

two parties—when men are put out of the counting. Parties are nothing more nor less than mere factions, and the Opposition has nothing to do but play a part. What they of the old world are learning slowly, we of the new world should learn rapidly. For in this country, Government by party is simply an absurdity. There are no great questions involving principles to divide us—there is no policy for the development of our national resources which one class can claim to have originated, or to have better understanding of than another, and there is not a single Legislative Assembly—the Dominion included—which from a party can select an efficient Government. The rock on which this country is most liable to be wrecked is that of party Government, and nothing better could happen to it than that it should grow sick and weary of this attempt to perpetuate the blunders of the old world by trying to rule by a party when no principle is involved. It will be well with us when we have learnt to value good men and good measures.

Mr. Gladstone is threatened with what looks very much like an impeachment in the House of Commons. He has been writing in the *Nineteenth Century* on the Eastern question, having special reference to the policy of employing native Indian troops in Europe without the authority of Parliament. Mr. Gladstone often arrives at conclusions by a step and a jump, and then always holds them courageously and speaks them with enthusiasm. And he has denounced the Government in no measured terms for attempting to show "that India is to provide for us a great military bank on which we are to draw," and "that India, with her scores and her hundreds of thousands, is to be introduced to partnership in our European wars." Having come to this conclusion, he asks, "Is it possible that this can work? Will India be content? Ought India to be content?" and adds—"This is injustice—gross and monstrous injustice." On account of this Mr. Hanbury has notice of motion to ask the House to resolve that "such language on the part of a member of her Majesty's Privy Council is to be condemned as being highly inopportune, and as calculated to create sedition in her Majesty's Indian Empire." But Mr. Hanbury is not likely to take much by his motion. If the House were inclined to exercise its Tory spleen ever so much, it would not dare to pass such a vote. It is quite true that the privilege of free speech, like every other good thing, is liable to abuse—but it is not for the House of Commons to constitute itself the judge in the matter—there can be no special and particular judge, for the people have taken upon themselves the functions of a jury and will discharge them whatever the House might say. Free speech is denied in India and the press is gagged, but England is not ready for the exercise of such high-handed power. A few more years of the Earl of Beaconsfield in authority may do it, but Mr. Hanbury must wait. Mr. Gladstone appeals to the people, who hear and heed his word.

Events at the Berlin Congress develop slowly. The personages engaged in the settlement of the Eastern question are too great for anything but stately movement, and they must be careful to maintain personal dignity while Europe waits upon their word. Still, we are glad to know that progress has been made, and a basis agreed upon which makes peace not only possible but almost certain. Radical changes are being made by the removal of old lines and landmarks. It looked a few days ago as if a hitch had occurred on the question of the line of the Balkans and the occupation of the frontiers of Roumelia by the Turkish troops, for Russia seemed minded to have governmental predominance in Roumelia,—at least, a voice in the administration of its affairs; but the great Dictator of England stood firm, and the Czar of Russia, wanting peace as the only chance of saving his country from absolute bankruptcy, yielded; and now the line of the Balkans will be adopted. The Turks will be able to garrison and fortify themselves on all the frontiers of Roumelia; the Greek element will take the place of the Russian in that province; Bosnia and Herzegovina will pass under the dominion of Austria. Access to Salonica and the Ægean Sea will be free to all nations. We are to hear no more about maintaining the "integrity of the Turkish Empire"; but Europe will see after the "cohesion" of that same. In truth, a general political millenium is at hand; Turkey is to cohere; Russian aggression is to be restrained by an anti-Sclavonic Roumelia and a progressive Greece.

The Czar was evidently helped in his decision to concede the demands as to the Balkans by his fear of the Earl of Beaconsfield, who has all Britain at his back, and 7,000 Indian troops at his right hand. All Russia trembled as the 7,000 took up the marching Westward. True, the Russians knew that England had a large army in India,—knew also that troops embarked at Bombay could be landed at Gallipoli in about three weeks—quite soon enough for all practical purposes of war. But the thing had to be done to produce "a moral effect,"—a thing dear to the heart of the Earl of Beaconsfield,—a thing without which he could neither live well nor die happy,—to say nothing of going to the Berlin Congress. Ordinary mortals would have thought that the fact of England's being an island that cannot be invaded, with

a magnificent Navy at command, would weigh most in the Councils of Europe; but the Earl is far removed from all that is ordinary, so he called 7,000 Hindoos to camp in Malta. And this is the net result—a flash—Earl Derby forced out the Cabinet—£400,000 of British money spent, and—that is all.

