

should be well informed about plots in America and Europe does not appear. Since Mr. Parnell's leadership of the Irish cause, the "physical force" faction has been decreasing in strength and influence, and it had been hoped that the day of dynamite outrages was gone by. An alliance between Irish dynamiters and Russian Nihilists for general destructive purposes is an unexpected development. The coming visits of the Czar to France and England have set the police upon the most anxious scrutiny of suspicious persons. That they have discovered some kind of a plot seems certain; exactly what it is will be known later.



Despite the almost universal belief that the Sultan is personally responsible for the recent massacres in Constantinople, and the equally universal admission that something radical must be done to prevent further outrages, nothing actually has been done, and it is more than doubtful whether anything effective will be done. Rumors that the Powers had agreed to remove the Sultan have been current, but have, it is now thought, nothing substantial behind them. The almost official statement that Great Britain would pursue an independent course has had as its outcome only the presentation of a separate remonstrance to the Porte by Sir Philip Currie. Of mere remonstrance Mr. Gladstone well says:

"Remonstrance with him whom I always wish to call the Great Assassin would not be of the smallest value unless it were known to include a firm intention to resort to measures of coercion in case of need. The remonstrances of the Six Powers during the last twelve months have not been mere failures or simple mockery, but a great instrument of mischief, for they all along implied that such a matter can be disposed of by discussion."

So long as any revolutionary outbreak or pretense of outbreak can be found to serve as excuse, the organized massacre of innocent Armenians continues. The actual perpetrators of the Ottoman Bank seizure were let go unharmed, while hundreds of Armenians who had nothing to do with it were murdered in the streets and in their houses without any attempt being made to arrest or try them. Two men caught red-handed near the Embassies in the murder of Armenians were discharged in the face of direct evidence. The deportation of Armenians from Constantinople continues, without regard to the objections made by the foreign Ambassadors. In short, the Sultan seems to feel himself master of the situation, and is doing as he pleases. A British fleet lies off the coast of Salonica, but no one believes that Great Britain will use force without the consent of Russia, France, and Germany, and a concert of the Powers for anything but inertia is as far off as ever. Public sentiment in England has been expressed energetically by almost all the papers—the "Times" is lukewarm, however—by Mr. Gladstone, Lord Rosebery, Mr. Asquith, and others; even in Germany the press has been aroused to denounce Abdul Hamid. Yet nothing is done, and no practical plan is proposed to deal with what Lord Rosebery rightly calls a question of common Christianity, humanity, and civilization. The world has before it the wretched fact that a homicidal maniac is defying repeatedly and with impunity all Europe.



Spain's difficulties increase in number and in gravity. Her financial situation is wretched; the political trouble arising out of the unpopular Railway Subvention Bill may precipitate a Cabinet crisis at any time; the attempts to put down the Cuban insurrection are making no headway; and now, finally, she has to deal with another insurrection in her only other important colony, that of the Philippine Islands. These islands comprise several groups, and in

all number over four hundred. They lie in a northerly direction from Formosa to Borneo. The natives are mainly Malays. The trade of the islands is chiefly in tobacco and sugar, and the total revenue of the islands is estimated at about \$11,000,000. The Spanish Government keeps an army of about twenty thousand men at different posts throughout the islands, the most important of which is Luzon. The revolt in the Philippine Islands is, doubtless, of much the same character as that which exists in Cuba. It is said that it is being conducted through a vast secret society which hopes to bring independence to the islands. The movement is said to be spreading rapidly. The Spanish Government holds a monopoly of the tobacco product, taxes the islanders very heavily, and in all possible ways uses this colony simply as a source of wealth, and with no regard for the comfort and civilization of the people. Meanwhile there is little news from Cuba. All accounts agree, however, that the insurgents are holding their own. The Havana correspondent of the London "Times" has recently written to that paper that even Havana itself is honeycombed with intrigues of the revolutionists, and that it is too late now to compromise by granting reforms. There have been no military operations of consequence, so far as we can learn, for some time. Some 40,000 new troops are to be sent from Spain before long. Our readers who would like to have a graphic picture of the state of things in Cuba will find such a picture in an article in the current "Harper's Weekly," by Mr. Thomas Dawley, the correspondent who was imprisoned for some time in Morro Castle.



Emperor William's relations with his Cabinet ministers have for some time been arbitrary and capricious. A short time ago the Minister of Commerce resigned, and he has been followed by the Minister of War. It is also reported that the Chancellor of the Empire, Prince Hohenlohe, has resigned, but the report as yet lacks confirmation. The result is a Ministerial crisis, in the discussion of which the German press is vigorously engaged. The cause of the crisis is a conflict between responsible and irresponsible advisers, and the immediate occasion of it a dispute as to the publicity of proceedings in military courts. The Minister of War is said to have resigned because he anticipated the opposition of the Emperor to a measure establishing the public character of such courts. The Minister, as the responsible official of the people, was successfully opposed by the Military Cabinet, which deems itself responsible to the Emperor. The question is thus broadly suggested as to which set of advisers are to be listened to in the future. If the Emperor intends to have advisers who simply echo his own notions and prejudices, there is sure to be prolonged friction until one principle displaces the other. The German people, and especially the party of constitutional development, will not rest content without knowing in which Ministers the real power inheres. Most of the difficulties thus far have arisen in regard to matters of army administration, and the Emperor is said to be quite determined to retain an exclusive control over such matters, deeming the army of paramount importance. The Military Cabinet is the embodiment of his views on this point.



