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At periods like the present, when the outlook in Europe appears so ominous, and the contingencies in international affairs are so important to Great Britain as well as to the other great powers, it seems hardly possible but that the British Premier must be sustaining burdens which make large demands upon his mental and nervous strength. But however much Lord Salisbury may feel the responsibilities and worriments of office, it is said that his appearance affords no sign that he is a heavy-laden man. It is highly characteristic of Lord Salisbury's odd temperament, says the London correspondent of the New York Times, that at this period of exceptional strain when the people picture him in their minds as anxious and careworn under these tremendous burdens of statecraft, that he should be making a series of after-dinner speeches in quite his gayest style of light comedy. When he is not cracking admirable jokes, he is discussing social and economical questions with a certainty of touch and a finish of preparation, which would suggest that he had been thinking of nothing else all the while. It is interesting too to observe that Lord Salisbury seems to thrive physically as well as in the matter of mental buoyancy. In the troubled times years ago, it must have been six or seven, I recorded a statement solemnly made to me on high medical authority, that he had bright disease and had been warned that he had only a little time to live. But here he is burlier and heartier than ever, with shoulders and neck grown as bulky as a bison's, but with a perfectly healthful skin, and a mind livelier than ever.

Harcourt on the Eastern Question. The declared intention of the British Government to act in concert with the other powers to compel the withdrawal of Greece from Crete, continues to excite adverse popular feeling in England. Lord Rosbery is said to be in accord with Lord Salisbury's policy in this matter, but Sir William Harcourt and other Liberal leaders are appealing to the popular sentiment against the government respecting its attitude toward Greece. At the annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation, which opened at Norwich on the 17th inst, Sir William emphatically condemned the government's European policy. The nation, he said, had never been exposed to a greater humiliation than it was now, when it was chained and coerced by the menace of wars in which it had no concern, to abstain from doing what it was under the higher obligations of honor to do, and compelled to do what its conscience condemned. Why should England coerce Greece for the sake of preserving the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, when every breach made in it was in the interest of mankind. Sir William praised Greece for coming to the help of the Cretans against the Turks. It was this brave champion that the British nation was

bidden in the name of Ottoman integrity to aid in crushing with the fleet of which the nation was so proud. Is it not time, he asked, that the British people take a stand and demand to know what are the limits of British submission and co-operation in this anti-crusade. He prayed that the shame of a great free nation being made an unwilling partner in the odious policy might yet be averted.

Mr. Gladstone on the Eastern Crisis. The voice of Mr. Gladstone is heard again in reference to international matters which are at present of so immediate and vital interest. The aged statesman has published, in the form of a letter to the Duke of Westminster, a sixteen page pamphlet on "The Eastern Crisis." From the account given of this utterance in despatches, Mr. Gladstone appears to have spoken very plainly and quite vehemently in condemnation of the course pursued by the powers in reference to the Ottoman Empire and the crimes against civilization and humanity, which the past few years have witnessed in the Sultan's dominions, all which he says have been committed under the eyes of the six great powers represented by their ambassadors at Constantinople. He charges that in the concert of the powers, Russia and Germany, under the government of two young men—the one wholly without knowledge and experience in affairs of government and the other often causing astonishment and consternation by his actions—are using their influence steadily against freedom, and he asks, why is the Government of Great Britain pinned to their aprons. Mr. Gladstone praises Greece for her action in reference to Crete, and says the little kingdom is a David facing six Goliaths. He declares his belief that neither the Italians nor the French, and least of all the British people, will tolerate the punishment of Greece for the good deed she has performed. Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet does not appear to have caused any remarkable sensation in England, but it is evident from recent speeches and declarations of the Liberal leaders, in and out of parliament, that they are at one with Mr. Gladstone in holding that the concert of Europe for the integrity of the Ottoman Empire represents a policy which Great Britain cannot too soon abandon.

Bonaventure. The result of the by-election for the Dominion Parliament in the constituency of Bonaventure, Quebec province, on Wednesday last, resulted in the election of Mr. Guite, the Government candidate by a majority of about 900 votes. This majority is greater by nearly 600 votes than that of the late Mr. Fauvel, the Liberal candidate, at the general election of 1896. Mr. Guite had been required by Bishop Blais to sign a paper pledging him to unqualified opposition to the present Manitoba school settlement, and all those who supported it. This pledge Mr. Guite had refused to give, and the influence of the bishop and his subordinate clergy had been accordingly turned vigorously against him. Throughout the constituency the government candidate was denounced by the parish priests from their pulpits, and the people were advised that it was their duty to vote against him. The priests, however, appear to have foreborne to intimate that failure to conform to their commands would be punished by refusing to the disobedient the rites of the church. From the result it would appear that the people paid little attention to the words of their priests, but voted as they saw fit. The School question evidently had little influence in deciding the contest. But it is not to be taken for granted that

elections in other Quebec constituencies would give similar results. There is a large Protestant population in Bonaventure—about one-third of the whole it is said. Among the French speaking Roman Catholics there are many Jersey men and natives of France, who are less docile to clerical influence than the native French Canadians. The influence of the clergy in a more purely Roman Catholic and French Canadian constituency in the interior of the province would undoubtedly be used with much greater effect. Still there seems to be plenty of evidence that the Roman Catholic people of Quebec will stand out for separate schools in Manitoba only as they are lashed into such a course by the whips of the bishops.

Plebiscite Plans. The Executive of the Dominion Temperance Alliance, at a meeting recently held in Toronto, considered plans of work in connection with the plebiscite to be taken on the subject of prohibition. A proposition considered in July last for the appointment of a National Literature committee was put into effect by the election of J. R. Dougall, of Montreal, Dr. Dewart, Ald. Spence of Toronto, and four others as said committee.

The work of forming local and county plebiscite organizations was ordered to be pushed on until the bill is enacted in the Dominion Parliament fixing the date for the plebiscite vote. On that being done, the executive will meet immediately and formulate a detailed plan of campaign to be inaugurated simultaneously throughout the whole Dominion. The date of this inauguration is to be known as 'Plebiscite Day.' The official announcement was made, that the recent action taken respecting provincial legislation would not affect the holding on July 13, of a Dominion, and on July 14, of a provincial prohibition convention. The calls for these gatherings will be issued shortly. Already the secretary has been notified of the appointment of delegates. The Dominion convention will consist of representatives of the provincial branches of the Alliance, other temperance organizations of a Dominion character, and church organizations of similar extent. The provincial convention will be a delegated convention of representatives of local temperance and religious organizations.

Affairs in Europe. According to information contained in European despatches the blockade of the Cretan ports by the warships of the powers was to be inaugurated last Sunday. The warships would make a cruise round the island, delivering to the inhabitants of the chief ports proclamations declaring the intention of the powers to establish autonomy in the island. Arrangements have been made also, it is stated, as to the localities at which the troops of the several powers should be located. The attitude of Greece and Turkey toward each other continues to be of a warlike character. The Greek Government is reported to be sending warships to Volo in Thessaly, and pushing forward with all possible expedition reinforcements of troops to the Turkish frontier. Russia is suspected of secretly promoting hostilities between Greece and Turkey with a view to furthering her own interests. There are rumors of a secret treaty lately arranged between Turkey and Russia in which the latter is to get Suda, Alexandretta and another Mediterranean port in exchange for the support she undertakes to give Turkey against Greece. There is a pretty strong popular sentiment in England against the policy of coercion toward Greece. The Liberal leaders, Harcourt and Kimberly, are taking a firmer stand and speaking out more definitely in opposition to the traditional policy of preserving the integrity of the Ottoman Empire to which Lord Salisbury still strongly clings.

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