A wave of social disturbance is flowing from country to country and from continent to continent. It rose in Paris awhile ago, and did much mischief as it swept the city. The Communards were dispersed, but they had had time enough and power enough to create many centres of propagandism. The German Socialist is stern and practical and reckless withal—not flinching from an attempt on the life of the Emperor. The Lancashire mobs, on strike, have been maddened by something—it is said by Socialism which is working darkly in England. And England has much to fear on account of it—for there, as in no other country the world over, poverty is made pleasant. Uselessness is fostered, and discontent is pampered by the provisions made in the poor law. And now America is getting its turn. A meeting of the Socialists of New York has been held—red banners have been displayed with such mottoes as:—"Reorganization of Society independent of Priest, King, Capitalist, or Loafer." "Wealth is social in its origin, and must be social in its distribution," &c. So that trouble is in store for our cousins over the border. A Socialist outbreak there would be attended with grave results, and as there is not a standing army of any importance, it will be well if the force at command is used to nip the foul thing in the bud.

The American people, for the most part, are giving thanks that Congress has at last adjourned. For it can do no more mischief for a time. It is a peculiar thing—that Congress—not loved and not trusted by the people, only tolerated as a noisy and necessary evil. During the session it has passed a limited silver coinage bill, which is a standing discredit and dishonour to the nation, and likely to lead to disastrous results. Another noteworthy effort was the abrogation of the national insolvency law, so that State Laws may be revived in some States and created in others. Confusion must follow—for different States will have different laws, and when commercial men have got tired of their legal mess they will demand a new national measure. But Congress did most shame to itself in the matter of the Halifax award. By the sinister help of those two men who combine folly and knavery in a most wonderful way—"Ben" Butler and "Sunset" Cox, of course—it came very near to an act of infamy which would have involved the whole of the United States. But wiser men than "Ben" and "Sunset" spoke, and had their way—and at the very close of the session provision was made for the payment of the money to Canada. It would have been more for the honour of the country if the angry and unseemly discussion had never taken place, and if no conditions had been exacted to the payment of the money. But the American Congress has not yet learnt to understand nice points of honour, and jealousy for national credit; it has learnt the value of money, and the inconvenience of parting with it; and from that root soil "Ben" and "Sunset" grew.

### THE TURKS AND THE EASTERN QUESTION.

#### III.

Now let me say a word or two as to the religious aspect of the question. The people of the countries I have named as being under Turkish rule are divided not only into Christians and Mahommedans, but also unhappily, into different sects of Christians between whom there is much bitterness. You probably know how great has been the rivalry, and I shall not go too far if I say the hatred, between Greek and Roman Christians. The Romans have been strong because they have been organized under one Pope who claimed the right to lord it over Kings and Emperors. And great organisation used to support great assumption must become a great force in the world. The Greek Christians have never had any such Pope—they have been divided into several churches, and so lost the strength that goes with organisation and centralisation. The Roman Catholic religion prevailed not only among the Latin and Teutonic races, but also among a large portion of the Western and Southern Slavs. The Poles—most of the Austrian Slavs, some of the people of Bosnia, and most of the Northern Albanians are still Catholics, and the Roman Catholic hierarchy have steadily tried to push their dominion further East into the Greek countries. Not only, however, the Greeks proper, but also the Bulgarians, the Bosnians, the Servians and the Roumanians, have maintained the Greek form of religion. And to all them, I must add the great Russian people. Russians and Bulgarians and Servians and Bosnians and Roumanians are co-religionists, and in that you have the *Caus belli*. For the Turks are, of course, Mahommedans, and as a fact Mahommedans of the worst type. Mahommedans, like Christians, are a good deal divided among themselves, and there are various sects. The Persians and some other Mahommedans are as much opposed to the Turks as the Greeks are to the Catholics, and a large proportion of the Arabs are not only opposed to the Turkish rule, but also to the Turkish form of Mohammedanism. For the Turks are not Mohammedans by original nature; they have not grown out of it, but have grown into it, and that for a purpose quite other than religious, and proselytes are rarely an ornament to the faith they embrace. The Turks succeeded in degrading Islamism, and that it was not needful to do.

It is proper to remind you here that though whole centuries have passed away since the wars and the conquests I have named, the position of the people is not changed. There has been no fusion—no uniting of blood. The Saxons