THE COMING WAR.

Komaroff's Account of His Engagement With the Afghans.

INDIA ON THE CRISIS.

Feeling Now That War Cannot be Averted.

During Mr. Gladstone's statement in the House of Commons this evening regarding the battle in Afghanistan his manner, even more than his words, emphasized the gravity of the situation. Most of the facts which he stated were quoted from an official report just received from Gen. Sir Peter Lumsden, the British Boundary Commissioner, who is now at Gulran, on the Hererud River, thirty miles west of Herat, with an escort of 3,000 Indian cavalrymen. It has been learned that Gen. Lumsden's report was based on the statements of Col. Ridgeway and Capt. Yale, of his staff, who were witnesses of the fight on the Kushk River from beginning to end. When the Afghans retreated Col. Ridgeway and Capt. Yale accompanied them for a short distance, and then gallopped to Gulran, a distance of about 150 miles, to make their report to Gen. Lumsden. The idea that they asked the Russians for protection against the Afghans is absurd. They had been comrades and active allies of the Afghans since last January, when they were sent by Gen. Lumsden to give the native garrison of Penjdeh the benefit of their engineering skill in strengthening the fortifications of the town. Colonel Ridgeway highly eulogized the gallantry of the Afghan troops during the action. He says they fought under every disadvantage, and the fact that they held their ground as long and as stubbornly as they did in the face of terrible slaughter and almost certain defeat, shows them to be possessed of splendid courage. They were taken by surprise, being attacked in the absence of any declaration of war and on ground which they believed was admitted to be theirs. They were vastly outnumbered, having only 1,500 men, with poor artillery, while the Russians had 3,000 well armed regulars, besides a force of Turcomans. Col. Ridgeway says that the retreat of the Afghans was conducted with perfect order and sullen deliberation. It was impossible, however, to concentrate for the defence of Penjdeh, and it is probable that that important position is now in the possession of Gen. Komaroff. There is a widespread belief here that the Russians have acted with duplicity, not only in the field, but also in the embassy at London. The news of the battle on the Kushk river was known at the Russian embassy at an early hour yesterday, and still, with this startling information in his possession, Baron De Staal continued his assurances of the pacific intentions of Russia. The feeling in Parliament on this branch of the subject was shown during Mr. Gladstone's statement in the House of Commons this evening. He naively mentioned that M. De Giers, the Russian Foreign Minister, had expressed the hope that the battle would not impair friendly relations between Russia and England. This statement was received with roars of derisive laughter, which were started by the Tories, but which soon spread to the Liberal benches when the full absurdity of the statement was realized. The war feeling is universal in London. It is felt that the Government cannot now yield an inch, and it is generally hoped that Russia will not yield, but will stand up for a square fight, and every Englishman is confident of the result. Everybody seems permeated with Lord Dufferin's belief, that war is inevitable and that it had better come now than later. It is rumored in well-informed circles that the Government has arranged with Italy to supply the entire force necessary to garrison Egypt and the Soudan. This would enable the British troops to be withdrawn at once for service in India and Afghanistan.

Lord Dufferin, at Rawul Pindee, was informed to-day of what had occurred at Penjdeh. The native Indian chiefs in attendance at the councils unanimously recommended the immediate throwing of the troops into Afghanistan.

Seventy thousand British and Indian troops, now stationed near the northern Indian frontier, may, it is thought, reach Herat in time to prevent its capture by the Russians.

The *Morning Post* states Lord Wolseley has been ordered to withdraw a third of his entire force in the Soudan for service elsewhere. The *Post* adds that even those most desirous of peace must feel that all negotiations are now closed. The question lies in a nutshell—Russia either did or did not acquaint Gen. Komaroff with the agreement of March 17th.

Later in the evening Mr. Gladstone said the Government has received another telegram from Sir Peter Lumsden stating that when the Russians threatened to attack the Afghan position by advancing in force on Ak-Tepe the Afghans threw out the videttes and extended their pickets to Pul-I-Khisti on the left bank of the Kushke River and gradually strengthened their position until on March 30th the bulk of their force had been transferred across the river. Sir Peter Lumsden considers this movement did not constitute an actual advance on the part of the Afghans, but was merely an occupation of a more advantageous military position.

