

Ups and Downs

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TORONTO, MARCH 1ST, 1896.

Around the World

FEBRUARY, now drawing to a close, contributes its quota to the startling events which have been so very much in evidence since the closing months of last year. That year drew its last breath in an atmosphere surcharged with excitement, and an explosion was possible at any moment. The danger did not diminish during January, although the probable direction of the anticipated explosion was changed; and whilst February has witnessed a slight subsidence in the feeling which the various incidents, in connection with what are known as the Venezuelan, Transvaal and Armenian questions, aroused, it cannot by any means be said that the pulse of the world is "normal." The attack was too severe and too deeply seated to permit of a speedy recovery, and even now the danger of a serious relapse is not passed.

The settlement of each of these momentous matters really hinges upon the proper adjustment of "national rights" in relation to those of humanity, to the demands of justice, to the requirements of civilization.

"National Rights in Turkey."

In Turkey the Sultan and his Ministers claim the right to govern their own country as they deem best, just as the people of England please themselves and themselves only in the matter of governing their country. Acting upon this principle, to which in the abstract no exception can be taken, the Sultan of Turkey, as all other Sultans from the days of Othman have done, wages unceasing war upon those of his subjects who will not admit that Mahomet was the prophet and the only prophet of God. These "unbelievers" or "dogs of Christians" are confined mostly to the outlying provinces of the Turkish Empire one of the most important of which is Armenia, recently the scene of atrocities so diabolical in their conception and so fiendish and terrible in the execution as, in many instances, to prevent their narration with any approach at detail.

Some slight idea of the extent of the Devil's work which is going on in this nineteenth century, after nineteen hundred years' preaching of the gospel of peace and love, may be gathered from the following extract from a recent article written by the special correspondent of the London (England) *Daily Telegraph* in the district in Armenia which has been specially selected for desolation by the Sultan's minions.

"Kurdish brigands lifted the last cows and goats of the peasants, carried away their carpets and their valuables,

Turkish tax-gatherers followed these, gleaning what the brigands had left, and, lest anything should escape their avarice, bound the men, flogged them till their bodies were a bloody, mangled mass, cicatrised the wounds with red hot ramrods, plucked out their beards hair by hair, tore the flesh from their limbs with pincers, and often, even then, dissatisfied with the financial results of their exertions, hung the men whom they had thus beggared and maltreated from the rafters of the room and kept there to witness with burning shame, impotent rage, an

incipient madness, the 'brutal savagery offered their wives and their daughters,' some of whom died miserably during the hellish outrage.



THE SULTAN OF TURKEY.

fanaticism, if it were left free by the other powers to perform this service for humanity; but they dare not act either singly or in concert because each is jealous of the others. Other "national rights" would be jeopardised; and armed interference with the Turk would but be the precursor of a war in which the loss of human life would be tenfold that which has occurred in the massacres in Armenia. On no less an authority than that of the Prime Minister of England have we learned during the present month that this is the reason that England and the other powers dare not do more than try persuasion as a means of weaning the insatiable Turk from his love for the blood and lives of the hapless Armenians. As well hope to persuade a cat that it should not catch and torture mice. And we may expect to hear of several thousand more Armenians being slashed, burnt, and tortured in every manner that Turkish devilry can conceive, before the conscience of the world is roused to such a pitch that the rulers of Europe will have no alternative, whatever national rights may be threatened, but that of uniting, to wipe off the face of the earth the diabolically used power of the Ottoman empire, and thus at a late hour, terminate the story of their shame, which has for years been written in the blood of helpless fellow-creatures, the sum total of whose offending was that they would not abandon their Christian faith.

In the Transvaal.

The Transvaal Republic in South Africa is a country as large as Spain. The population of white people numbers 250,000. By far the larger number of these are Uitlanders, or newcomers, who pay nine tenths of the taxes which provide the revenue of the country, and to whom alone is due the prosperous condition of the Republic to-day. But they have no voice in the government of the country their coming has so enriched. Practically absolute power is vested in a government elected by 15,000 Boer squatters, who are alone entitled to vote.

