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### NOTES OF THE MONTH.

THE Czar's tour is finished and he is returning to the great Northern empire which owns him as Autocrat Emperor. And now the civilized world is left wondering what its main purpose was, and what high results it has accomplished.

If the true inwardness of those hours of consultation at Balmoral, or the suave diplomacies at the Elysée were revealed, there would be little need for the vague, impatient speculations of the great dailies of Berlin, Paris, London and New York, concerning that eternal Eastern problem.

Two things, however, are assured: that the young Czar has found more favor with the English speaking peoples, and the French also, than that accorded the Kaiser, and that the former has shown himself to be a lover and desirer of peace.

Remembering the tremendous power this young sovereign wields, this knowledge is of high moment, since by it we are able to predicate to some extent the future course of international relations. That Russia should have a ruler who, while sensible of the dignity and power of his office, yet realizes the finer and higher ideal of sovereignty—that his judgment should be moulded by the conviction that love is better than fear, and peaceful international relationships better than aggrandisement; this is indeed auspicious, an augury of white days not only for Russia but all the world.

ONE of the items in the programme for the Czar's visit to Paris included an appropriation of 200,000 francs to be devoted to paying the rents of the poor.

This was given in lieu of the money usually appropriated on great state occasions for providing free wine, food, etc., for the masses.

The idea is excellent, and might be well utilized by other governments on similar occasions. Then instead of flags, flowers and feasting, we might have our rents paid for a few months in advance.

We are searching for methods of duly celebrating the Queen's sixtieth year of sovereignty. Why not adopt this? Here is a magnificent chance for the Laurier Government to purchase the grateful regards of the people. A man may backslide concerning many things, but never from the government that says, "Come, now; let us we pray thee, pay your rent for a little season."

THERE is little that is new in the Armenian situation. Despite the strong utterance of Mr. Gladstone, Abdul Hamid still holds sway; and we feel, with the Armenians, an element of uncertainty, not whether another massacre will take place, but only the when and where of it.

There is some measure of hope in the recent visit of the Czar to England and France; since England's Queen has spoken; and France who owns two-thirds of Turkey is not likely, in the present ardent renewal of alliance with Russia, to refuse concerted action with the latter.

Yet stripped of all possibilities, the facts

are that nearly twenty months have passed since the first awful Armenian massacre was perpetrated, and the intervening days have been but death watches, ticking out each its tale of terror.

And still the Powers look on, and Abdul Hamid reigns.

WHATEVER may have been Lord Rosebery's purpose in resigning the leadership of the British Liberal party—and it seems hardly credible that it should have been due to Mr. Gladstone's speech on the Eastern question, since whatever the influence of this Old Man Invincible, he spoke only as a private individual—yet we must honor the Liberal leader for his apparent honesty of purpose. "This question," he said, "is above and beyond personal considerations, and when I speak, which I do this week, I must speak my mind without reference to oratory. Under these circumstances it is best for the party and for myself that I speak not as a leader, but as a free man."

A man in high office who resigns in order that he may speak his mind fully and freely, deserves honor for his action.

THE indefinite postponement of the Pacific Cable Commission is a matter of regret, although under the circumstance it was hardly to be avoided. It is to be hoped, however, that the Canadian Government will take the project up early in the coming session, and pronounce upon it, so that there need be no further delay.

In view of the general favor with which the project was received by both sides of the Canadian Parliament at the time of the Colonial Conference, an unfavorable pronouncement is hardly to be looked for.

Whatever serves to bind the colonies closer, is a link, not merely in an Imperial chain, but in that larger girdle which shall clasp the whole world into a millenial unity.

THE Music Halls have found favor in the eyes of the London County Council; they have all had their licenses renewed—even the Empire, which received so much notoriety last year by reason of Mrs. Ormiston Chant's crusade.

There is no doubt that these music halls are not to express it mildly—elevating. There seems to be equally no doubt that they are demanded and favored by the people, not the masses alone, but those who like to hide themselves among the masses at such seasons.

Possibly then the best method of moral crusaders is not to demand that these resorts be done away with, but to consider some satisfactory renovation or substitution for whatever features may be really objectionable. But a wide margin must be allowed, since the chief attraction in such places is the unconventionality, and the liberty of speech and action permitted.

The failure of moral reformers, especially women, often lies in the fact that they judge by their own standard of taste and moral consciousness,

forgetting that that of the masses may be very much lower, or at least widely different. The people to whom these music halls cater have a standard of their own, and it is from their point of view that judgment should be pronounced.

Yet again, one of the chief failings of the woman reformer is that she weakens her position by making sweeping assertions which facts do not verify.

In the case of the Empire Music Hall it was claimed that this was the case, and this the cause of the failure of Mrs. Chant and her friends to accomplish their laudable purpose.

THE curious case of the Castles has aroused wide interest on both sides of the ocean; the unusually high social standing of the defendants, and their marked wealth and influence making the affair almost phenomenal in criminal annals. From the aspect of the matter at this time of writing, it is almost safe to predict that a case of kleptomania produced by mental derangement will be made out, and that both Mr and Mrs. Castle will be released. But the public disgrace they have endured must darken all their future life.

In the banquet tendered to Lord Chief Justice Russell by the Catholic Club of New York, on the eve of his departure for England early in October, Judge Daly in one sentence of his address expressed the reason of the welcome and appreciation shown his lordship during his visit on this continent.

"We honor him not because he is the first Catholic Chief Justice of England in three centuries, not because he is the first Irish Chief Justice, though that seems to give peculiar satisfaction to every American without distinction of race, party or creed, perhaps because we are all home rulers, and think that if Ireland is not permitted to govern herself she ought to be allowed to show how well she can govern England, a much less difficult task, but because, being an Irishman and a Catholic and Lord Chief Justice of England, he has realized all men's ideal of the highest judicial office."

THE latest turbulents are the natives of northern Morocco—a band of freebooters who for many years have inhabited the wild mountains of that country. Recently they boarded the French ship Corinte at an island about half way between Gibraltar and Algiers, tied up the crew and took what they wanted of the cargo. Then they had a fight with a Spanish steamer which came to the rescue of the Corinte, killed four of the crew and carried one of the captains back into their mountains, where they doubtless held him for ransom.

The Spanish premier has sent a protest to the Sultan of Morocco against the renewed depredations of the Riflians, as these pirates are called, and he says he hopes France will join Spain in giving such a drubbing to these mountaineers that they will have no taste for piracy for a long time to come. But since they are very inaccessible in