The Congress of the British Trade-Unions held in Edinburgh last week adopted an exceptionally conservative programme. It practically rescinded its Norwich resolution in favor of the nationalization of land, and at one time seemed inclined to declare against further participation in the international Congresses, where the revolutionary ele-

ment has made itself so prominent. Upon this point, however, the Congress finally adopted a resolution to the effect that all future international Congresses should be composed only of representatives of bona-fide labor organizations. In a Congress thus constituted it is believed that comparatively few irresponsible visionaries could be elected. The most important resolutions adopted relative to the condition of wage-earners were a declaration in favor of an eight-hour day, on the ground that it would increase "the health, strength, and intelligence of the workers," and a declaration in favor of an employers' liability act which would make employers responsible for all injuries to working people not caused by the latter's negligence. This last resolution particularly declared that an employee's prior knowledge of a defect in the machinery or any other exceptional peril in his position should not lessen his right to damages, but that the responsibility for such defects and dangers should rest upon those having the power to remove them.



The question of German competition with the trade and manufacturing interests of Great Britain has aroused much exciting controversy in the latter country. Ever since the publication of a book entitled "Made in Germany" a certain class of English manufacturers have been anticipating ruin to their interests, and many statistical returns have been published for the purpose of showing the inroads made on British trade by the cheaper goods of Germany. It is pointed out that there is a brisk demand in England for certain lines of goods in which the home manufacturer was supposed to have an undisputed superiority; while German exports to Switzerland, Russia, South America, and even to some of the British colonies have very largely increased during the past few years. These facts have caused a vigorous restatement of the views of English free traders and fair traders. The party with protectionist sympathies have adopted the latter name, and urge some concession to the English manufacturer in his single-handed struggle against the world. On the other hand, the free-trade disciples of Cobden profess to find cause of congratulation in the increased sale of German products in England, alleging the expensive nature of the export bounty system to the German people, and the resulting cheapness of many lines of imported products. Some of these have been used in building up new English industries of great profit, giving employment to large numbers of workmen, and creating a valuable export trade. Some free-traders are inclined to be alarmed at the prospect; but, generally speaking, there does not seem to be any weakening of the free-trade principles which rule the English commercial world. Much stress has been laid upon German superiority in industrial education; numerous instances are given of factories where trained chemists are employed in securing the best industrial processes. The one immediately practical lesson of the situation seems to be the need of the British manufacturer and trader to adopt improved methods, so as to place himself on the same plane of competition as his more accommodating and better-informed rival.



Mr. Gladstone's marvelous mental activity since his retirement from the Liberal leadership in 1894 has caused a partial revival of discussion as to his return to public life. There is no serious or general opinion that he will do so; but many ask, Where are the evidences of physical and mental decay, of lessened interest in the problems of politics or theology, of less acute discernment in literary and social tendencies? It is doubtful if any two years of Mr. Gladstone's life have been more noted for intellectual

energy and product than the last two; and at eighty-seven his amazing zest continues unabated. His learned studies in the works of Bishop Butler have only recently been published; magazine articles from month to month fall from his prolific pen, and the subjects treated show the same versatility as well as the same alert and virile thought; in capacity for work he seems to be equal to most exacting demands. A short time ago the Armenian atrocities nearly called him back to Parliament, so intense was his sympathy with that suffering people; nor have his convictions on that subject since known any change. In fact, though out of office, he is still the dominant personality in England, the one to whom the thought and conscience of the nation instinctively look as an exemplar of political conduct. Just now there are elements of disunion and discouragement in the Liberal party which urgently call for the strongest leader; and there is no doubt that, if Mr. Gladstone should again dare the vicissitudes of public life, he would be warmly welcomed back to his old place, even if for a very brief term of leadership. He was, at least in matters purely political, the trusted keeper of the Nonconformist conscience, while Lord Rosebery has not been very successful in retaining the confidence of that commanding element in British Liberalism. The common belief as to old age and its disabilities will be set over against the manifestations which, in Mr. Gladstone's case, seem to refute it; but, so long as these manifestations continue, his old friends and former following will inevitably ask, Why are not the energy and zeal, which abound in mental exertions so varied and severe, available for the reinvigoration of the Liberal party?



Arbitration and Workingmen

The question of a permanent tribunal of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain has a deep practical interest to the workingmen of both countries. There is a general indorsement of arbitration by the English and Canadian trade-unions, and a strong sentiment in its favor among our own labor organizations also, particularly in the Eastern States. Shortly after the issue of the President's Venezuela Message, the Central Labor Union of Boston formally protested against war, indorsed arbitration, and appointed a committee to act concurrently with the Parliamentary Committee of Labor Unions in Great Britain. Other American labor unions also took similar action, and the British Parliamentary Committee of Labor Unions has repeatedly done so. On July 26 last the Congress of Trades-Unions of the world officially indorsed international arbitration, and entered its protest against war. The struggle for higher wages is the strongest possible bond of union. National differences are largely obliterated by it, and the resulting solidarity is a great economic feature of the time. As the labor movement has passed from local and national to international proportions, we may justly expect it to become a much stronger preventive of war than it has been in the recent past. Its aims, its methods, and the product for a larger share of which it is struggling so earnestly are all more or less divested of purely local or restricted influences by the interlacings of the world's commerce. The workingmen, or rather their leaders, have not been uninstructed observers of the initial successes of arbitration, and they naturally forecast the influence of still further successes upon their own lot and prospects. They look upon war as the delay or destruction of their hopes, see clearly that those who gain by it are the few favored capitalists, and fear its disorganizing effect upon