Sir Peter Lumsden has begun the march from Gulran to the Robat Pass which commands the approach to Herat from the north. His troops have encountered fearful sufferings from cold and many have perished in the snowstorms on the mountains.

Lord Dufferin, after consultation with the Ameer, urges the Government to order an immediate advance into Afghanistan. The Ameer has sent out couriers with orders to the Afghan chiefs to meet him at Cabul for the purpose of holding a war durbar.

Letters from St. Petersburg mailed at Berlin in order to escape Russian censorship charge the Russian Minister of War with having sent orders to Gen. Komaroff about the end of February to bring on a conflict with the Afghans. The letters state that Gen. Komaroff started for Merv with reinforcements for Pulikhiski, and took advantage of a favorable opportunity to make an attack soon after his arrival.

The *Standard's* correspondent with Sir Peter Lumsden says: "The accounts of the Afghan losses in the recent engagement are conflicting. It is asserted that hundreds of Afghans were literally massacred."

A St. Petersburg despatch says that decorations and rewards have already been conferred by telegraph on the Russian officers and soldiers who have taken part in the battle with the Afghans. Rumors are afloat that some English officers were killed in the Russo-Afghan engagement, and that the Afghans have risen against the English.

Russia continues her naval and military preparations with great energy. Admiral Shestakoff has ordered all the torpedo boats to be sent to the Baltic and the Black Sea. Torpedoes have been sunk at the canal binding St. Petersburg with the sea. Cronstadt, St. Petersburg and the Krasnoeto Palace are connected by telephone, so that the Czar will be informed of every movement in case of an attack by the English fleet. The Russian fleet has been in a thorough state of readiness since the 2nd of April. Komaroff's brother announces that Russia intends to send 100,000 men to Herat as soon as the English advance to Pischin.

A London cable says:

The St. Petersburg *Official Messenger* publishes the following telegram from Gen. Komaroff, dated April 1st: "On the 25th of March our detachment approached Dasn-Kapri. When near the bridge we saw an entrenchment occupied by the Afghans. In order to avoid a conflict I stationed my troops three miles from the Afghan position. Negotiation with Captain Yate (a member of Sir Peter Lumsden's force) commenced on the 26th. When the Afghans became convinced we had no intention of attacking them, they daily drew nearer to our camp. On the 27th they despatched three companies with a gun and some cavalry against a company covering our reconnoitring party. Next day their audacity and arrogance increasing, they occupied a high position commanding the left flank of our camp, made entrenchments, and placed a cavalry post in rear of our line and a picket within gunshot of our fort. On the 29th I sent the Afghan commander an energetic summons to evacuate the left bank of the Kushk and the right bank of the Murghab as far as the mouth of the Kushk. He replied that, acting on the advice of the English, he would not retire beyond Kushk. I then sent him a private letter, couched in amicable terms. On the 30th, in order to support my demand, I marched with a detachment against the Afghan positions, still expecting a pacific issue, but fire from the Afghan artillery and an attack of their cavalry compelled me to accept a combat."

The St. Petersburg *Journal* says the foregoing statement leaves no question of Russian aggression. Moreover, Sir Peter Lumsden's second despatch to the British Government justified Gen. Komaroff's action, and even Gladstone has shown praiseworthy anxiety to atone for the ungracious words about Russia which first escaped him.

This report or defence of General Komaroff, as it is variously termed, absorbs attention in military and political circles to-night. The imputation that the English instigated the Afghans to advance is scouted by the politicians, but the report of Captain Yates on this point is anxiously awaited. Gen. Sir Peter Lumsden has already described the Afghan movement as an act of purely defensive strategy, but his brief despatch was based upon the report of his staff officer, Captain Yates, and the details of the latter's report are needed to establish the facts to the satisfaction of military experts.

