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THE storm of public indignation and excitement in Italy has apparently calmed down, and the Ministry of the Marquis di Rudini has gone into office committed to the Italian "Jingo" policy—that is to say, to the prosecution of the war in Abyssinia and the maintenance of the Triple Alliance. The Prime Minister has opposed the wasting of Italian blood and money in Africa; he has been a very lukewarm supporter of the Triple Alliance, and he has antagonized the policy which has resulted in coldness between Italy and France. Nevertheless, he apparently accepts the situation as inevitable, and has undertaken to carry out a policy in which he does not believe, and to maintain relations which he thinks are detrimental to Italy. This is a good illustration of the way in which countries are not served by their servants—a capital illustration of the difference between a statesman and a politician. It is estimated that the present campaign has cost Italy in the neighborhood of twenty millions of dollars, and it is probably safe to assume that the further maintenance of what is known as "the national honor" in Africa will cost at least twice as much more. A bankrupt country will then have spent sixty millions of dollars in attempting to impose its rule upon a free and brave people by wanton invasion and confiscation. In other words, national honor does not lie in paying one's debts and keeping one's record for honesty and righteousness clean, but in persisting in one's vices and blindly continuing one's mistakes. Italy is like a comparatively poor family attempting to keep up the same pace as that taken by rich families in the neighborhood. It is the old story of the earthen pot going down the river with the brass pots. The English have been far from sinless in their dealings with foreign countries, but the English have sometimes interpreted the words national honor with intelligence and sound sense. When they were beaten fifteen years ago at Majuba Hill, instead of throwing away more money and troops, the English Ministry recognized the fact that a mistake had been made, and acknowledged it by evacuating the Transvaal. That was a strong, impressive thing to do. It would have been a weak, foolish thing to have persisted in sending more troops into South Africa because some troops had been beaten. If the present policy is kept up, Italy will preserve its national honor by cheating its creditors and slaughtering its subjects.

The news of such a disaster as that which befell the Italians in Abyssinia travels very rapidly through the surrounding country, and is very apt to develop restlessness among such warlike and semi-barbarous peoples as those which are to be found on the Upper Nile and in eastern Central Africa. It is not astonishing, therefore, to hear of a reported disturbance among the dervishes. The dervishes have passionately resented the gradual limitation of their circle of activity. They have been driven inland,

and have lost the access to the Red Sea, which once gave them an open way to Arabia for the carrying on of the trade in slaves. Very naturally, the success of the Abyssinians has inspired them with the hope of being able to wrest from the Italians a port on the Red Sea, and so to resume their old-time relations with the farther East. The British interest in the question rises from the fact that without British protection Egypt would be constantly open to the inroads of these brave and vigorous peoples. The native Egyptian army would hardly be an obstacle in their path. Even the veteran English troops have found that it required the utmost steadiness of nerve to resist their tremendous and almost terrifying onslaughts. If the English were to withdraw from Egypt the dervishes would be in Cairo in the shortest possible time, and not only the European bondholders but all Egyptian interests would be at their mercy.

It is not surprising, under these circumstances, that the English Government has decided to take time by the forelock. An Anglo-Egyptian expedition has been promptly arranged, the objective point of which is Dongola. The expedition probably has a double purpose; one to check at the outset a possible invasion of Egypt, and the other to render practical assistance to the Italians. It is known that Italy has been urging England to come to her assistance, and as such action on the part of England would aid every English interest, it is not improbable that this consideration has had something to do with the alacrity with which the expedition has been arranged. By making a diversion, the English will compel the dervishes to change their plans, and relieve the Italian Government at a time when it greatly needs aid. General Kitchener will command the expedition, which will be composed of twelve hundred British troops, with a large contingent of Egyptian troops. The Mahdi has a large force of dervishes at Dongola, which will probably be materially increased before the expedition gets within striking distance of that point. The Italians are in Kassala, and it is hoped to relieve that city by striking the Mahdists further to the north. This action on the part of the Government has the indorsement of the Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists; it will probably receive the approval of the Liberals; but it will be fiercely opposed and attacked by the Radicals. A vigorous discussion is likely to take place in the House of Commons. Meanwhile, this action greatly relieves the tension in Europe, not only by the assistance which it renders to the Italians at a critical point, but by the good feeling which it has aroused in Germany, whose interest in the Triple Alliance makes the condition of Italy a matter of great importance.

The Cuban resolutions are still before the Senate, and the discussion upon them last week was mainly diverted into tangled debate on two side issues. One of these was

