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THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The conference of representatives of the great European nations, which has been meeting in London to discuss the affairs of Egypt, has come to nothing. The delegates were unanimous in recommending certain changes and in seeing the necessity of a new loan to the Egyptian Government. But France and England absolutely could not come to an agreement as to the treatment of receipts and expenditure. England offered several concessions, but France was obstinate and would not withdraw a particle of her demands. England therefore "resumes entire liberty of action;" she is in possession of Egypt, and France may say what she likes. This, as Mr. Gladstone says, means that England's responsibility for affairs in Egypt has been very much increased. The British newspapers say that the failure of the conference will be a great relief to the country. The Government is now free to make a new start, being now quite independent of France. The French are furious with England now; but the other governments of Europe say they will not concern themselves in the matter, so France is not likely to bite. She has been barking for a long time.

In Egypt itself, there is nothing very new to report. The Governor of Dongola, who persists in declaring that he remains faithful to his Egyptian masters, telegraphs that he has sent on a letter from General Gordon to Cairo, where the messenger is expected to arrive on the 17th. According to latest accounts, the Mahdi is fighting some negro tribes who refused to join him, and says that he has sent a force to Khartoum to capture General Gordon, dead or alive. Gordon himself, if a report received at Cairo is correct, has recently been making a number of fierce sallies against the rebels, who have built a wall along the bank of the Nile.

THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.

It is estimated that about 2,300 deaths have already occurred during the present epidemic of cholera in the south of France. The disease is not now so intense as it was, but larger districts are now tainted with it. In several parts of Italy, for instance, the cholera has appeared, and the Pope has had several conferences with his clergy to decide whether they will work with the authorities in case the disease spreads over the country. It is said that cholera has broken out on two ships which recently arrived in English ports; they have been forbidden to communicate with the land, and there is as yet no trace of the disease in the British Islands.

The people of Toulon, who fled from that plague-stricken city, are returning to their filthy lodgings, and the doctors fear another outbreak of the cholera, probably small-pox and typhoid fever besides. The swallows, that left when the disease broke out, have not yet returned, and the city is deserted even by sparrows. This has been taken as evidence that the atmosphere is still impure and bonfires are being kindled as a remedy. Many people in the stricken stations have

taken a great horror for the doctors, imagining that instead of wanting to cure are really encouraging the cholera as a means of getting rid of surplus population.

Perhaps the best thing yet published on this subject is a letter from Miss Florence Nightingale, the lady whose name is revered by the whole civilized world for her heroism in nursing the sick and wounded during the Crimea War. Writing to the *New York Herald*, she says that the only way to avoid cholera is to put earth, air, water and buildings in a healthy state, by scavenging, lime-washing and every kind of sanitary work. If cholera does break out, the people must be removed and the place cleaned. Miss Nightingale, after enforcing the necessity of clearing out cesspits, privies, dustbins, cowsheds, pigsties, stables, lodging houses, yards and crowded places, says: "Set your house in order, in all ways, sanitary and hygienic, and all will be well."

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Holiday makers who are frightened to go to France or Italy are crowding into the mountainous districts of Switzerland. All the English watering places are also getting more than their usual share of summer profits, and so many tourists have gone to Scotland that shares in Scottish railway companies have risen five percent in value.

THE BRITISH REFORM STRUGGLE.

It is quite evident now that, in spite of all the ticklish affairs in many quarters of the world where Britain has any interest, the British people are most concerned about their own private affairs. The people care a good deal more to get the Reform Bill passed than to crush out a rebellion in Africa. And the refusal of the House of Lords to pass the measure has simply made people seriously discuss the question whether the House of Lords is worth keeping at all. The Liberal Government, if their Reform Bill had been passed without much effort, might have been defeated in the general elections, because of their refusal to adopt a very warlike policy in Egypt. The Conservatives in the House of Lords of course would have liked this to happen; but their mad action in throwing out the plan of reform, has roused the anger of the whole country, and the Government is as popular as ever. The electors are assembling in their thousands and demanding that they shall not be thwarted by a body of men who have no claim to authority except that their fathers had that authority before them. The most remarkable thing about these meetings is the perfect order kept at them; there is no rioting whatever. The people do not lose their temper or threaten violence. The cause is easy to find. The people of Britain know that they are infinitely stronger than the Lords, and that the Lords themselves admit that whatever the people wish will have to be done. The difficulty is that some of the Lords have to be convinced of what the people really do wish.

The latest demonstration took place at Birmingham on Monday, when no less than 20,000 persons assembled, and peacefully

but firmly demanded the surrender of the 'Lordships' position. Mr. John Bright, beloved of the people, was in the procession. Mr. Chamberlain, too, a member of the Cabinet,—who made a strong attack on the House of Lords. This agitation will go on till October, when a new session of Parliament will be held, to give their Lordships one more chance to accept the scheme they have rejected.

