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WHOLE NO. 865.

The Rulers of the Balkans.

Prince Nicholas of Montenegro.

(From Temple Bar.)

Recent events in the East, and events that are still to happen, will for a long time keep the eyes of Europe fixed on the rulers to whom the destinies of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece are committed. The home of Balkan States is by a stretch of geographical license adopted to designate all these countries, because those whose boundaries do not touch the sea claim on ethnographical grounds to extend their borders to these mountains. Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and Greece are constitutional countries; but in the three former the will of the sovereign is paramount when he pleases to have a form. In Greece the kings have little power, because the present holder of the throne has thought fit to take British constitutionalism for his example, with what measure of success will be hereafter indicated. In Montenegro the prince governs patriarchally with a Privy Council of eight members, of whom four are nominated by himself, and the other four elected by his soldiers. Here then we have varieties of government; and it must be added that, except in the case of Montenegro, the constitutions of the Balkan States, being of recent make, have been moulded to a large extent according to the characters of the respective sovereigns. It may be noted in passing that these five sovereigns all succeeded to their thrones after deeds of violence or revolutions for which they were not responsible. The predecessors of Nicholas I. of Montenegro, and of Milan I. of Serbia, were assassinated; those of Charles I. of Romania and George I. of Greece were deposed. Prince Alexander of Battenberg was elected prince of Bulgaria after a war which freed that province from the Turkish yoke; and the governorship of East Roumelia devolved upon him after the revolutionary overthrow of Gavril Pasha at Philippopolis.

Taking the sovereigns in the order of their accession, the senior is Nicholas I. Petrovitch of Montenegro, who came to the throne in 1860, after the murder of his uncle, Danilo I. The latter was the first begger of Montenegro. From the time of Petrovitch Niegich, who freed the country from the Turks in 1697, Montenegro was governed by vladikas, or prince-bishops, who exercised a spiritual as well as a civil authority. At the same time they acknowledged the nominal suzerainty of Turkey, which means that they expected the sultan to protect them, but paid him no tribute. On the death of Peter II. in 1851, Danilo renounced the spiritual authority and title of vladika, proclaimed himself hospodar, and, forswearing all allegiance whatever to the sultan, demanded his investiture from the czar Nicholas, as who was then the recognized protector of the Christian populations in the Balkans. Nicholas, on ascending the throne in 1860 was but nineteen years old, and in 1861 he began a fierce war with the Turks which lasted till both countries were exhausted. The only reason for the war was that the Montenegrins desired an extension of territory, and the same motive called them to arms in 1875 and 1877. The treaty of Berlin increased the area of the principality by over a thousand square miles, including one hundred and sixteen thousand inhabitants. The ports of Antivari and Dubrovnik were among the additions, but the latter was only ceded by the Turks in exchange for Gussing, which the Montenegrins will not fail to relate at the first opportunity.

Nicholas was born in 1841, and received most of his education at the Lycée Louis-Grand in Paris. Napoleon III. took a great interest in him, invited him often to the Tuilleries and to Compiegne, gave him pocket money and presents, and on his accession to the throne gratified him with £10,000. The youth the prince was strikingly handsome, and he remains so now that he has grown gray and portly. He looks every inch a prince and a soldier. Very tall and broad-shouldered, with a fair, fearless face, large eyes, most stately demeanor and exquisite manners, he fascinates all who approach him. He is a poet as well as a soldier, and has composed some ballads which are popular wherever the Serbian language is spoken. An accomplished linguist too, he speaks French, Italian, Russian and Turkish with perfect fluency, and German fairly well. Altogether he is one of the most gifted men of our time, and could only be formed by erasing Austria-Hungary, if it is not for Englandmen to wish that it should ever be created. We dare even desire that prince Nicholas should supplant King Milan on the Serbian throne, much as the king might conduce to the good govern-

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Of official agricultural statistics there are none of more recent date than 1881, and these are but meagre in character, so that it is hardly possible to quote figures which might convey a fair idea of the present position of agriculture in New Brunswick. I cannot give the areas under various crops, and the only average yields I can discover from the census returns of 1881 are: of wheat, 13 bushels per acre; of potatoes, 135 bushels; and of hay, 1.06 Canadian tons. The total value of all agricultural products exported in 1884, including oats, hay, meals, potatoes, vegetables, and green fruits, was less than £16,000. This particular year was, however, exceptional, owing to the abnormally small shipment of potatoes, for which the United States provides the chief market; in recent years the annual export of agricultural produce has amounted to about £30,000. The export of animals and their products possesses an annual value of about £20,000, about a third of this total being for eggs alone. The value of the annual export of farm products of all description would thus amount to about £110,000. Although the soil and climate of the Province are eminently suited to the cultivation of barley, oats, rye, and peas, yet the export of these products is practically nil. On the other hand, in 1884 New Brunswick imported wheat flour to the value of £250,000, other breadstuffs, £30,000, and animal products, £40,000; thus attracting the total exports from the imports leaves a balance of about £200,000 against the Province—equal to 13s. per head of the population. If New Brunswick cannot export forward to becoming a large wheat-growing and wheat-exporting country, she might nevertheless advantageously turn her attention to the more extensive cultivation of those crops which it is known she can profitably export.

This autumn the Provincial Secretary (Hon. David McLellan) has been in England purchasing horses, with the object of improving the stock in the Province. For the improvement of cattle, the Government stock farm was established in 1881. The native horned cattle of New Brunswick were originally derived from New England and New York, and were of mixed breed, but they were not much adapted for the fattening process; but the Short-horn grades raised from them attain large size and weight at an early age, and make useful stock for the butcher. There is a Provincial Herd-Book, wherein farmers are invited to record the pedigrees of their pure-bred cattle. These latter are chiefly Short-horns, Devons, Ayrshires, and Jerseys, and a few Herefords. The entire agricultural practice of New Brunswick requires leveling up. Better horses, better sheep, better cattle, better butter, and so on, and it is for this very reason that this Province, like the sister Province of Nova Scotia, offers admirable opportunities to competent young farmers from the Old Country. Agricultural affairs, including those of the Provincial societies, are under the supervision of the Board of Agriculture, the office being at Fredericton, the administrative capital. The commercial capital, St. John, occupies a splendid position at the mouth of the river of the same name.

Any one who will explore the Maritime Provinces of Canada, is bound to be impressed with their beauty and with the wealth of their natural resources. While the two Provinces, only a brief week's voyage from our shores, will agree with me when I say that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick only require to be better known to be more highly appreciated. But an apt feeling, a kind of lethargy, seems in the past to have more or less paralyzed their energies, and led to their putting their light under a bushel. Recently, signs have not been wanting that this state of things has come to an end, and, entertaining as I do very pleasant recollections of these charming countries, I shall feel additionally glad if I have been in any way instrumental in bringing the bushel and exposing the light.

—When the Prince of Wales visited Boston the writer remembers that quite a breeze was stirred up by a circle of money aristocracy because Mrs. Governor Banks was to lead the Prince in the opening dance at the grand ball. That would never do, they said, because the wife of the Governor was only a factor girl, who worked in one of the Lowell factories. But this aristocratic snub got a sharp rebuke from the Duke of Newcastle, who accompanied the Prince, who said that all the public men he had met in the United States there were none that he had a greater admiration for than Banks.

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