

be, and he certainly would never have been inaugurated had a searching scrutiny of the returns been made. But although President Hayes owes his election to fraud, the people were so wearied by the suspense, and business interests have suffered so severely, that the result has been received with general acquiescence. The declarations of Mr. Hayes, both before and at his inauguration, were eminently satisfactory and reassuring to all parties, especially in the South. In constituting his cabinet, the new President's aim appeared to be eminently conciliatory. Messrs. Evarts and Schurz especially were favourably known as liberal Republicans opposed to Gen. Grant's Southern policy, and Postmaster General Key had been a prominent Confederate. Moreover, Mr. Hayes had, of set purpose, separated himself from the Grant connection and its unsavoury memories. No member of the late Cabinet was solicited to retain his portfolio, and the Chandlers, Mortons, Camerons, and Blaines were left out in the cold. With regard to the South, Mr. Hayes announced his determination to remove the National troops, and openly favoured the claims of Nicholls and Hampton to the Governorships of Louisiana and South Carolina respectively. He has now appointed a Southern Commission to investigate the rival claims of the parties—a step which appears to have revived the distrust of the

people in the disputed States. They are beginning to fear that the insinuation that Mr. Hayes was wanting in inflexibility of will was too well founded. At the present time there are grave apprehensions of an armed outbreak in the South; but it is to be hoped that the same calm spirit of forbearance which has hitherto preserved the Union from turmoil and bloodshed may endure until the deadly legacy left by the rebellion ceases to vex the peace of the Republic.

As spring approaches the Russo-Turkish difficulty again appears to assume menacing proportions. The protocol submitted by England, though rejected by Turkey, has been assented to by Russia, but only with modifications Lord Derby refuses to admit, unless the Czar orders previously the demobilization of his army. Turkey having enacted the farce of a Parliamentary meeting, with a Royal speech, appears determined to make an obstinate stand upon that embodiment of false pretence. There are rumours of fresh outrages in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Albania. The preparations for war are being hastily urged forward, and, as spring advances, there is too much reason to fear that the mask will be thrown aside by both the diplomatic mummery, and the quarrel submitted at last to the dread arbitrament of the sword.

March 23rd, 1877.