

Dominion Churchman.

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THE WEEK.

SETTING aside the uncertainty always attaching to any promises made by the Ottoman Government and the consequent impossibility of arriving at any conclusion as to the probable success or failure of the new Turkish constitution, there seems to be reasons, though hitherto they remain in a vague and indefinite form, for fearing that the course of peace is not running quite smoothly in Europe. Whatever might happen to the Provinces and nationalities of Turkey in Europe Russia, as far as her own political and territorial safety is concerned, might, if she so pleased, fold her hands and look on at the success or defeat of the Christian subjects of the Porte with absolute indifference. But Austria is very differently situated. It is no selfish ambition or desire for aggrandizement that makes her study the course of events with watchful caution. The unity, the very existence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is very closely connected with the *status* of the Turkish semi-independent Provinces. It is neither to her interest that their autonomy should be too complete, nor that Russian influence should be too preponderating, nor that Turkish misrule should, as heretofore, keep up a chronic state of insubordination and almost rebellion. It is no wonder if, amidst all these complications of the situation, Austria sees a necessity for massing troops on her Danubian frontier. Such a move on her part, however, may very likely lead to corresponding movements by Russia, and indeed it is now reported that an enormous Russian force is being prepared in the interior for some undeclared contingency. While these great Powers continue to play with edged tools there is a probability that blood will flow sooner or later. It yet remains to be seen whether the Sultan honestly intends to carry out the promised reforms or if the banishment of Midhat is tantamount to their indefinite postponement.

The ecclesiastical and political condition of Germany, as evidenced by an analysis of the returns of the late Elections for the German Reichstag, is far from reassuring. We noticed last week the probability of an alliance being formed between the Ultramontanes and the Socialists; the latter having obtained considerable success as well as prominence at the polls, the large cities, especially having shewn, just as it is the case with Paris, Marseilles, Lyons and other French centres, a very decided proclivity towards Socialism. The old Conservatives, the Progressists, the Alsatian, Polish and Danish representatives are all opposed to the Chancellor's policy, who has to rely for support upon the National Liberals and the moderate Conservatives, but these sections do not in themselves constitute a majority of the Chamber. Prince Bismark has simply himself to blame for this condition of affairs.

By his overbearing obstinacy and especially by the extreme intolerance with which he devised and carried into operation the Falk laws he has thoroughly alienated classes which would otherwise give an independent support to a rational Imperial policy; and now he finds himself in this dilemma. If he attempts to conciliate the Progressists he offends the moderate Conservatives; if he approaches the Ultramontanes, the National Liberals will throw him over. Probably by the sheer exercise of an imperious will the Chancellor, as long as his own health lasts, will have his own way, but when his heavy hand is removed who will be able to keep the seething political and social discontent under firm control? And then there comes to weak politicians the dangerous temptation to withdraw attention from domestic troubles by fostering foreign wars. It is said, by the way, that Germany put an absolute veto on the French Ministry's proposal, to strengthen the fortifications of Paris. It does seem a little hard that, after the conclusion of peace which is supposed to obliterate all causes and results of a quarrel, the defeated nation should not be at liberty to protect itself against the repetition of a successful attack.

Although the Ultramontanes still present a front of nearly a hundred votes in the Reichstag it is said that the polling manifested a very decided falling off in the influence of the party as well as the existence of several important schisms in its ranks. Were Bismark less bigoted or had he the power or the will to retreat from the extreme position he took upon the ecclesiastical laws, he might neutralize the force of Ultramontane opposition. But another judgment, given at Posen, imposing fine and imprisonment on Cardinal Ledochowski for exercising episcopal functions after deprivation pronounced by the State, shews that the old policy is still maintained. A demand for the extradition of the Cardinal has been justly refused by the Italian Government.

The quietly successful installation, last week, of the new President of the United States, is now followed by the endorsement by the Senate of all his nominations to seats in his new Cabinet; so that the policy represented by its composition, and sketched in his inaugural address, will, it may be hoped, be now carried out. If such is honestly done, it may be that the South will obtain as substantial justice as would have been meted out under the Tilden administration, coupled probably with more firmness towards it, and more impartiality towards other sections of the country. It is noteworthy that an attempt to upset the new Cabinet and condemn the new policy, which was set on foot by politicians of the Blaine and Butler class, has been signally unsuccessful, and a fair trial will, at least, be given to a President who dares to maintain that "he best serves his party who serves his country best."

Almost the only noticeable, but it is a very noticeable, feature in recent debates at Ottawa is the exceedingly personal and angry tone which has characterized them. As long as policy consists in vilifying the character, private as well as political, of opponents, such scenes will be reproduced; but the singular want of appreciation of what is due to themselves as gentlemen, and to their position as representative legislators, which several of the leading members of the House of Commons on both sides of the Speaker's chair have lately manifested is truly deplorable. Dignity and courtesy have been alike forgotten.

To those who are asking themselves, perhaps somewhat despondingly, "What can I do for God and the Church?" no more pertinent answer can be given than a reference to the life, now closed, of Miss Mackenzie. From her earliest years her health was always feeble, and for a long period she was only kept alive by careful nursing; but in 1853, when she was forty years of age, she accompanied her brother to Natal, of which he was then Archdeacon. For four years she staid there and worked with him, and then after a visit with him to England, during which he was consecrated Bishop of the Central African Mission, she returned to the Cape, where she staid twelve months with Bishop Gray, and then set out to join her brother up the Zambesi. But the calamity which has had such a damping effect on African missionary work had already fallen, and Miss Mackenzie, in her voyage up the Shire river, unconsciously passed by her brother's grave. Feeling then that her active work there had come to an end, she returned to England, and thenceforward devoted herself to furthering the cause of South African missions. Her efforts in this direction are chiefly known to most of us by the missionary journal, the *Net*, a useful little periodical which, we trust, will not cease to exist—through which and other agencies she collected for many years as much as £2,000 a year, chiefly for South Africa, and she lived to see the interest in African Missions, which so flagged after Bishop Mackenzie's death and Bishop Tozer's unsuccessful attempt at Zanzibar, once more revived. The Church in South Africa will always hold in loving honour the grave of one of its noblest bishops by the banks of the distant Shire; but perhaps even from it no purer lesson of self-sacrifice and hard work is taught than by the simple stone in the quiet churchyard of Havant marking the resting place of Anne Mackenzie.

The Oxford and Cambridge Universities' Bill has passed the second reading in the House of Commons, and will presumably become law before the end of the Session. Seven commissioners are named for each University, and they are authorised to make Statutes embodying several important alterations in the constitutions of Oxford and Cam-