

report speaks as follows:—"That which seems to have come to us from the East is not itself a poison so much as it is a test and touchstone of poison. Whatever its nature it may be, this at least we know of its operation:—Past millions of scattered population it moves innocuous: through the unpolluted atmosphere of cleanly districts it migrates silently without a blow—that which it can kindle into poison lies not there. To the foul, damp breath of low-lying cities, it comes like a spark of fire to powder. Here is contained that which it can swiftly make destructive—soaked into soil, stagnant in water, grimming the pavement, tainting the air—the slow rottenness of unremoved excrement, to which the first contact of this foreign ferment brings the occasion of changing into new and more deadly combinations."

"We are plunging at length into the perils of the great Eastern question," observes the Times, "and are proceeding to protect the territory of the Ottomans from the grasp of the Czar. It will provoke, perhaps, an incredulous stare, if we observe that this is not the first time that the levies of English counties have sailed to the Bosphorus to defend an Emperor of Constantinople, but the last occasion happened so long ago that its circumstances can hardly be recalled without a smile. It is a fact, however, that the household troops of the Byzantine Sovereigns, who reigned in Constantinople when the Empire was Greek instead of Ottoman, were composed mostly of English volunteers; and, when William Rufus depopulated a large portion of Hampshire to make his New Forest the dispossessed peasantry of the district, by such an expansion of the 'settlement' principle as Mr. Baines himself hardly dreams of, departed for service at Constantinople, to protect the Emperor Alexius I. against the invading armies of the West. Since these ancient times no such service has ever been performed; and so little, indeed, until a comparatively recent period, was known of the Turkish capital generally, that Gibbon speaks of the 'last traveller who has visited Constantinople' in much the same tone as we should now employ of a tourist returned from Samarcand or Bokhara."

COMMUNICATION WITH CANADA.—Next season Canada will have three lines of ocean steamers running between British ports and Quebec and Montreal.—First, there is the Canadian Steam Navigation Company's line already established, next, Messrs. Edmondstone, Allen & Co., British shipowners, are to place a line of first-class screw steamers between Glasgow and Liverpool and Quebec, consisting of vessels of 2,900 tons and 400 horse-power each. Then the Canada Ocean Steamship Navigation Company is to place two steamers of from 1,700 to 2,000 tons each on the same route. This company's stock is all subscribed. These latter two companies will establish independent lines, without any bounties from the Government.—Globe.

THE ALLEGED INSANITY OF THE CZAR.—Certainly has been lost sight of during the week, for the mere chance of stray gossip. We have been deserting the substance for the shadow, and feasting upon the *viande creuse* with as much delight as though it were not always productive of the same regrets as flatulent effects. First of all stands the important piece of news which has filled us with awe, alarm, joy, hope, and speculation, and which is told amongst ourselves with comments violent enough to excite all these. This wonderful event has been no other than the sudden departure from Paris of the great mad doctor, Professor —. This circumstance in ordinary times would have produced no effect whatever. In short, nobody likes to be thought to possess the smallest interest concerning the movements of Professor —; but it so happens that the absence of the great Professor, mysterious and unaccounted for, came just at a moment when the public mind was busy investigating the truth of a report which arrived straight from St. Petersburg, of the bursting forth of the long suspected malady of the Czar of Russia, and which many of his recent acts have tended to confirm. It is certain that the Professor is missing, and every body excepting his patients is anxious for his return. It is certain that his connection lies principally amongst the nobility, and it is moreover certain that being in England at the time of the Czar's visit, he expressed to many people his entire conviction of the presence of the enemy he had passed his whole life in detecting wherever it might choose to seek concealment. Herein lies, therefore, the foundation of the report which has run from *cafe to cafe*, all along the Boulevards, of the sudden development of insanity in the Emperor Nicholas, of sending for Doctor —, of the recall of Prince Woronzoff after refusing acceptance of his resignation besides this and that *et mille autres choses*. The effect of such rumors is a most wonderful thing to witness.

