

all the slop-pails of its wrath. Lord Beaconsfield dealt him the most malignant blow of all by inducing his brother, Colonel Stanley, to whom he was known to be greatly attached, to pass a tacit censure on his withdrawal by replacing him in the Cabinet. The Jingoës delighted to repeat that the Queen, in admitting Colonel Stanley to his office, said to him: "The honour of your family will, at all events, be safe in your hands." Any one but a scion of privilege would have shrunk from stepping into place over the honour of a brother.

—From Europe we have still the same news; general disquietude, and rumours of conspiracies between this or the other pair or trio of great powers against the rest. It is supposed that the decision of questions of peace and war has been transferred by political progress from the dark councils of kings to the open parliaments of nations; but there is still wide scope for personal influence, even in nations under Parliamentary government; and the history of the Crimean war shows how an intriguing minister may draw a nation to the brink and thrust it in. We cannot tell what is going on in the Cabinets of Berlin, Vienna, or even in that of London, much less in that of St. Petersburg. The statements cabled, though they look authoritative, are guesses; very improbable guesses if they point to an immediate war between Russia and Germany, though it cannot be said, in face of the growing entanglement of affairs in Central Asia, that there is no danger of a war between Russia and England. Enormous as the armaments are they are still being increased, while Socialism, Communism, Nihilism, and political dangers of all kinds, increase in proportion. In fifteen years the total debts of the European States have mounted from £2,626,000,000 to £4,324,000,000 sterling, and still there is no end. Now and then there come even from the Bismarcks expressions of alarm and faint whisperings of mutual disarmament. But these are at once followed by another increase "as a security for peace." Nor are the