

## THE WAR CLOUD IN THE EAST.

The latest despatches from Eastern Europe have taken on a decidedly war-tone, and from present appearances we need be surprised if hostilities should speedily break out. The Berlin Conference has awarded a portion of the Balkan territory to Greece on the one hand and to Montenegro on the other, in view to the formation of what Beaconsfield would call "scientific frontiers. This award, if acquiesced in by the Porte, would have removed the most burning of the elements in the Eastern question; but it is now all but certain that the British Government is preparing to resist Greek encroachment on the one hand and that it is abetting the Albanians in their resistance to Montenegrin encroachment on the north. The situation is full of danger to the peace of Europe; but there are, fortunately, prospects that the war, if it should take place, will be localized. If the attempts to seize the territory of the Balkans are to some extent protected in the effort to maintain their rights, as she will probably do, the powers are to some extent protected in the effort to maintain their rights. If there is any resistance on the part of Turkey, the collapse of Turkish rule in the Balkans and the substitution of some form of local autonomy for it. Left to Greece might not be able to stand even against so effete a power as that of Turkey, but the Balkans are not likely to be left to the Balkan peoples themselves. For some time Greece has been ostentatiously mobilizing her army, and now the report comes that she is mobilizing her army, and now the report comes that she is mobilizing her army, and now the report comes that she is mobilizing her army.

the Six Nations, to be erected at Toronto, is making headway but slowly, as the public have not entered into the project with the enthusiasm anticipated by its promoters. Some liberal donations were received from members of the Government and others last year, Prince Arthur contributing \$100, and it was proposed to solicit contributions in England, but the idea was not carried out. It is just as well that it was not, for if there is not sufficient interest and public spirit to raise the funds for such an object in Canada, it is decidedly humiliating to make such an appeal abroad. The Board of Directors has recently been reorganized on a new basis, and it is stated that a handsome monument of Brant can be erected for \$15,090, leaving vacancies for the statues or busts of other chiefs to be filled subsequently. A renewed appeal is made for subscriptions in aid of the project.

THE *Globe* of Wednesday published full and satisfactory reports of the state of the crops, principally in Ontario, and in its comments says that the country may be heartily congratulated on the crop prospects. Spring wheat is one exception to the general excellence of the crops, the weather having been somewhat unfavorable to that cereal. Taking 100 as an average crop, the following is the result of a scrutiny of the 400 odd reports: fall wheat, 94; spring wheat, 81, with small chance of improving; barley, 103; oats, 111; peas, 102; rye, 94, has suffered from winter killing; hay, 99; potatoes, 110; corn, 92; roots, 104, but subject to great changes; apples, 106; other fruits, 104; hops, 80; flax, one of the best on record. The reports from the different parts of the County of Simcoe indicate excellent prospects for an unusually abundant harvest. The reports from the other Provinces show exceptionably well, especially in Manitoba.

THERE are 20,160,000 acres of land in Ireland. Of this one landlord owns 170,000 acres; 292 own one-third of the island, 744 one-half and 1,942 over two-thirds. Of the 1,942, 1,727 are absentees; and if it be true that property has its duties as well as its rights,

Stones have been found valued at 20,000 rupees, and the biggest find is a gem which weighed 370 karats in the rough, and which, when cut, turned out 111 karats of the finest water. Like all other mining ventures, however, the Siam sapphire diggings has its full proportion of failures. Immense numbers of the diggers are said to have died from jungle fever, and some who have been more fortunate, return broken in health and emaciated by hardships.

THE half-time system of school instruction is being largely adopted in Ontario. The method, as we last week mentioned, is to give one section of the pupils tuition say from nine to half-past ten in the forenoon and the other half up to noon, with the same proportion after recess. This enables the teacher, if it be necessary, to look after twice the number of very young pupils that could otherwise be attended to; but there is this further advantage, as experience has shown that the children do their work with more spirit and thoroughness, and make considerably more rapid progress. There can be no doubt that under the full time system we have been committing guiltlessly, except from the stupidity of our method, untold hardships on our young people. How many adults are there, even of those who have ample means and no business cares whatever, who could stand six hours of competitive study, under strict discipline daily, for nine months every year, without supposing there was no physical collapse, flating the teacher and all he taught.

ACCORDING to the latest accounts from Armenia famine is slaying its hundreds daily in that unfortunate country. It would appear that the inhabitants of certain districts, having consumed their horned cattle to the last working bullock and milch cow, have taken to eating the dogs which abound in all Oriental lands. The extremity of hunger has even more desperate expedients for obtaining animal food. Only the heaviest laden camel was seen by its owner through the bazaar

Just to the ing an nor "ne earthly political perquisit take" me performed by some If all Acts lature were Clerk of the vincial sea more would give them le of the Lieut lation cocked assent. Sha not! The community a foolery. a be in out at present our Local Come to legislate most, of the la manage five dollars man in the heels follow master, who co hard in the poe pay for the educ children. And townships have of choosing the f means the most ity, to mismana squander their higher up the la County Councils Philadelphia thing use save S. M. WHOLESALE ERRIE, and Stuart St