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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 27th May, 1876.

THE SOFTAS.

The excitement caused by the Salonica outrage has not abated. A party of Softas parade the streets of Stamboul, crying, "Down with the Grand Vizier!" The dedication of the new English Church, which had been arranged for, has been indefinitely postponed at the request of the British Ambassador, who had consulted the Minister of Police on the possible consequences of the ceremony. The Softas have been dissatisfied with the Government ever since the trouble of January and the acceptance of Count ANBRASSY'S note, which evinced a disposition to place all religious denominations on an equal footing. The first alarm felt was occasioned by a well-founded report that Softas, and Mussulman roughs who are ruled by them, were buying revolvers, daggers, and other weapons. The Christians have resorted to similar precautions. A letter from Constantinople, under date of the 12th inst., says the excitement during the last three days has amounted to a panic. The demand for weapons, both by Softas and Christians, is so great that most of the shops in Stamboul have sold out all their stock. The Softas—that is, all persons attached to the mosques in any capacity whatever—are practically masters of the situation. They number about 10,000 persons, and their influence over the Proletariat is supreme. They utter threats against the Sultan, his Ministers, and sometimes against the Christians. Although quiet now, they profess to be friends to the latter. Last week, a great number of them went to the palace and demanded the dismissals of the Grand Vizier, MAHMOUD NEDIM PASHA, the CHELBU-UL-ISLAM, and the Minister of War. The Sultan resisted for an hour, but the clamor of the mob finally induced him to demand the resignation of MAHMOUD NEDIM PASHA, the Grand Vizier. The scene was most riotous and disorderly. Constantinople contains only 1,600 regular soldiers, the remainder being redifs and recruits. The Turkish officers openly admit their inability to control the latter in case of an outbreak, and it is generally believed they would obey the Softas. Mobs of Softas have paraded the streets lately, demanding the dismissal of MAHMOUD NEDIM PASHA, whom they accuse of being under Russian influence. Threats have been made against Christians generally, and two or three murders have occurred, which the police are doing their utmost to hush up. Constantinople, in fact, is in revolution. The Softas are not satisfied with the appointment of MEHMET RUSHDI as Grand Vizier, and clamor for MIDHAT PASHA. They want MEHMET RUSHDI as President of the nation's Parliament. A large number of Softas at the Bajazet Mosque would not allow the prayer for the Sultan to be read the other day. On the 10th inst., Prof. BONAMY PRICE and wife narrowly escaped the vio-

lence of the mob while visiting a mosque. If a struggle should take place, as everybody is dreading, between the native Christians and the Mussulmans, the Christians would prove victorious provided the troops did not aid the mob. But in a general rising of Mohammedans, the large colonies of European subjects in Constantinople and along the Bosphorus would be in greater danger than the native Christian, because their wealth would constitute an additional stimulus to the religious zeal of the Turkish rabble. This danger the respective Ambassadors provided against as far as the means at their disposal allowed. All the despatch boats are kept under steam. A plan of joint action had been agreed upon. The foreign Consuls met to devise means for the mutual defence of their subjects. All foreign steamers in port have steam up. The streets of Pera are patrolled by a band of Austrian Croats. A deputation of Englishmen called Minister ELLIOT'S attention to the exceptional danger of the English colony and asked his assistance. The latter admitted the danger to all Christians, and that the English was the least protected colony. He invited the whole community, in case of any outbreak, to seek shelter at the Embassy. He also promised to telegraph to the British Foreign Office what had occurred, and to represent the urgency of the position.

A FLOATING MONSTER.

