

Weekly Monitor.

BRIDGETOWN, JULY 19, 1876.

INDIAN WAREFARE.

In the last bloody fight between the Indians and United States troops in the Montana Territory, the loss of life, in proportion to numbers, was fearful. It was a terrible scene of human (or rather inhuman) slaughter. It was a stupid rash act on the part of General Custer, whose life paid the forfeit of his semi-insane rashness. United States papers are proficaciously eloquent in their denunciations of the savage cruelty of the Indians; and their mode of warfare is justly stigmatized as "demoniac-like." It is true, however, that battle-fields and war, whether conducted on civilized or barbarous systems of fighting, have the object of killing their opponents in view. No matter whether the foe is slain by a gold-hilted sword or a tomahawk—by the most improved modern rifle or the scalping-knife—the result is the same: human life is sacrificed. No matter whether a military commander wears on his shoulder a gaudy epaulet, or is rendered conspicuous by a showy profusion of war paint, his object is to slay his enemy. Warriors, whether civilized or savage, in encountering an enemy on the battlefield, have the same object in view—the destruction of human life.

Why the sensitive journals over the border should indulge in such vehement utterances against the Indians for cruelty in war, and say nothing of the blood-thirstiness of the whites when aroused to vengeance, is to us inexplicable. During the four years' civil war in the United States—in almost every encounter from the battle at Bull's Run to the downfall of Richmond—the cruelties of warfare were as horrid as if they generally are in the sanguinary conflicts of savages. Some of the United States journals are calling for a war of extermination against the Indians. They allege that the native tribes are treacherous, and can never be trusted—that they "violate treaties without scruple—that their instincts are predatory—and that robbery is their natural vocation. It is notorious that there have been most nefarious instances of true-breeding on the part of the whites in their treaties with the Indians. These unlettered inhabitants of the wilderness have been driven from their ancient hunting grounds on the shores of the Atlantic till their last retreat is in the fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains. The agreements to remunerate them for removing from territories that rightly belonged to them, in many instances have not been carried out; and to this cause many of the predatory incursions of the Indians are entirely attributable. It may be that the bloody strife in Montana may be traced to this cause. These untutored herds of natives may have been provoked to the perpetration of recent excesses. They may have been stung to vindictive resentment by the violation of some treaty, or by some invasion of their hunting grounds on the part of troublesome intrusive white settlers. Solemnly signed treaties and national pledges made to the credulous Indians have been openly broken again and again.

And yet they are denounced in the papers of the United States as "habitué thieves and robbers." Insincere treaties and fraudulent diplomacy are just as condemnable as secret thefts and forcible robbery. Effectually they are the same. We are not quite sure that the people of the United States have many stones to throw at the Indians for rapine, cruelty, or kjarajah bargain-making. A New York paper says: "that after feeding and arming the Indians, the Government charged them and now learns that even Sioux cannot be swindled with absolute impunity."

THE BIRDS.

