

## RUSSIA IN PERSIA.

English Influence in the Shah's Domains  
a Thing of the Past.

### RUSSIA'S DOMINATION ALL BUT COMPLETE.

British diplomacy has lost in Persia. That, at least, is the present appearance of affairs in the oldest empire of the world. For several years extraordinary efforts have been made to extend British influence there. The British Government has officially done all in its power to hold the favor of the Shah, and to get a grip upon the whole Persian administration. Private efforts, too, have not been wanting. Not so very long ago it was exultingly proclaimed that a concession had been granted to an English corporation by which it would absolutely control the finances of the Persian empire for the next hundred years. And it has been a common boast that British Ministers at Teheran have long had far more influence at court than all the rest put together. There is still fresh in mind an address made by Lord Salisbury, in which that statesman dwelt at great length upon the wealth and resources of Persia and the close relations that existed between it and Great Britain.

This has been a fool's paradise. To-day it is evident that Russia not only has got far ahead of Great Britain, but has practically won the game. Persia is still nominally independent. But it is altogether

#### UNDER RUSSIAN DOMINATION,

and is practically as much a part of the Czar's domain as is Turkestan or the Caucasus. Already the foreign relations of Persia are negotiated by Russian Ministers. In a few weeks all Persian legations throughout the world will be abolished and their functions will be openly exerted by the Russian legations. Then a "protectorate" will be proclaimed and Persian sovereignty will be a thing of the past.

How this state of affairs has been made possible is interesting to observe. In Persia, as in other countries she has set out to subjugate, Russia has proceeded by creating antagonism against the sovereign. There is no doubt that Nas-ei-Den is a thorough Anglophile. His preference for England and English things is most marked. And the same may be said of his great Minister, Mirza Ali Asghar Khan. To them British blandishments have been directed, and with them British policy has succeeded. They have been ready to grant almost anything Lord Salisbury might ask. But they are, after all, not Persians; and with Persia itself England has never been in favor. The war which Lord Palmerston waged against Persia has never been forgiven, and to this day no one is so bitterly hated by the mass of Persians as an Englishman. By his fondness for European ideas and manners the Shah has given serious offence to his people. By his especial

#### PONDNESS FOR ENGLAND

he has intensified that feeling to such a degree that people have actually talked of deposing him. And while England has been making up to the Shah, she has been really weakening his authority and swelling the opposition to him. Russia, on the other hand, has addressed herself to the Persian people, and has so skillfully insinuated anti-English ideas among them that the pressure has now become felt upon the Throne of Light. In plain words, the Shah is conquered by public opinion, and is literally forced, against his will, to throw himself into the arms of Russia. He had the choice either to yield to Russia or to be swept from his throne by a fanatical revolution; and he has chosen.

England has been always a blunderer in her dealings with Persia. She has used threats and force too much, and not enough Englishmen have settled in Persia to exert any social or commercial influence. Nowhere in the world are Englishmen more scarce. There are a dozen of them at the Tahreez consulate. At the British Residency on the Persian Gulf there are five or six. At Isfahan there are two missionaries. Some three or four commercial agents are also to be found, and there are about fifty telegraph operators on the Teheran line. That is all; about seventy-five Englishmen in all Persia. And how many Russians? Seventy-five hundred, or more.

There is one strong bond of sympathy between Persia and Russia, and that is their persecution of the Jews. In Persia there are nearly 20,000 Jews, and they are all practically outlaws. Every other religion is tolerated. Even the Zoroastrians, or Fire-Worshippers, are treated with the utmost respect. But every man's hand is against the Jews. One might say they are the chattels of various petty officers. Thus in each province, a certain tax is assessed

#### AGAINST THE JEWS

who dwell therein; and it is about three times as heavy as the tax against any other people. This tax is sold. That is to say, some officer of the province pays it to the Governor, and then sets out to reimburse himself from the Jews. Often he pays a premium for the privilege, and the job is knocked down to the man who will pay the biggest premium. Then the speculator sets out, armed with the full authority of the Government to collect the tax from the Jews, and as much more as his avarice prompts, or the prosperity of his victims make possible. No one ever makes him give an account of his collecting, and if the wrings from the Jews twice the amount of the tax, he is so much richer and they so much poorer, and that is all.

