



DECEMBER	
SUN	1 8 15 22 29
MON	2 9 16 23 30
TUE	3 10 17 24 31
WED	4 11 18 25
THU	5 12 19 26
FRI	6 13 20 27
SAT	7 14 21 28

VOL. I.
HOME JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.,
MANNING ARCADE, TORONTO.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1895.

No. 8.
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00
SINGLE COPIES, 10 CENTS.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

THE letter sent by the Sultan of Turkey to Lord Salisbury, protesting against the latter's recent public utterance on the Armenian question, is certainly a remarkable document, inasmuch as it strips away all officialism—passes the guarded barriers of diplomatic speech, and places both writer and recipient in the simple relationship of ordinary men, rather than that of executive heads of great nations.

The direct personality of the appeal would be pitiful in its revelation of weakness were it not for the fact—proved over and over again in the annals of international diplomacy—of the criminality of weakness in high places.

Granting that the Turkish ruler has been guilty of nothing beyond impotence and cowardice—which is doubtful in view of the awful results that have ensued—can the Christian world for an instant palliate the heinous atrocities of his rule under the plea of weakness?

I will execute the reforms; I will take the paper containing them, place it before me, and see that every article is put in force. I give my word of honor. . . . I desire his lordship to have confidence in these declarations.

The monarch writes like a threatened child, big with promises that may avert a punishment; and even as he writes the awful atrocities are going on; while across the wires to Christian England and America comes the heartrending message from Constantinople:

Massacres are proceeding almost everywhere in Asia Minor. For God's sake urge the Government to put a stop to the most awful event of modern times.

In so large and complicated a problem as this of Armenia, the powers can act only with due regard to diplomatic observances. Yet governments move slower or more quickly as the voice of the people compels, and our shame lies in the fact that Christendom has sounded the alarm too late.

Now that in Rome, Paris, Berlin, London, in the American cities—everywhere throughout the civilized world—public sentiment is aroused, and the people are calling upon their respective governments to take action, the crisis is speedily reached, and a few days, or a week or two at the furthest, will show whether the Sultan is really weak or unwilling, a coward or an assassin, or both. And in either instance, the powers are bound to take instant action.

But what about the awful cost of the delay?

It is a good thing to have a strong man at the head of affairs at any time; it is a splendid thing to have a strong man at the head of national affairs at times of national

crises. Lord Salisbury himself says that the Armenian problem is quite as much in want of competent men as it is in want of adequate laws.

England's Premier is our strong man in the present juncture. In the face of difficult international problems, he is proving himself chiefest among the statesmen of the nations.

Startlingly frank and unconventional, fearless, decisive, yet with due regard to diplomatic courtesies, conciliating yet firm, doing justice, yet abating not one jot of Britain's right and prestige, with a policy and an outlook magnificently broad, he stands in his high position to-day, a veritable Great-heart among the nations.

WITH Lord Salisbury we associate Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who, since his installation as Colonial Secretary, has instituted a vigorous and stimulating colonial policy, the first fruits of which appear in the English subsidy for the fast Atlantic service, and the commission appointed to consult concerning the Pacific Cable matter.

Mr. Chamberlain is proving second to none in the Home Government in breadth of policy, while his vigor and confidence equals that of the British Premier.

The presence and leadership of such men in the Imperial Government inspire the whole English-speaking world with confidence.

THE United States ambassador to Great Britain, in his condemnation of protection, made in a speech at Edinburgh, a week or two ago, was guilty of a greater indiscretion than that of Lord Sackville in his recent pamphlet attack upon Mr. Bayard, both because the latter is still in official position, and because his speech might naturally be interpreted into condemnation of the policy of his own country.

It wouldn't be a bad idea to institute a school for ambassadors, wherein youths designed for this delicate office should be taught when to speak and when to hold their tongues.

An ambassador should learn above all else to sink his personality into that of his office. Officially he is the mouthpiece of his country, and this attitude should be maintained in all public places. In private it were wiser for him to let governmental questions alone, since the public do not always distinguish between a man's official utterances and his private opinions.

It is rather curious that both an ex-British ambassador to the United States, and a United States ambassador to Britain, should have been guilty of such glaring stupidities.

THAT Alaska should have been purchased by Canada and have become an integral part of the Dominion, goes without the saying; but since that is a possibility of the past and all that remains us is to decide which is Canadian gold and which American, the joint report concerning the Alaska boundary will be looked for with interest on both sides of the line.

The work has taken between two and three years to accomplish and has been of an arduous character. Deep snow, severe weather, unknown territory and much mountain climbing were some of the difficulties and hardships that the surveying parties had to endure.

As the United States officials and those sent out by Canada conducted their calculations independently of each other, it will be interesting to see in how far they agree—or what compromises will be necessary.

A Washington alarmist declares that the Alaska boundary dispute makes the need of better American defences upon the Pacific seaboard urgent, in view of the fact that Canada may lay claim to more than is rightfully hers, and be supported in her claim by British guns.

THE New York *Sun* recently made a suggestion in which there seems more of merry banter than earnestness—that the United States should “round out the century and square off its country” by annexing Canada, which the *Sun* pathetically declares to be the only portion of the northern New World “left out in the cold!”

That little word “left” is rather amusing, under the circumstances.

“We took in Louisiana in the first quarter of the century,” it says, “Mexico in the second, Alaska in the third. Now in which of the few remaining years of the last quarter shall we annex Canada?”

And Canada laughs back and repeats the query—which?

To be “out in the cold” is not an unpleasant position, when one has warm furs, big forests, vast wheat fields, fine cattle, gold mines, too—and a wealth of coal.

If Canada prefers the snap and sparkle, the swift blood current and tingle of independence,—who shall say her nay? And when she wants to feel the warmth of home; why there is a fireside and a yule-log, and a place beside it that is hers—just across the ocean.

HALF of our international troubles seem to come from dubiously worded treaties or constitutions. The French shore difficulty in Newfoundland arises largely from the obscure phrasing of the old treaty of Utrecht,