

THE WAR.

NOTES.

London, March 7.—Lord Derby, replying to a statement made by the Duke of Argyll, that Turkey having broken the treaties of 1866 and 1871, they were practically at an end, admitted the state of things contemplated by those treaties had ceased to exist, and that they were, therefore, only binding until a new system was ratified. England wished the question to be settled in an European, not exclusively a Russian, sense, and on a durable and equitable basis. The desponding tone of his Lordship's reply caused uneasiness in the lobbies. All the Powers appear to have agreed to the Congress being held at Berlin except France and England, and it is considered it will be held whether they consent or not. The reports as to Prince Bismarck presiding are contradictory, the *North German Gazette*, the Chancellor's particular organ, affirming he is hardly well enough to do so, and a Berlin despatch stating, in giving her consent to the Congress, Germany also gave notice the Emperor was willing to preside. The Russian Congress Princes Bismarck and Gortschakoff will propose that Austria shall occupy Bosnia and that the latter will also suggest that Austria participate in the second year's occupation of Bulgaria. Rousaf Pasha has been chosen to accompany General Ignatieff to St. Petersburg to negotiate the ratification of the Treaty, and it is thought possible that during the negotiations Russia may make some further concessions. The Grand Duke Nicholas has not yet visited Constantinople, the obstacle being his illness upon the subject. The reports as to his secret return to England are contradictory. It is reported when the British fleet entered the Dardanelles the Grand Duke received imperative instructions from St. Petersburg to occupy Constantinople, and that it was only by his disobeying those instructions that war with England was averted. France is opposed to British occupation of Egypt, but would consent to guarantees being secured regarding the Suez Canal. Prince Bismarck, according to a Paris correspondent, recently stated that he himself would propose an English occupation of Egypt, Germany recognizing France's non-interference. It is reported that the Emperor is willing, with the consent of the Powers, to cede Bessarabia.

Lord Dabry, according to the *Republique Francaise*, published in Paris, told Count Schouvaloff that England would not consent to the Congress unless the whole Treaty of San Stefano was submitted to the Emperor, ambassador, having communicated with St. Petersburg, subsequently informed Lord Derby that Russia was willing that the Congress should decide on the points of the Treaty to be examined. The *Journal de St. Petersburg*, however, declares the demand that all the terms of the Treaty of San Stefano be submitted is untenable. Russia has consented to Greece being represented at the Congress. The sub-Committee of the Austro-Hungarian Delegations after further explanations from Count Andrássy have unanimously agreed to vote the credit of fifty millions for the Russian Government. The Emperor made under confidence, and it is said to have created a sensation. It is further stated the vote of the committee was secured on the Count promising to adhere to the Treaty of Paris. Count Andrássy also said that throughout Austria was willing to recognize the independence and neutrality of Roumania. The Russians are reported to be still advancing in the direction of Constantinople, and to have occupied most of the villages round the city.

Some excitement was caused in London last Tuesday by the fresh complications arising out of the reported movements of the Russian troops across Constantinople and the difficulties regarding the terms of the Treaty to be submitted to the Congress, but the latter despatches hold out a hope that the latter obstacle may be successfully surmounted. Germany is said to consider all the points may be submitted, and Russia is reported to be willing to do so. On March 28th it was suggested as the day on the day which the Congress shall assemble; from Berlin, however, it is hinted that the invitations will not be issued until every difficulty is settled. A report comes from Paris, but is generally discredited, that the Emperor is said to have refused the ratification of the Treaty of San Stefano, and that the Emperor and France are expected to come to an agreement on the Egyptian question. The Roumanian agent at Vienna is expected to hand Count Andrássy a memorandum intimating that Roumania will not be bound by the Russo-Turkish Treaty.

England and Austria persist in their demand that all the terms of the Treaty shall be submitted to the Congress. Russia is discredited and is said to be unwilling whether the meeting takes place at all. The reports, however, are of the usual contradictory character and but very little reliance can be placed on them. According to a Vienna despatch, Russia has expressed her desire that the Congress should be held at Constantinople, the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, while a Berlin correspondent avers that an early meeting is no longer probable. Meantime warlike preparations continue in England, and everything is still being done to guard against any surprise. All outward business has been suspended, and it is expected that the war will be declared in the Mediterranean sea. Opposition is manifested in extreme anti-Russian quarters to the appointment of Lord Lyons as British representative at the Congress on the ground that he is not in perfect accord with Mr. Layard, the British ambassador in Constantinople, and it is said that the Emperor of Russia, has decided to oppose any occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. General Ignatieff and Rousaf Pasha have arrived at St. Petersburg with the Treaty. Suteiman Pasha is now dead, but is ordered to Constantinople for trial.

RUSSIA'S PROGRAMME.