the propriety of the conduct of the Spanish Minister, Señor de Lome, in answering through the newspapers the statements made by Senators derogatory to Spain, and in criticising the expressions used. It is probable that Señor de Lome did, in fact, overstep the line of diplomatic usage, and the offense he gave was only strengthened by the fact that most of his points were well taken. This discussion naturally led to the inquiry whether the Senate had in truth before it accurate information which justified it in adopting the assertions in the resolutions. Senator Sherman asserted that the Committee on Foreign Relations in framing the resolutions acted on confidential information from the State Department. Senator Wolcott demurred to being asked to vote on questions of fact on "testimony reposing in the breasts of the members of the Committee on Foreign Relations"—testimony which they could not divulge to the public and only to the Senate in executive session, and which the House, as it had no executive session, could not learn at all. After all, it was disclosed that the only communication to the Committee from the State Department had been a letter from Señor de Lome giving the Spanish side of the question. By this time the impression was growing stronger over the country that Congress would better obtain a full knowledge of the facts before passing on them. Senator Hoar exposed with great ability the folly of hasty action. The most elaborate speech of the week was by Senator Hill. He advocated the recognition of belligerency, but opposed the third resolution (that the United States "should be prepared to protect the legitimate interests of our citizens by intervention, if necessary") as being based on a low and purely commercial ground. Mr. Hill held that when the time for intervention came it should be for humanity's sake, and on the boldly stated sympathy of this Republic for a people striving to be free. The news of the week from Cuba shows that the insurgents are still holding their own. Another attempt to surround Maceo has utterly failed, and he is believed to be again in the province of Havana. The kind of warfare going on is shown by such dispatches as this: "Nine important towns have been laid in ruins, tobacco-houses have been burned, and a large portion of the tobacco districts is a waste." Skirmishes between the Spanish troops and the insurgents are frequent, but no general engagements of consequence are reported. The financial and commercial conditions of Cuba are pitiable, while Spain is accumulating a war debt which threatens to seriously embarrass her finances.

More than one-half of the delegates thus far elected to the Republican National Convention have either been instructed to support ex-Governor McKinley or are known to favor him. According to present appearances, his nomination upon the first ballot can be prevented only by the presentation of "favorite sons" by the delegations of several States in which most of the voters are known to favor Mr. McKinley. Thus the Pennsylvania delegation is expected to present the name of Senator Quay, the Illinois delegation that of Senator Cullom, the Minnesota delegation that of Senator Davis, the Nebraska delegation that of ex-Senator Manderson. No one of these candidacies is taken very seriously, though we regret to see it stated by responsible papers in Pennsylvania that not a single Philadelphia paper, Republican or Democrat, would oppose Senator Quay if nominated. Senator Cullom's candidacy in Illinois is merely with the consent of Mr. McKinley's supporters. The popular enthusiasm is all for the Ohio candidate. In Minnesota the support of Senator Davis is even more perfunctory. The situation in Nebraska is

best stated in ex-Senator Manderson's own words: "In my own State he [Major McKinley] can and is welcome to name his own personal friends as delegates. All that I ask is that the delegates from Nebraska have an opportunity to present my name, if by so doing they do not jeopardize Major McKinley's interests." If the Presidential candidate were to be nominated by a direct primary, there is no doubt that Mr. McKinley's vote would exceed all others combined. General Clarkson's widely quoted declaration that the strength of the "McKinley boom" has been systematically exaggerated by the press dispatches in no way holds good. There is, however, one declaration of General Clarkson's that does hold good, and that is that nominations are not made at National Conventions from popular enthusiasm. At the National Convention, he says, the votes of the doubtful States will be considered, and (he might have added) the advice of party managers will be listened to. The chief danger to Mr. McKinley's prospects is that the leading party managers, Platt, Quay, and Clarkson, are believed to be against him. Through the presentation of "favorite sons" at the North, and the election of uninstructed delegates from the South, it is still probable that the first ballot will not be decisive.

There is, however, another danger to Mr. McKinley's prospects. Upon the currency question he occupies an intermediate position, and the temper of the country both in the extreme East and the extreme West is increasingly opposed to such a position. These two sections have thus far chosen but few delegates to St. Louis. If the Western delegations shall indorse Mr. McKinley, the chances are that the Eastern delegations will strenuously oppose him. The financial plank adopted by the Ohio Convention last week, though more conservative than the West is likely to tolerate, is received with marked dissatisfaction in the East. It reads as follows:

"We contend for honest money; for a currency of gold, silver, and paper with which to measure our exchange, that shall be as sound as the Government and as untarnished as its honor; and to that end we favor bimetallism, and demand the use of both silver and gold as standard money, either in accordance with a ratio to be fixed by an international agreement—if that can be obtained—or under such restrictions and such provisions, to be determined by legislation, as will secure the maintenance of the parity of values of the two metals, so that the purchasing and debt-paying power of the dollar, whether of silver, gold, or paper, shall be at all times equal."

The New York "Tribune" urges with much force that this means the maintenance of the present standard; and possibly it would be satisfactory to those who oppose the further coinage of silver were Mr. McKinley's personal views equally satisfactory. But Mr. McKinley has shown in his public speeches that he knows what the word "bimetallism" means, and, while he has opposed the free coinage of silver at the old ratio, he has explicitly demanded the restoration of silver to the currency, in order to prevent the fall of prices occasioned by a monometallist policy. Those who deny most strenuously Mr. McKinley's political wisdom have never questioned his sincerity. It is probable that either Speaker Reed or Senator Allison would prove more acceptable to the extreme monometallist faction of the party, though both of these men have been severely criticised for their disposition to "trim" on the financial question. Senator Allison's candidacy, like Mr. McKinley's, was formally indorsed by the Republican Convention of his State last week. The Ohio platform upon the financial question has been denounced as a "straddle;" if so, that adopted in Iowa can only be characterized as a tight-rope performance. It reads as follows:

"If the financial question is to be the issue, then Allison is the man first commended to the Nation by reason of his reputation for financial