

QUIRKS OF DIPLOMACY.

QUIRKS OF DIPLOMACY.—What *are* Quirks of Diplomacy? It is right to answer this query, at once, by explaining the meaning of the word "quirk." A quirk, says Worcester, in his excellent Dictionary, is "a twist or turn from the straight or right way." Johnston, quoting Burton, defines it to be "an artful distinction." Now, diplomacy has been held, to be the science of artful distinctions, and its earlier professors piqued themselves, not a little, on their ingenuity in twisting common sense, and turning common language, from the right or straight way. With these men "words were made to disguise thoughts." They regarded diplomacy and duplicity as synonymous terms. Good Sir Henry Wotton, a name familiar to all old Etonians, spoke very undiplomatic truth, when he gave a "pleasant definition of an ambassador" in these words, "*Legatus est vir bonus, peregré missus, ad mentendum Reipublicæ causâ,*" which, at a later period, with equal discretion and wit, he interpreted, thus "an ambassador is an honest man, sent to *lie abroad* for the good of his country." Such was his estimate of his own craft, in the days of our James the 1st, A.D., 1612.

But the progress of human ideas has shown that, as with all other sciences, the foundation of the science of diplomacy is truth and it is a proud satisfaction to know that "artful distinctions" have been long since discarded by the manly and practical diplomacy of England; that the publicity due to