

Dr. Dollinger and the East.

The sentiments of "the greatest of living historical scholars," on one of the principal questions of the day, cannot be otherwise than interesting to all those who appreciate the practical character of his mind, united with extensive learning. He says the great mistake was ever to have admitted such a power as Turkey to a place among the civilized states of Europe. They will promise reforms anywhere and everywhere, but everybody knows what the promises are worth. The *Sheikh-ul-Islam* has ruled that it is impossible, consistently with the law of the Koran, to admit Christians to sit as legislators in a representative assembly, or to enrol them in the army. They are still at the mercy of the barbarous horde which has settled for four hundred years in Eastern Europe. Turkey has shown itself, at least at present, as incapable of progress in civilization and humanity as ever; as incapable of government by law as distinct from arbitrary will; as absolutely incapable of social and domestic purity. But the mistake has been made; and the question now is, how to make the best of it. Europe cannot, for very shame, hand over the populations of the Balkan provinces to the barbarians who have desolated Bulgaria. But Dr. Dollinger doubts the advisability of establishing more autonomous states, under European princes, upon the model of Serbia and Roumania. He inclines to the idea of a permanent international commission at Constantinople, in which England, Germany, Russia, Austria, France, and Italy would be represented. Such a commission would be understood to owe a certain modified allegiance to the Sultan; but it would govern the provinces of European Turkey, or at least, the Christian inhabitants of those provinces, on European principles. Dr. Dollinger has discussed the difficulties of bringing the powers to agree to such a plan, and of inducing Turkey to submit to it. He thinks the difficulties not insurmountable. He says Turkey must submit if the powers were agreed; and that she has maintained her barbarous system by trading on their jealousies and divisions. If a plan of the kind he suggests were adopted, the Bulgarian atrocities could not be repeated; if the *status quo* is maintained, they are always possible. Dr. Dollinger, in conversation with Canon Liddon, dwelt at length on the magnificent opportunity the present crisis offers to English statesmen, if they had the heart and courage to take advantage of it. By securing the political emancipation of the Christian population in European Turkey, England would command the lasting gratitude of races which will assuredly rule in Eastern Europe. In these races she would find a far more solid barrier against Russian ambition than can ever be supplied by the savage and decaying power, which has owed its prolonged existence to English armaments and to English gold. Dr. Dollinger stated that the universal impression in Germany was that the English fleet had been sent to Besika Bay in order to support the Ottoman Government; and that the Turks would not have dared turn their backs upon the Bulgarians, unless they had felt sure of the support of England. And it is unfortunate that Lord Derby's explanation, as to the object of the fleet, was not given sooner. At the same time he remarked that the question ought not to divide political parties; the Conservatives, having no real interest in the upholding of a barbarous government, merely because Lord Palmerston and the Liberals have bequeathed them a treaty, which it is very troublesome to revise in the interests of Christendom and humanity. When Christianity and civilization are on one side, and Islam in its last and most degraded phase of barbarism on the other, there ought to be no doubt as to which would engage the sympathies and the support of the English people. The man who, perhaps more than any other in Europe, understands Turkey, is Lord Stratford de Redcliffe; and it is worthy of remark that his proposals agree pretty nearly with those of Dollinger. He believes not in the autonomy of the several Christian states, but in the international commission. Notwithstanding Lord Stratford de Redcliffe's profound knowledge of everything connected with Turkey, at present we rather incline to Mr. Gladstone's opinion that placing Herzegovina, Bosnia, and especially Bulgaria, in a similar position to that occupied by Serbia and Roumania, is a very far towards a settlement of the Eastern Question for some time to come.