The Boer is a relic of a past age, slow and sluggish of temperament, hating modern improvements, regarding with intense dislike and suspicion those who, within the last ten years, have flocked into his country and developed its resources. His ideal existence is to possess several thousand acres of land on which his flocks can graze. He does not attempt much in the way of cultivation; he sleeps during the heat of the day, and every morning and afternoon takes a ride over his land to see that his cattle are doing well. The daily routine is varied twice in the year by a great gathering for shooting and hunting. Uneventful and monotonous as is the life of the Boer, and loving to be left alone in peace and quietness as he does, he is nevertheless quick to respond to the call to arms when he deems his country in danger, and that he is a determined fighter he proved conclusively in the war with England fourteen years ago.

Taxation without representation is abhorrent to every Englishman, and it was not in the nature of things to expect that the Uitlanders, in the main British and

Americans, would long remain content to be taxed and governed by the Boers whom they outnumbered four to one. They did not wish to subvert the constitution of the country. All they desired was something more akin to equal rights than at present existed. In Johannesburg, practically an English city of 100,000 people, only 500 were allowed to vote. Petitions for an improvement on this state of things were contemptuously disregarded by the President of the Transvaal. Organized effort to secure their rights, by force if necessary, was then decided upon by the Uitlanders. Mines and business houses were closed and a panic was imminent, if it did not actually take place. There was a dread of the native blacks taking advantage of the confusion to destroy the lives and property of the whites. It was this that prompted Dr. Jameson to lead his 800 armed men into the Transvaal country—not to take part in a rebellion, but to protect the lives of several thousand men, women and children, his own countrymen, who, he had been given to understand, were in grave danger.

The last days of 1895 witnessed the most startling, most regrettable, yet, withal, most fascinating, episode in the annals of modern military exploits. Outnumbered five to one, surrounded by every disadvantage, fighting after being twenty-four hours without food or sleep, Dr. Jameson and his heroic band held out until the last of the ammunition was exhausted, and then the gallant leader yielded.

As a violator of the national rights of the misgoverned Transvaal, Dr. Jameson was undoubtedly a culprit, and, from the same point of view, so were our kinsmen who, in 1773, coloured the waters of Boston harbour with the contents of the tea chests on board the English ships, and who, later, fought against their motherland sooner



PAUL KRUGER,
President of the Transvaal Republic.

than submit to taxation without representation. History speaks not of these as rebels or evil-doers, and neither will history in years to come speak of Dr. Jameson's raid as other than the gallant act of a brave man anxious to save the lives of innocent people placed in danger as a direct result of the tyranny and ignorance of an irresponsible government. And the pity of it was he failed!

Had Dr. Jameson succeeded, the Transvaal question would have probably been settled by now, with that tyrannical Government well in the background. But he failed; and another burning issue confronted the statesmen of Europe.

"National rights" were again endangered. The Emperor of Germany expressed his opinion in a manner particularly distasteful to the English people. England responded with a spectacular object-lesson on the probable results of interference with her affairs by Germany or any other power. Whilst repudiating Dr. Jameson's action in leading an armed force into the territory of a friendly foreign power, England is not prepared to admit the right of others to dictate to the Government of the Transvaal how they shall deal with England in the future. The Flying Squadron brought home the truth of this to Germany and that country's activities have been curbed for the time being.

Dr. Jameson is now in England awaiting his trial for the offence with which he is charged. In the meantime, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, England's Secretary of State for the Colonies, is seeking to soothe the ruffled feelings of the Boers, and at the same time secure for the Uitlanders some of the privileges, the denial of which hitherto was responsible for the recent disturbances. How far he will succeed is yet to be seen. His efforts to promote harmony and peace between the Boers and Uitlanders have, within the last few days, received considerable assistance in a most unexpected manner. On the 20th of the month at Johannesburg, a terrific explosion of dynamite