The Cabinet, however, will now be forced to speak without waiting for detailed versions of an already old story from subordinate officers. It is expected that Mr. Gladstone will make a statement in the House of Commons to-morrow evening, and the nature of that statement is causing lively debates in the clubs and eliciting the most contrary opinions. The peace party think Mr. Gladstone will say, in effect, that the Afghans provoked and deserved the thrashing they got. On the other hand it is more generally believed that in the present temper of the nation the Premier dare not take any step that would look like a back down on the part of England. Russia not only refuses to recall General Komaroff and withdraw her troops, or even guarantee no further advance pending the commission's discussion; but she insults England by congratulating General Komaroff, praising him for his action, and promising rewards and decorations for the soldiers who attacked Penjdeh. Hopes of peace are discounted by the preparations for war. The executive departments are relaxing none of their vigor. The full force of officers and artisans at Woolwich arsenal has been worked throughout this Sabbath day and night preparing heavy sea ordnance. The special object of to-day's overwork is the arming of the chartered trans-Atlantic liners Oregon and America.

Lord Randolph Churchill, who has just returned from an extended trip through India, is enthusiastic over the military ardor of the native princes. He says the view recently published in the Rawul Pindee *Pioneer* by the Nizam's political secretary that "in India Russian rule would mean retrogression" is a true reflex of native public opinion. Lord Churchill speaks in the highest terms of the military readiness of the Indian troops and the immediate military resources of that country.

England's Determined Stand.

A very determined and grave position has been assumed by the Government toward Russia concerning the Penjdeh incident. At first Mr. Gladstone satisfied himself with demanding an explanation of General Komaroff's attack upon the Afghans. He felt sure, it is stated, that Russia was sincerely desirous of peace, and would discountenance Gen. Komaroff's action, no matter how thoroughly he might have represented the bellicose policy of the St. Petersburg war party. But when the Czar answered he would explain to England as soon as General Komaroff explained to him, the Premier was forced to conclude the Czar was trifling to gain time. Yesterday, therefore, Earl Granville advised Baron de Staal that the British Government had decided that whatever the nature of the Russian explanation of Gen. Komaroff's action might be, Great Britain would not allow any further discussion concerning the delimitation of the Afghan frontier until the Russian troops have been withdrawn from their present outposts in the disputed territory, back to the positions they occupied at the time England appointed her part of the commission to adjust the Afghan frontier. As almost all the Russian advances have been made in the interval, it is difficult to believe Russia will seriously attempt to reach an amicable understanding.

Russian Withdrawal of Troops Demanded.

Count von Munster, the German Ambassador to London, states that at the Conference upon the Afghan situation yesterday Earl Granville declared that England had resolved that it was impossible to consent to a continuance of a diplomatic discussion with Russia unless England was guaranteed security against having the result of the controversy imperilled by collisions on the disputed frontier. England, Earl Granville said, must refuse to accept Russia's assurance that she desires peace unless the assurance was accompanied by a withdrawal of her troops to the line drawn from Tepi to Sari-Yazi.

Russian Ruse to Gain Time.

M. deGiers, through Baron de Staal, has offered to abandon the Russian proposal to extend the line of the debatable zone proposed by England, so as to include the Parapamissus mountains, and recur to the line suggested in the Lessar proposals. This offer, while apparently containing a concession, is considered to be really a ruse to modify the effect of General Komaroff's attack and to gain time. As Earl Granville's demand for the withdrawal of the Russian troops was made after the receipt of M. de Giers' proposal, it is inferred the Russian Premier's overture has made no impression upon the English Government.

At the German and Russian embassies here the opinion is expressed that the dispute between the Czar and Great Britain has actually reached its final phase in diplomacy.

Russian Occupation of Penjdeh.

General Komaroff has made a detailed statement tending to show that the Afghans provoked the recent battle. The effect of this statement, however, has been weakened by reports from the Austrain telegraph stations on the Russian frontier that Penjdeh was occupied by Colonel Alikhanoff on the 3rd inst. Russian officials state General Komaroff was obliged to occupy Penjdeh in order to stop the pillaging of the district by Turcomans, and that the Afghans had threatened to resume offensive operations.

The War Office is overwhelmed with offers of service from army, militia and volunteer officers. The recruiting depots in London and in the provinces are daily besieged by men anxious to enter the military service in view of the prospect of war with Russia. Suitable applicants are being accepted.

All admirals of the navy have been notified to hold themselves in readiness for active service. A special injunction has been sent to Vice-Admiral Hay, commanding the Mediterranean squadron, to hold the fleet ready for service.

Two men-of-war at Kingstown have been ordered to Portsmouth, to take torpedoes aboard. It is reported they will proceed immediately to the Baltic.