Western Governments or troops, have been in actual warfare; and even the barbarities that took place in Constantinople in 1453, were on the occasion of the capture of the city, which had stoutly resisted the invaders. The Bulgarian outrages, however, were altogether unprovoked; the slight symptoms of insurrection were of the simplest character, all but absolutely innocent, and yielded immediately to the demands of the Turkish authorities. There was not a Bulgarian that did not give up his arms when asked to do so; and these arms were given up under a distinct promise of safety. The suggestion that we have no right to find fault with the horrible deeds that were perpetrated afterwards, because Christians have sometimes been cruel, was admirably met by Mr. Gladstone in his speech on Blackheath in these terms:—"I will not refer to the misdeeds of other nations, but we see now, I think, that there was a dreadful massacre at Glencoe, that there were great atrocities perpetrated at Badajoz, in the peninsular war; and, coming down to later times, I am bound to say I cannot defend the proceedings which were taken either in what was called the revolt at Cephalonia, or in the more recent revolt in Jamaica. I cannot, and will not defend each and all of those proceedings; but, good heavens! to pretend to compare those proceedings with what we are now dealing with, is an insult to the common sense of Europe. They may constitute a dark page in British history, but if you could concentrate the whole of the blackness of that page into a single point, it would pale, it would be almost invisible, from its minuteness, to any one of the pages that will hereafter consign to everlasting infamy the proceedings of the Turks in Bulgaria." Complaint is made in some quarters that political capital is attempted to be made out of the mistakes, the indifference, and the infatuation of the British Ministry. But we do not know that there is anything very remarkable or very new in the fact that politicians have an eye to political capital, wherever they may happen to find it. Nor does it often occur that a political party, is so generous as the present administration in England has shown itself, in furnishing such an abundance of materials, from which a very large and very rich amount of political capital can be drawn by their opponents.

Extremes Meet.

There may, possibly, still be left some very innocent individuals who are disposed to question the truth of the principle enunciated in the heading of this article. If so, let them pay attention to the proofs which are accumulating every hour. The *Rock* and the *Pope* are still on the most amicable terms in reference to the "question" now agitating Europe so deeply. But, perhaps, after all, one need not be so much surprised at this close agreement on a vital question. The occupant of the chair of St. Peter, (*Petros*) claiming to be the *Rock* (*Petra*) of the Church, it might very naturally be asked:—If their claims are identical, why should not their principles be identical also? However that may be, it happens just now that the *Pope* supports the Turks against the Eastern Christians; and the *Rock* with the rest of what is called "the Mohammedan Press," does the same. The *Pope* has two reasons for his conduct. First of all, when Italy became, or was becoming united, the *Pope* recommended his Italian friends to invest in that *safe* of *securities*, Turkish bonds; and, therefore, he cannot now leave his followers in the lurch. Secondly, as we have remarked before, he is jealous of Eastern Christianity; and especially is His Holiness jealous of the Eastern Patriarch, when the slightest prospect emerges above the horizon which points to the possibility that his dreaded rival will ever occupy the Patriarchal Throne of St. Sophia. As for the *Rock*, (that is the English rival of the Roman one,) we can imagine no possible excuse for it, waywardness, except the natural tendency of one extreme to gravitate towards the other. This tendency may not be included in the Newtonian theory; but if not scientifically demanded, it is nevertheless philosophically and historically true. That the journal which constitutes itself the bulwark and the mouthpiece of an extreme Protestantism should be so lacking in the elements of common humanity, to say nothing of piety, is certainly instructive. From the tone of some of its recent articles one would imagine that the Turk is doing a blessed work in the East, when he is extirpating the Greek Christians by the ten thousand at a time, even though it be with slow and barbarous torture, and with nameless atrocities worse than death, which will make the 19th century stand out on the pages of the future history of our world, as having perpetrated and sanctioned a more horrible and a more wanton outrage on humanity than any other century of the Christian era.

PROGRESSION, not startling inequality, is the satisfactory proof of Christian experience. The blade, the ear, the full corn in the ear.

Fortitude and Trials.

Oh, never from thy tempted heart
Let this integrity depart;
When disappointment fills thy cup,
Undaunted boldly drink it up,
Truth will prevail, and Justice show
Her tardy honors sure though slow.
Bear on, bear bravely on!

Trade with Australia.