Almost simultaneously with the triumphant return of the Prince of Wales from India, we receive intelligence of the successful launch of the *Inflexible*, the most powerful naval vessel afloat. The event is of importance as evincing the determination of Britain to maintain her supremacy of the seas, at all hazards and at what ever cost. This great ironclad carries four 81-ton guns, in turrets, which are protected by iron armour 18 inches in thickness. These giant guns, being moved by hydraulic machinery, can be manipulated with more ease than guns one-quarter their weight by former arrangements; while the turrets, being moved by the same all-powerful agency, can either perform one whole revolution in a minute, or else move so slowly that the eye could not detect it. The main body of the ship is protected by two coatings of armour, each 12 inches thick, with massive bulks of oak between. Should, therefore, a shot succeed in penetrating the first 12 inches of iron, it would have to pass through the oak, and, thus deadened, find before it another wall of iron as thick as the first, through which it must go before it would be within the vessel. But even did the shot succeed in entering her most vital part, it does not follow she should sink, because she is divided into so many watertight compartments that several might be filled and yet the *Inflexible* remain afloat. Having engines of the most approved construction driving twin screws, she can be handled with the utmost certainty and delicacy, while, notwithstanding her enormous armour and armament, she has a less draught of water than the *Devastation*, which is 15 feet shorter and 13 feet less beam. The Italian Government have in course of construction at Castellamare and Spezia two war-ships—the *Duilio* and the *Dandolo*—which will mount guns of 100 tons each, while those carried by the *Inflexible* will weigh but 81 tons, but their turrets will be armoured with 10 inch plates, those of the *Inflexible* being 18 inches thick. It would appear, therefore, that the Italian ships will possess no very considerable advantage over the *Inflexible*. The guns of the latter ship are quite competent to give a good account of even 22-inch armour, and as a gun of less than 100 tons is sufficiently powerful to cope with the 18-inch turrets of the *Inflexible*, it would appear that the Italian Government have adopted weapons of unnecessary weight. For the present, at least, it remains to be proved that the additional weight of Sir W. ARMSTRONG'S guns will secure a considerable augmentation in their efficiency. It must not be forgotten

that as the distance of the gun from the mark increases so does the difficulty of hitting the target. If an 80-ton gun can punch 18 inches of iron a mile, while a mile is the maximum range at which a turret can be hit with anything like certainty, it is clear that nothing would be gained by the adoption of a gun which would punch 18 inches of armour at a mile and a half. The power of punching an armourplate is one thing; the power of hitting the plate is quite another; and it would appear that, unless plates much thicker than 18 inches are to be used, the 80-ton gun is equal in power to any other gun, no matter how much heavier, that can be produced, and that not a little is gained by keeping a gun as light as possible. There is no reason to conclude that the *Inflexible* is really less powerful than the *Dandolo*, albeit the latter will carry heavier guns and thicker armour.

BRITISH LOYALTY.

The magnificent reception tendered to the Prince of Wales in London, on his return from India, is further proof, if such were needed, of the deep-rooted loyalty of the whole British nation to the Throne. The memorable event took place on the 19th inst., and is said to have realized all expectations.

The Prince, accompanied by the Princess and members of the Royal Families, arrived at Guildhall soon after seven o'clock after a triumphant progress through streets crowded with spectators, who cheered enthusiastically as the carriages passed. The masses of people around Guildhall were immense. The venerable building and pavilion adjoining, erected for the occasion, were splendidly illuminated. There was great cheering as the Prince alighted and passed into the reception room. After receiving the address of the Corporation, the Prince was escorted by the Lord Mayor to the Main Hall, where he sat down to a banquet with about 500 of the most distinguished persons of the Kingdom. The decorations of the hall were rich and tasteful, the company brilliant, including MR. DISRAELI and the members of the Government, with all the great officers of State, and the banquet was excellent. After the cloth was removed, a few toasts were given, the responses were short, and were preceded and followed by music.

