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The Weekly Messenger

TO THE READERS OF WAR NOTES.

We have decided rather than continue the separate publication of *War Notes*, which is a heavy expense, to furnish in its place a paper double the size, which saving the cost of a separate publication will actually cost us much less while it will give our readers twice as much reading, including about the same supply of campaign temperance matter. This will be a great gain to the readers as well as a relief to the publishers. If anyone is not suited by the change we will either send some other *Witness* publication to the value of his money or will return the unearned portion of his subscription.

STILL PREPARING FOR WAR.

War has not yet been definitely declared between Russia and England, but the general tone of the telegrams indicates that the present lull will not likely last long. The noise of workmen preparing instruments of thunder and destruction reaches from Russia to England and from England to Russia, and in a distant hum spreads rumors of coming war. These portentous noises sound pleasantly on the ear of the soldiers; the people of both countries are generally not over enthusiastic for war. And good reason there is for this, for is not war the soldiers' gain, and the people's loss? The Penderghast affair has been explained by General Lumsden, who contradicts General Komaroff's account in every essential particular. From this point then, there is a dark outlook. Russia declines to abide by the decision of the Afghan Boundary Commission, and not to over-run the limits laid down by it. Surely this does not mean peace. But far more ominous than these signs are the extensive war preparations which Russia is making. In defiance of her treaties she is fortifying Batoum on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. All the first military reserves in Russian Poland and south-west provinces of Russia have been ordered to arms. The Russian fleet in the Pacific now consists of three ironclads and thirty fast cruisers and Russia is anxious regarding China's attitude in the event of war. Her only large port on the open sea is Vladivostok, which is on the sea of Japan and therefore not altogether a favorable position as a harbor for her ships. A Russian squadron of twenty vessels is reported to have passed the Island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea on its way south, and beside these there is a fleet of fifty-three war vessels at Cronstadt which is a strong fortification on a small island in the gulf of Finland. Russia's apparent intent on Herat certainly justifies the opinion that she is aiming at the capture of that strong-hold. The Russian official organ at Warsaw openly declares that she is making the necessary preparations for taking it, and the project of running a railway through Sarakhs, Herat and Candahar to the Indus River is freely discussed in St. Petersburg. This is not mere talk for the inhabitants of Sar-

khs are being compelled by the Russians to build a military road to Herat, and military men are anticipating the pleasure they will have in attacking India if the proposed railway can only be completed. Russian troops have made several advances. The coolness with which Russia goes about her war preparations is wonderful. She has contracted for 10,000 tons of steamer coal at Newcastle and ordered a large quantity of war material at the Armstrong works and Newcastle. The last order will not be filled. The Russian Government has granted a war credit of 250,000,000 roubles, which amounts to about \$180,000,000. Its total military force is estimated at about 800,000 men and its naval force at about thirty-five iron clads and over two hundred torpedo boats.

England's preparations are no less extensive, and the Ameer, though he declares that he is able to defend Herat against the Russians without the aid of the British, is not to be left without help. The war preparations at Woolwich are immense. Two belted armor cruisers have been ordered at the Clyde and three thousand men are now at work on these. The Admiralty has ordered a number of gunboats of a new type to be used for the purpose of destroying torpedo boats. Besides these torpedo boats are to be bought in Spain. The strength of the British regular army is put at 188,000 men; reserves 47,000; militia, 125,000; and volunteers 215,000. A large war credit of \$20,000,000 has been voted for war preparations against Russia. One special preparation for war, which is regarded with some interest, is the watching of the Russian corvette "Strylax" by the British cruiser "Garnett." It is expected that these two vessels will move out of the harbor of Norfolk, Va., where they now are, in the event of war, and will engage each other.

Other countries are making military preparations so that they may defend their neutrality. Sweden, Denmark and Italy are preparing forces in case of emergency. France insists that Turkey must remain neutral and close the Dardanelles but despite Turkey's avowal that she will do so, very little has yet been done to make the Dardanelles impassable.

Last Monday, on bringing up the subject of the war credit, Mr. Gladstone made a powerful and telling speech. He hoped that the house would vote the whole of \$55,000,000 for preparations for war with Russia. He was loudly cheered and the war credit voted.

LOYAL IRELAND.

The Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal party were shown every respect in Killarney, and on their departure on the 20th inst. for Dublin, they were cheered vociferously. Salutes were fired, and the national anthem was sung with such earnestness that it was impossible to doubt the sincerity of the people of Killarney. Between this and Limerick the party met with some hostile demonstrations, but on arriving at Limerick they were heartily received and presented with an address. On their arrival at Dublin the Nationalists made some en-

deavors to create a disturbance but were dispersed by the police. On the same day the Prince and Princess attended the Panchestown races near Dublin, and the Prince expressed a hope that he would be able to attend the races again next year. While in Dublin the Prince and Princess received an address from ten thousand Sunday-school children who marched up to their Royal Highnesses "with banner and song." A ball was given in honor of the royal party in Dublin and was a great success. The journey through the north of Ireland to Belfast was pleasant to the members of the royal family after the partly hostile demonstrations which they had had in Dublin and Cork. On Thursday, last week, they arrived at Belfast and were met by an immense assemblage. Here the duty of the police was quite different to what it had been at Mallow, Cork or Dublin, and it was all they could do to clear a way for the carriage of the royal party which was the object of so much cheering by the people. Going by train to Dundalk and Portadown, they were at many stations followed by enthusiastic crowds who ran beside the cars and cheered till the train was well under way again. At Dundalk and Portadown they received orations and addresses, as well as at other stations where there was a sufficiently long stoppage. The Prince and Princess landed a second time at Belfast from their yacht, on Friday, and although it rained heavily vast crowds assembled to welcome them. On their way to Baronscourt they were joyfully hailed by the populace of the different towns through which they passed.

William O'Brien M.P., for Mallow is agitating disturbances in Londonderry, which the Prince is going to visit shortly. The feeling between the Loyalists and Nationalists in Cork is still at exploding pressure, and on Sunday last there was some rioting which the police suppressed. It is asserted in Rome that the Pope will remonstrate with the Irish bishops in regard to their ugly course toward the Prince and Princess of Wales during their visit. His Holiness may write a letter to the Catholic clergy on their duty to Governments under which they live. It is stated in Dublin that the Queen will visit Ireland next autumn. If her Gracious Majesty does and receives any of the unfriendly demonstrations which have attended the visit of her son, there will be such a feeling of mortification amongst the loyal Irish and in England and Scotland, that Parnell and Mr. William O'Brien M.P., will have to look to their necks, and for the time at least, pocket their hostile feelings. The Prince of Wales was well received at Omagh, the preparations which the Nationalists had made being frustrated by the police who put a large body of them to flight, after capturing their black flags and drums.

JAMES TALBOT, aged 47, a cousin of the Earl of Shrewsbury, died in the New York county workhouse hospital, on Sunday. He was recently committed as a drunkard. He formerly held a commission in the British army but ran through his fortune.

BASE DYNAMITERS.

On Thursday last week, dynamiters attempted to blow up the Admiralty building in London, England. At eleven o'clock in the morning two loud, quick reports were heard and consternation took possession of all persons in the vicinity. The firemen and police were summoned and all the gates to the building were closed till an examination could be made. On cautiously looking inside, the detective at first thought that some explosive had been thrown in at a window and was exploded by concussion with the floor. This idea, however, was given up, and it is now believed that it was caused by gun cotton or dynamite contained in a small tin box which a stranger was seen to walk in with and place in a recess in the passage leading to the office. This idea was afterwards strengthened by the finding of some pieces of such clockwork as is used in dynamite machines. Mr. E. N. Swainson, Assistant Secretary and principal clerk of the Admiralty Buildings, received a severe scalp wound but will likely recover. Others were slightly hurt. The serious nature of these attempts to blow up large buildings in England, has caused several journals to advocate the passage of an act providing that persons causing explosions by dynamite with intent to maim or kill should suffer death by hanging.

AFFAIRS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

Many a war has been lost through troops being unwilling to follow brave but unpopular leaders. This seems to have been the case in the Guatemalan war. Barrios had ordered two officers to take the place of two others whom the troops would not follow, these, perhaps on account of the danger they would have to undergo in reaching their positions were unwilling, and Barrios, the brave, was himself proceeding to take command when he was shot through the heart by a sharpshooter. In the struggle for the recovery of the body his son and son-in-law were killed.

American troops landed in Panama to protect American property there, and having made an agreement with the French Consul that American interests would not be interfered with and that the streets would not be barricaded, withdrew from the city. French influence reigned in Panama and the people there falsely boast that a protest from Paris caused the American troops to leave the city. An American bark captured by the rebels was retaken with sixty insurgents on board.

WE OFTEN HEAR of great persons, who have had influence in the world and great responsibilities to bear, taking up some very ordinary occupation for recreation. Gladstone has his trees to cut, and the Emperor Charles V. might have escaped the mania for making toys which took such hold on him in his old age if he had also had his trees to chop, or other such employment. The latest case of the kind is that of the Archduchess Maria Theresa, of Austria, who is learning to make jewellery in the shop of a Tyrolean worker.