THE PROHIBITION CANDIDATE.

Speaking of the Hon. John P. St. John, who has been nominated by the Prohibition Party as their candidate in the Presidential election, the *Union Signal* says:—"Since 1882 he has been actively engaged in the temperance canvass, and as a speaker no one has been more effective in bringing the prohibition issue clearly before the people. He is in demand in all parts of the country, and wherever he goes makes the impression of calm, clear thought, good sense, business ability and thorough uprightness. No man in prohibition circles can rally a larger number of voters."

The same journal, the official organ of the Woman's National Christian Temperance Union, says that: William Daniel, candidate for Vice-President on the Prohibition ticket was born in Maryland about fifty-six years ago. Since 1860 he has been in the practice of law in Baltimore, has served his State in the legislature, and latterly most efficiently as head of the State Temperance Alliance, which has secured prohibition in fourteen out of the twenty-three countries of Maryland. He is a man of means and liberality, and a life-long Republican until the Republican National Convention last June. He is a good speaker, a man fine social qualities, and deeply devoted to the idea of national as well as State prohibition.

TWO NOBLE NIHILISTS.

The following account is given in an English magazine; the writer, in his intense and righteous hatred of the tyranny under which Russia is groaning, is somewhat carried away by his admiration of the persons who plan such terrible deeds to overthrow the tyrants. Still, there is real patriotism in the hearts of many of these Nihilists, and it good to have a close glimpse at some of them, such as we have here.

"Sophia Perovskaia was young and beautiful. She belonged to the highest aristocracy of Russia. She was connected on all sides with the governing classes, and had she not chosen a holier mission, might have lived and died surrounded by every comfort and luxury that to baser minds make life worth living. Yet such is the abnormal state of things brought about by tyranny, that this girl—this very daughter of the despotism as it seemed—was destined to plan the attack, and to give the signal which sent Alexander II. to his long account. She was one of those who began by desiring knowledge, and who ended by dying for liberty; and commencing her career by joining a circle whose object was mainly the spread of "reform" ideas, she came to see that preachings alone would never break the tyranny, that words without deeds are dead; and she ended by being one of the right hands of the Terror. One year of her young life were spent in a Russian dungeon;

three years was spent in confinement under the strictest surveillance—but they were wholly insufficient to break her spirit.

She was at last tried and acquitted, but an acquittal in Russia is by no means the same thing as in England. From the hall in which she was found not guilty she was dragged back to prison, but she escaped, and again took up the threads of her work where she had been obliged to drop them, and became one of the most determined and skilful organizers of the revolutionist party. To give you some idea of the confidence with which she inspired all who came into contact with her, it is only necessary to say that the conspirators who attempted to blow up the royal train had entrusted her with the duty of firing the nitro-glycerine which, in case the police came to arrest them, was to blow her, themselves, and everybody concerned into the air. They trusted her with perfect confidence that her hand would not tremble or her heart fail her. Let me close this very short and meagre sketch of this daughter and martyr of liberty with an eye-witness's account of her death: "I have been present at a dozen executions, but I have never seen such a butchery. Rebalcio and Geliaboff were very calm; Timothy Michailoff was pale but firm. Sophia Perovskaia displayed extraordinary moral strength. Her cheeks even preserved their very color, while her face, always serious, without the slightest trace of parade, was full of true courage and endless abnegation. Her look was calm and peaceful; not the slightest sign of ostentation could be discerned in it.

Just a few words of Demetrius Lisogub. This man was a millionaire, one of the largest landowners in Russia. But he lived a life of greater poverty than the humblest tenant on his estates, in order that he might devote the whole of his riches to the service of the revolution. But this was the least of his sacrifices, for in that service he gave up love, family life, and all those things which good men value more than riches; and he always volunteered for the post of danger and the task of difficulty. He had never been identified with any revolutionary scheme of violence, and the worst accusation that the Government could bring against him was that he had spent his own money, and refused to say how. But that was quite enough for the Russian judges, and he was sentenced to death. He was advised to petition for pardon, and it was hinted to him that the petition would be granted, but he scornfully refused to plead to the Russian Emperor, and he died the death of a patriot and a hero on August 8th, 1879. Well, these are but types, and types that are by no means few or hard to find amongst the thousands and tens of thousands of men and women who have drawn the sword for freedom, and who never mean to return it to its scabbard until the battle be won."

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the Advancement of Science meets in Montreal on August 27th. One good result of the meeting being held on this continent will be the permanent settling in the country of a number of people who have come out from the Old Country with considerable capital, and who intend to invest it in farming, fruit growing, cattle-raising, and other kindred enterprises which cannot fail to add materially to the resources of the country.

At CROSTADT, in Germany, a party of French visitors expressed pleasure at the insult recently offered to the German flag in Paris. A German resented the remark, a quarrel ensued, and he was killed by a sword-stick in the hands of one of the Frenchmen.