Atlantic Steamers Secured.

All the English naval war preparations are being accelerated. Purchases of swift cruisers and the construction of torpedo boats have been increased. The list of Atlantic steamships secured for the use of England in view of war embraces the Arizona, Alaska, Oregon, Etruria, Umbria, Servia, Aurania, City of Rome, and America. The Admiralty have decided to organize a great cruiser service of swift vessels. Part of the British squadron in Chinese waters has been ordered to rendezvous at a point on Hamilton Island, which commands the entrance to the sea of Japan, and largely commands the way to Russian ports on the Pacific.

Several batteries of artillery have been ordered to embark at once for India.

The Ameer upon leaving Rawul Pindee expressed the certainty that the whole of Afghanistan would welcome the assistance of British and Indian troops to repel Russia.

General Stewart's Advance.

General Stewart, in anticipation of instructions to advance his entire Indian command, has ordered an advance by the way of Quettah of the artillery corps now stationed in the Kohal, Peshawur and Hazar districts. The utmost secrecy is maintained about the movements of British troops in India. Press correspondents at Rawul Pindee are refused all information about army orders. It has been ascertained, however, that a number of detachments have already left on the route to Quettah.

The Native Indian Press.

Recent mail advices from India differ significantly from the rose-colored official telegrams concerning the loyalty to England, of the native chiefs and people. Mail advices indicate that there is a pretty general feeling among the Indians, which, under certain circumstances, might prove anything but advantageous to British prestige in India, in the event of a stubborn Anglo-Russian conflict. The native Indian press is nearly unanimous in favor of war, but with more of a feeling of resistance to Russian aggression than of sincere loyalty to purely British interests. The Lahore *Tribune* calls for a national Hindoo army, not composed of mercenary Sepoys, but of volunteers recruited on a national basis. The Benare *Herald* advocates a levy of all able-bodied men. The Kurrachee *Times* urges that a council of war, composed of native princes, be held at Calcutta, to adopt a war policy, and that the Council offer four hundred thousand troops to the Indian Government, to resist Russia. The Madras *Hindoo* predicts that the struggle against Russia cannot be successful unless India be armed to assist England. Most of the other native organs discuss the situation in similar terms. Other Indian papers, probably under official influence, urge the formation of an Anglo-Indian force as preferable to a purely Indian corps, unless the latter be officered by Englishmen. It is plain the Indians do not look upon themselves as mere dependents upon Great Britain for protection. It is difficult to estimate how strong this feeling of national independence is. But it is believed to be sufficiently prevalent to prove dangerous if too far ignored by Great Britain.

The Russian Minister of War has sent a congratulatory message to Gen. Komaroff and directed him to thank the troops in the name of the Czar, and inform them that all who took part in the recent battle will be rewarded. He last night said he had the assurance of the Czar that the Russian troops might advance but they would never retire.

News has been received from Odessa that the transport services on the Black Sea are busily engaged carrying troops and munitions of war from Sebastopol and Nicolaieff to Batoum and Poti. Immense earthworks are being constructed for the defence of Batoum and Nicolaieff.

There is great military activity at Odessa. Numerous battalions of Cossacks are reviewed daily. The garrison at Kertsch is working night and day in hastening the completion of the works there. The flouring mills are worked at their full capacity preparing provisions.

A despatch from Aix-les-Baines states Queen Victoria has received reassuring despatches from Berlin, St. Petersburg, and London.

REPENTED IN TIME.

An Old Man Makes an Attempt at Suicide at the Falls—Rescued from a Perilous Position.

A last (Sunday) night's Niagara Falls (Ont.) despatch says: Mr. John Waugh, ex-Mayor, who has been failing in health the past three months, walked out on the railway suspension bridge this afternoon, climbed over the railing, and got hold of one of the iron girders underneath the bridge, hanging by both hands with his body dangling in the air some 160 feet above the rocks near the water's edge. Luckily for him some friends saw him climb over and ran out on the bridge, expecting to see his body dashed to pieces on the rugged rocks below. The unfortunate man no doubt repented his rash act, and held on for dear life to the iron girders. Soon three young men, named Kerr, Howe and Gillespie, came to his assistance, and, by bracing themselves with their legs and leaning over the side of the bridge, much endangering their own lives, rescued Mr. Waugh from his perilous position. Mr. Waugh has for some time past shown signs of temporary insanity, caused by sickness from over-exertion in political life. He is a gentleman who is highly respected by both political parties of this town, and has held the chair of the Conservative party of this town for some years past. His friends will have him placed in suitable quarters to recover his health.

