

EUROPE AND AMERICA.

On both sides of the Atlantic—in Europe where there is war, and this country where there is peace—the deliberations of the respective governments are, at the present moment, the subjects of absorbing interests to the people of each. Each waits with anxiety to see how its rulers and diplomatists will perform the work before them, and the glance of each is anxiously turned from its own affairs to 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 did either need, that councils should be marked by higher wisdom. No stronger contrast was ever presented than exists between each, both in nature of government and condition of 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 both, in fact—the one, in the approaching Peace Negotiation, and the other, in its Congress just organized—on the threshold of deliberations of the greatest importance, 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 monarchical 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 many and complicated, and in some of them are the elements from which ill-judged diplomacy and violent legislation can issue, both civil and national war to spring. Our relations with Great Britain have already been the subject of debate before the Senate. The points in dispute with Great Britain, relating to the Central American question, and the alleged violations of the neutrality laws, have formed the foundation for exciting speeches, and the same question will doubtless soon come before the House. With Spain too, we have some affairs to settle, and this must also be part of the work of the present Congress. And last of these foreign matters of dispute comes the affair of the Sound Dues. And by the side of the work of settling these difficult, delicate, and exciting foreign questions, stands the equally grave and momentous task of settling the conflicting claims of the Kansas delegates, and the affairs of that Territory generally. Even while Congress has been just organized itself into readiness for work, there comes a cry of outrage from Kansas, which demands an instant hearing and energetic action on the part of the government. And with these affairs of more serious import, the country waits to see how Congress will address itself to those of minor, although still of great importance. The Navy Retiring Board has already engaged the attention of the Senate, and its coming before the House is looked forward to with great interest. The decisions of the Board have not met with the general approval of the country, and the action of Congress is demanded to redress 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, among the important business that we need at present mention comes the anomalous question of Utah and the Mormons. Is Governor Young Governor of Utah or not? Are he and the beastly community over which he rules, above the power of the United States, or are they not? The people of the other States wait to see this grave question as settled by Congress.

And thus, while Europe pauses at the present moment before the threshold of the Conference of Peace, we pause before the door of Congress. That the watching is one of deep anxiety on both sides cannot be denied, but while we are encouraged to believe, that this second Peace Negotiation in Europe will not bear fruitless as the last, we are firm in the belief, that our Congress will legislate for the best interests of the country, and that all the existing questions, both foreign and domestic, which seem so difficult of adjustment without violent resorts, will find at the hands of Congress a happy solution. We have strong faith in American patriotism, wisdom, and prudence, and believe that they are ever ready to rise above all sectional and party differences, when imminent occasions require it. With peace, secured in Europe, and our progress advanced by the settlement of our difficulties at home and abroad, there would seem to spread out, before the nations on both sides of the Atlantic, a future, capable of being made one of unexampled advancement and prosperity, by following in the paths of a liberal and enlightened peace, and one 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 Annapolis, 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 the war 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 with the rank and retinue 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—he being notoriously (without 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 facts, 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 niece at Winchester, married to Brevet Lieut.-Colonel O'H. Moran, of the Winchester Depot Battalion.

It only remains for the writer to add that his public qualities is 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 Tiflis, Dec. 14, have been received at Erzeroum. The journey from Alexandropol 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 quite 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.

Asylum for Inebriates.—A petition is before the Legislature, praying for the establishment of an asylum for inebriates, wherein they may receive such treatment as shall restore them to soundness of health and sanity of mind; and also to afford such facilities as shall render the asylum a self-supporting institution, for the now miserable victims of intemperance. The author of the petition is the same lady who in 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 its accomplishment is feasible. Institutions for inebriates exist abroad, and it is said to have been attended with much success. We have seen it stated that in Sweden, hospitals exist where inebriates are cured by the simple process of giving them their favorite drink to the exclusion of every other beverage, and flavoring with it every 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 overcome, and their craving appetite for it is satiated. It is not uncommon for physicians in England to make the care and treatment of inebriates a speciality, and one of the most talented of English poets, now deceased, was during the latter and most useful years of his life a living monument of the benefits of judicious and friendly treatment for a vice which, unaided, he was utterly incompetent to master.

