

followed General Baratieri's example. The King seems to have been successful in persuading the new Premier to continue the war. What Italy expects to gain from it nobody seems to have any clear idea. If she were strong enough to try conclusions with France for Tunis, it would be different. There was a clear and distinct object to be gained, because Tunis is not so far from Italy, and the site of old Carthage is one of the most commanding in the world. If the Abyssinian king makes peace, even without another tussle, it would be a happy thing for Italy. The high reputation of her soldiers for courage and of her generals for conduct will not be dimmed by one disaster to the troops, or by the cowardice of one commander. The attitude of the other powers is still to be developed. If there is a treaty between England and Italy, events will soon demonstrate its existence. On the other hand, the strength of the union between Germany, Austria, and Italy, not a natural one at the best of times, will be soon tested.

The Venezuela Blue Book.

The publication of the English Blue Book on Venezuela will be satisfactory to those who have time and patience to investigate questions running back over two hundred years. In the jolly old days of the black flag, with its skull and cross bones, the Spanish main was in the hands of almost every freebooter in turn for a time. Some of these gentlemen would be greatly tickled if they learned that their dashing raids in search of gold were solemnly held out, in after years, as the occupation of the country on behalf of their king, who would be only too glad to have hanged them if he could have caught them. In the succession of nationalities who have gained a more or less precarious footing on the South American continent near the Orinoco, the Dutch and Spanish were both prominent. England, by conquest and treaty, succeeded to the Dutch rights. What these rights were Pollock's report is intended to demonstrate. It is not submitted to Mr. Cleveland's commission, but they may read it if they please. They might at the same time read Robinson Crusoe, who was wrecked off the Orinoco. His rights of occupation were just as valid as a good many of the other alleged rights of occupation relied upon in those parts. The fact is, most Englishmen will say England is right because she is England, and too many Americans will say she is wrong because she is England. We fear the solution of the question will not be much advanced by Blue Books. The plate published by the *Graphic* showing the first line of defence called forth a remark by a street arab, overheard by a bystander who was also looking at the picture, "That's the way to harbitrate," and with that arab we thoroughly agree.

The Spanish-American Trouble.

The attitude of the Spaniards in the face of the impertinence of the speakers in the American Senate has been, on the whole, dignified. There have been some ebullitions of national indignation, but the authorities have repressed them. The French seem disposed, as we thought they would, to help the Spaniards. There have been at some points in the States demonstrations similar to those in Spain. But the American executive probably feels the difficulty which exists. Spain alone could not cope with the whole power of the United States. But if the United States did succeed, what could they do with Cuba? That unhappy island would become another Haiti, or else the Americans would have to annex it. Are they prepared to take that step? If not, they would do more wisely not to interfere. By the way, what application have they made to France to take her hands off Brazil? A Franco-Spanish combination would not be so patient under American

dictation as England has been. The answer to a despatch like that of Mr. Olney to Lord Salisbury would be the appearance of an ironclad squadron with a demand for an apology. It is fortunate for the peace of the world and for the interests of humanity that the Anglo-Saxon race is patient and long-suffering, and would do almost anything rather than fight for the mere sake of fighting. Publicists in the Union who are not led away by political exuberance are commencing to dread the spirit of militarism which is being created in their peaceful republic. Cunning politicians are making use, for their own purposes, of the tread-on-the-tail-of-my-coat sentiment, too prevalent at present on the other side. They may go too far, and be taken seriously by people who say what they mean and mean what they say.

Aid for the Armenians.

Principal Grant has addressed a letter to the *Toronto Globe*, calling for aid for the unfortunate Armenians. "If we can do only a little," he rightly says, "let us do that at any rate, and do it promptly. . . . Christendom stands disgraced before the tribunal of God and man, and as we share in that disgrace so shall we in the responsibility." The Principal continues:

Never before did I feel more keenly that we have no voice, because we have never asked for it, in directing the policy of the British Government. But I do wonder that a strong man does not rise in the House of Commons and urge the Government to open negotiations with the United States with the object of taking conjoint action. Surely the heart of a people who have been trying so long to spread the light in Turkey would respond to such an overture. They have made no answer to the public addresses in which Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain urged this upon them, but a formal proposal should be made. Even were that refused, how our hearts would glow if Britain decided to dare all risks and act alone! We have no right to ask, or even to suggest, it. We are apparently content that Britain shall bear all the burdens of the Empire; our only discontent being, not with ourselves, but with her, because she is not eager to tax for our advantage the bread, the cheese, the butter, and the meat her people eat, while we exclude her products. But what true glory would be hers if she decided to enter on the crusade of mercy to which all Christendom is summoned!

The publication in England, within the past few days, of the Blue Book on Turkish affairs reveals a shocking state of things, and terribly emphasizes all that Principal Grant says. The British Ambassador at Constantinople reports that twenty-five thousand Armenians have been butchered by the Turks, and that if we add to this number the massacres respecting which there are no details the estimate may be increased to a much higher figure. In committing these atrocities the Turks practically have had the hearty support and encouragement of Russia. Which nation is to be the more despised and execrated?

Literature and Affairs.

The London Literary World recently remarked that statesmanship and literature—including journalism—are closely connected, the latter often supplying the bread and butter which enables the politician to serve his country. "Consequently," adds the Literary World, "when we hear of public men dropping their political engagements in order to devote themselves more closely to literature, we generally suspect a lack of ready cash wherewith to continue the former." Mr. Alfred Austin some time ago observed that literature and politics are in practice not so much distinct territories as borderlands whose boundaries are not easily defined, and that continually run into, overlap, and are frequently confounded with each other. If literature and politics were restricted each to its own particular sphere, Mr. Alfred Austin is strongly inclined to think both would lose considerably. The close connection between