The military power of Persia is not great, yet it has great possibilities. The regular army was established by Shah Abbas Mirza in 1823, but the present Shah was the first to organize it on a European model, which he did by the employment of German and Austrian officers. The Persian army consists of 105,000 men, comprising 5,000 artillery, 53,000 infantry, 31,000 regular and irregular cavalry, and 7,200 militia. Less than one-third of this force is maintained in service during peace, and the whole of the standing army of Persia on a peace footing does not exceed the total of active officers in the Russian army. By

#### THE SHAH'S DECREE

of July, 1875, the army was for the future to be recruited by conscription instead of occasional levies, and the period of service for soldiers fixed at twelve years, instead of for life, but this decree was put in execution in only a few localities. Christians, Jews and Fire-Worshippers are free from military liability in Persia. The army is organized by provinces, tribes and districts. A province furnishes several regiments, a tribe one,

or in some cases two, and a district provides one battalion. Chiefs of the tribes and districts in which the troops are recruited are almost exclusively appointed officers. Persian troops are yet far from perfection. Native officers are mostly incapable, and unacquainted with military matters; while the European officers of all ranks have no real standing in the Persian army. With first-class instruction and good officers, the Persian sarbez (infantryman) might be made an excellent soldier. Though on the march Persian infantry immoderately avail themselves of the services of the long-suffering donkey, the physical strength and endurance of the sarbez deserve recognition, the more that he is very unsatisfactorily fed. If he is wanting in discipline the fault lies with his superiors, who command him badly, teach him badly and set him a very bad example. In Persia, as in Turkey, the moral qualities of soldiers often become deteriorated as they rise in grade. The rank of vakil is thus the first step toward moral ruin. After the vakil, or sergeant, come the naib (lieutenant), sultan (captain), yavar (major), sarheng (lieutenant-colonel), and sartip (colonel). By the time a man becomes colonel he is hopelessly lost.

#### The Sagacity of the Dog.

An English paper presents the following account, which sets forth the sagacity of the dog in a manner which will please all its lovers. The paper says: "A serious accident happened a few days ago to Mr. Plant, farmer, of Knoll Wood, who might have suffered considerably more inconvenience than he did had he not been accompanied by his Collie dog, an animal worthy to vie, as far as intelligence goes, with the most gifted of the canine race. Mr. Plant was leading a young horse along an unfrequented and rarely used road when the animal knocked him down and injured him so severely that he had to remain on the ground where he fell, being quite unable to stand or make his way home, which was a considerable distance away. There was no horse near and none whose attention could be attracted, so Mr. Plant wrote a few words upon a piece of paper and, fastening it to the dog's neck, told him to take it home. The dog did at once, and led the relief party straight back to where his master lay. The latter when conveyed home and medical aid procured, was found to have sustained two severe fractures of the leg, and might have lain many hours in misery in so lonely a place had he not possessed a Collie of more than average intelligence.

Here is another canine story. It is of a dog that can tell the time of day and that is owned by Col. F. N. Barksdale, a gentleman on the staff of the Pennsylvania railroad. The dog acquired its peculiar talent in a very remarkable way. Col. Barksdale has a fine clock that strikes only on the hour and then very slowly. The colonel got into the way of making the dog tap with his foot at each stroke of the clock. Finally he got so he would tap at the hour without being told. Just before the clock strikes it gives a little cluck, and whenever the dog heard this, he would prick up his ears, raise his paw, and gently tap his paw at each stroke without being told. After awhile he got so that when any one clucked like the clock he would get into position and wait for the strikes. He was for a long time confused at not hearing the cluck, but after awhile began tapping his paw any way. The remarkable point is that after awhile he remembered how many strokes were due at each succeeding hour, so that now whenever the colonel clucks, he gets into position and taps the number of strokes the clock should make next time. Thus at any time after 10 o'clock he taps eleven times, after 4 o'clock five times, etc. Some learned scientists are going to investigate the matter to see whether the dog actually possesses reasoning faculties.

