### IMPEACHMENT OF LORD STRATFORD.

In another fortnight Parliament will meet, after a recess crowded with momentous incidents. It will be the lot of the Legislature to discuss the past and future campaigns, to examine the causes of success or failure, to suggest rewards for eminent services, or to demand inquiry into alleged neglects. In such circumstances we can no longer delay mention of a subject which occupies the minds of those conversant with Eastern affairs. We have before alluded to the transactions connected with the siege of Kars, and to the comments made on the conduct of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, the British Ambassador at Constantinople. The great calamity which has befallen the Turkish arms has given to these events a vast importance, and we should but ill perfom our duty if we concealed the fact that the neglect and abandonment of the British officers and the troops they so ably led, are spoken of and are attributed by persons well informed on the matter to personal feeling on the part of the Ambassador towards the English General whose name is now so well known in connexion with a long defence of the place. The matter is notorious to all acquainted with the Turkish capital, and not entirely unkhown to the world in general, although the formalities of political discussion have generally precluded any allusion to it in Parliament or the press.

It may be said, then, that it is the misfortune of Lord Stratford to live in a state of dissension with almost every man with whom he is brought into contact. Although his age and position are sufficient to insure due respect, and those who approach him have no wish to be on other than amicable terms, yet few can hope long to escape some outbreak of his violent and groundless illwill. He lives in an atmosphere of antipathies, and, accustomed during so many years to intercourse with Turkish officials and to the deference of Levantine society, he is impatient of any demur to what he conceives his authority. The disregard of his advice, or even the differing from his opinion, is enough to kindle a dislike which may last for years. Such is the man to whom the British Government has committed the care of its interests in the East. Turkish ways are not as our ways, and a minister at home must naturally leave all dealings with this unknown world to the representative and his staff of Orientalists and dragomans. A British ambassador can by a word enforce attention to a request of his Government, or mark it out for neglect. "I am to lay this communication before you—do not ask my opinion of it, decide for yourselves'" is sufficient to ensure the rejection or evasion of a demand even though it emanated from the Foreign-office itself, for the Porte will fancy that it was never meant to be acceded to, and will, with ready duplicity, acquiesce in the stratagem. Hence it is evident that the whole power of the country he represents must be wielded personally by a representative in the East. Now, the statements to which we wish to call attention are as follows:—General Williams, who had been formerly employed on the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission, and had some acquaintance with the people and language of Asiatic Turkey, was in 1854 selected as British Commissioner to the Ottoman army in Armenia. The Turks had been defeated in five battles, and their force was completely disorganised. It was thought that the experience of General Williams might be of service in the reconstitution of the army and the defence of the threatened provinces. He was distinguished chiefly by a quiet, unassuming disposition, so much so that few of his friends gave him credit for the resolution and sternness which he displayed in the defence and government of Kars. It is difficult, therefore, to conceive the grounds of the Ambassador's alleged dislike, except it be that General Williams received his appointment from the Foreign-office, and not through the representations of Lord Stratford. But this dislike seems to have been not only felt but expressed. The Ambassador is said to have, in his usual manner, proclaimed his resentment and his purposed retaliation. One thing is clear—that he would in no way assist the new British Commissioner, even in the most formal manner. General Williams had to go up to the seat of war unrecommended and unaccredited by the representative of his country. With men like the Turkish commanders this was a sufficient hint, and the General's difficulties were no doubt vastly increased. However, he applied himself to his task, took note of deficiencies, saw how corruption and cowardice had worked, and was soon intent on a thorough reform. His official position was strictly only that of an adviser; he could do nothing but by the Turkish Government, and his only instrument must be the representations of the Ambassador. He accordingly wrote to Lord Stratford, entreating his assistance in laying before the Porte the impending danger and the necessity of action. The fact which we shall now state is almost incredible, but we believe that it is true beyond a doubt. The ambassador would hold no communication with General Williams. He would not answer, he would not acknowledge the receipt of a single despatch. It is said that not less than 63 despatches and letters were sent by the British Commissioner, and to not one of these would the ambassador reply. He would have nothing to do with General Williams or his affairs. Among the most pressing wants was that of ammunition. General Williams wrote, it is said, repeatedly on this subject, but did not receive any answer, and nothing was done. When Kars surrendered there was only three days' ammunition in the place, although it had to sustain no regular siege. This fact was successfully concealed from the Russians, or it might have saved them a long and wearisome blockade. At last, we believe, General Williams made a complaint to the Foreign-office, which in turn directed Lord Stratford's attention to the matter, and requested him no longer to neglect the representations of the commissioner. Lord Stratford ungraciously obeyed, corresponded formally with General Williams, but the requests of the latter were to the last ineffectual.

