

pacific for the past seventeen years; but it may have been so in appearance only. The Crimean war left her exhausted, and time was required for recuperation. Internal reform has been meanwhile progressing with rapid strides. The policy of Russianizing Poland and the German Provinces has been relentlessly pursued. Serfdom has been abolished, municipal self-government to some extent introduced, and railways built in every direction. Poland has been fortified in proportion as its depopulation went on, and persistent and not unsuccessful efforts have been made to provide for the development of a Russian marine on the Black Sea. Whether the object of the Czar is the ultimate conquest of Constantinople, or interference with British progress in Asia, or both, matters little; he will not be permitted to effect either without provoking Foreign intervention and stirring up a European war. The rumors prevailing respecting the last diplomatic passage of arms between Granville and Gortschakoff prove conclusively that public opinion in England on the Eastern question is just as sensitive as it was twenty years ago.

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The meeting of the British Parliament has been signalled by a keen assault upon the Washington Treaty. As a matter of course it is strenuously defended by its abettors, but the results of the whole negotiations from first to last are likely to rankle long and deeply in the national mind. The loss of San Juan seems to have had even more effect than either the loss of money or the humiliation produced by the settlement of the Alabama claims. Should the American government endorse the action of the little satrap who represents President Grant on the Island, the bad feeling will be increased instead of allayed. To send off the British settlers unceremoniously, and dispossess them of their property without remuneration, would be an intolerable outrage, and as such it has been vigorously protested against by the Local Legislature of British Columbia. According to appearances we are to have a revival of the Treaty business in Canada when the Dominion Parliament meets. Mr. Blake threatens to bring up the question of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, and there seems to be a disposition to force the Fenian question to a more satisfactory settlement than was effected by its rejection from the list of questions embraced by the Treaty negotiations, on condition of Canada receiving a guarantee from the mother country on the Pacific Railway loan. If such a step should be taken few will regret it. It is simply absurd and suicidal to talk of substituting the arbitrament of diplomacy for the arbitrament of the sword, unless the pleasing fiction is to apply to land filibustering as well as privateering by sea.