#### GIANTS OF THE CORDILLERAS.

##### They Guard Fabulous Treasures of Gold and Silver in Their Mountains.

In Western Patagonia, among the Cordilleras mountains, dwell the giants of whom so many big stories have been told. As a matter of fact these Araucanians, as they are called, are rarely under six feet in height and sometimes reach eight feet, seven foot men being not infrequent. Though mildly disposed, they admit no strangers to their territory and by stubborn resistance they have compelled Chili to let them alone. Fabulous treasures of gold and silver are believed to be stored away in their mountains, but prospectors who have ventured thither have always been driven away. They commonly adorn themselves in rich and heavy ornaments of these precious metals. The greater part of Patagonia belongs now to the Argentine Republic, Chili holding by treaty the strip along the Pacific coast, which continues its shoestring-like territory for nearly half the length of South America.

Most of the country is a desert waste, cold of climate, and contrasting strongly with the richly productive pampas or plains of Southern Argentina. These pampas are remarkable for the strange illusions which beset the eye of the travelers who journey over them. On any bright day a distant thistle field is as like as not to be transformed seemingly into a forest, while a few clumps of grass will take on the appearance of a troop of horsemen. Mirages are constantly in view, frequently offering a delusive prospect of water, by which men are often deceived but their horses never.

#### Living Upon Locusts.

A correspondent of the London Daily Graphic, writing upon the locust plague in north Africa, says: "In reference to the diet of St. John the Baptist, who lived on locusts and wild honey in the wilderness, there are Sunday-school teachers who can not believe that any one would voluntarily live on such food, and, therefore, say that the 'locust bean,' the fruit of the carab tree, is meant by the writers of the new testament. I can only reply that the locust cricket, the acridum, pelerinum, order orthoptera, variety saltatoria—the flying sauterelle of Africa—is sold at a half penny per pound in the market place of Biskra (which is the second oasis from the north in the Sahara), and that there it is cooked by boiling with salt and water, as shrimps are boiled here. I myself have little doubt that it is more nutritious than the latter, because in March, when the insect is gathered and dried, it is as full of albumen as an egg."

If the world, as it is said, owes everybody a living, the world ought to get a mortgage on itself to pay its debts.

## WHERE DID COLUMBUS LAND?

The Lost "Landfall" of the Great Explorer.

On the eve of the celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, scientific men are earnestly, but, to all appearances, vainly, endeavoring to rediscover and identify the island upon which Christopher Columbus landed on the morning of Friday, October 12, 1492. Strange as it may appear, it is undoubtedly a fact that no definite and satisfactory conclusion concerning the "first landfall" of Columbus has ever been reached during all the centuries that have rolled away since the Great Discoverer first crossed the Sea of Darkness and "unbarred the gates of the New World." We do know that on the date above mentioned Columbus, then on his first voyage of discovery, arrived at an island of the Lucayos or Bahama group called by its natives Guanahani; this island, as he himself tells us, he renamed San Salvador; but exactly where Guanahani-San-Salvador is situated, and by what name it is known in our day and generation, are questions which have never been conclusively answered, although many investigators have devoted much time and study to the subject.

In 1825 Don M. F. Navarrete, civil officer of the Marine Department of Spain, found in the archives of the Duke del Infantado a manuscript of the "Journal of the First Voyage of Columbus to the Indies," abridged from the original document by and in the handwriting of Bishop Las Casas, a contemporary and companion of Columbus, who had visited the New World several times. Las Casas, fortunately, did not abridge that part of the Journal which gives the account of Columbus's "first landfall" and his subsequent cruising among the Bahama Islands. Therefore it might readily be supposed that both the "landfall" and his "track" through the Bahamas could be identified by Columbus's own descriptions of Guanahani and the four other islands he visited on his voyage from San Salvador to the coast of Cuba. "The genuineness and authenticity of this abridged copy of Columbus's Journal have yet to be impeached," and it is the only existing evidence regarding his discovery of the Bahama Islands taken from the writings of Columbus himself. All other original documents of Columbus have disappeared, and his contemporaries and followers, even his own son Fernando, give no information to aid us in deciding which of the Lucayos Islands is the veritable Guanahani, or what "track" Columbus followed on his cruise through the Bahamas to Cuba. Therefore, to quote the words of Ex-Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Navy Captain G. V. Fox, "no 'landfall' or 'track' of Columbus through the Bahamas, supported by assertions in opposition to the statements of Las Casas's abridged copy of Columbus's log, can stand." This is the opinion of a careful student and a most patient investigator: it is, moreover, an opinion not likely to be gained or controverted. By the log of Columbus, therefore, all theories concerning his "landfall" and "track" must stand or fall; and in order to identify any of the Bahama Islands with Guanahani, two distinct proofs of such identity must be produced: first, the island must correspond with Columbus's description of Guanahani; second, it must occupy a position relative to the other islands visited by Columbus which shall accord with the statements of the log respecting the distances and bearings of Guanahani, from the second and third islands at least. It is possible to select arbitrarily a "first island" which, while it tallies with Columbus's description of Guanahani, does not give a point of departure from which the second or the third island can be reached by sailing on the courses laid down by Columbus, or by traversing the distances he gives as separating the "first landfall" from the islands he came to farther on his cruise.

