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

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1896.

No. 6.
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00
SINGLE COPIES, 10 CENTS.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

IN reviewing the events of the month, undoubtedly that which stands out most prominently at the present time of writing, is the discovery of the extensive dynamite plot. The outline reads so much like police penny-dreadfuls that the English-speaking world was at first disposed to look upon the newspaper reports as a 'scare' evolved from the fertile brain of some sensational correspondent. But allowing for the license of press speculation, enough and more than enough must now be accepted as true.

So surprising and unexpected is the revelation involved in the discovery, that our thought is arrested, and we feel ourselves unable to comprehend its full bearing, or understand the conditions which induced a plot so anarchial.

To blow up Balmoral Castle when Queen and Czar and Prince were gathered in family re-union, were a scheme worthy of the mad brains of Fenian and Nihilist combined.

Yet the gravity of the revelation lies not alone in the danger threatened, but in the contemplation of the social conditions which engender such madness.

A TOUCH of amusement lightens the gravity of our thought concerning the situation, when we read that Paris, who has been all agog with expectancy, since hearing of the Czar's intended visit, gives as its concensus of opinion:

That, although the conspirators were fortunately arrested, the time of exposing their plans was inopportune, as it might result in a change being made in the arrangements for the reception of the Czar.

It was planned that His Majesty should be driven through the principal streets of the city in order to give the populace a good view of him. It is now thought, in view of the conspiracy that has been unearthed, that the route will be much shortened. This will cause great disappointment to the Parisians.

It was certainly inconsiderate of Scotland Yard not to delay the arrests.

In the meantime, the Sultan is probably rejoicing in a distraction which is withdrawing public attention from Turkey, and giving him opportunity to plan and execute a few further outrages upon the Armenians.

It is difficult for the ordinary mind to understand why the Christian nations have become aroused at this late date—too late, alas, to efface the results of their criminal inaction.

Let the mass meetings be many as they will, let the voice of the public protest be ever so strong,—they can never deaden the memory of that passionate cry for help which for long weary months rang out from a terror-stricken, tortured, helpless people, and finding no answering call upon earth, ascended skyward to bear bitter record against the Christian nations.

In connection with this subject of intervention with Turkey, Sir Charles Dilke has written a long letter, in which he says that if Great Britain shall go to war she will also plunge

India, Canada, and Australia into war, possibly without their consent.

There will be no hesitancy on the part of Canada where Armenia is concerned. Never in the history of her colonial relations has Canada been found unwilling to send her soldiers to aid the Motherland. For Armenia's sake every man would leap to his musket, and every woman say God-speed.

PRINCESS KAIULANI, who has been residing for the past eight years in England, is about to return to Honolulu with her father, who is an Englishman.

Her home-coming is causing rumors of a movement to restore the monarchy and make the young princess Queen of Hawaii, but no action is expected. The princess is reported to be an attractive and intelligent young girl, whose English education would make her a far fitter ruler than the deposed Queen Liliuokalani. She will probably receive an ovation on landing from natives and half whites, although many think that her friends will discourage such manifestations for fear that she might thereby imperil her pension of \$2,000 a year. It is not probable that the Government would feel much concerned about any such demonstrations, or interfere with any expressions of sympathy the natives might be disposed to show, as there is little likelihood of any further attempt being made to re-establish the native monarchy.

ONE of the interesting possibilities for next year is the convention of a congress of leprologists, to be held in Norway; when delegates from all civilized countries,—especially from those which, by the suffering of their own people, are interested in the question of leprosy,—will be invited to attend.

Since the congress is called by the Norway Government, the delegates will be those sent by other Governments interested in the subject. England, France, America, Mexico, Japan, Hawaii and many other countries have already promised to send delegates.

The delegates of the different Governments will form an international committee, to be permanently active. All problems concerning leprosy will be submitted to that international committee.

It is hoped that by this common and universal effort against the dreadful scourge it may, in a comparatively short time, be wiped off from the surface of the world. It is certainly worth the while to fight some years for such a tremendous result.

THE movements of the British army in the Soudan will be watched with all the interest that the meagre despatches make possible, since the object, which was ostensibly to support Italy at the beginning, is now avowedly the capture of Khartoum and conquest of the Soudan.

All the world will be glad if the re-opening of that region to civilization is achieved, while the natives of the Soudan, as well as the surrounding tribes, will be well pleased to see Abdallah, the tyrant Sultan of the Soudan, deposed.

This will throw open all Africa to white men; for now there is only one part closed against them, which they enter at peril of death or imprisonment, and that is the vast region where reigns his despotic majesty Abdallah.

ITALY and Abyssinia have come to terms that seem fair and honorable.

King Humbert's Government have agreed to pay Menelek 2,000,000 francs for support of the Italian prisoners of war. The Abyssinian King also stipulates that Italy shall define its Province of Erythrea, and that Italian citizens shall keep within it,—which appears a moderate demand.

Italy apparently thinks so,—indeed, the picturesque southern country seems to be having many wise national thoughts lately,—and peace exists on the conditions proposed.

CONCERNING the Venezuelan dispute: With its memorandums and commissions, it looks as though it may become one of those diplomatic questions like the Newfoundland 'French shore,' which are at once a delight and a torment to diplomatists, since they call for infinite finesse, and never admit of equitable solution.

Just at present the point of debate reached in the former is, in how far the failure to colonize debatable territory by one country, and its colonization by another, constitutes a claim to that territory by the colonists; which, being interpreted means, in regard to debatable land, is possession nine points of the law, and should the tenth point be yielded?

JULIA WARD HOWE is one of the 'invincibles' among advanced women. Although very near the venerable 'four score years,' yet she was last week in St. John, presiding over the deliberations of the Association for the Advancement of Women, which was for three days in session, and her presidency was not merely nominal. She read a paper, and at the closing meeting recited her celebrated Battle Hymn.

Looking back over sixty years of active public work, and tracing the wonderful changes that have come to pass, Mrs. Howe can surely say with deep emphasis:

His truth is marching on.

THE rumors concerning Mr. Chamberlain's possible retirement from the Colonial Office may or may not have foundation; but one thing is certain, that when this does occur, it will be only that this clever and fearless statesman may move to a yet higher place in the councils of his country.

Mr. Chamberlain has the courage of his con