

The Weekly Monitor.

BRIDGE TOWN, JUNE 5, 1878.

EUROPEAN ASPECTS.

The cloud of impending war, which has been hovering over Europe for more than a year, seems less ominous than it did a few weeks ago; and there is a probability that a convention of nationalities will be the means of restoring tranquility to Europe, and thereby secure the blessings of peace, and preserve the interests of the world's civilization. When Russia invaded Turkey, it was professedly with the object of relieving Christians in the Ottoman Empire from the oppression and systematic persecution of Mahometan fanaticism. All desire of conquest was disavowed. If the Court of St. Petersburg was to be believed, the Cossack brigades of soldiery were sent across the Danube on a mission of mercy and peace rather than with a desire for the acquisition of territory—the enlargement of the Muscovite Empire. The traditional policy of Russia, however, as indicated by her past history, was such that Great Britain, ever watchful of what is transpiring around her, distrusted the disinterestedness of the Czar's designs in pushing forward an immense army in the direction of Constantinople. It was apprehended by far-seeing British Statesmen that Russia, meanwhile, was more intent upon making the Mediterranean her southern boundary than upon redressing the wrongs of suffering Christians. Of course the stern protest of Great Britain against the invasion of Turkey upon such a pretext, could not be wholly ignored, or lightly disregarded by the Czar. He knew that Old England's opposition to his ambitious designs would be fatal to the contemplated success of his undertaking. In the meantime, the assumed indifference of Germany, and the timid policy of Austria forced Great Britain to the conclusion that she would have to stand alone in checkmating the Czar in his aggressive game he was playing; and forthwith preparation for a conflict with Russia has been going forward on a large and comprehensive scale for several months. The treaty of Stefano has rather stimulated than abated the activity and energy of Great Britain in preparing for the worst. Her military and naval forces, in a brief space of time, have been marvellously augmented. Superadded to these demonstrations of her determination to curb the Czar in his designs of conquest, the historical prestige of her valor, on both sea and land, has impressed other European Powers that they, too, could not look on with supine indifference, and remain mere spectators in a struggle, that would, for weal or for woe, have a disturbing influence upon the whole sisterhood of nationalities between the Baltic and the Mediterranean—between the Ural mountains and the western shores of Europe. Statesmen everywhere have gradually awakened to the fact that the apprehended war between Great Britain and Russia could be no ordinary encounter—no mere child's play of a little consequence to the world as a trial for strength and skill between two mere pugilists in a prize ring. If there was to be a hand to hand fight between the great Empires of whom we are speaking, its effects must be felt all over the civilized world. These momentous considerations have forced upon the great European Powers, not only the desirableness, but also the necessity, of a continental Congress to adjust the difficulties and complications of interests which at present subsist, and which would be multiplied in the event of the apprehended war. Statesmen and philanthropists everywhere feel that something must be done to avert it if possible. Diplomacy and negotiation must interpose, to secure peace, and preserve the weaker powers from the oppressive interference and arbitrary dictation of the stronger. The soil of nationality, however weak, should be profaned by unprovoked invasion. At the contemplated Congress neither the reverses of Turkey in the late war, nor the victories obtained by Russia over her weaker foe, nor the strategic treaty of Stefano should be suffered to militate against an equitable adjustment of all the difficulties, claims and controversies that may be legitimately considered and ultimately settled by the members of European Congress. There is one point that must be seriously and solemnly impressed upon the disciples of Mahomet in the Ottoman Empire; and that is, that Christians must not be persecuted within its borders. The spirit of the "False Prophet's" creed is intense hatred to all who do not acknowledge his assumed divinity. Christians especially are the objects of Musselman hate. For centuries the follower of Christ have been massacred without mercy by Mahometan fanatics. The Christianity of Europe and the advancing civilization of the nineteenth century forbid the continuance of such fanaticism and bloody barbarities. The warlike preparations which Great Britain has made to withstand Russia's ambitious designs, and to curb a lust of conquest that has ever characterized the policy of the latter, have led to the present means that are being taken by all the great European Powers, to secure the peace of Europe, the rights of nations, and the tranquillity of the world.

ARM BROKEN.—On Friday a son of Mr. Gilbert Hill fell from the top of the woodshed, in his father's yard, and broke his arm.

EXCURSION.—By referring to our advertising columns it will be seen that there is to be a grand excursion to the Isle of Holt.

BAPTISM.—There were eight persons baptized here on Sabbath last by the Rev. Mr. Young. Meetings are still in progress and are being largely attended.

The Nova Scotia Western Baptist Association will be held at the Pine Grove Baptist Church, Middleton, Annapolis County, commencing on Saturday, June 15th, at 10 a. m.

HAMPTON.—The fishermen at this place are jubilant over a fine run of mackerel. On Monday Mr. Andrew Templeman secured nine barrels as one haul. Cod, pollock and herring are also plenty and fat.

W. & A. RAILWAY.—A new time table came into operation on this road yesterday, express trains leave Windsor daily for Annapolis, at 9.30. The "Empress" will leave St. John for Annapolis on Monday, Wednesday and Friday returning the following days.