On the other hand, it is equally possible to designate an island which, so far as its distance and bearings from a second and a third island are concerned, satisfies the requirements of Columbus's log, while in physical aspect and topography it in no way corresponds with the slight sketch Columbus has given us of Guanahani. It may readily be seen, therefore, that the question of this "first landfall" is a very complicated and not-to-be-easily-solved problem. It is like the "map puzzles" given to children, of which each section must be carefully fitted relatively to all the others in order to make a complete and perfect whole. That the "Columbus puzzle" has been successfully put together by any one of the eminent gentlemen who have attempted to do so, the writer is not prepared to admit.—[From an article by William Agnew Paton, in October Lippincott's.

## INGENIOUS GERMAN INVENTIONS.

#### Paper Soles for Footwear and Shoe Laces from Scraps.

In military circles in Germany considerable attention is given to a recent discovery, which would bring about the putting into use of paper soles for the footwear of the army. All the elasticity that can be desired, and perfect protection against water is claimed for these soles. They are composed of layers of parchment-like paper, which are made waterproof through a turpentine treatment the layers being strongly put together with a cement made from Venetian turpentine, Spanish white, shellac, and a preparation of linseed oil, treated with oxide of lead. The soles, when put together, are subjected to a strong hydraulic pressure, and can be adjusted to the shoe either with glue or through nailing process.

A new German invention is announced for the cutting of shoe laces from scrap leather, by which even the smallest dealer is enabled to apply his offal to this use. The machine is simple and cheap, selling at the price of eighty-six cents, our money. Scraps of leather in position and then drawing it from the other side until the material is used up. This ingenious little contrivance regulates the keeping in proper position of the leather to be cut. The plate of the machine is provided with three holes so adapted to secure perfect rounding of the laces by having them passed through once. The knife is adjustable and permits of cutting from the finest to the thickest work that can be asked of it.—[Irish Leather Trades Journal

## WHAT EUROPE TALKS ABOUT.

Personals and Politics from the Great Capitals of the Old World.

The Steamship Conference opened at Bremen yesterday. Representatives were here from the North German Lloyds, the Hamburg-American Line and the Red Star Line. It was decided that the examination of emigrants for America should not be made by consular inspection, but by sub-agents controlled by the companies.

The singer Marie Wilt, who recently committed suicide, left \$200,000, mostly to charities. She disinherited several members of her family, accusing them of intrigues to secure her money.

A Madrid dispatch says that the judge who has been inquiring into the cause of the Burgos railroad collision, has issued an order compelling the Northern Railroad Company to deposit \$400,000 as security for damages claimed by those who suffered injury, and by the relatives of those who lost their lives through that accident.

A letter from Venice says that Don Carlos, the pretender to the throne of Spain, is in very straitened circumstances and recently pawned a valuable jewel.

A dispatch from Bridgend, Glamorgan County, Wales, reports the killing of eight miners by the overwinding of the pit gear at the Abergwili colliery, near that place.

M. Ribot, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been informed by the Chinese Charge d'Affaires in this city that the government of Wuchu, province of Ngan-Hoei, on the Yang-tse-Kiang, where the recent outrages on foreigners were perpetrated, has been dismissed in compliance with the demands of the powers.

