

Dominion Churchman.

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THE WEEK.

EXPECTANCY is still the attitude of Europe. Russia, having issued her diplomatic circular defining her position, is waiting for the opinions thereupon of the several Powers. They, in their turn, are each waiting for the other: for if the sentiments of all are identical, they will be made known simultaneously in a Note of identical import; whereas, if they are conflicting, time is necessary for the consideration and reconciliation of the differences. Turkey has to wait until Europe decides whether she will allow Russia to attack her without protest or intervention. It is well known that to the two Powers more immediately concerned this delay is financially most disastrous. The mobilization of such large armies as modern warfare is waged with, is a very expensive affair. It has been fortunate for the interests of peace that the Czar and the Sultan both are poor. The latter, indeed, may be said some time ago to have failed, and under such suspicious circumstances that the International Bankruptcy Court has withheld his certificate; whilst the former is known to have been for long maintaining a hard struggle with threatening insolvency. Still, a depleted treasury and a loss of national credit are not absolute safeguards against hostilities. The luxury of going to war is the last expense which a penniless nation thinks of denying itself. If the issue of the contest is favourable, milliards of indemnity may cover up all deficits; if unfavourable—well, that contingency is generally kept out of sight—and, so, “with a light heart,” as the French premier said in 1870, the scabbard is thrown away.

It is satisfactory to learn that the negotiations between Turkey and Servia are progressing favourably and that the probability is that peace will be concluded on an equitable basis. If Servia comes out of the trouble without loss of territory or the payment of an indemnity, she will obtain better terms than she deserves; for our sympathy with the Christian population of Turkey should not blind us to the reprehensible character of the unprovoked assault made by Servia upon Turkey. One hardly knows whether to lay most blame upon Prince Milan and his ministers or upon Russia, which instigated the outbreak, and then, in defiance of all international law, avowedly, but in an underhand way, assisted in carrying on war against a nation with whom she professed to be at peace. Each, however, has been foiled. Servia has received a very severe thrashing in the field, while Russia finds that her aggressive policy has but shaken Turkey together, given her army the prestige of success, and rallied all classes to the support of the Government. If the Czar's troops cross the Pruth or the Danube to-morrow, they will

find themselves face to face with an enemy of very different capacity and preparedness from the Turks of 1828, of 1854, or even of six months ago.

In some outward aspects the close of the Conference was a triumph for the Turk. The Great Powers had united to lecture him and to lay down a course for him to follow. But he repudiated their advice and scorned their directions. Thereupon the plenipotentiaries packed up their portmanteaus and went off, signifying thereby the grave displeasure of the Powers. But the Turk beheld this *hégira* of diplomatists with perfect equanimity, rightly judging that it pretended to mean more than it really meant, and so, ostensibly, he remained master of the situation. Our own opinion, however, is that we ought to be thankful to the Turk for acting as he did; for had he acquiesced in the proposed international commission to regulate the affairs of the Principalities, England would have found herself involved in an operation of indefinite extent and very delicate character; whereas, now the Porte has solemnly taken upon itself to do all the Conference recommended. If he does it himself, so much the better; if he fails, Europe can then intervene, with all the more effect. In the meantime it is most desirable that Russia should not be allowed to intervene either on the pretext of protecting Christianity, or of advancing the interests of Pan Slavism. An amusing instance, by the way, occurred lately of the reckless manner in which writers and speakers toss about words of which they imperfectly appreciate the meaning. General Tehernaieff, the late Commander of the Servian forces, has been visiting England, and was described by one correspondent as having “Pan Slavist features;” an assertion which can only be paralleled by maintaining that the Archbishop of Canterbury has a Pan-Anglican nose.

We notice that one newspaper states that Mr. Tooth has been released from Horsemonger Lane Gaol, but the assertion lacks confirmation. It is difficult to see how imprisonment, such as his is, for “contempt” can have such a speedy conclusion. The prisoner most assuredly will not purge himself of contempt by apologizing to Lord Penzance and promising in future to obey the monitions of the Civil Court; and the judge, on his side, can hardly retreat from the position he has once taken. The prosecutors in the Hatchem case have achieved more than they probably intended, and their legal victory is, practically, a moral defeat. It will be obviously impossible to carry through an unlimited number of prosecutions under the Public Worship Act if the result is to be the same as in Mr. Tooth's case. A truce, then, must be proclaimed; but who is to proclaim it? The prosecuting party, flushed with success, is less likely than ever to listen to the counsels of prudence or of charity. The prosecu-

ted ones have taken their stand and will not retreat. The aspect of affairs would be materially changed did the decision of the Privy Council in the Ridsdale case reverse the judgment delivered in the Purchas case—a result sincerely to be hoped for. But failing this escape from an awkward situation, we see nothing for it but for Lord Beaconsfield to consent to the repeal of the Act which has brought about this trouble. That done, we believe that the more sensible part of the clergy and laity would gladly agree to uphold the Bishops if they would assert their authority and restore order and subordination in the church. Merely as an instance of the impetus which the semblance of persecution gives to the persecuted cause we notice a statement that while ten or fifteen members had withdrawn from the English Church Union on account of its decided support of Mr. Tooth, 198 new members had been elected at one meeting.

The Folkstone Ritual case being reserved for consideration by the Court, it may be well, perhaps, not to enter into any consideration of the arguments used by the Counsel on either side. To foreshadow, however, the possible difficulties that are in store for the Church, it may be noted that Dr. Stephens, who of course held a brief for the “aggrieved parishioners,” distinctly enunciates the opinion that, not only is it not compulsory to have the Communion Table against the east wall of the Chancel, but that such a position is absolutely illegal! “If the table,” he said, “was at the east end, it was contrary to the rubric, and would be an ecclesiastical offence; and if the clergyman neglected to have the table properly placed he committed an offence.” Dr. Stephens is a clever man, but his opinions are, fortunately, not yet the law of the Church of England.

As our readers are aware, the special collection for the Mission Fund, authorized by the Bishop at the suggestion of the Mission Board, has been commenced in Toronto, and we are glad to learn that the efforts of the collectors have met with a very fair amount of success. Considering the “hardness of the times,” it could not be expected that money would be as readily forthcoming as in more prosperous seasons; but still the appeal, the necessity and justice of which is universally admitted, has so far been well responded to, and we trust that when all the returns are sent in, it will be found that Toronto has wiped away the discredit which her previous shortcomings have attached to her reputation for liberality. We are sure, however, that the visits of the collectors, the information concerning the Mission Fund which they have disseminated, and the good-humoured ventilation which the subject has received in the process, have done much to remove prejudice and to draw Churchmen closer together. The loss of moral and material power which disunion causes to the Church