People of observation in the rural districts of our province have not failed to notice a very considerable decrease in the number of wild birds that flit through the air, and sing in the trees. This diminution in the feathered family is more perceptible, perhaps, in the swallow tribe than in any other variety of the "winged minstrel of the sky." But birds of every kind are becoming less numerous than they were a few years ago. It may be assumed that this decrease is mostly attributable to the recklessness with which they have been destroyed and driven from their haunts by the guns of inconsiderate sportsmen. The wanton propensities of ill taught boys who rob their nests, both before and after hatching, have also tended to diminish their numbers. This summer there is not a tithe of the swallows in multitudes that swirled in the air ten years ago. Almost every species of birds, whether permanently belonging to the country or migratory summer visitors, prey upon the innumerable swarms of insects, which do great mischief to trees, shrubs, and orchards. As the birds decrease the pestiferous insects, grubs, slugs and snails increase. The number of insects that are destroyed by one swallow in a single day, is inconceivable. We see this species of semi-domestic bird, flitting incessantly through the air during these long summer days, and if not informed respecting its voracious appetites and habits, we are misled to believe that it is merely exercising its apparently tireless wing for sportive pastime. But in its airy gyrations, it is like an eager hunter in the forest in pursuit of game. Its cravings for insect food, (not wing-exercise for more idle pleasure) impels it to that graceful buoyancy, and to those arrow-like movements which are objects of admiration. Other tribes of the feathered family seek their food as do the swallows, by preying on those varieties of living pests which, though diminutive in size, are so pernicious in our fields and gardens. Were they fifty years ago, we should hear little of insective depredations upon our cultured acres and orchards. By various means we have driven the birds away, and are now suffering the penalty for having done so. One reason why the swallows have decreased in numbers is because they have less facilities for nest-building than they formerly enjoyed. The improvements we have made in the structure and finish of our barns and out-houses, have been detrimental to the interests of architecture in the swallow family. Formerly, when out-buildings were only rough-boarded and rudely finished, the swallows found convenient interstices beneath the eaves for available nest-structure; but now the carpenter's plane and the painter's brush have left the swallows a slight chance for a domicile about the farmer's out-buildings. By the progress of improvement he has been unintentionally driven away. Every Spring migrating colonies of these birds, useful in the way indicated, are repulsed from the haunts in which their feathered ancestors in other days sojourned. It would not cause much expense, or mar the beauty of our out-buildings, if notched planks were nailed accommodatingly under the eaves for the special use of the swallows. There is a law among our provincial statutes for "the protection of game"; but the protection of the smaller birds is of vastly more importance than the preservation of the larger animals for the hunter's gun. Independently of utility, birds in our rural districts tend much to enliven and heighten the attractiveness of Summer. In conclusion, we would say, in consideration of facts already stated, no pains should be spared to keep up and increase bird-colonies in all the agricultural parts of the land.

Conspicence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinion of our correspondents.

[For the Monitor.]

Mr. Euron,

Permit me to give you readers a brief account of the Camp Meeting, lately held in Berwick. Your correspondent arrived on the 10th of July, before the battle commenced. On Thursday July 6th our first meeting was held, it was a social service conducted by the Rev. F. H. Pickles, the President of the C. M. Association. In the evening and fitting words were urged upon all the necessity of personal consecration to God and the exercising of enlarged faith for the success of the succeeding meetings. The Spirit of God was poured out on the people and great grace was upon us all. The faith of the children of God was greatly increased, and many were assured that the meetings of 1876 were to exceed in power, and results any held on the grounds in previous years—nor were they disappointed, for steadily the tide of religious feeling rose until at the close it was the heart-felt opinion of those competent to judge that never had the power of God been more signally displayed than in the present year, in the salvation of souls and in the quickening of believers. The services of Sunday were marked by the evident presence of the Holy Spirit, and by able and effective sermons from the Rev. A. Temple, and C. B. Pittblado, the latter from Manchester, N. H. Not a single unpleasant thing was observed on the grounds during the whole seven days, and from beginning to the close, God graciously signified His acceptance of our worship, and manifested His saving grace, and "If God be for us, who can be against us?" J. D. P. Bridgetown, July 11th, 1876.

THE PARTIES TO, AND THE CAUSE OF THE EASTERN WAR.

From the London World.

