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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1878.

THE WEEK.

THE learned geographer, Dr. Petermann, claims for Stanley a very high position among African explorers. He goes so far as to call him the Bismark of Africa, and draws a parallel between the celebrated "statesman's combination of the smaller German States into a solid empire, and the weaving into one perfect fabric of geographical knowledge of all the hitherto disunited threads of Central African discovery, accomplished by the explorer's solution of the problem of the Congo." He thinks that Stanley "has done more than all the scientific expeditions for the exploration of Africa which have been going on for thirty years; more than all the European travellers there who date back from eighty years; more also than all the Arabian adventurers who have been seeking ways into Africa for perhaps a thousand years." Dr. Petermann's eulogium would seem to have special reference to discoveries in connection with the River Congo; and we rather incline to think that, although without a doubt Stanley will be considerably lionized a few days hence when he shall have reached Great Britain, the English savans will scarcely give him so high a niche in the Temple of Fame as Dr. Petermann inclines to do. He claims that Stanley's discoveries explain at once the reports that have been gathered by each of the North African travellers since Browne first reached Darfur in 1793, of a great river to the south which marked a limit beyond which the Arab traders were unable to go in their slave-raids: the Kubanda of Barth, the Kuta of Nachtigal, or the great "mysterious and often mentioned river" of Schweinfurth, "which is so broad that from its banks only sky and water can be seen, being impossible to be any other than the Congo. At any rate it is now evident that Tuckey was correct in his decided opinion that the Congo came from somewhere north of the equator. The information gathered by Tuckey to this effect was doubted by geographers at the time he produced it, and was subsequently altogether discarded by them.

The preparations for peace have not made much progress, according to the latest intelligence. Our readers are aware that Russia declined to treat with England on the subject and insisted that she would treat only with a plenipotentiary from Turkey. And both Germany and Austria appear disposed to take part with Russia in any complications that may arise; while we are further informed that France has asked the British Government very significantly whether she has any ulterior designs on Egypt; so that at the present moment England appears to stand altogether alone on the Eastern question. In England, at least, the theory appears to have been almost supposed that Europe has conceded to Russia a privileged position for the settlement of the Eastern question, the

privilege of which is good for war but not for peace. In this view Russia's privileged position would only allow her to crush the Turks in battle, but would cease as soon as negotiations would begin. In point of fact, indeed, Europe has assented that Russia may fight the Turks separately, but cannot agree that she should treat with them separately. It is somewhat archly remarked that this principle would lead inevitably to the annihilation of the poor Ottomites, since it is plain that if Russia has her hands free as to war, but tied as to diplomacy, she will never negotiate at all, but carry on the fighting till there are no Turks left to treat with. Prince Gortschakoff's organ tries to show that if the Russians go to Constantinople, it will be the fault of England.

It is said that the Russian proposals for peace are known in England, and that they are considerably more moderate than were expected. There have been for some years plenty of people in the British Empire who have very little faith in either Russian promises or Russian intentions. It cannot be disputed that Russia has never shown herself to be anything else than grasping; although, it is remarkable that the French people have precisely the same opinion of England. They can scarcely believe it can be quite accidental that when England once gets her foot firmly planted on the soil its facilities for locomotion are wonderfully expansive; and its tenacity is equally remarkable. That Russia should covet Constantinople is not very strange. It is an exceedingly picturesque spot. But if her expressed intentions at the beginning of the war are worth anything at all, her conditions of peace will have less regard to increase of territory than to the emancipation of the Christian provinces, which, as we have frequently remarked, ought not to have been left for Russia alone to secure. Indeed, for her to ask any increase of territory at all, unless, perhaps a town or so on the Black Sea, by way of compensation for the sacrifices she has made (which she says have been tremendous!), will be a virtual abandonment of the principles she professed in declaring war. But as a year ago, so now, the Christians are scarcely thought of, while the only question appears to be between Russia and Turkey.

The Bishop of Manchester, some years ago, was one of the members of a commission appointed by the British Government, in order to investigate the system of education carried on in the United States. He has just been giving his opinion on the subject, which is that the elementary schools in the United States attempt to teach too much, and we imagine the same objection will soon lie against the system of instruction adopted in Canada, if the number of -ologies touched upon should increase as rapidly as they have of late. The Bishop's remarks are worth attention. In reference to the teaching in the

United States he says that every knowable thing under the sun is crowded into the curriculum, which has to be run through in an incredibly short period of time, when the youthful aspirant for academic honors presents himself before the world presumably laden with all the fruits of the tree of knowledge. When in the neighboring country, he had the temerity to express his doubts whether Euclid could be mastered in six months, and also whether a number of other subjects of an abstruse nature could also be mastered in the same period of time. He showed that the result of such hasty marches over the domains of science and literature was that there was no solid instruction whatever; and as an instrument of mental discipline, that farrago of multifarious, and, he might say, omnifarious learning, was a great delusion and a prodigious snare. To learn a few things well and thoroughly was, he was quite sure, the right method of disciplining the mind and of ensuring lasting benefit.

The Bishop of Peterborough recently presided at a public meeting in Northampton, the object of which was in aid of the two great missionary societies of the Anglican communion—the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts and the Church Missionary Society. The event is one that has not often occurred, and furnishes in some respects a happy augury. The several objects of the two societies are divergent; but both aim at the extension of the Church of Christ in the Anglican communion throughout the world—the former in the colonies and dependencies of the British Empire, and the latter in the regions that are beyond the limits of the British Dominions. The two societies should work together in the greatest harmony, because they have one common object and they labor in one common cause, under one great Leader and for the establishment of His Kingdom in the world. The Bishop said he was glad to preside over a meeting of these two important societies, because it was a sign of unity, and as long as Christ's Kingdom was united it must prosper. The Church was divided at home by petty differences which ought not to divide it; but he was glad to think that abroad they forgot these little petty differences, because they are in the presence of the terrible realities of heathendom, and they remember that they are members of Christ's Church and Kingdom, and that in front of these are His foes. He would not say these two great societies were opposed, but their works are divergent. They are one in aim, one in heart. They are as two hands, which though they are often used in diverse work, they are sometimes clasped, especially in the acts of prayer and worship.

Prince Milan, of Serbia, has published his reasons for again declaring war against Turkey. He says that of all the nationalities of the Turkish empire, those who bear the