

AND now Mrs. Porkopolis has lost caste. While sipping ambrosia at a recent symposium held in Villa Nuova she was detected in scanning a copy of Mrs. Browning's poems, carefully re-

adjusting her *pince-nez*, taking a closer look at a page and exclaiming; "The Dead *Pan*! Well, of all things to want to write about!"

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## CURRENT COMMENT.

### EDITORIAL.

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#### ENGLAND AND ARMENIA.

It is interesting the number of letters which the newspapers contain at the present moment with reference to the Armenian Question.

One cannot pick up a daily journal without encountering a score of panaceas for dealing with this much vexed subject, while the religious journals and the weeklies containing religious departments have been harping upon it incessantly for the past year.

There has been such a surfeit of matter upon this depressing, if important, subject submitted to editors lately that a revulsion of feeling against the whole question is beginning to invade the editorial sanctum, and it would not be surprising were a universal edict posted up tabooing all contributions relating to the subject and providing for their expeditious return. Of course we should be sorry to see such a decree passed entailing, as it would, the sacrifice of many meritorious papers contributed by those qualified to discuss the subject, but at the same time there would be a certain grim satisfaction in being able to decline without perusing them the numerous school-boy poems and essays on this question that have lately made the life of an editor well-nigh unbearable. It is rather significant that most of the poorer contributions and the ones showing the greatest crudity have been those advocating a single-handed interference by England on behalf of persecuted Armenia.

In view of the numerous contributions submitted relative to the question it is to be presumed that much interest is still attached to it by the reading public, and it may prove instructive, therefore, to

consider the most recent utterances upon the subject by one of England's greatest authorities on all foreign questions. In his speech before the Scottish Liberal Association in Edinburgh shortly after his retirement from the leadership of the Liberal party, Lord Roseberry intimated that he was at one with Lord Salisbury on the Armenian Question, and declared that it would be the height of madness on the part of England to attempt an interference without the concurrence of the other European powers. Such an isolated course, his lordship declared, would certainly mean a European war. Relating to this latter point his lordship said:—

"You know what a European war means. It means the massacre, the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people; it means the ruin and the devastation of the regions that it invests; it means danger to many countries, and perhaps worse to this country—almost our national existence. It means that on the hypothesis that our fleet should be engaged largely in the extreme east of Europe, our coasts, our liberties, our properties would be largely exposed to attack at home, and in all probability the war would be preceded by the extermination of these very Armenian populations on whose behalf you proposed to engage in it. I say I can conceive nothing more futile, more disastrous, more dangerous than such a policy as this; and it is against this that I raise my earnest protest."

After alluding to the vast interests which England at present controls, he declared:

"That any British Minister who engages in a European war except under pressure of the direst necessity, except under interests directly and distinctly British is a criminal to his country and to his position."