

The Causes of the War.

What are the Russians and the Turks really going to war about? is a question frequently asked, for although the progress of the Eastern Question has been fully narrated, yet the details have covered so much time, have been so mixed up with irrelevant matters, and beggled by diplomacy and distorted by the interested advocates of both sides, that it is difficult to recall the substance of the dispute. Then there are immediate and remote causes to be taken into consideration, as in accounting for most wars. The clashing of Russian and Turkish principles, religious, interests and aspirations, goes far back into the past, but has steadily led up to the present war. We will glance at some of its leading points. Turkey in Europe among its 15,500,000 inhabitants contains 4,550,000 Mussulmans and 10,950,000 members of the Greek Church—the national church of the Russians. That is one division of the Turkish people; another is this: The Ottomans or real Turks, a 2,100,000; the Slavs or Slavonians are 3,250,000, and the Roumanians 4,000,000. The two latter classes, as well as several others which we do not mention, are allied by race with the Russians. We see, therefore, whether regard is had to religion or to race, two-thirds of the population of Turkey are in intense sympathy with the population and the Government of Russia—that Government being the head of the Greek Church. It is not merely, however, that the Christians of Turkey are under a rule with which they have nothing in common, it is a rule the most bigoted, hostile, despotic and unparalyzing that exists in modern times. The Moslem hates the Christian, and, according to the Koran, which is his political constitution as well as religious guide, the "Ghaour" (or infidel) has hardly any rights which the Mohammedan is bound to respect. Hence the outrageous treatment of the Christian subjects of the Porte, culminating in frequent massacres, has long been the subject of European diplomacy, and has naturally elicited the intervention of Russia, the Power nearest at hand and most concerned. To go no further back than the Treaty of Paris, signed in 1856, Turkey bound herself to the great Powers to execute such reforms in her laws and internal administration as should put an end to the abuses complained of. Accordingly, the famous decree or proclamation known as the "Hatti-Humayun" was issued, guaranteeing the civil equality of all subjects of the Sultan and complete liberty of worship. But it has been a dead letter in most parts of the Empire ever since.

[Thus the Eastern Question—or the question of the "Sick Man" in Europe who was unable to attend to his duties, and who was not likely to recover and yet showed no signs of taking himself out of the way, hung on the horizon of Europe till a rebellion broke out in Herzegovina in July 1875, caused by the attempt of Turkish tax collectors to enforce payment of certain arrears from the Servian Christians. The Bosnian Provinces joined in the revolt, and ultimately Serbia. This brought on a war, in which the Servians had the assistance of numerous Russian volunteers. The owners had signed the Treaty of Paris—England, France, Austria and Russia—made an earnest effort to induce the Porte to agree to peace, but the latter refused to do anything in advance of the surrender of its rebellious subjects, it promised the required reforms after such a submission. The contest continued and was disgraced by the horrible Bulgarian massacres, which aroused the indignation of Christendom. An armistice was finally secured through European intervention, and then came the conference at Constantinople. It addressed itself to the old work of securing Turkish reforms, and failed even to get the promise thereof. When the Conference had broken up and its members had gone home, Russia began to ply the other Powers with the question, what they were going to do about it. They had made the Eastern Question a joint European question they had been in common insolently disregarded, were they going to let the matter drop there? For her part, she could not do it; the state of feeling among the Russian people—would not allow it. The result of these appeals on the part of Russia was the protocol, enforcing anew the European demands upon Turkey, but meeting with the same summary rejection. The effect of the protocol thus rejected was to give Russia a power of attorney to carry out the will of Europe, and, if possible, to obtain by arms that redress and security for the Christians of Turkey which had been denied to the urgent solicitation of the great Powers.

This is the substance, ostensibly at least

of the issue now committed to the arbitration of the sword in Turkey. It is, as we have said, complicated with many political and race influences of all sorts of moral value. It will be asked, for instance, whether Russia is so wholly disinterested as she claims. Is she not on road to Constantinople, or bent at least upon territorial acquisition in South eastern Europe? Unquestionably the impulse of "manifest destiny" is strong among Russian people. They see their old enemies cooping them up against any outlet upon their southern and finest border, where they feel that such a mighty nation has a right to reach the sea by channels that are not frozen up half the year. What other people so situated would not feel the same? Mr. Roebuck said in a recent debate in Parliament that it was impossible to meet with a Russian who did not give the impression that he believed his nation was bound to go to Constantinople. And yet the Czar has so leniently disavowed any designs of territorial acquisition, and Gen. Ignatieff has even declared that if Constantinople were tendered Russia as a gift on a writer of gold she would not take it. Nevertheless it will be observed that the Russian declaration of war omits all such disavowals, and the reason is said to be that Russia cannot be expected to deprive herself of a means of action—that is the idea of Russia's advancement to the south is either admitted to be the means of securing the active support of some of the subject populations of Turkey, or else it "sings the heart" of the people of Russia.

