

# The Outlook

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THE most widely discussed event of the week in connection with the situation of Turkey has not been the consultation of the Marquis of Salisbury with the Czar at Balmoral, but the speech of Mr. Gladstone at a great meeting held in Liverpool on Thursday of last week. The speech was notable for its moderation of tone, for its freedom from any criticism of the present Government, and for the apparently futile suggestion with which it closed. Mr. Gladstone called attention to the fact that in 1876, when frightful massacres were going on, the Turkish Government coolly denied that any blood had been shed, in spite of the most extensive and incontrovertible testimony. For months past Turkey has been making the same denials, and will continue to make them so long as the Great Powers permit. Those Powers, Mr. Gladstone said, have signally failed to make the Sultan fulfill his treaty obligations. The instances in which England had acted outside a concert of the European Powers were also enumerated. In the cases of Greece and Bulgaria from fifteen to twenty millions of subjects were freed from the dominion of Turkey without the aid of concerted European action. In closing Mr. Gladstone proposed that, as a first step, the English Minister should be recalled from Constantinople, and the Turkish Minister sent home from London. This suggestion has not met with favor, for the reason that what the Sultan wants above all things is to be relieved from the espionage of Europe. Nothing would please him better than to have all the Ambassadors withdraw, provided he could still rely upon those jealousies between the Great Powers which have so long kept him upon his throne, and the throne in its place. Meantime English feeling on the subject grows steadily more intense, and there appears to be a very general chafing at the humiliating position in which the country finds itself. It is unsafe to trust any of the reports which come by the cable from day to day, and constantly contradict each other. It is declared on one day that Lord Salisbury has determined either to depose the Sultan or to carry on the Government of Turkey through a Council of Ambassadors, and it is declared on the next day that he has decided with cynical indifference that nothing can be done. The Czar is hunting in Scotland in very bad weather, and is not likely to change his attitude toward the Sultan merely because his wife's grandmother is anxious to bring about that result.

On Wednesday of last week Queen Victoria's reign became longer than that of any British sovereign. Only three previous reigns have reached a half-century in length—Henry III. reigned a little over fifty-six years; Edward III., fifty years; George III. (including the Regency), fifty-nine years two months and twenty days. On June 20 next Queen Victoria will have reigned sixty years, and at her request no public celebration in honor of the length of her reign will take place until that date. The present occasion, however, has naturally called forth many surveys

of the achievements of Great Britain under its present sovereign, and many tributes of respect and affection toward the Queen herself. Since Victoria ascended the throne the British rule has been widely extended in India, Africa, and Australia; commerce has grown amazingly; science has made notable strides forward; education has been made general; religious toleration has advanced; political and municipal reforms have been extraordinary; the franchise has been vastly enlarged; railway and steamship lines have grown from small beginnings to enormous importance; the telegraph and telephone have sprung into existence. In all that pertains to the comfort and safety and possibilities of the common people the growth has been vastly in excess of any previous half-century. The Queen's own share in the progress of her people has been one of influence rather than power. That influence is often underestimated, but it has been none the less potent because Victoria has always recognized the limitations of an English monarch's constitutional functions and has never attempted to interfere with the functions of Parliament and Ministers. It is recalled, however, that more than once she has used her great personal influence to aid a clearly needed reform or to prevent unwise action. Thus, it is believed that her urgency alone prevented Lord John Russell from recognizing the Southern Confederacy. Her close family relations with the royal families of Europe constantly aid in preserving peace and harmony. Even at this minute it is believed that she is seeking to interest her granddaughter, the Czarina, in the oppression of the Armenians and to promote a satisfactory agreement among the Powers whereby the Sultan may be restrained. To say that Victoria's reign has been a benignant one and that she possesses the affections of her whole people is but to state a universally accepted fact.

The present visit of the Czar of Russia to Scotland has forced upon the people of Great Britain an instructive contrast between monarchy in Russia and England. As the "Spectator" says, "The spectacle of an armored train traversing pacific and highly civilized Scotland, through deserted and guarded stations, over viaducts and bridges policed as if they were jewelers' windows, is a strange and unpleasant one to people whose princes come and go in hansom cabs, but it is the logical outcome of a system of which Nicholas is the victim, not the author." Every foot of every road traversed by the Czar has been guarded by Russian and English detectives and police. The visit is of a family kind rather than a state ceremonial or a political council. The Czar's coming visit to Paris will be of a semi-public character, and the splendor of ceremonial and pageantry will be as impressive as possible to emphasize in the eyes of Europe the alliance between France and Russia.

The Egyptian and British troops are now firmly established in Dongola. The report mentioned in our last issue

that the place had been occupied turned out to be premature by a day or two. A British gunboat had reached the place in the absence of the forces of the Dervishes, but had quickly returned to join the main British force. On Wednesday, however, General Kitchener advanced with his entire army to Dongola and captured it, meeting very little resistance. The Dervishes' forces had already been badly broken, and they were soon scattered. Their chief commander, Wad Bishara, escaped, and is supposed to be rallying his followers so far as possible. The next immediate step of the British forces will be to reconstruct and fortify Dongola, and establish a general military post and depots connecting it with Wadihalfa. When this work is complete, and the light railroad which is rapidly being laid as the troops advance is pushed forward toward Dongola, there can be little doubt that another forward movement will take place, this time toward Berber, and ultimately the center of the Soudan will be reached at Khartoum, or, strictly speaking, at Omdurman, the city rudely built by the Khalifa close to the ruins of Khartoum. Khartoum itself was almost entirely destroyed by the fanatics under the Mahdi immediately after the death of Gordon. So far the Egyptian expedition has met with little serious resistance, and the reconquering of the Soudan may be accepted as an almost assured fact.

