

IN MEMORIAM.

SIR HOPE GRANT, G. C. B.

SIR ARTHUR HELPS, K. C. B.

Born 1818,

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DIED, MARCH 7, 1875.

So frequently falls the heavy hand of Death,
Time falls for wreathing each fresh funeral
crown;
Men, whose own hair is grey, read with drawn
breath
Of loved and honored suddenly struck down.

O, well for England that when living names
Pass to the death-roll in her Book of Gold,
'Tis rare that search finds stain to soil their
fames,
Proudly in that proud fellowship enrolled.

And ne'er were purer names writ in that book
Than these, whose record last by Death was
sealed,
The soldier, kind of heart and blithe of look,
Joyous in camp as grim on foughten field.

Who, patient, brooked neglect and bided time,
And lost no chance of laurels when it came;
And through sore stress of hot war and hard
clime,
For duty lived; nor cried or craved for fame.

One whose pure life had no need to divide
The Christian and the Captain—well-content *
To pray with his own soldiers side by side,
A yet boy for harmless sport and merriment.

Who lived full in the rude camp's watchful eye,
Unblamed, beloved, respected: who lay down
To well earned rest, as one to whom to die,
Is humbly to exchange life's cross for crown.

Nor less a type what scholar ought to be,
The sage, whose death-bell with the soldier's
blends;
Who in his office long and faithfully,
Gathered the lessons his books taught his
friends.

For all his readers grew his friends to be,
Won by that wise and working kindness,
Which without quest of cure no ill could see,
Yet knew not chafe of impotent distress.

Keeper of his Queen's secrets—trusted true,
Ruling with like discretion pen and tongue;
A friend of friends in council, whom none knew
Unless to love—high or low, old or young.

'Tis hard the loss of such lives to make good;
The good of such examples hard to shun;
Unkind to hold them still here if we could,
From that sweet sleep—the rest of duty done.

—Punch.

* Sir Hope Grant often attended the services in
he simple soldiers' Mission-house at the camp.

Imperial Movements.

If questions of European policy attracted only half the public attention in England that they do on the Continent, some interest, if not excitement, would have been felt before now relative to the movements of the three Emperors. The fact that Austria was drifting into an alliance that might be detrimental to England in some future emergency was suggested by her recent accord with Russia and Germany in the question that had arisen between the Principalities and Turkey, and this should have been the more noticeable, considering that the tendency of the joint action of the three Powers was to weaken still more the already weakened and tottering fabric of the Sultan's Empire. Now it seems settled that the Emperors of Germany and Austria are to visit the king of Italy, and the Emperor of Russia is to visit Berlin, their Majesties being accompanied in each case by their Foreign Secretaries. Afterwards, the three Emperors are to meet at Ems. These incidents may be explained away by imaginative politicians until they mean nothing more important than the meeting of the three tailors of Tooley Street, in the name of the people of England. The fact, however, will remain that for good or evil three of the greatest Powers of Europe are in close alliance, and that events are on the cards which it is impossible should not be

influenced by the *entente cordiale* they have established.

The fact that Austria has thrown in her lot with Russia and Germany is not a reassuring one, when we consider the possibilities of the immediate future. Austria is an old ally of England, and holding a fine strategical position in the East, her cordial alliance could not have been without its value in certain contingencies, as we may judge from a comparison with the situation in 1854, when her co-operation with Russia would have given a different turn to events in the Crimean campaign. It is true we are not assured, even at this moment, that Austria has broken with her old traditions, and this is a point on which it may not be easy to extract information from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It is certain, however, that the good understanding between her and the other two Powers, amounts to unusual cordiality, and if the rumours that reach us are well founded, this is solely owing to her despair of any similar understanding with our own Government. What we have reason to fear is, that in a certain conjuncture of events, the weight of Austria will be thrown into the adverse scale, whereas if our own Government had any policy worthy of the name, in dealing with events which are likely to arise—and which may arise any moment—her flag would have been planted by the side of that of England.