A STARTLING GAME ON THE CARDS.
A correspondent at St. Petersburg tells the *Morning Advertiser*, a journal which is generally well-informed in connection with the war, that Russia had taken matters to herself in the British fleet, and that she had not only refused to play her cards, but had she occupied Constantinople, and entered the Dardanelles, as she had first threatened, war between her and England and Austria would have ensued in which Constantinople, the main base of operations scattered about the peninsula, his communications in disorder, his railways clogged with snow, his naval preparations incomplete, and his army weary by a winter advance across the Balkans, would have laid himself open to inevitable defeat. The object of the usual lowering of her pretensions at the Congress was a shrewd stroke of diplomacy on the part of Prince Gortschakoff. The correspondent in a question is assured that the Congress is only a scheme to gain time. It is calculated that it cannot meet and finish until late in May, when Russia will have 27 ironclads free from the icy clutches of winter; her Baltic defenses will have received their complement of 38-ton guns, and every vulnerable or assailable point will have been protected with torpedoes. In the Pacific her squadrons will have anchored safely away from British eyes in the harbor of Vladivostok. In Central Asia, the forts will have been sufficiently armed and provisioned to meet any attack from India. In Europe Russia, the ice having disappeared, the transport of material will be easy. The insurrection being quelled in Caucasus, and Russia, no longer fighting against the Prophet, will

be able to avail herself of the Tartar and Cossack troops. The Armenian Militia can garrison Kars and Erzeroum, relieving Louis Melikoff. In Europe, Russia will have all the fortresses of the Danube in her hands; her troops will dominate the Danube, will dominate the river; and even if Roumania joins Austria against her, they will have a tougher job to cross the river to attack the Army of Adrianople in the rear than Grand Duke Nicholas had. On the Sea of Marmora, Russia will have been fortified with powerful guns, and 125 torpedo steamers will guard each extremity of the waterway. Within a day's march of the Dardanelles 150,000 men will have been posted in the outskirts of Constantinople, and the Black Sea Fleet will have concentrated at Midit. These arrangements being perfected, Russia will suddenly break up the conference, dash forward upon the Dardanelles, seize the Bosphorus, cross the channel with torpedoes, fill the inlet to each strait with torpedo vessels, mass her troops behind forts and earthworks on both the peninsulas, and then march upon Constantinople, and take her worst. By the time the English fleet can move the Bosphorus will be closed; free communication across the Black Sea will enable Russia to laugh at Austria, and before Queen Victoria can send an army of invasion to undo all this work, Russia will have taken Constantinople. The Emperor will begin with every chance in the Emperor's favor. Such is the programme of Russia, sketched by hand upon what is claimed to be good authority.

THE HALIFAX AWARD.

THE QUESTION IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—In the Senate today Mr. Blaine called up the resolution requesting the President to furnish copies of the correspondence relative to the appointment of the third Commissioner under the 23rd article of the Treaty of Washington, and also the correspondence relative to the remarks by Messrs. Hamilton and Dawes, the resolution was agreed to.

Hewitt, of New York, said he would have spoken on the Bill except for the decision in the case of the Fishery Commission by which \$5,000,000 was awarded as damages to the Canadian Government for the violation of the 23rd article of the Treaty of Washington. A distinguished statesman had said that the arbitration would put off reciprocity for twenty years. It was time to ascertain whether the diplomatic system was worthy of respect. The present system was expensive, unnecessary, and in most cases a useless waste of money. He would then refer to the place of the old-fashioned diplomatic service. Twenty years ago the United States used to send abroad great and distinguished men, while in those degenerate times the foreign missions were the refuge of playing out politicians. He would then refer to the present system, and in most cases a useless waste of money. He would then refer to the place of the old-fashioned diplomatic service. Twenty years ago the United States used to send abroad great and distinguished men, while in those degenerate times the foreign missions were the refuge of playing out politicians. He would then refer to the present system, and in most cases a useless waste of money.

Further disturbances in the British labor market for Easter. The coal owner's association of Yorkshire and South Derbyshire have resolved to reduce wages seven and a half per cent. The men are willing to accept a five per cent. reduction, but will not consent to more. The masters in the North of England iron trade are also demanding a reduction in wages from ten to seventeen per cent., to which a general resistance is being organized.

Mr. Gladstone has been a second time invited to stand for Leeds and has again declined. It is thought he will be returned at the general election, which does not take place for two years, for the Flint Burgis constituency.

The Sultan conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of Medjidie upon the Baroness Burdett Coutts, in recognition of her efforts in behalf of the Turkish refugees. It is the first instance of the order having been bestowed on a lady.

The *Times*' financial article, alluding to the failure of Verner Bros., says they were worth a half a million pounds in stock. It also says—'Nothing could speak more eloquently to the degrading effect of the apparatus which filled Europe for many months than the cheapness of money in continental markets. We have had no greater danger to face for a long time.'