The "Argosy" published by the students of Mount Allison, Wesleyan College and Academy, says:—"Our Museum has received a valuable addition. Rev. W. Harts, Halifax, has generously presented a large collection of minerals, one thousand specimens, made by the late Rev. Thos. Davis, D. D. Honeyman, of Halifax, values the lot at two hundred dollars. Mr. Harts evidently takes as his motto, 'Deeds, not words.'"

We have received from B. B. Russell, of Boston, Mass., a fine steel engraving of the Earl of Dufferin. It is sold for the low price of 25 cents. "This picture is pronounced by those familiar with the Earl of Dufferin as a fine likeness, and will be a pleasing memento of one who has ruled so wisely and taken such a deep interest in the welfare of the people of the Dominion."

FISHERMAN.—A very fine schooner 52 feet keel, 19 feet beam, 7 feet hold, and 42 tons register, called the "Ocean Bird," was launched on Thursday last, at Hampton, Bay Shore. This vessel is owned by a company of nine, and is intended for a fisherman. Mr. Isaiah Wilson was the master workman, and from what we can learn we infer that the work has been done by him in a thorough and substantial manner. We wish this company every success in the enterprise.

DISMASTED.—On Wednesday last after we had gone to press, the Boston Packet "Forest," Captain Nicholson, arrived at her wharf, with the loss of mainmast and head of foremast. The Captain informs us that when off Cashe's ledges, with a heavy sea, the head of the foremast broke, and was almost immediately followed by the mainmast snapping about eight feet from the deck, in falling it struck the boat hanging at the davits, smashing in her side. The wreckage had to be cut adrift with all attached to prevent its starting a hole in the vessel.

COMING! COMING!

The best minstrel performance given here for a long time was that by the NEW ORLEANS MINSTRELS, who were greeted by a crowded House. Billy Sheppard in his various roles created great applause. Brickwood's stump speech was something new in this line, and Miss Russell's cornet solo was given with fine taste. Other parts were equally well taken. The orchestra was very efficient.—Amherst Gazette.

The New Orleans Minstrels intend performing in this place on Saturday evening, 8th inst. They were here some four or five years ago, and their entertainment was allowed by all present to be among the very best of the kind ever given in this town.

NICTAUX AND ATLANTIC RAILWAY.—The Nictaux and Atlantic Railway Company have decided to proceed with the work on that railway. The Government positively refused to concede any departure from the terms of the contract, either as regards the character of the work required or mode of paying the subsidy. The representatives of the company here proposed to deposit \$10,000 in the hands of responsible parties to secure payment of outstanding debts and to proceed with the work on the Government's terms. If this proposition is carried out in good faith the work will proceed at an early day.—Chronicle.

The Admiralty have experienced great difficulty in raising the "Curjidge" which has become embedded in sand. The last attempt made to raise her by means of steel hawsers proved unsuccessful owing to the breaking of the latter. Three hundred tons was strained estimated at the attempt to raise her, but experience has been gained by the failure, and the authorities are providing a lifting power of 1,000 tons for the next attempt. Toggles are to be inserted in each port hole and hawsers attached to them as well as passed under the ship. The lifting power thus obtained will be tremendous, and unless some parts of the vessel are carried away by the enormous strain the wreck is almost certain to be lifted.

Officers of the German ironclad Koenig Wilhelm declare the collision was caused by the failure of her steering gear.

APPALPING SHIPWRECKS.

A STORM IN THE BAY OF BISCAY DROVE 320 FISHERMEN—40 WIDOWS AND 200 ORPHANS IN ONE SMALL VILLAGS.

A correspondent of the London Daily News, writes the following from Madrid, April 23:—

A terrible disaster occurred in the Bay of Biscay last Saturday. It was Holy week and for several days the boats had not left their ports. The men had been hung out to dry, and the nets lotted about on the quays on Friday. The weather had been very fine during the earlier part of the week, and on Saturday the sun rose gloriously on a quiet sea. Accordingly, before eight o'clock the sails of the fisherman of Biscay studded the horizon. The sea rose very fast, and the waves increased on the sands. Gulls and other birds began to sweep along the surface of the water with their necks stretched out and their wings raised, and then the fierce "norwest" of the northwest of Basque ballads, began to howl, and rage in a manner which made the bravest hearts quake. People gathered on the quays on the rocks to gaze at the approaching squall, which came on with hail, rain and sleet, hiding the sea from view and driving all to their homes.

When the squall was over, crowds of women and children flocked around the dismayed authorities and despairingly complained of the post captain having allowed the boats to leave. In vain they pleaded, and cials protest that they had no reason to suppose that the beautiful morning would end in a squall. In vain did they say that they had no power to prevent the men going on their expedition. Heart-rending cries were heard, and still no news came until it was reported that three shipwrecked boats had been found. Then planks and baskets came in, and the vessel which had weathered the storm brought in the details of the calamity. In vain the authorities protested that they had no reason to suppose that the beautiful morning would end in a squall. In vain did they say that they had no power to prevent the men going on their expedition. Heart-rending cries were heard, and still no news came until it was reported that three shipwrecked boats had been found. 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