General Williams, making the best of his narrow means, fortified the two chief cities of Armenia, and took his stand at Kars, the frontier fortress of the province. Men, provisions, ammunition, were alike deficient,—the troops were in a miserable condition. One of the matters urged on the Ambassador by General Williams was a payment, at least in part, of the arrears due to them. Those in Kars had not received a piastre for three years when the place fell, and their clothes were worn out long before their stomachs were pinched. The request, it is needless to say, was unnoticed by Lord Stratford. The men were much cast down and discontented as far as it is in the nature of the Mussulman to be. But when Mouravieff surrounded the place the energies of both Englishmen and Turks were roused. Neglected, insulted, abandoned, General Williams determined to resist to the last. His officers stood staunchly by him. That these brave men should feel no pang of resentment towards him whose causeless animosity they believe to have been their ruin, would be perhaps more than can be hoped from human nature. If anything, however, could add to their indignation, it would be to find that after the place was invested, after the defence had begun to enlist the sympathies and rouse the admiration of the world, the Ambassador suddenly changed his tone, gave an air of cordiality to his despatches, expressed his commiseration for the unfortunate General and his Staff, and talked of his constant exertions for their safety! But we have said enough. An inquiry into these things must take place at an early day. The correspondence since the autumn of 1854 will, no doubt, be called for. For the present, we leave the matter, in the full hope that justice will be done.—*London Times.*

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When Sir C. Campbell left the Crimea Marshal Pelissier is reported to have said —"Nothing could have given me greater grief; he was the man of the English army; such was my esteem and regard for him as a soldier, that I felt inclined to embrace him when ever I met him."

### THE CHINESE.

The following extract from "A Journey through the Chinese Empire." by M. Huc, a French ecclesiastic, exhibits an interesting phase of the Chinese character:

There has been much joking about the manner in which the Chinese soldiers behaved before the English troops. After firing their pieces once, they threw them down, and fled as a flock of sheep might do if a bomb should burst in the midst of them; and it was thence inferred that the Chinese were essentially cowardly, deficient in energy, and incapable of fighting; but the judgment appears to us very hasty. In these circumstances the Chinese soldiers simply showed their good sense. The means of destruction employed by the two parties were so entirely disproportionate, that there could be no room for the display of valor. On one side arrows and matchlocks, on the other good muskets, and cannon loaded with grape. When a maritime town was to be destroyed, it was the simplest thing in the world. An English frigate had only to heave-to at the proper distance, and then, while the officers, seated quietly at dinner on the poop-deck, manœuvered the Champagne and the Madeira, the sailors methodically bombarded the town, that, with its wretched cannon, could only send a few balls half way to the enemy's vessel, while their houses and public buildings came tumbling down on all sides as if struck by lightning. The English artillery was for these poor people so terrible, so supernatural a thing, that they at last belived they had to do with beings more than mortal How could they be expected to be brave in so unequal a contest? An enemy whom they had no means of reaching, was blazing away at them quite at his ease; what could they do but run away? They did so, and in our opinion they showed their wisdom in so doing. The government alone was to blame, for driving thousands of men almost unarmed and defenceless to a certain and useless death. The English are decidedly very brave, but if ever, which God forbid, they should have to defend their country against an European army, with nothing better than bows and arrows and matchlocks taken from the Chinese, they would soon, we are convinced, find some of their valor oozing away.

It may be that it would be possible to find in China all the elements necessary for organizing the most formidable army in the world. The Chinese are intelligent, ingenious and docile. They comprehend rapidly whatever they are taught, and retain it in their memory. They are persevering, and astonishingly active when they choose to exert themselves, respectful to authority, submissive and obedient. and they would easily accommodate themselves to all the exigencies of the severest discipline.

The Chinese possess also a quality most precious in soldiers, and which can scarcely be found so well developed among any other people, namely, an incomparable facility at supporting privations of every kind.

