since they sunk a shaft upon their claim and struck upon good pay dirt. The shaft was about twenty-five feet deep and they struck a vein of lead ore for the purpose of baiting the water, and have since been actively engaged in drifting and sinking out pay dirt. On Saturday last they struck upon the wonderful rich lead before mentioned. In the first ten buckets of dirt taken from it there was four thousand dollars worth of lead ore. The ore is so rich that scarcely a lump of the size of a man's fist can be taken out that does not hold from fifty to one hundred dollars.

Gas and Gas Meters.—A singular fact has just been brought to light in London, in regard to gas meters. A careful examination of the gas works in that city has established this fact, that the lower the temperature of the air, the velocity with which it flows through the meter, that is, the quantity required is increased in proportion as the quality is deteriorated.

WHERE OUR FASHION COME FROM.—A good anecdote is told of one of the Chippewa Indians who went to the States to see the Indians did not carry the dress of our people, the Europeans.—"We think we started your fashions; your men now wear blankets as we do, and your women paint their faces and wear feathers."

A HIGHLAND WIDOW.—At his death the Lord of Inverness, in Argyreshire, left a beautiful young widow, of course, preconcerted for his loss. After the burial and banquet, clausum and clausum, attended by the piper and fiddler, convened for a dance in the castle hall, resolving to mitigate their grief with the Highland fling; when, unexpectedly, the widow herself came in, all weeds and tears, with the top of her nose severely pruned from her crape cap, and she seated herself mournfully on a bench. The gentlemen who were to lead down the dance thought he could not, in good breeding, ask any other lady than the mistress of the house to stand up with him, and with a deep sigh she consented. He then asked the discoloration upon the name of the spring, &c. the name she would wish to have played. "Oh," said she, "let it be light spring for I have a heavy heart!"—*New Monthly.*

MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR AN ACCIDENT.—A curious accident occurred on the New Albany and Salem railway. The passenger train, having four cars filled with passengers, came to the bridge over Salt Creek, and the engineer, fearing that the heavy rains, which had swelled the stream bank full, had rendered the bridge insecure, directed the passengers to get out of the cars till he could test the strength of the bridge. He crossed on foot, and then directed the fireman to start the engine, jump off, and take the train to the other side. The train started, and on reaching the centre of the bridge it gave way, and the locomotive and cars were plunged into the stream and instantly disappeared from view.

NATURAL MODE OF SETTLING A BET.—Two persons were the other day disputing as to the best quality of each other's hay, and a wager was made on the subject, but the worthies were at a loss to settle the matter. At length one of the disputants, Mr. Win Taylor, suggested that the question should be referred to a horse; if property of Sir Thomas Eskeine, Bart, one of the officers of the Royal Denbigh Militia. The noble animal, being accustomed to partake of the very best food, was presented with a small quantity of each party's hay, the same being placed a short distance apart and the question as to quality was at once decided by the horse showing a decided preference for the hay of the other individual who suggested the experiment. The other party was perfectly satisfied at the result, cheerfully paid the wager, and acknowledged himself at fault.

DELEGES IN THE PLANET SATURN.—In a recent work entitled "The New Theory of Creation and the Deluge," published in London, it is stated that it is probable the rings which surround Saturn are composed of water, snow or ice, which at some future time may descend and cover the globe. The Deluge is said to have taken place in the days of Noah. It now appears that this event is likely to take place a little sooner than was anticipated, for the rings have been found to be fluid. These astronomers are of the opinion that this fluid ring is not of very recent date, and that it is not subject to rapid change; and they have come to the extraordinary conclusion that the inner border of the ring has since the time of Huygens, been gradually approaching the planet. It is said that some day we may expect, sooner or later, perhaps some dozen of years, to see the rings united with the body of the planet."

At the recent anniversary festival of the Barrow Association, in Cincinnati, Mr. Kennedy of Oxford, Ohio, presented to the society a superb pipe, some owned by Barrow, and upon which the name of the latter was engraved. It was presented by one who played to his success [Highland Melody]. The Louisville (Ky.) Courier estimates that the pipe was worth a million dollars worth of potatoes in harvest.