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TORONTO, FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1878.

## THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

THE Earl of Beaconsfield has proved himself a master in the sphere of diplomacy. He has exhibited the wisdom of the serpent which is allied with the harmlessness of the dove. Turkey in Europe has been preserved, but at the cost of no inconsiderable amount of real estate. Russia has given way to a number of concessions. Austria has gained by the transaction to a large extent. Germany and France have commanded no territorial additions. Even Greece which was expected to come out a large gainer, has to remain contented with her original boundaries. It remained to be seen whether Great Britain would not add to her possessions. Lord Beaconsfield suddenly and unexpectedly played his best card for Cyprus. The card has won. This island is now a British possession. The Union Jack will henceforth float from the principal buildings in the towns and cities of this island.

The immediate result is the enthusiastic outburst of national feeling in favor of Lord Beaconsfield's diplomacy. The press of London is almost unanimous in its expressions of congratulation. The British people are loud in their rejoicing over the addition of Cyprus to the Empire. Lord Beaconsfield was received from Berlin more as a victorious general returning with well won laurels after a siege, than a diplomat coming back from a peaceful congress. It required a whole posse of police to keep back the crowds who were ready to do him homage. In the House of Lords he was received with such cheers as seldom disturb the habitual calm of the peers. There is no name pronounced by Englishmen of to-day that elicits more applause. And there is no doubt that the possession of the island of Cyprus is an important reason for the Earl's great and wide-spread popularity. The English people love the very idea of increasing their territory. They are becoming accustomed to the view that they are destined to possess every important point in the world. They have recently by an unexpected act of the Fiji people become the

possessors of their islands. The Transvaal republic has passed into the hands of the British sovereignty. There is nothing more natural than that England should come out of the Berlin Congress with some substantial gain to her territory. The Earl of Beaconsfield is in consequence the demi-god of the hour. Should his policy not be approved by parliament, an appeal to the country in the present state of popular excitement cannot but result in a declared majority in his favor. The successful diplomacy of Lord Beaconsfield has done more for the continuance of his ministry than any act of successful legislation could have accomplished.

There can be no doubt that a great result has thus been achieved. The island of Cyprus is valuable in itself. Historically it is of great interest. As a possession it has been highly valued by a succession of peoples into whose hands it has fallen. The Turks have long been in possession and evidently valued it as an important strategical point. It has changed hands from time to time, those acquiring it evidently esteeming it very highly for its own sake. But in the eyes of the British nation it is valued for more than its intrinsic worth. It was a saying of the great Napoleon that the Mediterranean should be none other than a French lake. The Emperor saw the advantage of controlling this inland sea. It has now rather become a British lake. With the command of Gibraltar at the one extremity, of Malta in the centre, and now with the island of Cyprus in the East, there is no power in Europe that can control the Mediterranean sea as Great Britain can. This is all the more important considering her possessions in the East. The Mediterranean is now the highway to India. With the possession of the Suez Canal Great Britain can command the right of way with an important point like Cyprus for the concentration of her forces, much has been gained to make the Mediterranean a British lake. But more than this. The whole of the East is virtually under the protectorate of Britain. The possession of Cyprus will play no unimportant part in conserving to our country the great possessions in the East which have fallen to her lot.

The inhabitants of Cyprus are full of rejoicing at their unlooked for deliverance from the rule of the Turks. They are as quick as the people of the Fiji islands or of the Transvaal to discern that auspicious times have fallen to them in their becoming a British possession. What does this imply? It means freedom for the Cypriotes. It signifies that they have passed out of the hands of a barbarous government. It therefore betokens that a day of progress in everything pertaining to civilization has dawned for them. Already the capitalists of Great Britain are turning their eyes to this new possession. Money is ready to be subscribed for railways to cross and recross the island. Those places which in the times of the apostles were far apart, and involved imminent dangers in order to visit them will be brought near. The island will quickly be covered with a network of electric wires. As the farmers of England and Scotland are now turning the desert of Irish soil into fertile fields and blossoming gardens, there will be settlers from Great Britain on the promising territory

of Cyprus, who will speedily take advantage of its natural productiveness and make it a favored spot of the earth. We cannot doubt that better days are in store for this island of Apostolic fame. And what shall we say of the new opening which has been made for Christian aggressiveness? Soon the Church of England will count her cathedrals by dozens. The Presbyterian Church will have established her simple form of worship. The doctrines of the Bible will be proclaimed as from the house-tops. It may be that the Presbytery of Cyprus will become as familiar to our ears as the Presbytery of Syria, or the Presbytery of Toronto. Sabbath Schools will be instituted. The word of God will have free course and be glorified. The attendant benefits of commerce will be seen and felt. There can be no doubt that the diplomacy of Beaconsfield has resulted in securing for that benighted island the blessings of Christian freedom. And it is but the beginning of the end. The railway will soon pass along the principal points of interest from Antioch to Jerusalem. We almost feel that with recent events the day has dawned when Egypt and the whole of Africa, freed from the incubus of Moslem sovereignty, will come under the benign influence of the Christianity of the west. The final death-blow to slavery has been struck.

## THE CHILDREN'S DAY.

IT is interesting to observe that in many parts of the world a day is regularly set apart on which the interests of the children are considered, and services suitable to their years are instituted. It is not an American idea, though it has taken rapid root in American soil. We were very much interested to read an account of the day as it has been observed in Scotland. There is something grand in the notion of a day being annually set apart for services adapted to the young. It does not require much forethought to see that this will speedily commend itself to Christians in all lands, and certainly an important result will be gained should this movement end in a day being set apart for this purpose throughout Christendom.

It may be objected that there is something wrong in a day being set apart for such an object. The question arises, should not every Lord's day be a day for the children? Certainly this can be had, when we consider the attention that is every where being given to Sabbath School work. Not only have the children suitable services established for themselves, but the Churches are vying with one another as to which will have the best accommodations for the young on the Lord's day. No longer are children compelled to meet in churches. No longer are they confined to a cold routine of catechetical exercises. Now they have splendid rooms for the work of the Sabbath School, and they enjoy every kind of apparatus that is suitable for instruction. A great change has certainly taken place for the better. Even very young children are suited with appropriate class-rooms with special pictorial and blackboard exercises, and with hymns adapted to their tender years. Not only so. But there is hardly a pastor in any denomination but conceives it to be a part of his duty to address himself from the