

before the war there was the same interchange of notes, and speeches, and conferences as have been occupying the world's attention for some months back; with this difference, however, that this year we have an actual conflict between Turkey and a revolted Province. There is a further difference too, not of a political but a financial nature. Turkey was then in fair credit. Now she is a defaulter and bankrupt.

Of the wishes of Russia there is scant room for doubt, notwithstanding the Czar's professions. She wants Constantinople, and she would do everything short of an open declaration of war to bring about the humiliation of Turkey and a re-arrangement of her frontier. If Turkey can be brought down so as to be powerless to resist, Russia would watch her opportunity for giving effect to her long-cherished wishes, and Russia can wait. Whether she will wait patiently or not depends on the temper of her people, and especially of her great nobles. The national sentiment acts strongly in the direction of a southern capital. This sentiment is of the same kind as that which fermented so long in Italy, and then burst into action with results which are before our eyes. Rome is the capital of Italy to-day wholly because for long years the heart of the Italian people was set upon it. At one time it seemed a most unlikely contingency, and politicians of the old school laughed at the idea of it. But the march of events brought it about at length. In all such cases there is a long process of preparation, then an unexpected explosion, and then a new order of things which soon assumes such a settled shape that people wonder why it was not before accomplished.

Something of this kind is almost certain to transpire with regard to Russia and European Turkey. The time is uncertain, but the tendency is as strong as it was before the Crimean war. That was an attempt to pluck the pear before it was ripe, and resulted in disaster. But the pear is coveted still.

The issue is in the hands of England. Russia would hesitate long before she risked another war with Britain. If England is determined that Russia shall not have Constantinople except as the price of war, the attempt may not be made—at any rate, at present. But here again the point is whether the popular sentiment of England is strong enough to risk a war about it. There is a certain sentiment in certain quarters, but it is a question whether it is powerful. It is certainly nothing to compare with the sentiment of Russia on the subject. And combinations may arise which will open the way for Russia to act

and at the same time tie the hands of England. In that case it is certain that the opportunity would be seized. Turkey standing alone would be brought on her knees before Russia in a week; and if once she is absolutely and clearly left to herself the end would soon be accomplished.

To us in Canada, considered simply in its material aspect, a war, if it did break out, would rather be a benefit in enhancing the price of everything we produce. But it would be absurd in the highest degree to speculate upon such a contingency.

CANADIAN BUTTER.

We have lately seen some correspondence bearing upon the condition of the English butter market, and the various qualities, as well as imitations of that article which are most common of late. A letter from Britain, offering some advice to the Canadian farmers, blames our want of care or knowledge in curing or packing, for the fact—and unfortunately it is a fact—that what we ship to that market will not sell for best or even second best. It is well to learn where our defects lie. We have done this in the case of Canadian cheese, and the result of increased knowledge and improved methods, is that our cheese now commands attention and secures a price in British markets equal to the average American.

It would be absurd to say that we cannot or that we do not make good butter. Some of us do, and all can learn, but there are many who do not, and it is just here that the difficulty arises. The country store-keeper buys butter, let us say, from twenty different farmers. Some of it is perfect, sweet and fragrant; some of it oversalt; some stale; one make will be tainted from the irregular feeding of the cow; another full of milk which should have been pressed out. All these various sorts are piled in firkins together, the stale on top of the fresh, either in heedless ignorance, or in the ingenious hope of making "a fair average" out of the lot. This kind of mixing might do in wheat, or in cordwood, but it is fatal to butter which is a dainty product, sensitive to contact with impurities, and one whose flavour, like that of coffee, is its crowning virtue.

It is their close observation of the flavour of good butter, which has enabled the French to place upon the Liverpool and Manchester markets, with the past month or two, an imitation termed "bosh-butter" which is offered at 86/- the cwt. of 112 lbs., or about 18½¢ per lb. and threatens serious harm to the Canadian article which hitherto has brought 110/ to 112/.

The substance above named is a mixture of marrow, suet, and other animal fats, possibly brains too, with 20 per cent. of pure butter added to give the requisite flavour. So nicely is it manipulated, and so well flavoured, that with short transportation and a rapid sale it passes for a very fair article of butter, and, as we have said, interferes with a Canadian article which is more genuine but less attractive.

Canadian butter has to meet the further competition of substances termed butterine, oleomargarine, &c., which sell at about a shilling stg., the pound in Britain. If consumers of a certain class there are content with a second rate article, they will more readily buy the French or the American compounds at a shilling, than give us one-and-four pence for what is no more palatable to them. Our true plan is to send home our good butter and get 120/- and 126/- for it, and this we can do by more care on the part of our buyers and our packers, for the difference in price in England to-day between "good" and poor Canadian butter is fully ten cents per pound. A Manchester grocer, writing on this subject, notices that at a certain date choicest butter was quoted 16c to 18c in Toronto, while on the same day it sold in the Manchester market for 1¼d or over thirty-two cents., almost double the Toronto price. And yet the samples we shipped have, so far from being choicest, brought less than ten pence per pound, a fair proof of their relative quality.

Can the packers of Canadian butter doubt that it would pay them better to cull their purchases, reject ordinary, and pack for British shipment only the choice? Let them modify the experiment if they will, and send the ordinary at the same time, but separate from the choice, and note the difference in the returns. There is a marked difference, one would think, between thirty-two cents. and twenty, and the experiment is at least worth making. Something is to be said, of course, about the time needed for transmission, and in this the German and French product has a material advantage over ours. From twenty to thirty days is a long time to preserve the flavour of butter, subject as it is to be tainted by the foul air of the hold, or by surrounding substances, or possibly by remaining too long in new packages. But this risk may be modified by using brine, by ventilation on board, and by securing certain spaces free from objectionable surroundings, for containing this special cargo, or by the use of ice. Time and care will develop the best means to conquer these difficulties. It is difficult with present facilities to get a shipment from Ontario to Britain without some