A well-laid scheme to appropriate a British vessel and cargo has been discovered at Baltimore, and the vessel is named Kinnear was in league with the captain and crew to carry out the plot, but the firm to whom the former made application for an advance insisted upon his identification as the owner, and telegraphed to various places, finally ascertaining that the name of the ship had been changed and the papers tampered with. The vessel, which arrived at Baltimore March 7th from Porto Cabello, Venezuela, with a cargo consisting of coffee and hides, valued at ninety-two thousand dollars, destined for Hamburg, is believed to be the property of Messrs. Mills & Co., of St. John, N. B.

CANADIAN ITEMS.

Fall wheat looks well about Guelph.

A Grand Trunk passenger station at London East is talked of.

A Winnipeg man has harvested six hundred tons of ice, and is still at work.

In Halifax the prize candy lottery business is being put down by the police.

All these suffering from typhoid fever at the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Belleville, are recovering.

The Sioux under Sitting Bull are now reported to be literally starving, and anxious to surrender.

A bill is before the Nova Scotia Assembly abolishing the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities.

The telegraph being expensive, there is some talk of trying the telephone up to the Parys sound district.

A race has been arranged to take place on the Kennebecasis between Hanlan and Ross on July 15th.

The Nova Scotia Assembly passed a bill yesterday assimilating the local election law to the Dominion Act.

The project of a blast furnace at Whitby, the iron ore to be brought to the Snowdon mines, is being agitated.

Matters here reached such a pitch in Montreal that it is proposed to form a Volunteer Citizen's Patrol for the east end of the city.

A movement is on foot in Montreal for the amalgamation of several Canadian insurance companies, in order to form one strong company.

The Nova Scotia Bar Society has adopted the draft of a bill to be submitted to the Legislature abolishing trial by jury in civil cases, except in exceptional instances.

Montreal's debt is \$1,131,786. The treasurer's report for last year shows a surplus of \$65,000, every committee having spent less than their appropriations.

A farmer in the County of Elgin had an auction sale lately, the proceeds of which were \$2,250. Among the stock sold were thirty cows, that brought an average of \$77.68 each.

Recently a man in the employ of Mr. Edward on the Gaitaineau, was drowned at Six Portage Farm. For several days previous he exhibited symptoms of insanity, and was taken in charge by his brother with the intention of taking home. On the way down they stopped at Six Portage Farm, and during the night the unfortunate man got up, and in attempting to escape from his brother, ran into an air hole on the Gaitaineau, and was drowned before he could be rescued.

A woman named Errington, the abandoned wife of Charles Errington, of Pictou, was found by Constable Farron in a vacant lot in Westmount, Quebec, lying on her back, very exhausted and feeble, and in a state of insensibility. He took her in his buggy and conveyed her to Squire Peters, where, obtaining a warrant, he took her to jail. Arrived there it was found the woman was dead. It appears that for ten or twelve years since her separation from her husband, her life has been a failure. Being an accomplished musician she has tried to teach. At other times she has been a common servant, but frequently a lodger at the police station on account of her dissoluteness and poverty. Wednesday morning at six o'clock she called at a house in Westmount and asked shelter from the storm of rain and sleet, but was refused. She wandered on until, completely discouraged, she laid down in a vacant lot, where she was afterwards found by the constable. Twenty years ago, the woman, whose maiden name was Croft, was very attractive, and an ornament to the circle in which she moved.

AMERICAN ITEMS.

A prohibitory Liquor Bill has been defeated in the Massachusetts Assembly by 118 to 93.

The number of United States exhibitors at the Paris Exposition is five hundred and seventy eight.

General Sherman advocates the erection of a fort on Milk river, Montana, near the Canadian boundary, to keep hostile Indians in check.

A communist meeting was held at St. Louis last week. The red flag was unfurled and incendiary speeches were made.

The United States war steamer Plymouth has been ordered to San Domingo to protect American interests, the United States consul having been thrown into prison by the Revolutionary party.

Secretary Parvly has instructed Minister Welch to direct the attention of the British Government to the Newfoundland Fishery troubles, and to request an investigation.

Secretary Sherman favors the issue of silver certificates at New York alone. He says silver is the highest at its point of production. He thinks a heavy contest is pending between the Government and the bullionists.

Hazing is reported at Dartmouth College, N. H. A number of freshmen, about two o'clock in the morning, retained for an hour in the dining room by two sophomores, whom they severely beat with bottles and disguised. Two freshmen have been arrested for assault with intent to kill.

Cuban refugees in Key West, Fla., protest against the acceptance of peace by the patriots on any other basis than independence, and preparations have been made for two hundred men to leave the island fully equipped to carry out the insurrection. In the meantime the insurgents on the island continue to surrender in large numbers.

