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### THE LAW AND THE LADY.

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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Jan. 2nd, 1875.

### A NEW EUROPEAN PHASE.

A late number of the London *Times* which came by the last mail, brought us a translation of a remarkable article from the St. Petersburg *Golos*, which is understood to be the organ of the Russian Government; the utterances of which, now before us, the Prussian correspondent of the *Times* states may be accepted as authentic; and they, in fact, bear intrinsic evidence of this.

They announce a fact of no less importance, than an alliance between Russia, Prussia and Austria, on the Eastern question, against what is called the "Anglo-French influence;" and this new alliance, the *Golos* says, holds in its hands the "Peace of Europe," or in other words that it dominates European politics.

The *Golos* plainly announces: "The Oriental question has recently entered a new phase. The number of those Powers insisting upon the maintenance of the Turkish *status quo* has greatly diminished. However anxious to continue her traditional policy in the East, France is no longer in a position to persuade the Sultan that she is ready and willing to protect him. England has adopted the policy of non-intervention. Only a few days ago the *Times*, the leading paper of England, said the British people would do well to care only for that portion of Europe called Great Britain. All English Ministers and statesmen have been assuring us likewise, more or less openly for the last few years, that England will never interfere again in the affairs of other nations. Of course we are well aware that England looks upon Eastern affairs as intimately bound up with her own; still there is no denying that she has allowed her influence on the Bosphorus to decrease ever since the Crimean war."

The organ continues to say that Russia has always been actuated by the desire to improve the condition of the christian

subjects of Turkey, which is but another form of reasserting the pretext which has always moved her interference with Turkey and which led her to undertake the Crimean war.

The adherence of Prussia to the views of Russia is thus announced by the *Golos*:

"Germany is likewise favourable, though her motives are not so easily divined. Germany has no direct interest in the commercial independence of the Danubian Principalities. If she nevertheless co-operate with Austria and Russia, her primary object probably is to return the service rendered her by the recognition of the Serrano Government. Besides this, Germany may also wish to gain influence by being a party in an Oriental arrangement."

And following this, comes the sweeping statement that the Porte is able to send replies to Russian despatches in three days instead of taking months as formerly, now that she is no longer able to lean upon France and England, and apply to them for previous advice. The *Golos* continues:

"Had Turkey been in a position once more to apply to the Western Powers for protection and help, it might have led to a serious diplomatic complication, and perhaps have endangered the peace of Europe. But, thank God! to-day no Power is in a hurry to shed blood for the maintenance of the Sultan's Sovereignty; and so the affair will be settled not in accordance with the wishes of the Turkish Ministers, but in a manner suited to the exigencies of the case. If we are not mistaken, the Oriental question is destined to be broken up into a large number of questions, each insignificant in itself, and allowing of being settled without detriment to the Sultan's dignity."

This, then, is the real end of the Crimean war. Russia defeated in the field has played the long game and won at last; and her designs on Turkey are to be carried out bit by bit. This may be to some extent a humiliation to Great Britain, but with France crippled, it would be madness for her, single handed, to attempt to cope, as the ally of Turkey, with the three great powers of Russia, Prussia and Austria. And further, even if she could do it with hope of success, there would come the question "if the game would be worth the candle." Many able men now think that England ought not at all to have entered into the Crimean war.

It is stated by the correspondent of our London contemporary, at Berlin, that the real object of Prussia in joining this alliance, is not to secure increase of influence as hinted by the Russian organ, but to secure a condition of things which will enable her to get cheap breadstuffs from Roumania and the fertile Peninsula of the Balkan, in order to enable her to meet the most serious of all her home questions.

### A SPECK OF WAR.

Some of the American papers are trying very hard to get up a sensation out of alleged misunderstandings between the United States and Spain. As usual, the amount of verbiage in which the incident is clothed, renders a correct understanding of the situation somewhat difficult, still enough is made known to show some cause for diplomatic dispute between the two countries. That war will ensue, no one will believe who has any knowledge of the confessed weakness of the American navy and the still more lamentable weakness of American finance.

It will be remembered that when the President's Message was published, we called attention to the excitement produced in Madrid by that clause of it which related to Cuba and Spain. Now, it seems that the language of the Message telegraphed to Spain was much stronger than the terms employed in that document itself. The London *Times* complained bitterly of having been deceived by the Reuter despatch, and the New York agent of the Baron, in exculpating

himself, makes the rather remarkable statement that he telegraphed the first version of the Message, but that the President changed the paragraph relating to Cuba at the last moment. If this be true the circumstance proves that General GRANT felt constrained, under the pressure of a delicate situation, to modify his language.

