

cogency that the island is of no use for the purpose for which it was ostensibly taken, that of defending the Turkish frontier in Armenia. It is of no use for the purpose of defending the Turkish frontier in Armenia, but it may be of more use as a starting point for the gradual annexation, under the guise of protection and reform, of the Asiatic dominions of England's confiding client. Such is the hope which Jingoism does not scruple to avow.

It is necessary always to bear in mind that at least half England is against this policy. For it are the drawing-rooms, the clubs, the stock exchange, the music halls, the taverns and the rowdies to a man. Against it is most of the intelligence and the real manhood of the nation. The Tory government, as has been already said, is conscious of this, and shows its consciousness by recoiling from the test of a general election for which it had manifestly begun to prepare.

As a final settlement the Berlin Treaty was a total failure. To arrive at a final settlement, from the point of view of the framers, it would have been necessary to arrest the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire; and to arrest the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire you must transform the Turk. This diplomatic edifice, lauded as the masterpiece of statesmanship, was built on a foundation which was rushing down into hopeless ruin.

From Berlin to Afghanistan. The wisest men in the councils of British India have always been, as Lord Lawrence is now, opposed to unmeasured aggrandizement, and especially to pushing the frontier of the British Empire aggressively up to that of Russia. Russia, they know very well, will never attack British India if she is only let alone. She has enough to do and room enough to expand in her own sphere. But the Jingos in those councils have always craved for the annexation of Afghanistan. Forty years ago, being in the ascendant, as their political heirs are now, they

made the attempt, on the ever-ready pretext of counteracting Russian intrigue, though the reports of their own envoy at the Court of Cabul, in their genuine form, were against the design. The result was terrible disaster. Then the despatches of the envoy, who had himself perished, were laid before Parliament with the damning passages cut out. Many years afterwards, authentic copies of the despatches were discovered and the fraud was dragged to light; but by that time the ashes of those who had perished in the Khyber Pass were cold.

The Ameer has a perfect right, as an independent prince, to refuse to receive an envoy from a power which he mistrusts. He knows, from the examples of other Indian princes, that the envoy would not be an ambassador but a master. It is idle, however, to discuss the ground of quarrel. Jingoism is bent on striking a blow at Russia and effecting the coveted annexation at the same time. In every country but one the hearts of all who love justice and hate iniquity will be on the side of the Ameer. Of course if he ventures to resist, he will be crushed, and he and the gallant mountaineers, of whom he is the chief, will be trodden down with the other two hundred millions into that general mass of spiritless, featureless and hopeless servitude, which owns the sway of the Empress of India.

The people of England have reposed in the belief that conquest, which in all other cases had been a curse both to the conqueror and the conquered, might be and was in their case a blessing to both. They have fancied that the Indian Empire was conducive at once to their own aggrandizement and to the elevation of the Hindoo. The hideous reality now stands unveiled before them. They know now, or are beginning to learn, that the state of the Hindoo peasantry under their rule is one of utter misery and despair. India, though some of her products