FIGHT FOR A WOMAN.

A Nephew Runs Away with His Uncle's Wife

A Lewes, Del., despatch says: This town was thrown into great confusion yesterday morning over the elopement of the wife of Robert Parsons with his nephew, Edward Parsons. The eloping couple reached the station a few moments before train time, followed by Robert Parsons, who rode up on horseback, just as his wife was boarding the train. As young Parsons was following her into the car her husband seized him, and a terrible struggle followed. The antagonists fought desperately. Young Parsons felled his uncle to the ground, and breaking through the crowd ran and caught the departing train. Robert Parsons is a respectable farmer, about 30 years of age. He has been married only a few years, and has lived happily with his wife, who is a beautiful woman, 21 years old. They have one child. Edward Parsons is a handsome young man about 22. He has been living with his uncle. During the fight Robert Parsons received several serious wounds, and now lies in a critical condition. The eloping couple bought tickets for Philadelphia.

Horrible Death at a Fire.

A Detroit despatch says: Three miles northeast of Williamston on Wednesday, Stephen Southard, a highly respected citizen, was burned to death. A fire broke out in the house of one Conklin, a neighbor of Southard's. Mr. Southard and several neighbors endeavored to put the fire out. Finding it impossible to save the building they began removing furniture from the house. Mr. Southard went in once too many times. Just as he passed inside the chimney came crushing down, causing the entire ceiling to fall in a blazing mass around him and preventing his retreat. He made his way to the rear door, which was fastened. It was broken in, and Mr. Southard emerged a moving fire. His burning clothing was soon pulled off, but the flesh came also in strips. He was taken home, very hopeful of recovery, but at 5 o'clock he began to sink and died an hour later.

A Quadrille on Horseback.

A St. Petersburg telegram says: Last evening a grand entertainment called a carousal was given to the official and distinguished portions of St. Petersburg society by the officers of the Chevalier Guards in their large riding school, which was gayly decorated for the occasion. The Empress and several other members of the imperial family were present. The main feature of the evening was a quadrille gone through on horseback by officers of the regiment and a troop of fair ladies led off by Miss Thornton, eldest daughter of the British Ambassador, whose riding was greatly admired.

Anti-Chinese Riot.

A San Francisco despatch says: The city coroner on Sunday organized an anti-Chinese procession. Before starting he harangued the crowd on Chinese evils. Every Chinaman who happened to cross the route of the processionists was chased and ill-treated if caught. It was supposed at the time the Chinamen were badly injured. Many were badly cut about the head, one fatally. The original intention of the coroner was to parade through Chinatown. Had he done so there would have been a big butchery of Chinese.

Venezuela has the hottest and coldest climates in the civilized world. The mountainous plains of the Andes are almost uninhabitable, while the valleys luxuriate in a tropical temperature.

It is rather a singular fact that another of the world's greatest generals died of cancer—Napoleon I.

The innocence of the intention abates nothing of he mischief of the example.

WALES IN IRELAND.

A last (Thursday) evening's Dublin cable says: After the Prince and Princess of Wales had luncheon with Earl Spencer at the Castle yesterday, they drove in open carriages to the Royal Dublin Society's Cattle Show at Ball's Bridge, a small suburb just beyond the Botanic Gardens, on the road to Kingstown. All along the route, especially Bagot street and Pembroke road, which are fashionable quarters, the decorations were very handsome and the cheering enthusiastic. The large new agricultural hall, which will be used for the citizens' ball on the 22nd inst., as well as the grounds generally, were crowded with a most fashionable assemblage, and as their Royal Highnesses passed on their way to the dais reserved for them their reception was most cordial. The exhibition of cattle was remarkably good, and the show was rendered more attractive by the fact that Her Majesty entered some of her stock from the royal farm among the exhibits. This is the first time such a distinction has been conferred upon an Irish show.