We are glad to see this subject receiving increased attention in this country, as we believe that next to commercial intercourse with the West Indies, that with Australia is next in importance. If both were cultivated in the way and to the extent which many who are acquainted with the matter recommend, we have no doubt that it would increase the prosperity of the Dominion, and render us less liable to suffer from the fluctuations which our neighbors meet with. It appears that as long ago as the year 1870, the possibility of a Canadian trade with Australia was spoken of, and now that the Australian Commissioners have seen the Canadian exhibition at the Centennial, and have also visited Canada themselves, it would appear that considerable stimulus had been given to a consideration of the proposed trade. Hitherto our Australian fellow colonists have been getting petroleum, pine wood, either manufactured or not, and other things, from the United States, all which either come from Canada in the first instance, or could be supplied by ourselves. The quality of the goods seen by the Australian Commissioners at the Centennial, sent from Canada, are thought by them to be very superior. Doors, sashes, blinds, and various kinds of moulding, are particularly spoken of, as likely to command remunerative prices if sent to Australia. They intend also to have an exhibition there next April, and the commissioners advise that Canada should be represented there as strongly as possible. The commercial and manufacturing firms of the country appear to be deeply impressed with the importance of the idea. There is no question that by availing themselves of the opportunity of sending their goods to the projected exhibition, the first important step would be taken in securing the markets. The several Boards of Trade have taken the matter up, an interview has been had with the Premier on the subject, and the deputation is said to have been most successful in its mission. The Premier informed the deputation that the Government would certainly undertake that all articles of Canadian produce, intended for the exhibition, should be conveyed free, and that every care should be taken of them. We hope to see a trade growing up between Australia and Canada, and shall most certainly watch, with a great deal of interest any phases of the subject as they happen to occur.

England and Russia.

Mr. Gladstone describes the Turks as "having been on the whole, from the black day when they first entered Europe, the one great anti-human specimen of humanity." Garibaldi proposes the expulsion of the entire race from the continent of Europe—which may perchance be done if England delays much longer to insist on the autonomy of Bulgaria. This is not, however, the course recommended by Mr. Gladstone. His recommendations do not go so far even as those of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and Dr. Dollinger. Indeed Mr. Gladstone, although he is said to have "burst forth like a volcano, in two great torrents of burning eloquence," nevertheless restrained his estimate of the demands that should be made on Turkey, within reasonable bounds; and, as a proof of this, we may mention that at a meeting at Blackheath, he was influential in carrying a clause attached to one of the resolutions, recognizing the propriety of liberating Bulgaria, Herzegovina, and Bosnia from Turkish control, "with the smallest amount of change that circumstances may permit in the territorial and political arrangements of Europe." But the bug-bear is Russia! Just as in the early part of the present century, France was supposed to be the natural enemy of England, and every movement of the French nation was supposed to have a tendency, direct or indirect, to undermine the prestige and progress of Great Britain, so now with Russia: and the *war* which is attempted to be got up every five or ten years, about the designs of that power, is just as ridiculous as any of the representations made about France in the last generation—indeed far more so. It need only be remembered, so far as Great Britain is concerned, that she has (or will have, which is the same thing) the entire control of the high road to her Indian possessions, irrespective of the owners of the Golden Horn; and the old worn-out squabbles about the balance of power

on the continent, have now no particular bearing on the progress and destiny of England. She, with her colonies and dependencies form a universe of their own, and they ought to be sufficiently impressed with this fact to lead them to cultivate the closest amity, and the freest intercourse. But, it after giving the fullest weight to considerations like these, any should still fear the encroachments of Russia upon some of the fairest portions of the earth, and her advances towards India, we would say that no one could have played into the hands of Russia more than the English ministry have lately done. Had they insisted on the absolute independence of Bulgaria and the other Christian provinces, or had they only demanded that these provinces should be placed on the same footing as Serbia and Roumania, that is, to make their own laws, have their own government, and pay fixed a tribute to the Sultan, Europe would have been satisfied, the ambition of Russia would have been disarmed—at least, its objects would have been thrown back for half a century or more;—and the people of England will be satisfied with nothing less than one of these arrangements. It may appear extreme, and even wild and chimerical to talk, as Garibaldi does, of driving the Turks beyond the Bosphorus; but, we repeat, that if the autonomy of the Turkish provinces be not secured, Europe in the end will very probably send every Mohammedan Turk across the Strait which separates the two continents. And every moment of England's delay in demanding this self-government of Bulgaria and the other Christian provinces, immensely increases Russia's opportunity. The only excuse Russia has for her direct interference is the necessity, made apparent by England's culpability, for preventing the *status quo* from taking place; only remove that, and Russia has no excuse for acting in the matter. As for the Earl of Beaconsfield attempting to stem the intensity of the popular torrent in England, it will only make its resistless fury all the more apparent, as well as the more decided. Grant the autonomy of Bulgaria, which every principle of humanity demands—and the people of England will very soon show their satisfaction with the turn of events.

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