The Lord Mayor proposed the health of His Royal Highness. The Prince, replying, returned thanks. He instanced the warmth of his reception in India as evidence of India's loyalty to England. Other speeches made warmly expressed happiness at the safe return of the Prince, and loyalty and devotion to the Queen and Royal Family. At the conclusion of the dinner a grand ball began; at its height 5,000 guests must have been present. The floor of the main hall, with that of the new library, and a temporary pavilion adjoining, were scarcely able to accommodate the assemblage. The festivities were kept up to a late hour, the Prince retiring long before they were concluded. Thousands of people remained around the building until daylight, eager to catch a glimpse of the scene or of the guests as they departed.

THE ROYAL TITLES BILL AND THE COLONIES.

In the House of Lords, May 3d, Lord SELBORNE called attention to the terms of the recent Royal Proclamation, and interrogated Her Majesty's Ministers as to its operation and effect. The Lord Chancellor replied, in general, but satisfactory terms.

In the House of Commons, Sir HENRY JAMES asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, at the time the Royal Titles Bill was in Committee, it was the intention of the Government not to advise Her Majesty to take the title of Empress to be borne in the country, and whether the Proclamation rendered it a title of a local character to be borne in India. In reply, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that it was the intention of the

Government to advise that the title of Empress should be of a local character to be borne in India; but there were circumstances under which it was necessary for the Queen to acknowledge herself in England and to allow others to acknowledge her as Empress of India.

Mr. O. MORGAN asked the Attorney-General whether the Royal Proclamation of the 28th April requires that in future the additional title of Empress of India must be used in proclamations, writs, charters, commissions, and other like instruments issued by the Governors or Supreme Courts of colonies. Of course he alluded to cases in which the full title of the Queen was at present used.

The Attorney-General in answer stated that the addition of the word "Empress" in the use of the Royal title is only required in instruments having operation in the colonies of the United Kingdom in cases where it is necessary at present to make use of the full and complete title of Her Majesty. As to whether it is in strictness necessary to employ the complete title of Her Majesty in proclamations or in any charters or commissions, if any, issued by the Governors of colonies, or any writs the form of which is prescribed by charter, it may perhaps be necessary to employ the full title. In respect to instruments where it will be necessary, it will be within the competence of the authorities issuing them to decide whether the addition of the word "Empress" can be used.

THE SOUTH HONORS THE QUEEN.

A remarkable expression of public opinion in regard to the Queen comes to us from the Southern States. A grand celebration of her birthday is to be held this year at Petersburg, in Virginia. A regular organisation has been formed, having a President, several vice-presidents, Executive Committee, and the usual officers. There appear to be several British Associations in the State of Virginia and they are to meet this year at Petersburg, special arrangements having been made with the railways and the hotels for the accommodation of visitors. The address of the Committee says amongst other things:—The Centennial year affords a splendid opportunity for international courtesies, and the British celebration in Petersburg will historically and appropriately mark the glorious brotherhood, which in the nineteenth century has been established among the English speaking nations. Virginia welcomes British settlers with open arms, and sees in the work of colonization since the war a great and enduring means of recuperation. Virginians love the Old Country as the dear old home of their ancestors—the birthplace of civil and religious liberty—the mother of free nations—and deeply revere those noble virtues and womanly graces which have made the reign of Queen Victoria so conspicuous. The celebration to which we invite you will, undoubtedly, be characterised by the heartiness and enthusiasm which spring from warm sympathies. We therefore ask you one and all to join us in honouring the birthday of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and in adding one more link to the golden chain of affection which binds together the citizens of the United States and the British people.

We are pleased to find that the press throughout the country has written approvingly of the sermon "The Hard Things of the Bible," by Rev. JAMES ROY, M. A. of this city, thus confirming the views which we unreservedly expressed on the subject. The *Christian Guardian* of Toronto, characterizes it as a no ordinary sermon which will amply repay careful perusal and serious study. "It grapples in a masterly manner with questions of great current interest, which must be met, sooner or later, by all intelligent Christians. Sermons are generally dull reading; but Mr. Roy's thoughtful and eloquent discourse is the farthest remove from dullness. It is evidently the work of a mind that has wrestled