It may be interesting to our readers to learn the truth respecting that "Eastern Question" about which much is written and so little known. Turkey in Europe consists of Bosnia (including in this term the Herzegovina), Bulgaria, Roumelia, and Albania. Besides these provinces, Servia, Montenegro, and Rumania pay a tribute to the Sultan. Bosnia.—There are no Osmanlis in Bosnia. When this province was conquered, its feudal proprietors became Mahomedans in order to retain their property. The peasantry remained Christian because they had nothing to lose. Bosnia is governed by a Pasha, who makes common cause with the Mahomedan inhabitants. The Bosnians are slaves; they have a language of their own. The province is not wealthy owing to misrule. A portion of Bosnia is called Herzegovina, and in this portion there are few Turks. Bulgaria.—The Bulgarians, like the Bosnians, are of Slavic origin. They too have a language and a nationality of their own. The Bulgarians of the plains are Christians, and mostly herdsmen; they are frugal and industrious. The Bulgarians of the mountains have become Mahomedans, and are a sort of highland catrains. Albania is peopled by various tribes of no distinct nationality, and the Turks are not distinctly national; they have a language of their own. Some of these tribes are Mahomedans, some belong to the Greek Church, and some to the Roman Catholic Church. The revolts which took place in the province about forty years ago were caused by this that Bog, or chief of a tribe, endeavoring to become independent. There is no cohesion among the clans. Rumania.—In this province nationalities are intermixed. Some villages are Greek and some are Bulgarian; and there is therefore no distinct nationality, and the Turks bear a greater proportion to the rest of the inhabitants than any other provinces. Now take a map. Bosnia is entirely isolated from the rest of Turkey, except at

one narrow pass. North and West it is bounded by Austria to the east by Servia; and south, with the exception of the narrow pass by Montenegro, Bulgaria is bounded on the north by Roumelia, to the west by Servia, on the east by the sea, and it is separated on the south from the rest of Turkey by the gorges of the Balkans. If straight line be drawn from the sea across Turkey, on a level with the Balkans, Bulgaria and Bosnia would lie to the north, Roumelia and Albania to the south. Formerly the "Eastern Question" consisted of the attempt of the Turks to retain Roumelia, Servia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and Bulgaria under their sway. The three former provinces have attained their independence, and at present the "Eastern Question" is limited to the attempt on the part of the Turks to retain their hold over Bosnia and Bulgaria. Naturally the Servians and the Montenegrins side with their co-religionists. The policy of Austria has always been to maintain the status quo along her frontier. She has herself a considerable number of Slavians under her rule. She neither desires to increase their number, nor to augment their strength by the creation of an independent Bulgaria. In Bosnia, however, she has no such prejudice. Russian influence should be predominant in Northern Turkey, she is obliged to profess a certain amount of sympathy with the Turkish Slavians, and she has to express her line *pari passu* with any advance of that of Russia. The Russians regard the Turkish Slavians as co-religionists, and as members of a common nationality. There is, therefore, a considerable amount of *bona fide* sympathy with them. This sympathy, although made up of religious ends, has nothing in itself absolutely political. It is only natural, when events tend to the conclusion that, sooner or later, the Turks will sever their political connection with Europe, that there should exist a vague feeling in Russia that Constantinople may perhaps one day form part of the empire. But no party in Russia dreams that this will occur in the next hundred years, and this political aspiration must not be confounded with the sympathetic bond between the Slavians of Russia and the Slavians of northern Turkey. The policy of England is and long has been, to prevent Russia or any other power from becoming master of the Dardanelles.—This policy has become a portion of our ancestral policy, for no sufficient reason. At most, the Dardanelles a harbour from which fleets must issue, and within which they might take refuge in case of disaster. It is a small and unimportant port, and any other existing harbours. It is, undoubtedly undesirable that Constantinople and the Dardanelles should belong to Russia, but their possessions by that power would be a small and unimportant addition to European war in order to hinder it. Let us suppose they became Russian—what then? Our danger would consist in a fleet being sent to the Dardanelles, and the navigation in India. But Egypt is at a considerable distance from the Dardanelles, and our communications with India by a fleet sailing from the Mediterranean, are not in any danger of being interrupted by a fleet sailing from the Dardanelles. Our mode of giving effect to our hereditary policy is, however, more singular than the policy itself. In order to prevent Russia from obtaining the Dardanelles, we move heaven and earth to prevent Bosnia and Bulgaria from obtaining the same quasi-independence as Servia and Roumelia, although the experiment in the case of these two latter provinces has proved eminently successful. In fact, we never enter into the merits of any scheme to settle the "Eastern Question, and we never put forward any scheme of our own. We say, "Russia say; we say; and, therefore, if Russia suggests anything, we seem to look into the suggestion, and we seem to be in a quandary. In Russian intrigue, and we proceed to act against it. We have arrived at this pitch of folly imperceptibly. It was, years ago, the policy of Lord Palmerston, and it has become the policy of the present Government. Most of them are sons of relations of former consuls, and if they were not employing themselves in "counteracting Russian intrigues," they would feel that their occupation was to prevent Russia from obtaining the Dardanelles. There is no reason, in the nature of things, that our views respecting the future of Turkey should be invariably right, and our policy invariably wrong. We long held that our interests were best maintained in the presence of a Turk at Athens. The independence of Greece was regarded as a Russian intrigue. When a European king was established in Constantinople, we were horrified to discover that Russia was engaged in a new intrigue, and was aiding the Servians to achieve their independence. We regarded this as a heresy, but without effect, and a Christian prince has replaced a Turkish Pasha in Belgrade. In like manner the Bosnians and Bulgarians are now endeavoring to obtain their autonomy. They turn to Russia because we support their oppressors. The "Eastern Question" is, in point of fact, an attempt on the part of two Christian nations to overthrow themselves. Russia sustains them in this natural desire; we oppose them. If they remain under Turkish misrule we rejoice, because English diplomacy has triumphed. If ever they gain their iniquitous ends, and become, like Servia, tributary but independent States, English diplomacy will have been defeated by Russian intrigues.