DETERMINATION OF THE TURKS.—The military correspondent of one of the morning papers, in an interesting sketch which he gives of the Turkish Hospital at Widin, mentions one or two facts which speak volumes as to the determined courage with which the followers of Mahomet wage war against their enemies the Russians. He says—"In the second ward which I visited, there was one immense room, containing perhaps 90 or 100 men, all of whom were wounded. Many of the worst cases were here, and we found two of the surgeons busy at work preparing for an amputation, the first which had taken place since the action (of Citale). The beds, like all others, were all but on the ground, in six long rows, and displayed the most perfect neatness and cleanliness. In smaller rooms, close at hand, were great numbers of the chasseurs, who had been the first to enter the village, under the command of Tefwik Bey, and had consequently suffered severely. They were nearly all very fine men, and seemed to make very light of their wounds; several cried out to us that they were longing to get well that they might go at it again, and avenge the loss of their comrades. I was assured by the surgeons that nearly every man, not only in this hospital, but in all the others, had taken possession of the balls that were extracted from their bodies, and were preserving them carefully wrapped up in paper, that they might load their muskets with them the first time they went into action again, and discharge them against their enemy. Facts like these may serve to give you some idea, though at best but a faint one, of the unconquerable courage and devotion by which the Turkish army is animated, and which, I am convinced, can never be extinguished, but by its entire annihilation, an achievement which it will take better troops than those of the Russian Emperor to accomplish."

THE EVER YOUTHFUL PALMERSTON.—Unlike almost any other man in the world, he doesn't get fat, and he doesn't get thin; he doesn't stoop he doesn't totter; he doesn't use a stick, nor a wig, nor a list-shoe, nor a top coat; nor does he look as if he ever could, would or should do anything of the kind. See him in what weather you will, you always find him in the same temperature—always equable, always serene, yet always genial. Hail, rain, or snow, out of doors, it is always sunshine with him. In the dog-days or in December, other men come into the house either panting like so many semi-calcedined sugar-bakers, or shivering like recently submerged skaters dragged out of the Serpentine by the barbarians of the Humane Society. But, be the thermometer at 99 of Fahrenheit or 0 of Reaumur, Palmerston is corporeally never either hot or cold, and mentally the medium is seemingly ever the same. Not his smooth reserve, the decorous self-possession of Gladstone or of Sydney Herbert, which if it never ruffles, yet never animates. At ease with himself, he puts every one around him at ease too.—London Cor. of the Liverpool Albion.

CLEVER SWINDLING DODGE.—A curious circumstance occurred the other day, which places the dexterity of the members of the swell-mob in rather a striking light. A female, of very lady-like and pleasing manners, called at the establishments of one of our first hair-dressers in town, and, after a little conversation, requested to know if they shaved gentlemen's heads. An answer being given in the affirmative, she proceeded to state that she had a brother, a young man of rather facile mind, and that their medical man had thought it advisable that his head should be shaved; that he was troubled with strange hallucinations, such as that he belonged to and was a member of a large drapery establishment in town, giving the name, and so on. She said she would bring her brother the next day, and that he (the hair-dresser) was to have two men ready in waiting, so as forcibly to shave his head, and that they were to pay no attention to his protestations of his being a member of the firm above mentioned. Next day she called at the establishment above alluded to, and bought a considerable quantity of silk goods, and stated, if they would send one of their young men along with her to a particular address, they would get paid. The lady and the young man with the goods then left in a cab, and, when opposite the hair-dresser's establishment, told her companion if he would go in along with her, she would get as much money as would make up the amount of the bill. The unsuspecting youth went in, and was met by the performer in the most bland manner, who requested him to walk up stairs, which he did, not doubting but what he was to receive payment of the bill. No sooner had the unfortunate wight entered the room than he was pounced upon, and, despite all his protestations, he was speedily denuded of his tresses. The lady, who had in the meantime been looking on with great coolness, now said she was afraid that, as her presence only caused greater excitement to her unfortunate brother, she would leave and return in a short time. She decamped, accordingly, goods and all, and has not since been heard of. We leave our readers to imagine the denouement.—Glasgow Citizen.

SOLDIERS AND SHAVING.—It is 60 years since that Englishmen were only known in Central Asia as eccentric and insane barbarians, who, wherever and whenever they had a chance, cut off horses' tails and men's beards without mercy, for which they were held by all the "true believers" in greater abhorrence than the fire devotees of India, or the devil worshippers of Kurdistan. Some years since, in a lucid interval, common sense and humanity cured our countrymen of their former propensity, and their noble animals were permitted immunity for their "fly-flappers." This insanity for years past has clung with determined tenacity to the old gentlemen of the British army. No sooner is a new adjutant-general appointed than he issues a new order on "hair." The man who mounts a horse is permitted to grow it; the man who pads the hoof is ordered to scrape it off from the tip of his ear to the tip of nose. It is reported that 15,000 of us are about to accompany 40,000 of our brave Gallie brothers-in-arms to Turkey; and only fancy the 15,000 turning out every morning at gun-fire to make faces in bits of looking-glass, while the other 40,000 are cleaning their Minie rifles and laughing at them; for I grieve to say there still exist many martinet in the British army who consider a scraped face of far greater importance than a clean musket.—An Old Soldier.

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