

too, he had little to say beyond expressing a mild astonishment that British merchants should have been fluttered in their dove-cots by hearing that Russia and France had obtained certain concessions in China. Gentlemen, he remarked, in courteous, commercial, and parliamentary language, keep cool. Neither Russia nor France can get any concessions which are not granted to England also; you are not afraid of competition with them or with any one else; and you know that, as Lord Beaconsfield put it, there is room for everybody in Asia. But, when he came to speak of the old East, the tone became grave, weighty, and—considering that it was addressed to one who is the spiritual head of all Mussulmen and a civil ruler obeyed by a great army of millions of fanatical subjects—unprecedentedly menacing. Every sentence weighed a pound.

The Need of
Diplomacy.

Why does not the English fleet sail up and blow the Sultan out of his palace? exclaim indignant Canadians and Americans, when their blood is stirred by reading of the nameless atrocities perpetrated on the Armenians by Kurds and Turks. The thing could be done easily enough, although the question ought not to be put very loudly by those who do not pay a dollar for the fleet; but it is not done, for two or three very good reasons. The first sound of the cannon would be the signal for fanatical Mohamedan mobs in almost every part of the Sultan's Asiatic dominions to rise and massacre the Christians. Russia could, of course, march into Armenia, but she would arrive too late, save to avenge. Once entered in she would stay there; and self-government would then be out of the question. What Britain desires is a gradual extension of the work so grandly begun in the freeing of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Servia, and allowing these kingdoms or principalities to establish constitutional governments; or the extension of such a government as Baron Kallay has given to Bosnia; not a mere movement to the south of the great Russian Iceberg. It looks, indeed, as if the waiting game were nearly at its end, and that the hours of the Turk, in Europe, at any rate, are numbered. But the Sultan cannot be made to believe that the union of the six great Powers is genuine, and besides his own fanatical and now angry co-religionists are a nearer danger than even the British fleet. What is he to do? A Sultan driven into a corner may do something terrible. A strong man is needed at the helm of Europe. Lord Salisbury is a strong man, and all England is at his back.

Acting in
Concert.

Lord Salisbury deprecated indulging in the illusion that some single Power would escape the treaty and try to settle the question in its own manner. He appears to be convinced that the Powers were never more united than now, and that they will stand together by the European system they themselves devised. It is reassuring to know that they will co-operate in everything concerning Turkey, and that they have a profound sense of the appalling danger any separation of their action might produce. Those among the Powers said Lord Salisbury, who are popularly reputed to be restless "have vied with the others in their anxiety to conduct the difficult questions to a veritable issue, and have conducted themselves in a manner that should better bring all the Powers into line, moved by the common ambition and noble aim of preserving the peace of Christendom. This is a very cheering symptom. I hope it may be the foundation of a system of action that will last for many years to come, and that in this sense of necessary co-operation imposed by the dangers and exigencies of our time we shall find a solution

of some formidable problems which oppress us and shall in due time be able to put a stop to that condition of armed peace which presses now on the industries of the world."

Toronto
University.

The re-election of Mr. William Mulock, M.P., as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Toronto, was what might have been expected. In the first place he is a graduate of the University, while his opponent possessed only an honorary degree. In conferring university honours this consideration goes a long way. Dr. Hoskin's services to the University have been considerable, and the strong vote he polled shews how much respect he has deservedly acquired, but the other sentiment was too strong to be overcome. The great object of the University should be now to throw off political control. We trust Mr. Mulock, who is a politician, will not stand in the way of this reform. The Old Boys' Association of Upper Canada College has rescued that institution from politics. We hope the graduates of the University will follow that example and unite in an endeavour to restore academic management. It is impossible for proper appointments to be made or for the public to have confidence in the management of any educational institution, especially of a University, so long as politicians control. The University appeal for funds has been unsuccessful, because the public will not supply money for politicians to distribute. The present able Minister of Education is honestly desirous of doing what he can to keep matters straight, but the system is at fault and must be altered.

Toronto's Water
Supply—Queries.

The visit of Mr. Mansergh to Toronto suggests two questions which appear to us to be ignored. It almost seems as if we were putting the cart before the horse. The first problem we have to face is the disposal of our drainage. A trunk sewer seems to be generally admitted to be a necessity. The outlet of that trunk sewer regulates the situation of our water supply pipe. It must be as far from it as possible. Therefore, until the trunk sewer question is disposed of what is the use of getting a report on the water-works system? In other words, the water supply question depends on the trunk sewer. The second question is this: What is the reason why the pumping apparatus should not be placed on the island instead of the city side of the bay? With the pipe system and a forcing power instead of a sucking power, as at present, would not all our purposes be served? We diffidently submit these queries as they have occurred to us and the subject is of such importance that every light should be thrown upon it.

Mr. O'Donoghue's
Letter.

The communication in another column from Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, Secretary of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council, speaks for itself. We are requested to answer certain questions:

1. Who in Toronto are "the better class"?
2. What is property really worth in Toronto?
3. How is our Public School System, as conducted, legalized robbery?
4. Who are the demagogues whose tools workingmen are, and who are their "ward bosses"?

Before we answer any or all of these questions we would like to ask also a question or two:

Who constitute the Trades and Labour Council? How are they elected? What are their supposed functions? Mr. O'Donoghue, judging from his name, must be an Irishman, and he will appreciate, from his knowledge of his countrymen's customs, our answering one question by another—'ust to