On the main cause of war the conduct of the Turks has been as bad as it could be, and capable of no excuse which does not in an equal degree condemn their religion.

FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS.

T. T. Odell,
Robert Stevenson.

The St. Andrews Standard.

Saint Andrews, May 16, 1877.

Our readers will excuse omissions this week, as we are alone at our post, but hope to obtain assistance soon.

Great Fire at St. Stephen!

150 Buildings Burned, Including the Telegraph office, Railroad Depot, Watson Houses, Stores, Wharves, Lumber, &c.

On Monday afternoon clouds of smoke were seen in the direction of St. Stephen, and soon after intelligence was received that a fire was raging in that town. Mr. Ganong and another merchant of that place, who were here at the time, started at once for St. Stephen. The following brief particulars of the great calamity, were gathered from a friend.

The fire broke out in Ganong's premises on Water Street, which runs parallel with the river, the steam fire engines were soon on the ground, but the flames hid defiance, leaping from house to house, and sweeping every building on each side down to Short's ship yard, with wharves, immense piles of lumber, and one or two small vessels; we regret to learn the Custom building with the type presses, &c. was also destroyed; we hope we long that our contemporary will phoenixlike rise from its ashes fresh and bright, with larger facilities. The fire when it reached King Street, ran up that street as far as Hardy & Bridges stable, where it was checked, having however consumed all the buildings on each side, including the Watson Houses and other hotels. Two or three persons from Calis were seriously injured by the falling of chimneys, one of them a young man Jackson is reported to have died. The people of St. Stephen have suffered severely, and have the sympathy of their St. Andrews friends.

A correspondent in the Parish of St. Croix states that "it is not improbable that there will be opposition in the Parish to the present nomination for Councillors, but I do not believe it will succeed, as no men can obtain sufficient support to seriously interfere with Messrs. Russell and Ridout, whom, like the St. Andrews candidates, Odell and Stevenson, possess the confidence of a large majority of the ratepayers. The election is creating more interest than either the Dominion or Local."

Not Correct.—A case of ill treatment on the part of a man to a Parish Apprentice boy was reported to the Commissioners of Poor, which, upon examination, the Chairman informed us, proved incorrect, the boy stated that he is well fed, clothed, and kindly treated.

New Store.—Mr. D. F. Campbell, late of the firm of Beckerton & Co., has opened a grocery and provision store in the building on Water Street, formerly occupied by D. Bradley, where he will keep in stock

a general supply of groceries suitable for this market.

The Circuit Court opened here yesterday, his Honor Judge Duff presiding, with but small attendance. The Grand Jury elected T. T. Odell, Esq. their Foreman.—A bill of indictment was found against a lad named Boyle for stealing from Lovejoy & Co. St. Stephen, and he sentenced to six months imprisonment in Jail.

No civil cause was entered for trial.—The Court adjourned in the afternoon.

The following Address was presented to His Honor, by the Grand Jury:

To the Hon. CHARLES DUFF, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the Province of New Brunswick.

We, the Grand Jury of the County of Charlotte, upon this your first visit to the County in your judicial capacity, tender to your Honor our sincere congratulations upon your elevation to the honorable position which you now occupy. We feel assured that your long and varied practice at the Bar of this Province, in connection with your faithfulness and devotion to the interests of your clients, afford a sure guarantee that the high character for ability, integrity and honorable usefulness, which the Judges of the Court of which you are now a member, have always maintained, will be in no wise lessened by your Honor's appointment. Trusting that you may enjoy a long life of usefulness in the public service.

We have the honor to be, Yours respectfully,
THO. TURNER ODELL, Foreman.

Geo. F. HERRARD, Secy.
Grand Jury Room,
St. Andrews, May 15, 1877.

His Honor made a happy verbal reply in which he alluded to the good order existing in the County and the absence of a litigious spirit among its people.

In our last issue we stated that the fire in the house occupied by Capt. Waycott, was caused by "a defect in the chimney," as reported to us; we have since been informed, that such was not the fact, as the "chimney was almost new and sound, and no insurance on the house."