The resignation of the Marquis Ito, the Japanese Prime Minister, appears to have excited no great perturbation, and yet it is probably a very important event in the current history of Japan; for Count Ito and Field-Marshal Yamagata are the two leaders of the contemporary movement in Japan—the two men who above all others have done most to bring it into line with modern life and to establish its power not only on a military but on a civil basis. The late Prime Minister is the representative of that progressive policy which has thrown Japan wide open to foreign intercourse and foreign influence; one of the few Asiatics of the day who has been able to look at the West with clear eyes and to put aside those limitations of education and intelligence which disqualify so many Orientals of ability for anything approaching a clear idea of the significance of Western civilization. A man of great ability, notable energy and courage, which has been tested by the most persistent and dangerous opposition, it followed as a matter of course that every step taken by Count Ito antagonized a powerful group of his own countrymen, and, as was long ago anticipated by intelligent observers, a reactionary party bitterly opposed to the modern movement in Japan has been growing, not so much in popular strength as in force of organization and intensity of feeling, during the past few years. Count Ito has not hesitated to join issues with this reactionary group. Before the war with China every endeavor was made to drive him from office, but during the war his critics and enemies were silenced by the necessities of the situation. No modern statesman has had a more decisive and immediate vindication of a radical course than Ito had in the course of that war; the overwhelming success of Japan by land and sea was rendered possible by the work which he had very largely done in previous years. But no sooner was the war over than the diplomatic struggle with Russia began, and Count Ito's enemies fastened upon the necessary diplomatic compromises and ignored the victory, which compelled a reorganization of the East from the European standpoint. In the face of this intense and unscrupulous opposition Ito held his position, and has been able to command a sufficient majority in the Legislature to carry on his Government. It looks now as if he had become tired of the struggle and

had given way to his enemies simply because he was weary of contesting the ground inch by inch with them. If his retirement marks a change of the foreign policy of Japan, it may prove a great disaster to that energetic Empire.

Confusion still reigns supreme in the Democratic situation in this State, although there are indications that something like a definite marking of lines of demarcation is at hand. The regular Democratic Convention, which met at Buffalo, was conspicuous by reason of the absence of almost all the old leaders of the New York Democracy, and by reason of the presence and prominence of the Tammany Hall delegation. That Convention, with curious futility, indorsed the Chicago platform and nominated Mr. John Boyd Thacher for Governor, Mr. Thacher being well known to be strongly opposed to the free-coinage movement. No sooner was this absurd action taken than Tammany Hall began to demand the withdrawal of Mr. Thacher's candidacy. Mr. Thacher, however, declined to talk on the situation until the end of last week, when he announced his declination of the nomination. His place on the Democratic State ticket has been filled by the State Committee, which has appointed Judge W. T. Porter as candidate for Governor, and Mr. F. C. Schraub as candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. Senator Hill's position remains an unsolved enigma. His whole political fortune rests upon party regularity; he has for years held party allegiance to be the cardinal doctrine of his political creed. But both before and at the Chicago Convention he took strong ground against free coinage; he is now placed in the dilemma of either taking an inconsistent position and sacrificing what most people suppose to be his principles, or else becoming a bolter, which in his case is to commit political hari-kiri. The situation is a very interesting and entertaining one, and Mr. Hill's solution of the apparently insoluble problem will be awaited with interest—an interest, however, which will be psychological rather than political, for his action at this late date is not likely to carry any great weight. Meanwhile, that influential section of the Democratic party which is opposed to the Chicago platform held a Convention in Brooklyn last week, and nominated Daniel G. Griffin, of Watertown, for Governor; Frederick W. Hinrichs, of Brooklyn, for Lieutenant-Governor, and Spencer Clinton, of Buffalo, for Judge of the Court of Appeals—all men of high standing and of unblemished reputation.

The Massachusetts Democratic Convention was a most remarkable affair. The State Committee, it will be remembered, was favorable to gold. So, too, was the regular Democratic organization in the city of Boston. The latter, however, was willing to indorse the Chicago nominees and platform in order to retain the management of the Boston Democratic vote. Ex-Congressman George Fred Williams, who led the fight for silver and a radical anti-monopoly programme, declared war several weeks ago against all the anti-silver members of the State Committee and the Boston machine, taking the position that they must be removed entirely from the direction of the present campaign. Outside of Boston the primaries went overwhelmingly in his favor; and in Boston the Bryan-Sewall-Williams clubs polled a strong vote in opposition to the regular organization. For some reason, however, Mr. Williams feared that the State Committee and the Boston "regulars" would control the State Convention. At the mass-meeting for Mr. Bryan, held at Music Hall on Friday evening, Mr. Williams announced that the State Committee had rejected his proposition that all delegates should be admitted into the Convention on the presentation of their credentials.