The Liberatorians have been falling foul of the clergy in Philadelphia and Long Branch, N. J. In the former city the Archbishop declined to review the St. Patrick's procession, if the Liberatorians took part in it, and in the latter city the priest refused to officiate at a mass, but over the same took part. Trouble is consequently anticipated. At Long Branch, the recent incendiary plot discovered there having been traced to members of the order, the pastor of the Roman Catholic church on Sunday denounced the organization from the pulpit.

Senator Blaine has made his promised speech in the U. S. Senate, and the correspondence relative to the appointment of Mr. Dolfosse, the Belgian Minister, as arbitrator on the Halifax Fishery Commission. He repeated the *N. Y. Herald's* alleged secret history of the affair and asserted that, under peculiar circumstances, Great Britain would not accept the arbitration, but over the same took part. Trouble is consequently anticipated. At Long Branch, the recent incendiary plot discovered there having been traced to members of the order, the pastor of the Roman Catholic church on Sunday denounced the organization from the pulpit.

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BRITISH ITEMS.

Forty miners perished by a colliery explosion near Bolton, Lancashire, on Monday.

Dunville's celebrated distillery at Belfast, Ireland, was destroyed by fire last Wednesday.

The estimate of New Brunswick for the current year is \$502,500, and the expenditure \$586,827.

It is said the Dominion Government intend to remove the Oka Indians to a reservation on Lake Huron.

The Imperial Parliament will probably adjourn for Easter. The Budget will be introduced on 4th April.

The Wyvern, a turret ship built for the Southern Confederacy, and seized by the British Government, after lying in Plymouth harbour for fourteen or fifteen years, is about to be commissioned.

Mr. Gladstone has declined an invitation to be a candidate for Leeds. It is thought a number of candidates will be placed at the right hon. gentleman's disposal, and that he will accept either Chester or Oxford University.

Verner Bros., prominent stock brokers in London, have failed. They were engaged in a large bearing operation in British securities based on the expectation of immediate war. Should the present war continue, the collapse of other brokers is anticipated.

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THE MALTA SCANDAL.

The *London World* says:—As what is known as the "Malta scandal" is now the subject of a court of inquiry, and as many misstatements have been made on the subject, it may be well to state the facts of the enquiry who has been hitherto in the hands of the Hon. D. J. Mansu, and that his assistant—who conceives himself cruelly wronged by the Hon. D. J. Mansu, and that he is Mr. Scott-Stevenson, adjutant of the 42nd High Landers. As already stated, the enquiry eventually offered to exchange a couple of copies of his report with the Hon. D. J. Mansu, but the latter declined. I now learn that, before this refusal was returned, the officer to whom it was sent submitted the challenge to five military friends, equally distinguished for their honour and their high rank in the service, and they gave as their opinion that, as the officer had already professed satisfaction of the kind in question, which proposal the enquiry had thought fit to refuse, he could not now, without compromising his character, accede to the enquiry's request for a meeting.

The Duke of Edinburgh, being the credit of having at least stood up for his retainer through thick and thin. In the first place, when the explosion came, it was the Prince who screened his enquiry from the risk of a hostile meeting. Then it seems to have been the same royal personage who returned to the enquiry, and to have been for hushing up the affair, on condition of the enquiry taking to his heels. Not content with the gallant Lothian being left so lightly, again it is precisely ingenuity which suggested that the agreement had been broken, and that the enquiry was according to the current law of the land, and that it comes about by the same royal influence that a civilian is allowed to become prosecutor before a military court of enquiry; and I have the best authority for saying that the Duke himself would have offered himself as a witness at the inquiry on behalf of his country, and to have been the first to speak "on sick leave" from the Dardanelles to Malta in the Rupert being refused.

"BREACH OF PROMISE."

"B. P." writes to the *London Times*:—"In the overwearing excitement at present prevailing in the army and abroad of Russian war, the comparative safety of the trifler and seducer in the lower middle classes, and in the lumber grades, woman, in losing the law of 'Breach of Promise,' would find a safety-barrier thrown down which would leave them exposed, all help and undeterred, to the work of any man who studying only self-gratification, might choose to play the lover. There would be nothing to hinder an unprincipled fellow from contracting an engagement and making solemn promises of marriage, and no intention of keeping it, and then, when the time comes, to desert the woman, who, by human nature is often more weak than the wicked man who would shrink with a holy horror from facing the chance for an action for 'breach' (which would terrify even the most unscrupulous) and without a precise intention to deceive offer marriage, trusting to the comparative safety of the trifler and seducer. In the lower middle classes, and in the lumber grades, woman, in losing the law of 'Breach of Promise,' would find a safety-barrier thrown down which would leave them exposed, all help and undeterred, to the work of any man who studying only self-gratification, might choose to play the lover. 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