The main grievances urged by the United States against Spain are said to grow primarily out of the Virginius affair. It is stated that whereas Spain complied with Great Britain's demand for indemnity in the Virginius case, she has taken no pains to comply with the demands of the United States in the same case. Following on the heels of this original complaint, come farther sources of aggravation in the expressed desire of the United States for the independence of Cuba, and the abolition of slavery within the island; in the alleged injury to American citizens in Cuba without adequate means of enforcing immediate reparation on the spot, and in the alleged wrong done American citizens by the embargo of their property for pretended disloyalty. To this, it is said, will be added the offence committed by Spain in the detention of the American schooner William Wilson. If the reports be true, this vessel, when six miles from Porto Rico, in her passage from a port in Spain to Turk's Island, was hove to by the firing of three blank cartridges from a Spanish war vessel, boarded, her cargo and destination ascertained, and she was then allowed to proceed. It is admitted that Spain has a right to capture a vessel with an American register and carrying an American flag, if found in her waters, asserting or endeavouring to adjust the insurrection in Cuba, but it is claimed that she has no right to capture such a vessel on the high seas upon an apprehension that, in violation of the neutrality and the navigation laws of the United States, she was on her way to assist the Cuban rebellion. There is, of course, no need whatever to insist upon the incident, as our American contemporaries do, because if the facts are such as they state, we make no doubt that the Spanish Government will hasten to make due reparation for any imprudence or indiscretion on the part of its representatives on the Cuban station.

It is none the less true, as every one conversant with American politics will admit, that if the Republican papers could raise a good war cry, they would not scruple to do it, not out of sympathy for Cuba, nor yet out of hostility to Spain, but simply for the furtherance of party behests. A diplomatic disturbance of the kind, a foreign imbroglio exciting the martial spirit of the masses, would go a great way towards diverting public attention from the present troubles of the administration and the Republican party, and restoring much of that sympathy which the November elections show that they have lost. However, the indications are that the opportunity will not be afforded them. Neither Spain, nor the United States can afford to engage in war with one another just at present. If Spain cannot conquer Cuba, it is because the Carlist war taxes all her resources; and if she cannot conquer Cuba, much less can she measure her strength with the United States. On the other hand, as we said above, the United States are not prepared for a naval war, such as that with Spain would in great measure be. No department of the country has been so neglected by Congress as the marine, and the from report of the Secretary of War, it appears that only 167 guns could be mustered at once.

Meanwhile, it were altogether to be desired that a dignified and determined attitude of the United States could prevail upon Spain to put an end to the Cuban war. That struggle is a disgrace to civilization. Furthermore, the war should not be terminated without a simultaneous abolition of slavery. For these two reasons, the alleged difficulty between the governments of Washington and Madrid, are matters of general interest, and its solution will be anxiously looked for in every country.

### MORAL INSANITY.

There are certain scientific and professional terms which the uninitiated are slow to admit as conveying a true meaning, or a correct explanation of the things to which they are applied. Moral Insanity is one of these terms. There is a general repugnance to the use of it. People attending the police or criminal courts laugh at the plea that habitual drunkenness, or a career of debauchery should extenuate the commission of crime, because they both weaken the normal action of the moral faculties. Certain remarkable verdicts of American juries have been sharply criticised on the same grounds. The term, however, has a philosophical meaning, and is at present received by all writers on the pathology of mental disease. Insanity, after all, signifies only unsoundness, unwholesomeness, and there is no doubt whatever that it may be aptly applied to distortions of what psychologists call the Moral Sense. In ethics we are taught that there is such a thing as a False Conscience, which leads, without pang, blush or remorse, to the commission of wrong from erroneous premises of right. This False Conscience is only another phase of Moral Insanity. Examples of both teen in history. Without going back to the dreadnames of PASIPHAE, PHAEDRA, AGRIPINA, or THEODORA, nor referring to the hallucinations of Social Sects in the middle ages, we need only refer to the Free Lovers of our day, and to several recent clerical scandals where the doctrine of Eclectic Affinities was carried into practice without any apparent consciousness of evil.

The existence of Moral Insanity, as one of the great factors in the resolution of the social problem has just been ably exposed by one of the highest authorities in this special science—Dr. HOWARD, Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at St. Johns. In an able paper, published in the November number of the *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, his object is distinctly to prove that there is such a disease as Moral Insanity. He wishes to draw public attention to the fact that there is such a disease, and that where people hear of an extraordinary or unaccountable crime, before they enter into judgment and condemnation upon the perpetrator, they will in charity wait and see if he is not a victim of this lamentable malady. The Doctor incidentally alludes to consanguinity as one of the causes of both mental and moral obliquity, but he hardly pronounces an opinion upon it. It is only the other day that we read an exhaustive paper on this subject, garnished with full particulars, the purport of which was to explode what the writer termed the fallacy of the deterioration resultant on marriages between blood relations. Dr. HOWARD more pointedly refers to defective training in children as a principal source of Moral Insanity. We believe that this is really the root of the evil. *Nemo repente fit malus* is true, slightly altering the Augustinian proverb. No one suddenly takes to crime, or commits a horror for the mere pleasure of sinning. He reaches that state only through gradual stages of false reasoning, and a culminating act of moral insanity is only the final effect of a series of moral eccentricities. Bad or weak principles inculcated in youth have the almost inevitable tendency to accelerate the breaking out of the disease.

It will startle some people to learn that Moral Insanity, like every other disease, may be hereditary. The thought is a revolting one, but it is now generally accepted by the faculty; and there is no help for it except in the thorough educational reform advocated by Dr. HOWARD. Questions of this social importance are at all times interesting, and command attention everywhere, but they are particularly important in a young country like ours, where, if we are wise, we may adopt the improvements suggested by the experience of older countries, and thus save ourselves many of the miseries which our elders have suffered. All our Provinces are admirably endowed with institutions of charity and benefaction, reaching all the infirmities to