

"The only reason why Lord Salisbury should thus throw doubts on my good intentions must be the intrigues of certain persons here or false statements made to cause such an opinion." After intermediate observations, his Majesty says: "I repeat that I will execute the reforms. I will take the paper containing them, place it before me, and see that every article is put in force. This is my earnest determination, and I give my word of honour. I wish Lord Salisbury to know this, and I beg and desire his Lordship, having confidence in these declarations, to make another speech by virtue of the friendly feeling and disposition he has for me and my country. I shall await the result of this letter with the greatest anxiety."

What Lord Salisbury really thinks of this pathetic message it is difficult to know. He remarked that the terrible Armenia problem is quite as much the want of competent men as it is the want of adequate laws. "The powers will doubtless do their best," said the Premier, "but do not imagine that the deep-seated diseases in the Empire can be cured by a wave of a magician's wand. The results of long years of error must be paid for, and the cruel law is that those who will pay are not those who were originally guilty of the offence." We are afraid that the Sultan cannot be depended upon. He is hardly a free agent to begin with, and this is not the first time by any means that he has made promises equally solemn and equally pathetic. His letter is more a tribute to the influence Lord Salisbury wields in Europe than an indication that the desired reforms will be promptly carried out.

An Amiable
Illusion.

The London Spectator characterizes as "an amiable illusion" the idea that a constitutional revolution is possible in Turkey, and that the Empire might be governed under any Sultan by a representative body. This eminent journal, the opinions of which are always worthy respect and consideration, states that the Arabs, who will hardly obey the Ottoman Khalif, would certainly not obey an elected body sitting at Constantinople. Arabia, Syria, part of Anatolia, Tripoli, and Egypt would be at once lost to the Turkish dominion. The Christian electors throughout the Empire would immediately demand arms, and if they were once armed, civil war would rage in every province, while the army, which now holds society together, would fall into absolute and most dangerous anarchy. The Spectator points out that the coherent force of the army consists in this, that seventy per cent. of its men and nine-five per cent. of its officers are Ottomans by blood and creed, a dominant caste accustomed to rule, and ready to die rather than give up ruling. A free Parliament of all creeds, and the sway of a dominant caste, with its legislation controlled by its own Sacred Law, both together, is an obvious impossibility. "The Asiatic mind believes, too, that power comes from God, and not from the people; and while it wishes for justice regards limitations of authority as unendurable fetters which prevents justice from being done. If there is to be a revolution, it must proclaim a new Sultan; and that, as all men can see, will be only a postponement of the ultimate catastrophe, which, in the changed conditions of the world, is bound speedily to arrive." The Ottoman caste, brave as it is, and able as many of its leaders are, cannot go on ruling an Empire.

The Times and
the Colonies.

The London Times of the 7th instant has an interesting editorial on Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the banquet given by the Agent-General of Natal to celebrate the completion of the Natal-Transvaal Railway. As we have previously remarked, it was Mr. Chamberlain's first public appearance in the capacity of Secretary of State for the Colonies, and his

speech was anticipated with peculiar interest. The Times remarks that he has never appeared to greater advantage or dealt with great Imperial interests in a more admirable manner. He carried the whole group of Colonial problems into the serener air of statesmanship. It has seemed easy in England to show that material interests were all making for the separation and disruption of the Colonies; and the fashion has been to ignore and deride the part played by sentiment and imagination in the affairs of men. Hence it became a note of advanced thought to regard the separation of all the Colonies as inevitable, and a proof of political wisdom to expedite the process by pouring scorn upon the sentiment which the Colonies themselves fervently manifested. With respect to the great change which has been effected in the current mode of regarding Colonial questions, The Times says it corresponds with the great shifting of opinion upon the general principles of economics and politics. Trade has been found to follow, not so much the flag as the language and traditions of England. The old distrust of Imperial greatness lingers, as Mr. Chamberlain notes, in the impatience with which some still hear of Imperial Federation. That impatience, says The Times, would have some justification were there to be found any marked insistence upon a definite scheme of Imperial Federation. "The strength of the idea lies in its vagueness. The time is not ripe for translating the aspiration, or—as Mr. Chamberlain does not object to call it—the dream into concrete arrangements. The dream is, however, as he justly says, one which has fired the imagination of millions of men in many climes, and is, therefore, to be reckoned with as a potent factor in their lives. A dream so welcomed is one of the most solid realities." The Times concludes by saying that the working out of the ideas of Imperial unity which have made such notable progress of late years must be the business of the immediate future. If approached in the spirit Mr. Chamberlain displayed at this notable banquet, amid the applause of his audience, there is reason to hope that the solution may be the consolidation of great bodies of English-speaking peoples into a powerful and enduring federation.

The Atlantic
Service.

According to a cable despatch of Tuesday last, it is reported and generally credited in the official circles of London that the Imperial Government has decided to join Canada in the establishment of a fast trans-Atlantic service. We are glad to state that this report has been confirmed. Active steps will speedily be taken towards establishing a steamship line equal in speed and in comfort and appointments to any line on the Atlantic. When Canada possesses such a service it will soon take its place as the favourite route not only with Canadians but with many Americans. Fast trains would run in connection with the line from New York, Boston, Chicago, and other American cities, in the winter to Halifax or St. John, in the summer to Montreal or Quebec. It would become, before long, one of the greatest highways of the world.

The Lowe
"Insurrection."

The settlers in Lowe Township, of the Province of Quebec, object to paying their taxes. They are chiefly Irish, we understand, and so have had large practice in the Emerald Isle in the art of not paying. They have paid little or nothing since 1878, when the municipality of Wakefield and Lowe was divided. The County Council has been set at naught and mocked, its notices trampled under foot, and its agents despitely treated. For some time Lowe Township has been entirely without municipal government. It has had