We hope the prayer of the petitioners for an asylum for inebriates will be fully considered by a committee of the Legislature, and the expediency of establishing such an asylum carefully investigated. Even if it should not be deemed advisable in the present state of the finances of the Commonwealth to make an appropriation at once for this object, the benefits which would be likely to result from such an institution might be made the subject of 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 whose condition is truly pitiable. If there is any "medicine for a mind diseased," by an appetite for strong drink, an asylum for its judicious administration would be of incalculable benefit to the community.—Bas. Jour.

The London Times has a remarkable article upon the difficulties between the United States and England, in relation to Central America, and practically concedes that the American interpretation of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty is just.—It recommends the abandonment of British pretensions in that quarter. The Times says:

"Let us take our stand on the literal construction of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty, which accomplishes for us all that we can reasonably in Central America. Let us frankly give up our questionable right to the Mosquito protectorate and the Island of Huasteca, and, by way of delivering ourselves of the whole embarrassment at once and forever, throw the worthless settlement of Balize into the bargain. In return, let us call upon the American Government not only to observe its portion of the treaty, in respect of which we have hitherto had nothing to complain, but also to root out the gang of pirates and murderers who have taken forcible possession of the State of Nicaragua, and hold it in defiance of the will of both countries. Such an example would do more to carry out the intention of the treaty than any amount of protection to drunken savages or occupation of worthless islands."

THE RICHES OF TABLE MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA. Four Hundred Dollars to a Bucket.—The Seneca Herald says, Turner & Co., engaged in mining on Montezuma Flat, at the base of Table Mountain, lately struck upon the richest lead of gold that we believe has ever been 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 was very wet. They erected a wheel for the purpose of hauling the water, and have since been actively engaged in drifting and taking out pay dirt, until 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 gold! The lead is rather narrow, but 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 quality of gas, the greater the velocity with which it flows through the meter: that is, the quantity registered is increased in proportion as the quality is deteriorated.

WHERE OUR FASHIONS COME FROM.—A good anecdote is told of one of the Chippewa Indians now at the North. He was asked why the Indians did not copy the dress of our people. He replied:—"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 Laird of—, in Argyleshire, left a beautiful young widow, of course inconsolable for his loss. After the burial and banquet, clansmen and clanswomen, 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 tip of her nose scarcely peeping from her crape cap, and she seated herself mournfully on a bench. The gentlemen who was 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 disconsolate widow the name of the spring, i. e. the tune she would wish to have played. "Oh," said she, "let it be a 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 Fall creek, near Bloomington, 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 he would catch it on 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 find a party competent to decide the question, which was considered a knotty point. At length one of the disputants, Mr. Wm Taylor, suggested that the question should be referred to a horse, the property of Sir Thomas Erskine, 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.

DELUGE IN THE PLANET SATURN.—In a recent work entitled "The New Theory of Creation and Deluge," among other startling predictions 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 deluge the planet, as ours was deluged into days of Noah. It now appears that this event is likely to take place a little sooner than was anticipated, for Sir David Brewster says:

"Mr. Otto Sturwe and Mr. Bond have lately studied with the great Munich telescope at the Observatory of Pulkoway, the third ring of Saturn, which Mr. Dawsons and Mr. Bond discovered to be fluid. These astronomers are of the opinion that this fluid ring is not of very recent formation, 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 body of Saturn, and that we may expect, sooner or later, perhaps in some dozen of years, to see the rings united with the body of the planet."

At the recent anniversary festival of the Burns Association, in Cincinnati, Mr. Kennedy of Oxford, Ohio presented to the society a shepherd's pipe once owned by Burns, and upon which the poet had often played to his "sweet Highland Mary." The Louisville (Ky.) Courier estimates that the cold weather has ruined half a million dollars worth of potatoes in that city.