

the noble structures of the older and better days and substituting palace after palace of hideous unsightliness, and if he clings to his quixotic military expeditions and unremunerative public works, there can be no hope for him or his dynasty. What can be done to relieve the financial embarrassments of a ruler, who has nine hundred wives, concubines, female slaves, and attendants? He is about to put himself into the hands of a set of Levantine sharpers and they will finish his career, if they have full swing.

Nothing on the Continent of Europe demands special attention this month, if we except the black cloud which is rising threateningly above the Eastern horizon. The Turkish Empire, people may disguise it as they may, is falling to pieces, and must collapse finally at no distant date. Andrassy notes and Rodich interviewings cannot arrest the inevitable doom of a wretched empire, tottering upon the verge of the grave. The three Emperors may agree, fall out and make it up again, but whether their relations are cordial or the reverse, they cannot effect the rejuvenescence of the Porte. The revolted provinces will not consent to temporary

compromises, and they remain now masters of the situation. Neither Austria nor Russia can persuade them to lay down their arms, and they dare not attempt to coerce them. Every delay is not only dangerous, but pregnant with a mass of possible troubles, problematical perhaps, but not the less terrible to the view. Turkey cannot conquer the Slavonic Provinces, and whenever the crisis comes, the *entente cordiale* between Austria and Russia will vanish away like the morning dew. The prominent position to be occupied in future by the Czarewitch is ominous; and the death of the Kaiser William would set in motion the rooted hatred and antagonism between Germany and Russia. Amidst the deceptive and contradictory telegrams that reach us from day to day, we may discern, reading between the lines, most serious fears of a terrible wide-spread conflagration, and we may be sure that the torch will be applied when Nemesis has inscribed upon the palace walls of Constantinople the tardy sentence—"Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin—God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it; thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting."

BOOK REVIEWS.

HISTORY OF CANADA. For the use of Schools. By J. Frith Jeffers, B. A. Toronto: James Campbell & Son.

A HISTORY OF CANADA. For the use of Schools. By Andrew Archer. Prescribed by the Board of Education for New Brunswick. London: T. Nelson & Sons; St. John: J. & A. McMillan.

It is not so easy a task to compile a history of Canada as might at first sight appear; and that for several reasons. Two of these lie on the surface, and arise from the nature of the material to be handled. In the first place, unless the Dominion is to be always without an historical record, the annals of the various Provinces must in some way or other be welded together, or at least so far presented side by side, with their occasional points of contact carefully noted, as to present something like a homogeneous whole. Then, again, there are

large tracts of the domain which are perfectly barren, from the historian's point of view. The French period is full of matter of the deepest dramatic, often tragic, interest, and this holds good both of Canada proper and Acadia. No pages in the world's history afford richer openings for one or even two great prose epics. After 1760, however, there only remains the American Revolution and the war of 1812; all the rest is of importance to the constitutional historian or to the student of sociology alone. Three works at most—The history of Canada proper, from Jacques Cartier to Montcalm; the history of Acadia, from 1600 to 1763; and what may roughly be styled Canada under George III., *i. e.* from 1760 to the peace of 1815—would exhaust all the material we can muster for public history. After that, with the exception of the "scrimmage" of 1837-8, if we may so term it, there is nothing to record except political struggles and material progress. There are