CAPTURE OF A RAILROAD TRAIN BY A LARGE BAND OF THIEVES.—SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF GOODS WERE STOLEN.

St. Louis, July 8, 1876.—Another daring railroad robbery took place in Western Missouri last night, equalling in all respect, and exceeding in many, any other on record. From the confused accounts given by the passengers and road men the following facts are gleaned:—The eastward bound train on the Missouri Pacific Railroad left Ottumwa, Mo., a few minutes past ten o'clock last night, and when two and a half miles east of that place, upon a deep cut, the engineer saw a signal light to stop. Thinking that there was some obstruction on the track, he applied the air brake, and after running a few yards, discovered a pile of ties and lumber on the track. He stopped, and the situation at once, he could not stop the train, and it was not till the locomotive had climbed partly upon the pile of ties that the train came to a stand. At the same time a large number of men appeared with terrific yells, and discharging pistols dashed at the train, proclaiming their intentions. Two jumped on the engine and threw the engine overboard, and threatened to kill them if they offered resistance. They were then marched into the baggage car and placed under guard. At the same time three other robbers climbed into the express car by the side door, which was open. Bushnell, the express messenger, however, had been too quick for them, and had dashed through the train to the rear sleeper, and giving his safe keys to a brakeman, made him put them in his shoes. Mr. Conkling, the baggage man of the train

was in the express car when the robbers entered, and they demanded of him the keys of the safe. He told them he was not the messenger, and that he had the keys of the safe. Two of the robbers then put Conkling in front of them, and with revolvers at his head, marched him through the train, demanding he should point out the messenger whom they looked for. In this way they passed through the entire train, to the rear of women and children, and great fear of the male passengers, many of whom had crouched down in the aisle, and hid themselves in various ways. Arriving at the rear sleeper Conkling pointed out Bushnell, and the robbers demanded the safe key of him. Under the circumstances there was nothing to do but yield, and Bushnell took the keys from the brakeman and handed them to the robbers. One of the latter stood guard over Bushnell while the others searched Conkling's desk to capture the express car, where they opened the Adams safe and put the entire contents into a wheat sack they had brought for the purpose. Not being able to open the safe with the keys they got from Bushnell, one man went to the engine and got a pick, and with this broke in one of the panels of the safe. Under the circumstances there was nothing to do but yield, and Bushnell took the keys from the brakeman and handed them to the robbers. One of the latter stood guard over Bushnell while the others searched Conkling's desk to capture the express car, where they opened the Adams safe and put the entire contents into a wheat sack they had brought for the purpose. Not being able to open the safe with the keys they got from Bushnell, one man went to the engine and got a pick, and with this broke in one of the panels of the safe. 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