Speculators were unable to maintain the prices of flour and corn. The advance is not only checked, but prices are this week on the decline, both in Liverpool and New York.

A single Scull Match has been made between Fishers of New York, and Wallace Ross of St. John, for \$500 a side. The race is take place on the Kennebecasis, four miles straight away, and will come off on the 5th June.

Mr. Charles A. Simpson has been appointed Secretary to the Board of School Trustees, Fredericton, in the place of the late C. S. Lagrin, Esq.

Look out for the silver half dollar now in circulation. The stamping, moulding and milling are finely executed; but the counterfeiters are easily detected by their light weight.

A despatch to the *Telegraph* says that a boat upset in the St. Croix River just above the Narrows, near St. Stephen, Friday afternoon, and that one of the occupants, a lad named McComb, was drowned. Another boy named Main, who was also in the boat, clung to her and was rescued by a boat from the Calais side.

The Government of the United States has decided that the extra session of Congress shall be postponed until the 15th of October; and a proclamation to that effect has been issued by the President. A majority of the Members of Congress appeared to be unwilling to visit Washington in June, and the Secretary of War has found that in virtue of the power invested in him to make contracts, etc., he is able to tide over the difficulty occasioned by the failure of the last Congress to make the requisite army appropriations. Many of the politicians experience disappointment and chagrin at this decision of the Cabinet, but the opinion of the country is generally in its favor.

The U. S. Treasury Department has issued a circular giving information to the claimants for the money appropriated at the last session of Congress to pay for the land on the eastern boundary of Maine ceded to Great Britain under the treaty of 1842. The land is a narrow strip stretching from the township of Hodgdon to Plymouth, a distance of 73 miles. There are 10,790 acres in all, and of this quantity 8,200 acres are in the hands of Mr. James A. Drew and gentlemen associated with

him. The law provides that not more than \$3 an acre shall be paid for this land which would make the total amount of the payment \$25,110. The amount of the appropriation was \$35,000. The land which Mr. Drew does not control is in the Bridge-water grant, the Framingham Academy grant, and township of Mars Hill. The circular warns all claimants to file their claims before July 16, 1877.

[The quantity of land stated above ceded to Great Britain, is but a mere speck of the large portion of New Brunswick given to the United States by the Ashburton treaty—one of the worst decisions ever arrived at by a British diplomat—and an unjust one to this Province. It is well that Downing Street cannot now interfere in local or provincial affairs.]

What is Russia's Policy.

The *Times* London, Berlin despatch calls attention to the following notable passage in the St. Petersburg *Golos*, which is considered the chief Russian diplomatic organ:—

"It remains for our diplomacy to determine whether military operations are to be carried on energetically and with the full strength of our active forces, or whether we are to content ourselves with a predetermined movement for the occupation of a certain limited locality." The *Moscow Gazette* is in despair at the latter contingency being suggested. The *Times* in its leading article, reviewing the argument that the Czar was irresistibly impelled to war by the will of the people says: "This is consistent and intelligible, but it is not the language of a reasonable being. It is the language of the Northern hordes, thrust or starved out of their forests to seek food wherever it could be found. The world will not long permit the earth to be desolated by a struggle begun in an interference of defiance, and, if left to itself, pretty sure to last as long as one party has strength to flout defiance at the other." Wars begun in reason may spontaneously end in reason; the weak may bow to the strong, but there is neither reason nor wisdom; a long score of mutual injuries has led to the accumulation of hatred, which must be drowned in blood. Civilization acknowledges no such dire necessities. Unfortunately the struggle is not one far distant from the territory of civilization, but it is an awful and present danger. In self defence civilization will have to confine it to the smallest possible limits and secure its speedy extinction if she can."

DESTRUCTIVE SHIPWRECK.—A young man named Luke Daucette applied at the police station this morning for shelter. He says he belongs to Pubnico, where he shipped on board an American schooner named the *Dasher*, bound fishing. Ten days ago she was wrecked in a gale in Bay of Islands, N.B., and all hands lost except himself, and another man. Another American schooner, brought him to Canso and he walked to Halifax begging his food from persons living on the road. He is footsore and weary and nearly played out. He is trying to make his way home and hopes to find a Pubnico or Barrington vessel here to give him a passage.—*Halifax paper.*

Yarmouth is to celebrate its 116th anniversary of its settlement, on the 9th of June next.

