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THE TIMES.

The situation in Europe is brilliant—at any rate—as far as Lord Beaconsfield is concerned. The great mystic is the object of interest in the political melodrama which is being played at Berlin. He is reaching the culminating point of his fortunes. The position he holds is unique. He is the English Sovereign; the English Parliament; the English people. He has moulded the Tory party to suit his own mind, and the Whigs are dumb before the magnificent audacity of the Jew. He poses as the Prime Minister of England and the Dictator of Europe. He is changing the form of government and compelling the country to break with the policy of the present reign,—for England shall be no longer an island with a vast Empire, but an Empire with a rich and densely populated island as the seat of government. As an Asiatic empress England is to be the European dictatoress. The gorgeous East with its profound philosophies—its poetry—its endless resources—is no more to be held in fee, but England is to be Oriental. We have entered upon the period when the East shall re-act upon the West. The inauguration is marked by the gagging of the Indian press, and by the recognition of petty Asiatic despots as native princes, and a new chapter of history is commenced. It remains to be seen how the English will take this break with all their traditions and policy,—how they will regard this tremendous accumulation of responsibility; and whether the existing machinery is equal to the strain which is to be put upon it. Certain it is that this heroic policy will call for new instruments, and we look for the proclamation that an Asiatic Empire cannot be sustained on the basis of a British monarchy. And what then?

What the outcome of the Congress will be is yet a secret known only to the gods and the Earl of Beaconsfield, who used to be "on the side of the angels," but now aspires to company with beings of a higher order. But still the wish comes back to us that, instead of British Plenipotentiaries writing home despatches to the Queen and a mystified Parliament, the original blunder had never been made, and that Europe had joined in enforcing the ultimatum of the Constantinople Conference. For then there would have been no war between Russia and Turkey; no accession of territory to the latter; no stagnation of trade for more than a year; no question of a Bulgaria south of the Balkans, and no threepence extra on the income tax. Beyond the amusement to be found in watching the great trickster get out of a difficulty, it is impossible to see how anyone, not an absolute lunatic, can assert that England has gained anything by the blunder made more than a year ago. The Jingoës still swear that their darling Premier is the greatest statesman that ever lived, but it is easy to remember that for twenty years the same thing was sworn to in France of the Earl's prototype, Napoleon III. But the French people changed their opinion.

The Province of Quebec can scarcely be pronounced convalescent. It got sick long ago, in fact as soon ever it had to take care of itself, and has gradually been getting worse. Then M. Letellier gave it a kind of galvanic shock, and we hoped for life, if not robust health. But the Budget Speech of the Treasurer is not reassuring. Great efforts have been made in order to make the two ends meet, but the result is scarcely cheering. To abolish the Legislative Council would be a good thing, apart from the question of money saving, for we have too many luxuries of that kind; but the cutting down in the salaries

of clerks and Members of Parliament is mere cheese-paring, and can have no lasting result. The proposed savings on expenditure are: about \$75,000 on capital account in connection with public buildings; \$20,000 on cadastral service; \$74,000 on the administration of justice; \$33,000 on agriculture; \$18,000 on legislation; and \$15,000 on civil government. But the most important deductions have to be made on the account of increased charges on revenue, &c., and it is by no means certain that the saving is much more than the transference of a burden from the Provincial to the Municipal Treasuries.

The time of the year has come, and is rapidly going, for the meeting of ecclesiastical bodies in solemn annual council. The Episcopalians have so met, and discussed important questions. Also the Congregationalists, endorsing the evangelical sentiments of the Union of England and Wales, which neither there nor here were well defined. But the Presbyterian Church in Canada has had an anxious time of it. Last year it was engaged at Halifax in whitewashing the Rev. Mr. Macdonnell, who had ventured to be heretical on the question of eternal punishment. This year hymnology was to the front. Dr. Robb thought it was not the duty of the Church to provide any hymns for use in public worship save those which God had prescribed in His own Word. But the Rev. Mr. Armstrong differed very strongly. He said the state of the Church in regard to its psalmody was most deplorable, pleading for the total abolition of hymn singing in order that heresy might be brought to an end; for the rev. gentleman had found that heresy had been introduced along with the singing of uninspired hymns. So the Te Deum Laudamus must be a very fountain-head of unbelief. And the sermons of Presbyterian clergy, are they all inspired? If not, what a source or danger they must be! Or is there a theological difference between a psalm and a sermon?

A few days ago a surprise was sprung upon us which led to something like a political panic. The Prime Minister of the Dominion had been telegraphed to meet the Governor-General at Quebec. What could it mean? It was known that political matters at Quebec had reached a deadlock, but that could hardly account for the mysterious journey of Mr. Mackenzie. And then came whisperings of dark things that would happen. Mr. Joly would resign—the Premier would dissolve the Dominion Government and make his appeal to the country. So the Province of Quebec would have two elections going on at the same time, which it was hoped by some, and feared by others, would mystify many of the not over clear-headed electors, and help Mr. Mackenzie to ride back to power. "A deep game," said the knowing. But time has interpreted the secret. Mr. Mackenzie was minded to do some fishing on the North Shore and passed through Quebec on his way. That is all.

The labour dispute in Quebec being now settled there is no immediate need to discuss it, except to say that in no trade disputes can rioting or violence be allowed. The laws which are made for rich and poor alike have to be respected by all. The loss of life, which unhappily occurred in quelling the riots is regretted by all good citizens. On the general question of preserving the peace of cities in times of popular commotion, it is important to notice the rule of police which obtains in the best-ordered communities, viz., that men are not to be allowed to gather in the streets, either in large or small companies, on any pretence whatever. The rule has been greatly neglected in Canada. If this plain rule had been enforced, the beginnings of the mischief would have been prevented. The first act of threat or violence should have been firmly dealt with by the prompt arrest of the offender. Instead of this the crowds were allowed to make head-way for days, until the misguided men became bold enough to threaten the lives of citizens, to break open and rob stores, and finally to attack the military. Quebec had no effective Commissioner of Police, to organize the protection of the city in a complete way. Well-managed matters of detail in police were insufficient without this, because it was needed that a new principle should be introduced. The gatherings would then have been prevented, the military being ready, in support, in case of any unsuspected movement, or appearance of a violent crowd. The city is now being patrolled by the troops and special constables, and guards are placed on the principal public buildings. Lord Dufferin has arrived at the Citadel, and will bring his wise powers to bear upon the question. The lesson