It is but right, perhaps, that the possibilities to which we are referring should not be allowed to influence the practical business of the Foreign Office; but it is too late in the day to treat as of slight significance the mighty armaments of the European Powers and the movements of Sovereigns who hold those armaments under their absolute control. It is very possible for a Government to be too amiably inclined; and this is precisely the danger we have to fear in the presence of armed hosts more numerous than those which followed Alaric and Attila. It was one of our great historians—we forget which—who said that Europe could never again be overrun by barbarians, for there was no place where they could come from. In these days they have sprung up in our midst, and Europe herself is arming the hosts which may ere long tread under foot the achievements of civilization and the hopes of the future with a ruthlessness that Alaric and Attila never exceeded. Our English homes, it is true, may not lie in the path of this invasion; but on the other hand, the calamity which should cut us off from communication with the East, and destroy the *prestige* of our commercial prosperity, would be no less disastrous to our selves than to the populations who might be the first sufferers by it. Let us hope, therefore, that our Foreign Office is on the alert, and is watchful of the signs of the times. Lord Derby should be all eyes and ears; and Lord G. Hamilton has assured the House of Commons that the Indian Government "will give every consideration to any circumstances which may occur in the vicinity of Herat and Merv," so the Foreign Office, acting in the same spirit, should give every consideration to any circumstances that may occur in the vicinity of Ems.

The Russian Forces in Asia.

The *Cologne Gazette* of Wednesday prints an article from its well-known and well-informed military correspondent, reviewing the forces which Russia has disposable for war in Asia. The troops now stationed in

Asia are not nearly adequate to the great work which Russia appears to have before her, and to the accomplishment of which she may be called any day. They are few in number, armed with weapons of primitive construction, many of them irregularly organized, and scattered over the whole breadth of the occupied territory. It would require many months to concentrate them on a given spot. There are twenty-four battalions of infantry, viz., two in the Orenburg, four in the West Siberian, six in the East Siberian, and twelve in the Turkestan district. Moreover, four battalions of sharpshooters in Turkestan, thirty-five regiments of Cossacks, comprising six sotnias or squadrons each, two brigades of artillery, viz., one of four and the other of three batteries, one detached battery, six Cossack batteries, and a company of engineers. All in all, the army in Asia comprises twenty eight battalions, fourteen batteries, and 210 squadrons, numbering 60,800 men, 32,650 horses, and 112 guns. In addition twenty three battalions and sixty-eight sotnias of Cossack troops scattered over the Amoor, Sabaikal, Orenburg, and Astrakan districts, and numbering 25,740 men and 9650 horses, are available as reserves. If all these troops were ordered into the field for war service, twenty-seven battalions, twelve sotnias, and three and a half batteries, numbering altogether 30,850 men, 2750 horses, and twenty eight guns, would still remain disposable for garrison duty. Russia is thus shown to command in Asia a force of about 80,000 men available for war, and all in all, 110,008 men. But, as already observed, these troops are scattered far and wide over immeasurable tracks. Of the mounted force, looking so imposing on paper, all but the twelve regiments of Oural Cossacks are irregular levies. Only four battalions of sharpshooters are as yet armed with Berdan rifles; the others have the large bore Terry-Norman musket converted from old muzzle loaders. Two batteries of the artillery have bronze breech-loaders, a good many being not even rifled. The writer believes that from this evident lack of preparation for war, Russia may be inferred not to contemplate active hostilities. But it must be borne in mind that for such she has her excellent Caucasian Army near at hand, containing a numerically strong force, well equipped, well drilled, practised in practical warfare, and most of them picked men. Leaving out of account the depot troops and the garrison and local forces, the army comprises one division of grenadiers, five of infantry, that is, twenty-four regiments or ninety two battalions, moreover four battalions of rifles, sixteen squadrons of dragoons, twenty four batteries of field artillery, with eight guns apiece, and two battalions of sappers, altogether 149,472 men 18,268 horses, and 176 guns, which may in the event of war, be reinforced by the Cossack forces of Terck and Kuban, mustering 60,000 men, 32,000 horses, and fifty-six guns. Moreover, Russia is organizing a sixth division of infantry, the order for the formation of which has already been issued. Whatever improvements have been introduced into the Russian Army in the way of new weapons or equipments, have been first made available for these troops, on the efficiency of which Russia appears specially bent. The force reviewed would suffice, in case of war, to keep both Turkey and Persia completely in check, and still leave a contingent over to meet a British force, such as could be mustered in India on equal terms. The troops have shown what they can do in the Khivan campaign. Beyond the land force, Russia,