

The World's Progress.

EXIT KHALIFA.

History is being made very fast during these times. The overwhelming victory over the Mahdists won by the Sirdar Kitchener maintains the noblest traditions of British arms. The campaign on the Upper Nile was not a war of aggression. It was not to avenge the death of Gordon. It was to maintain the rights of Egypt to her great Soudanese empire from which she was unjustly ousted by the fanatical and bloodthirsty Mahdists. Its result is to carry law and order and civilization through a vast and fertile region which had been rendered a very hell on earth by the barbarism and brutality of the Khalifa. It was a most extraordinary example of the thorough and efficient organization of the British army that such a crushing blow could be delivered in the heart of Africa, sixteen hundred miles up the narrow, shallow and tortuous Nile. The movement of troops, stores, arms and equipments without any hitch or disaster was like the action of a piece of machinery, as steady as clockwork, and was in striking contrast to the mistakes, disasters and miseries which accompanied the late Cuban campaign.

Another milestone has been passed in Britain's triumphal march from Cairo to the Cape. In the interests of civilization, of religion, of the many warring tribes of Africa themselves, the whole world may rejoice in these victories of Britain's arms. The congratulations of Kaiser Wilhelm and of the American press show a recognition of the disinterested valour of Great Britain in spending her treasure, in shedding the blood of her bravest and best for no selfish purpose but to throw wide open the doors of trade and commerce to all mankind.

THE OLIVE BRANCH IN THE BEAR'S PAW.

Such is the picturesque phrase in which the *Christian Advocate* describes the overtures of the Czar of Russia in favour of a peace conference. We trust that this will be the turning-point in the history of the world. The burden of the armed truce of the Great Powers has become unendurable. It is crushing the very life out of the industries of the nations. The young Czar will win the eternal gratitude of mankind if he will lead the way to a

universal disarmament. The greenest leaf in the laurels of his grandsire, Alexander II., is his emancipation of twenty millions of serfs. A brighter crown will be that of the monarch who can relieve mankind of the crushing burden of war and end forever the slaughters of the battlefield.

The autocrat of all the Russias can better set the pace than any other power. His empire is immune to hostile invasion. It has grown enormously during the century. It has secured the ice-free harbours, to which it would be a dog-in-the-manger selfishness for any power to object. Its greatest need is opportunity to develop its internal communication and civilization, that the menaced famine of Little Russia may be averted by the rich harvests of the Ukraine and of the vast Siberian plains.

It is said that through the good offices of Queen Victoria the Princess of Wales was sent to Copenhagen to meet her sister, the Empress Dowager of Russia, who is known to be earnestly in favour of peace. Through these channels the Queen's aversion to the war with Russia, into which Britain seemed to be inevitably drifting, was made known to the Czar, and this led to his overtures for peace. If this be so it is a greater glory to the later years of her Majesty's reign than if her army or navy had won a great battle.

The difficulty of gradual disarmament should not be great. Let the powers cease to *increase* their armies and navies as they have been doing in mad race for years. Russia's threat to build new warships was met by England's resolve to build twice as many. If only a halt is called in this march towards ruin much will be gained. Thus gradually mutual confidence will be restored, the blessings of peace will be appreciated, the rusting ironclads will not be replaced, the vast standing armies will gradually be mustered out by the great conqueror Death, and if no dragon's teeth of discord be sown there will spring up no crop of armed men.

Britain, the great rival of Russia in the East, may well reciprocate these overtures of peace. The German Emperor seems to be coming to a saner mind and to be less anxious to pose as war-lord of Europe. Italy and Austria will be glad to roll off the crushing burden of Atlas from their