

Secondly.—It is not said that an uncle may not marry his niece. We infer this to be unlawful thus: it is said that a nephew may not marry his aunt; conversely, we infer that an aunt may not marry her nephew; and then, by analogy, we infer that an uncle may not marry his niece.

Thirdly.—In the same way, it is inferred that the marriage of a man with his wife's sister is unlawful. It is said that a woman may not marry her husband's brother; and this case is exactly analogous to the prohibition of a man's marriage to his wife's sister.

Those, therefore, who will admit nothing but what is set down in so many words to be Scripture, are brought to this: they must either allow all these inferences, or none of them; i.e., if they allow a man to marry his wife's sister, they must allow an uncle to marry his niece, and even a father to marry his daughter.

In vain has it been shown that Lev. xviii. 18, which, at first sight, appears to sanction it, has, when rightly interpreted (as it is in the margin of our Version), nothing to do with the matter; but is, probably, a precept against polygamy.

I entreat you to continue your resistance to every effort, whether direct or indirect, to do away with a restriction founded deeply in our moral nature, exhibited in Scripture as part of the Moral Law, recognized as such by the whole Church for fifteen hundred years—happily still so recognized by our own Church, when we separated from Rome, and of inestimable importance towards the maintenance of purity and affection in our social relations." W.

THE EASTERN PROSPECT.

THE first act of the Eastern drama, or rather farce, is over; the Conference has begun and ended; the Ambassadors have left for Constantinople, because Turkey refused to be coaxed into renouncing her ineradicable barbarism, and rendering an act of very tardy justice to the provinces she had begun to annihilate. And, who is surprised at the result? Who, indeed, expected anything else? Not a soul in England or America. Every one who has read a line of Turkish history, or who knows a single feature of the Turkish character, knows full well that unless with the prospect of coercion from Europe, or at least from England, the Conference could only have ended as it has. For Turkey to yield any portion of her Sovereignty over the Christian provinces she has so grossly and so savagely treated! That, indeed, she will never do until she knows, from some source or other, that she must do it.

The policy of the British Government, whether that Government has been Tory, Whig, or anything else, has, for many years, been most unmistakably pro-Turkish. So much has this been the case that English officials in Turkey have been given to understand very plainly that any report of Turkish misdeeds would be received very coldly at

Downing Street. For this statement we can give facts, names, and dates, if necessary. Indeed, one official was dismissed for having sent home to England a statement of some horrible barbarities committed on the Christians by the Turkish authorities; for wholesale outrage and murder are by no means exceptional in that part of the world, only it has not always happened that a correspondent of the *Daily News* was on the spot to rouse the "conscience of Europe." Lord Salisbury is generally understood to favour Russia; and, from this circumstance, it was confidently anticipated that no war with Russia would arise out of that ridiculous sham, called a Conference. But where, (except in Servia, to whom all honour belongs), where, we ask, was any to be found to undertake the cause of the oppressed Christian provinces? To put them, as much as possible, beyond the reach of a repetition of the shameful violence to which they have been subjected, surely ought to have been the first and main object of assembling the representatives of the potentates of Europe on this occasion. The questions in men's minds all seem to have resolved themselves into this, shall we favour Turkey or Russia? But what is to become of Bulgaria, Servia, Herzegovina, and, in fact, of the whole Christian population of the Sultan's dominions? Who ever thinks of consulting either their wishes or their interests?

What then is the prospect of the "Eastern question?" Nothing more, and nothing less than a repetition of the savage barbarities that have been going on there for many a year, unless, indeed, Russia should interfere on her own responsibility; for every one knows that Turkish promises are worse than nothing. And Russia, we are told, is a barbaric, Asiatic power, capable of a considerable amount of cruelty herself, with Poland and the country east of the Caspian Sea as witnesses. But why leave the matter in the hands of Russia? Surely England has more right to interfere, authoritatively, in the matter than any other power in the world, were it only that, between Russia on the North and Egypt on the South, the very existence of Turkey, as a nation, would have been annihilated long ago, if England had not stood in the way, and actually flown to her rescue.

And what about the "conscience of Europe" which we were told was so violently excited when twelve thousand Bulgarians were massacred in cold blood, multitudes of the women outraged, and it was found that the sneer of the British Premier, about exaggeration, could not be justified by facts? We shall see whether Europe has any conscience at all in the matter, when we learn what the nations there have to say about the conference, and the next outbreak of Turkish barbarism and Mohammedan fanaticism. We scarcely think that England has settled down into an absolute quiet, and we shall probably hear of greater excitement than ever upon the subject; for politicians will hardly let the matter rest, were all the rest of the world inclined to do so. Those who can sometimes make political capital out of nothing will never turn aside from so tempting a bait as

that now offered to them. The enthusiastic meeting of the "National Conference on the Eastern question," held a little while ago, in St. James' Hall, London, with the Duke of Westminster in the chair, sufficiently showed that the interests of humanity are not yet forgotten by the English people, and that the sympathies of the British nation are not confined to what may appear most subservient to its temporal advancement. Some of our contemporaries refer with disgust to the fact that a man shrieked something on that occasion. But the shriek of an obscure speaker, in St. James' Hall, will not affect the attitude of England, nor can it alter the merits or the demerits of a question, which called for immediate settlement half a century ago, and which has not yet advanced a step towards that most desirable consummation.

The whole question, as Prince Bismark puts it, involves a sympathy with the fundamental principles of our common Christianity and with the essential elements of civilization.

OUR WINTER PORT.

THIS is a question which concerns us in Ontario almost as much as it does the inhabitants of any port that may be selected for carrying on our intercourse with the outer world; and therefore when the merits of a particular locality are discussed, we cannot be indifferent to the arguments used on either side of the controversy. We are glad to see that no one now is found to advocate a return to our neighbours for the use of a winter port. The success that has been achieved by adopting the city of Halifax for that purpose appears most effectually to have prevented the possibility of any excuse being resorted to for a policy of that kind. And yet this very success is urged as a reason for abandoning the port at Halifax in favor of another, still more to the eastward. It is admitted that circumstances have been exceedingly favourable for the experiment; the weather has been exceptionally severe since the commencement of the new arrangement, and snow storms have been unusually abundant; and yet so satisfactory has been the result, that nothing can now be said against the ability of the Intercolonial Railway to carry on the traffic required with even extraordinary rapidity. It is indeed a proof of the success of the arrangement that Whitehaven is now advocated as the landing place for mails and passengers; as this would require an extension of the Intercolonial for seventy miles further, involving an expenditure of two or three million dollars, in order to utilize a fishing village, and ignore the claims of a considerable commercial city. It would appear that many years ago a similar dispute was raised, but mankind have not yet thought proper to act upon the recommendation then brought forward. It would therefore be unfortunate to peril the success of the present scheme for having a winter port in the Dominion, by selecting any other place for the purpose, until it shall have been clearly established that it is much superior to the one so recently adopted.