The Prince wore a dark Chesterfield overcoat, light trousers and a tall silk hat, and looked as if he realized the description given of him in the much-talked-about volume of the hour, "Society in London:" "Being provided with lessons of experience, he looks back upon the past, marked by incidents and vicissitudes not uniformly wise or decorous, with feelings of satisfaction at having risen superior to his early eccentricities."

The Princess, who had not made any alteration in the costume she wore upon arriving, also realized her own portrait, as drawn by the same author: "Her function is to be and to look charming, to preserve the appearance of youth, without invoking the aid of art, and to retain the place in the English heart she won when she first came to this country more than two decades ago." After spending an hour on the agricultural grounds the party returned to the Castle, spent a quiet evening, and retired early. The Princess' bedroom and boudoir, the windows of which look out on the south side of the Castle into the gardens, are magnificently upholstered and decorated. The boudoir furniture is upholstered in pale blue poplin, with wreaths of natural flowers beautifully worked in colored silks. This morning the Prince held a levee in the Castle on behalf of Her Majesty, and the attendance of gentlemen, both military and civil, was very large and fashionable. To-morrow a state ball will be given. In the afternoon the Prince of Wales, Prince Albert and party did some "slumming," and visited some of the rookeries of the city. They were everywhere courteously received. It is stated that several menacing letters were in the Prince's mail this morning, but the only notice that His Royal Highness took of the threats of anonymous cowards was to direct his Secretary to throw such letters into the fire as soon as their character is discovered.

Relics of a Lost Continent.

Capt. Wm. Churchill, a Pacific Ocean salt, is telling the San Franciscans what he knows and what he guesses about the archæological remains found in the islands of the Pacific. He seeks to show by the records of deep-sea soundings and from archæological remains that the Pacific Islands are only the remains of a submerged continent, whose mountain peaks and lofty heights are all that remain above the surface of the ocean. Polynesian antecedent civilization is revealed, he thinks, through ancient implements, statues and sculptured stone slabs found on a few of the groups, more notably the Feejees. The studies of zoophytes and coral formations, taken from a depth of 2,000 fathoms and more, also confirm this belief of the subsidence of the pre-historic continent. On Pitcairn Island, and also on Tahiti and Tonga-Tabu have been found remains which show the existence of a long-forgotten tribe. At Tonga-Tabu a monster trilithon is to be seen. It is composed of gray volcanic stone, with neatly dressed edges. It is 10 by 12 feet square, and stands twenty feet out of the ground. It is surmounted by a huge kava bowl. Capt. Churchill considers this relic to be of great archæological value. He describes the implements and metals in use by the natives of several of the groups before the advent of the white voyagers, and said that iron and steel were not unknown to them before their discovery by civilized persons. He gives a vivid description of monolithic statues of stone and sculptured wood found on Easter Island. The monoliths were found standing in rows of five or six, only a few feet apart. They were hewn from volcanic rock, and were either very crude in workmanship, or else they had suffered from the ravages of time. One row of these statues was quite well preserved. Each of them was ten feet high, and they represented human heads and bodies, with a kind of cap or other head-covering on the top. These are the same statues seen and described by Captain Cook in his works on travel and discovery. A finely-sculptured hand of a dancing-girl, and some polished wooden slabs, on which were numerous hieroglyphical figures in long rows, have been discovered in an ancient and half-ruined stone house on Easter Island. This is the only relic of a written language ever found in the Pacific Islands.

The Mahdi on the English.

"Never fear the English," the Mahdi said last year. "Do not waste a shot upon those whom the sun of the desert will destroy; they will perish before the wrath of God without our aid." After we have perished this is his programme as revealed in his latest manifesto: "I am resolved to carry my sword, first from Khartoum to Berber. Thence I shall proceed to Dongola, Cairo and Alexandria, restoring Moslem rule and government in all these cities. From Egypt I shall march to the land of the prophet to drive out the Turks, whose Government is no better than that of the infidels, and I shall restore the land of Arabia, with its two sacred cities, to Islam.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

The inhabitants of St. Petersburg consider themselves fortunate in having had an average winter death rate of only 35 per 1,000 of population. In London, where the rate has been recently 19.5 this would be thought epidemic. The usual rate for the Russian capital is 40 to 45.