

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

I can see that I grow older,
And I note it day by day;
I can feel my heart grow colder
As its pleasures pass away.
At the tall-tale glass I linger,
As with faded eye I trace
Solemn tokens which Time's finger
Has engraven on my face.

But one moment can restore me
To my boyhood and my prime,
And sweet memories come o'er me,
Of that brief and blessed time;
Then I hear a father's blessing;
And I feel a mother's kiss;
And again I am caressing
One who shared with me my bliss.

Who shall say the Past must perish
'Neath the Future's coming waves?
What the soul delights to cherish,
From Oblivion's depths it saves!
Looking backward, on I'm gliding,
Till I reach the final shore,
Where the Present is abiding,
And where Change shall come no more.

ADIEU, ADIEU! OUR DREAM OF LOVE.

Adieu, adieu! our dream of love
Was far too sweet to linger long;
Such hopes may bloom in bowers above,
But here they mock the fond and young.

We met in hope, we part in tears!
Yet, O, 'tis sadly sweet to know
That life, in all its future years,
Can reach us with no heavier blow!

The hour is come, the spell is past;
Far, far from thee, my only love,
Youth's earliest hope; and manhood's last,
My darkened spirit turns to rove.

Adieu, Adieu! O, dull and drear
Sinks on the ear that parting knell!
Hope and the dreams of love lie dead,—
To them and thee, farewell, farewell!

[For the TORCH.]

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

No. 1.

LATEST PREPARATIONS.

Whether it is to be peace or war is of course a speculation at present; but in view of the latter probability, it is consoling to rest assured that the English Government have left no stone unturned to secure ultimate victory. An article shortly to be published in "The Twentieth Century," from the pen of Sir Wm. Bullsey, a telegraphic summary of which is just to hand, gives a clear and concise statement of the English preparations. It says:—"Money, always one of the sinews of war, has in these days of scientific warfare, become the most formidable military weapon. This fact, it is needless to state, has forcibly presented itself to the authorities. They have, therefore, entered into negotiations with the United States Government for the ceding of California to England, receiving in lieu thereof the whole of British North America, and the promise that Flamingfield will use diplomatic influence with the object of convincing the American Indians that their salvation and happiness depend on their swimming the Pacific, and an invasion of China.

"It has been decided not to await the delay consequent on the process of coining, but to import California whole. The foreign subsi-

dies and army will be paid in slices, each slice to be wrapped in tin foil and officially stamped. The State will be towed to England by a powerful fleet of double action screw tugs—and anchored off Dover—compressed by hydraulic pressure, so as to form a continuous bridge across to Calais. This will answer a double purpose, as it will necessitate Russian iron-clads built in the Baltic rounding the north of Scotland en route for Mediterranean waters, and holds out a strong inducement to France. The proposals which have been whispered are to the effect that for each and every man sent to the seat of war, and for free passage of British troops through France, that she shall receive respectively one square foot of California and a lump payment of ten square miles. In consequence of this all but accomplished fact, it is stated on authority which must be received with reserve, that the proprietor, editors and staff of the the *New York Herald* contemplate suicide.

"The Franco-Prussian war demonstrated the value of balloons as a medium of intelligence; ever since then the Government authorities have been carrying on experiments with a view of further utilizing these machines. Success has at last crowned their efforts. It has long been a theory of modern English military authorities, that on rapid transit of troops and munitions of war depends the success of strategical movements; it at once became apparent to the authorities that as passage through the air removed all difficulties, such as the crossing of rivers and mountains, that that was the object to be attained. This fact having been accepted, an underground factory and experimenting shops were constructed under the centre of Aldershot common. In this place were incarcerated ten thousand workmen, one hundred scientists, and five hundred skilled mechanics; these men were removed from the various penal establishments with great secrecy, and easily, from the fact that their whereabouts was only known to the authorities themselves—the governor, say, of Manchester goal being ordered to forward John Smith under guard to Central Prison, Aldershot. These men were promised their release immediately they accomplished the invention of a balloon, meeting the following military requirements: To be capable of steering in any gale; transporting a thousand rank and file, with their quantum of supplies and munitions of war from the North to the South pole; capable of being adapted for sea service at a moment's notice, and of carrying a hundred ton Armstrong gun. This invention is now an accomplished fact, and as each workman knows but his own particular part, and the inventor of the whole was seized with a fit of apoplexy on the receipt of the news of his triumph, the secret remains safe to the English Government. A million balloons will be ready in three days."

The closing paragraphs touch on other subjects of importance, especially the engagement of Jules Verne as leader of an underground expedition, with the blowing up of St. Petersburg as its primary object—with a discretionary power as to the blowing of the Balkans into the Danube.

The latest telegrams state that the news has been received with consternation throughout Europe, as it is felt that, apart from a military aspect, these inventions must create a social revolution—a revolution unparalleled, the ultimate consequence of which it is impossible to realize without intense anxiety.

FIRE FLY.

PITHY PERSONALS.

The Duke of Westminster's income is \$10 a minute.

Dr. Perry of Exeter, N. Y., now over ninety, is one of those who rode down the Hudson with Robert Fulton on his first steamer.

Miss Braddon has conducted thirty-one heroines through a sea of troubles to the sunlit serenity of matrimony.

A notable wedding, next month, will be the marriage of Baron Blanc, Minister from Italy, to Miss Terry of Fifth avenue.

Colonel Valentine Baker has been unanimously re-elected a member of the Marlborough Club, London, from which he was expelled for insulting a lady.

Dr. E. C. Wines, delegate from this country to the European Prison Congress, and wife, and the Hon. Frank Lawley, brother of Lord Wenlock, and a leading writer on *The London Telegraph*, have sailed for Europe.

Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, editor of *St. Nicholas*, has thoroughly recovered her health, and is now visiting her sister in San Francisco, where she will remain through the spring months.

Bayard Taylor and Mark Twain left for Europe by the steamer *Holsatia* on the 11th of April.

Gilmore's band, consisting of sixty performers, will sail from New York on their European tour on May 4th.

Since D. R. Locke (P. V. Nasby), has become connected with the *New York Evening Mail*, the paper is much more readable than formerly—and it always ranked among the best.

Col. Abner Knowles, a prominent criminal lawyer in Bangor, Me., died on Sunday night last of apoplexy.

A dinner which is to be given at Delmonico's on the 4th of April to Mr. Bayard Taylor, the new Minister to Germany, will be one of the events of the season. A large number of guests have been invited, including Messrs. Whittier, Emerson and Longfellow. Mr. Bryant will preside. The bill of fare will be embellished with sketches of characters and incidents in Faust. Late in the evening several prominent German singing societies will serenade Mr. Taylor. The Committee of Arrangements are Elliot C. Cowdin, Charles Watrous, Algernon S. Sullivan, George H. Putnam and Edmund C. Stedman. Mr. Taylor sails on the 10th prox.

Easter Sunday was first held to commemorate the resurrection of Christ. It is always the first Sunday after the parched full moons *i. e.*, the full moon which happens upon, or after the 21st of March (the beginning of the ecclesiastical year); and if the full moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after. It should be explained that by full moon, as here used, is meant the fourteenth day of the calendar moon. Ember days are certain days set apart by the church for praying and fasting. They date back to the third century. They are the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after the first Sunday in Lent, after the feast of Whit Sunday, after the 14th of September, and after the 13th of December.