

ANOTHER CORROBORATION.

Evidences of the truth of the statements about the Bulgarian outrages is continually accumulating. Sir George Campbell has visited that country in person. He found that, with reference to the report, published by the press, of the outrages, the massacres, and the plundering of property, there had been no exaggeration. Of many of these things, plenty of ocular proof was still left. The pro-Turkish party had endeavored to make out that a large proportion of those supposed to have been killed had returned to their villages, but Sir George Campbell had ascertained there was not the least foundation for this statement. He was perfectly satisfied that no such atrocities had been committed in modern days. He says that, in the district round Philippopolis, the French Consul states that not less than fifteen thousand had been killed. Sir George thinks that, while England does not take the position she ought, in actually securing that such occurrences shall not again take place in Turkey, Russia is perfectly justified in the course she has so far pursued.

A NEW ASPECT OF THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Is the power of Europe so far weakened that what was possible and was done in 1860 is impossible now? This is the substance of a question proposed by the *Times* in discussing the subject of English interference in Turkey. The leading journal remarks that at that time Palmerston was Prime Minister, and was not predisposed to favor the designs of Russia; but, instead of leaving outraged humanity to the protection of that power, he joined England, France, and Russia together, and Turkey had to yield. Lord John Russell was Foreign Secretary, as proud of the honor of his country as any man. These two had come to manhood at a time when England faced an embattled world, and neither of them would for a moment think of anything that could detract from the memory of that matchless generation. In the aforesaid year of 1860 there was a frightful massacre of Christians in Syria. The number killed was not so great as those lately slaughtered in Bulgaria—not many more than four thousand males having been murdered. The “conscience of Europe” was horror-stricken then, however. At first the crimes were attributed to the sectarian fanaticism of the Druses overpowering the local force of the Turkish Government, but afterwards it was discovered that they were perpetrated by the Turkish soldiery themselves. The Turkish commander, Othman Beg, acted in Syria precisely as Shefket Pasha has done in Bulgaria, in treacherously entrapping Christians to their doom. But within three months from the date of the first murder, the British government, acting with France, Austria, Russia, and Prussia, had secured the signature of the Sultan to a convention pro-

viding for the immediate despatch of European troops, not exceeding twelve thousand, to Syria, to re-establish tranquility. The Emperor of the French was to send at once six thousand to the scene, and if more were necessary they were to be furnished by the other powers. The Sultan sent his foreign Minister, Fuad Pasha, as commissioner-extraordinary to execute justice on the offenders; and the five powers sent special commissioners to inquire into the origin of the disturbances, to alleviate the sufferings of the Christians, and to make arrangements for the future government of Syria. Lord Dufferin was the British Commissioner. Under the pressure exerted by these commissioners Fuad Pasha hanged the guilty governor as if he had been an unknown Druse. The Turkish Minister tried his hardest to get him off, magnified the danger of outraging the sentiments of the fanatical Mohammedans, and offered to sacrifice any number of the rank and file instead. But the commissioners were inexorable. The troops of France were at hand, the governments of Europe were in earnest, and therefore justice was done; and, moreover, Lord Dufferin did not hesitate to attribute the outbreak to the dissatisfaction the Turkish Government entertained on account of a certain amount of self-control those provinces had. The result was that peace was restored, and the commissioners somewhat increased the “autonomy” previously existing; so that from that day to this there has been comparative peace in those parts—that is, as much as could have been expected under the most wretched, mismanaged government ever known on the face of the earth.

In this way then were things arranged no longer ago than the year 1860, by men from whose political principles we should scarcely have expected so much. But now the cry is raised that the Turk must not be interfered with in the exercise of his undoubted right to govern just as he likes, because the “integrity of the Turkish empire” is not only a foregone conclusion, but must also be received as an axiom in diplomatic statesmanship. On this view of the case the *Economist* well remarks, that the emancipation of the negro was a great feat to accomplish, and so was the Irish Land Act, as well as the disendowment of the Irish Church, and the Abolition of Purchase in the army; but the idea of sending out a commissioner to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire under present circumstances, immeasurably surpasses all the rest in the sublimity and grandeur which the achievement would attain!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Grant's annual message has been delivered, published, and pretty generally commented on. It being the last he will have the privilege of sending to Congress, he recapitulates the principal events of the last eight years that have been connected with

his position as President; at the same time he appears to have done this by entering as little as possible into such an examination of some of the subjects as might commit him to the adoption of any definite course during the rest of his Presidential career. The message appears to have given but little general satisfaction, partly because he refers so scantily to the great question now agitating the country—the election difficulty in connection with that bungling but much vaunted instrument, the Constitution of the United States. There are also other points which have caused considerable disapprobation in certain quarters.

The President very candidly confesses his own lack of political experience when he was elected to the highest political office in the country, and he admits that he has made mistakes, but contends that they have no right to be called by that most approbrious name of all, in the estimation of Talleyrand—blunders.

He says the appointments to the civil service, bad as they may have been, should not be charged upon him, as they are really dictated by the people's representatives in Congress. The reconstruction of the South, also, he contends was not his business to look after, as the devising of means for that end rested, he says, with Congress, and all he had to do was to administer the law as he found it.

During his double term of office, the principal war-debt has been considerably reduced, and on a considerable portion of it lower rates of interest have been substituted for higher rates.

He states that the balance of trade has been changed from one hundred and thirty million dollars against the country in 1869 to more than one hundred and twenty million in its favor in 1876, showing that a great commercial revolution has been going on.

The President speaks of relations with foreign powers as satisfactory; and the business of the Alabama Claims' Court and of the Canadian boundary Commission are said to have been satisfactorily done. A future communication to Congress will state the condition of the extradition question with Great Britain. A treaty with Hawaii has been ratified; Mexico is disturbed, and American citizens on the border have suffered violence. An acknowledgment is made of the services of Sir Edward Thornton as umpire in the Mexican Claims' Commission.

The naturalization of foreign-born citizens is still under consideration. The evil of fraudulent naturalization demands a remedy. It is suggested that perfect uniformity in records and certificates might do much to abate the evil. It is also recommended that foreigners who do not know English should wait a while before being naturalized. At this, the Germans have taken considerable umbrage, and they say that they can give an intelligent vote, at least, as well as the Irish.

The extra duty of the army involves