Reports received in Dublin from Bere Haven and from other fishing stations in the southwest of Ireland indicate a complete failure of the mackerel-curing industry, which furnishes a supply to the American market. The failure is due to bad packing and bad curing.

The London Daily News says: "The payment of members of the House of Commons will become a practical question in the next Parliament. The theoretical objections do not amount to much.

The London Chronicle's Berlin correspondent says that the issue of all-rye bread has been resumed in the German Army.

#### Woman Suffrage in New Zealand.

Sir George Grey, ex-premier of New Zealand, has outdone all other chivalrous attempts in behalf of woman suffrage. He has made a proposition, which will be submitted to the house of representatives, that a new upper chamber be formed in the government of New Zealand composed entirely of women, and that it replace the present upper chamber. This plan, if successful, would be overdoing the matter. For the last fifty years women have been clamoring for an equal share with men in the government. Their wildest vision never discerned anything beyond this. Now Sir George comes forward with all the chivalry of a medieval knight and wishes to enthrone and ensky women by giving to them alone the highest legislative authority. This power at present consists of fifty members appointed by the crown for life. It is true that in the nature of things there is no valid reason why this upper chamber should not consist exclusively of women, as it has hitherto consisted exclusively of men, but the loudest protest against it would come from women themselves. What they want and what they have been clamoring for is a place by the side of men. They do not wish to reign alone, even if the highest assembly were given to them. Sir George in his excess of zeal for women defeats his own ends. Let him be moderate and rational in his demands, as women themselves are, and by degrees he will see that popular sentiment is taking care of all that, and that women are gradually coming to have a share in the public offices and in all the perquisites that public office implies. Inordinate chivalry savors of unbounded sentimentality, or, coming as it does in this case from one skilled in wire-pulling, hints of some political motive. Women, however, learned long ago to be on their guard against excess of courtesy, and especially against those overfire in bearing gifts.

#### Facts and Figures.

A Philadelphia Chinaman has thirty goods. Berlin, with 1,315,000 people, has only 26,890 dwellings.

Of the twelve largest cities in the world three are in Japan.

Robert Bonner does not think the trotting mile will reach 2:05.

It is estimated that at least 1,000,000 pounds of rubber are annually used for bicycle tires.

The census men found in the United States 14,056,750 horses, 2,296,532 mules, 16,019,591 cows, 36,875,648 oxen and cattle, 43,431,136 sheep, 50,625,106 swine.

During the past year 22,017 persons visited the birthplace of Shakespeare, as compared with 12,300 in 1880. The year shows a balance of over \$1,500 to the credit of the birthplace.

Harvard University has 365,000 bound volumes in her library; Yale has 200,000, Cornell 150,000, Columbia 90,000, Syracuse, 75,000, Dartmouth 68,000, Lehigh 67,000, Bowdoin 84,000, University of Virginia 40,000.

The estimate of the world's population in 1890 is as follows: Europe, 380,200,000; Asia, 850,020,000; Africa, 127,000,000; Australia, 4,730,000; North America, 89,250,000; South America, 36,420,000; total, 1,487,600,000.

#### Things She Won't Confess.

That she laces tight.  
That her shoes are too small for her.  
That she is ever tired at a ball.  
That she paints.  
That she is as old as she looks.  
That she has been more than five minutes dressing.  
That she keeps you waiting.  
That she blushes when certain person's name is mentioned.  
That she ever says a thing she doesn't mean.

That she is fond of scandal.  
That she—she of all persons in the world—is in love.

## SAVED NO LIVES AFTER ALL.

Volunteers Put to Sea in a Storm that a Life-saving Crew Dare Not Face.

LONDON, Oct.—Despatches received here from St. Ives, Cornwall, tell of the bravery of volunteer lifeboat men, chiefly seaside visitors, and of the cowardice of eight professional life-savers. A storm yesterday swept over Land's End. A small schooner, apparently an English coaster, was descried off Scanner. She was so pounded and over-swept by the seas that she was evidently doomed to destruction. Her skipper managed to fasten in the rigging the ensign of England with the jack downward, the seaman's signal of distress.

The lifeboat men refused to launch their boat. They said no lifeboat could live in such a sea and it was useless to launch one. The seaside visitors who had flocked to the spot were loud in their denunciations of the eight men, and insisted that they should at least make an attempt to rescue the endangered crew. The eight men positively refused again and again to launch their boat.