News of a dreadful calamity in South America was received here today by a private despatch from Valparaiso, Iquique, an island on the coast of Peru, has been destroyed by an earthquake and tidal wave. Particulars have not been received, but it is known that there has been a serious loss of shipping.

The British iron-clad squadron will arrive at Port Said on the 14th of May.

It is believed that the Egyptian Government will be able to send 10,000 troops to Turkey, and several Turkish transports are expected from Crete to embark them.

Subscribers in arrears, will confer a favor on us by forwarding the amounts due this office. We have been lenient, and now in justice they should respond promptly, as we need the money. It is to be hoped that other measures will not require to be adapted to obtain what is due us.

Died.
On the 21 inst., after a protracted illness, William O'Brien, aged 42, youngest son of the late Daniel O'Brien.

On the 8th inst. of consumption, Catherine, youngest daughter of John Dempsey in the 19th year of her age.

At Carlton, St. John, on the 5th inst., Agatha, youngest daughter of Mr. Patrick O'Shaughnessy, aged 22.

VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND FOR SALE.

THAT PART OF THE JOES POINT FARM LYING NEARER, THE TOWN OF ST. ANDREWS, KNOWN AS

Lot 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5;

Containing Forty Acres, as conveyed by the late Anne A. Jones, and J. H. Whitlock, Esq., to the late Beverly Robinson, Esq. by deeds registered on the 12th June, 1867.

Possession Given on 1st Nov. next.

For FURTHER PARTICULARS apply to

BENJ. R. STEVENSON.

St. Andrews, 7th May, 1877.—44.

VICK'S FLOWER & VEGETABLE SEEDS

ARE PLANTED BY A MILLION PEOPLE IN AMERICA. SEE

Vick's Catalogue—200 Illustrations, only 2 cts. Vick's Flower Seeds, Quarterly, 25 cts a year. Vick's Flower and Vegetable Garden, 50 cents with elegant color view, \$1.00. All our publications are printed in English and German. ADDRESS: JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y.

Assessors Notice.

THE undersigned having been appointed Assessors of Rates and Taxes for the Parish of St. Andrews, hereby give Notice thereof, and request all persons liable to be rated to bring in to the Assessors within thirty days after publication of this notice, true statements of their property and income liable to be assessed. And if after the Vacation of the Court will be posted at the small building between the stores of Capt. Balson and Green, on King Street; in pursuance of the provisions of the Assessment Act of 1875. Dated 20th day of April 1877. J. R. BRADFORD, Assessors. R. DENSMORE, Rates.

Notice of Sale.

NOTICE is hereby given, that by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in an Indenture of mortgage, dated 28th of October, 1856, and made between John Waycott, Jr., of St. Andrews, County of Charlotte, and Province of New Brunswick, of the one part, and John Dougherty, of Parish, County and Province aforesaid, of the other part, registered in the Records of the County of Charlotte in Book "C", pages 474, 475, 476, 477; there will, for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured by said mortgage, default having been made in the payment thereof, be sold at Public Auction, on the Market Square, in Saint Andrews, on WEDNESDAY the 20th of JUNE, 1877, at 12 o'clock, noon: The South-east half of Lot 3, Book B. Morris' Division, in the said Town of St. Andrews, together with the buildings thereon. Dated at St. Andrews, April 18th, 1877. WM. DOUGHERTY, Devisee of JOHN DOUGHERTY, Mortgagee.

Foyle Brewery.

Malt Houses & Distillery.

P. & J. O'MULLIN,

Manufacturers of

XX & XXX Ales

AND

BROWN STOUT PORTER.

IMPORTERS OF

FINE FLAVORED

RUM, BRANDIES, WINES, &c

HALIFAX, N. S.

BOOTS & SHOES.

LADIES, MISSES AND GENTLEMENS

Boots and Shoes,

BOOT & SHOE MANUFACTORY.

ALSO—a supply of imported Stock, consisting of Ladies and Misses Boots, Arctic Overshoes, and Rubbers, and Rubbers,

which will be sold at the lowest terms.

St. Andrews, 1877. J. M. HANSON.

WESLEY'S HYMNS

—AND—

Bibles & Hymns,

in variety of Bibles.

Also—A few copies of the

METHODIST DISCIPLINE,

CHURCH SERVICES, and

COMMON PRAYERS

A SPLENDID Assortment of BIBLES

in new styles of Binding just received.

H. R. SMITH,

St. John, 1877. 14 King St.