We have often been astonished to see how they will bear hunger, thirst, heat, cold, the difficulties and fatigues of a long march, as if at mere play. Thus, both morally and physically; they seem capable of meeting every demand; and with respect to numbers, they might be enrolled by millions.

The equipment of this immense army would also be no very hard matter. There would be no occasion to have recourse to foreign nations. Their own country would furnish in abundance all the material that could be desired, as well as workmen without number, quick at comprehending any new invention.

China would present also inexhaustible resources for a navy. Without speaking of the vast extent of her coasts, along which the numerous population pass the greater parts of their lives on the sea, the great rivers and immense lakes in the interior, always covered with fishing and trading junks, might furnish multitudes of men, habituated from their infancy to navigation, nimble, experienced and capable of becoming excellent sailors, for long expeditions. The officers of our ships of war that have visited the Chinese seas, have often been astonished to meet far away from any coast, their fishermen braving the tempests, and guiding their miserable vessels in safety over enormous waves that threatened every moment to swallow them. The Chinese would very soon be able to build vessels on the model of those of Europe, and a few years would enable them to put to sea with such a fleet as has never been seen.

What China wants is a man of genius, a man truly great, capable of assimilating the power and vitality of this nation, more populous than all Europe, and which counts more than thirty centuries of civilization of the West, we believe that the work of regeneration would proceed with rapid strides, and that perhaps those Chinese who now appear such a very ridiculous people, might be thought of somewhat more seriously, and even occasion mortal uneasiness to those who covet so eagerly the spoils of ancient nations of Asia.

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Diplomacy of women.—There is a trait in the lives of great diplomatists of which it is just possible some one or other of my readers may not have heard, which is, that none of them have ever attained to any eminence without any attachment—we can find no better word for it—to some women of superior understanding, who has united within herself great talents for society with a high and soaring ambition. They who only recognise in the world of politics the dry details of ordinary parliamentary business, poor-law questions, sanitary rules, railway bills, and colonial grants, can form but a scanty notion of the excitement derived from the high interests of party, and the great game played by about twenty mighty gamblers, with the whole world for the table, and kingdoms for counters. In this *grand role* women perform no ignoble part; may, it were not too much to say that theirs is the very motive-power of the whole vast machinery.—*Dublin University Magazine.*

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A Thorny Couch.—One morning last week (says a Gloucester paper,) as a young man of Amberly was journeying homeward through the dreary waste of Minchinhampton-common, his attention was arrested by seeing a heap of clothes near a gorse bush. On approaching nearer to get a better view of the apparition, he found a semi-naked man *en chemise d' homme*—kicking and writhing about to extricate himself from his thorny bed. "Holloa, what do you do here?" inquired the young man. "Oh, dear," responded the helpless fellow in the bush, "where be I?—where be my old woman?—I be nearly starved—I can't get up." "Get up! no I should think not," replied the other; "how came you to ge down?" Oh, help I out. Why, you see," he continued, now quite aware of his situation under the influence of the north wind, "I had a drop o' drink last night, and I made sure I was safe at home here, so I did strip, and got into bed. But darn me if I like such a bed at all. I be tarnedly pricked and scratched. I seemed all cosy enough till towards morning, when I did kick, and were pricked, and did kick again; and I did dream all sorts o' knives and yorks were driving into me, and I did shiver awful. Darn me, I be glad I be out of it," as the other managed to help him out. "Why, you are pricked like a pincushion," said the young man; laughing outright. "Well, I be shocking," replied the miserable object. "What a thing a drap o' drink be, to be sure!" His friend having helped him on with his clothes, they both proceeded to Stroud, the Bacchanalian, we hope, a wiser and a better man for his comfortless bed on a December night.

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The Empress of Russia.—A Paris correspondent writes,—I have been talking with a man who arrived last night from St. Petersburg, and the pith of whose entire conversation was this:—"Certainly those who thought the Empress Marie the predominant power were right; she is so. She reigns in Russia! she governs the Czar entirely; she is adored by the nation she governs the Grand Duke Constantine completely; she is the superior, the dominant influence; but those who thought her inclined towards peace were quite at fault. What she may have been some months back, I cannot say; but now the Empress Maria is warlike."