This enraged the visitors, and they declared that they would man the lifeboat themselves. All the able-bodied visitors desired to volunteer, and the places of the eight regular lifeboat men were soon filled, chiefly by visitors from London—lawyers, clerks, a Welsh artist, and a stock-broker. They ran the boat into the surf, having huge life belts around their waists, which greatly hampered their movements, and finally, at 8:30 P. M., they managed to get away from the shore, drenched to the skin, and their boat half full of water. Pluckily they tugged at their oars, and soon disappeared in the darkness on their way to the point where the schooner was last seen.

Hours passed, the men did not return, and the people on shore began to despair of ever seeing them again. Finally morning broke, there was still no sign of the missing lifeboat. Then the news was flashed from St. Ives that the lost lifeboat, its crew all safe, had managed to reach that harbor after a most dreary experience, passing the whole night at sea, their boat tossed about like a cork by the huge waves. In spite of their gallant efforts they were unable to rescue the schooner's crew, and all trace of the latter has been lost, and it is supposed that the schooner foundered during the night.

## COLUMBUS' VESSEL.

A Fair Similitude of the Santa Maria to be Made for the World's Fair.

Lieut. McCarty Little, one of the ablest officers of the United States Navy, has been detailed by direction of the President of the United States to proceed to Spain to superintend the construction of a fair similitude of the caravel Santa Maria, in which Columbus sailed. It is proposed to have this caravel as nearly exact as possible. It will be manned by Spanish sailors in the costume of the time of Columbus, and it will be rigged with the same sort of rigging he used. There will be on board copies of the same charts that he had, facsimiles of the same nautical instruments. The crew will be of the same number, and it has been suggested that to carry out the truth of history there should be in the crew an Englishman and an Irishman, for according to Navarette, the eminent Spanish historian, William Harris, an Englishman, and Arthur Lake, an Irishman, were members of Columbus' crew.

There will also be a notary on board, wearing the ancient costume, and representatives of all other functionalities who accompanied Columbus. It is proposed to have this vessel make its first appearance at the grand naval review which is to take place in the harbor of New York, where the little ship will be saluted by the monstrous cruisers of modern invention, representing all the navies of the world. At the close of the naval review it is proposed to have this vessel transferred, with ceremony, by the representative of the Government of Spain, to the President of the United States, and then have it towed through the lakes and Welland Canal to Chicago, where it will be one of the most interesting features of the exposition.

At the close of the exposition the vessel will be returned to Washington and anchored in one of the new basins of the Potomac.

#### The Pleasures of Prison Life.

Here is a very suggestive passage taken from William P. Andrews' article on the "Increase of Crime by Reformatory Prisons" in the October Forum:—"Several times the prisoners have complained to the writer that the officers have made a mistake in copying their mittimus, and not given them time enough. Here is a complaint of this character last made to him: 'I have got but two months, and I am entitled to four. Please have it altered for me: I want all four months that I was sentenced for.' Again: meeting in a county prison a physician sentenced for two years for malpractice, the writer was astounded with this conversation. The prisoner was a man who had been noted for his enjoyment of the luxuries of existence. He said, 'It is a great mistake you fellows make in thinking you are inflicting punishment when you send men here. I have been here a year, and can truly say I have enjoyed it so much that I shall not feel sorry if my pardon is not obtained. You see, it has been vacation, with just enough to do to amuse me. The novels in the prison library are entertaining, and I am very fond of dominoes and checkers, and find some first rate players among the men. Now if it strikes me in this way, who have been accustomed to every luxury, how must it be to the poor devils who never have a square meal outside? Do you wonder that they flock by hundreds and thousands to the jails in winter? My only surprise is that you can keep any of them out at all.' This is the opinion of an educated man who has experienced the benefits of the system in his own person, and finds them 'delightful'—a life from which he is loath to part. But it is evident that it is far from the 'austerity' which once did pervade the prison place; and it will be hard from this to realize the good man's desire of 'impressing the prisoner with the idea that the way of the transgressor is hard.'"

Don't worry your brain about the main moon, but study the man in your own overcoat.