"IF GOD SEE IT IN The Sun IT'S SO."

The Sun.

THE WEATHER PREDICTION
For New York and Its Vicinity:
Cloudy; southerly winds.

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GLADSTONE THUNDERS.

Champions Greece Against the "Concert of Europe."

ASSAILS EMPEROR AND CZAR.

No Longer Should England Trail After Them in Diplomacy.

A Remarkable Letter from the Grand Old Man Militant to the English People Through the Duke of Westminster—The "Concert of Europe" and the "Integrity of the Ottoman Empire" Declared to Be Empty Phrases—The Flouting of Diplomacy by the Sultan—"Extreme Wickedness Is Sacrosanct" Under Turkish Rule—The People of All Europe Shut Out of the Discussion—A Former Concert of Europe and Turkey's Backdown—Greece Has Done a Great Service to the World in Championing Crete—History of Turkish Rule in This Century—A Suggestion of Autonomy Under Turkish Ownership but Grecian Control.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 18.—At last a great defender has risen up to champion the cause of Greece against official Europe. Mr. Gladstone has issued an address upon the Eastern crisis which is almost a philippic in its denunciation of the concert of Europe and in its defence of the modern David among the nations which has dared to defy six Goliahs. The boldness of the language of the Grand Old Man Militant is almost startling. He does not hesitate to point out the weakness and eccentricities of the German Emperor, and to dwell scornfully upon the policy which allows Great Britain to be dragged meekly in the train of such a man.

Both as an argument and as an appeal this latest, and perhaps last, public utterance of Mr. Gladstone cannot fail to have a tremendous influence in shaping the English policy in the great crisis which apparently is no nearer a solution than when the Greek army landed in Crete nearly a month ago.

The Grand Old Man's message to his countrymen is in the form of a letter written to the Duke of Westminster. It is to be published as a pamphlet to-morrow by John Murray.

FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER.

The following is the full text:

"MY DEAR DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: Had we at the present date been in our ordinary relation of near neighborhood, you would have run no risk of being addressed by me in print without your previous knowledge or permission. But the present position of the Eastern question is peculiar. Transactions—such only for the moment I am content to call them—have been occurring in the East at short intervals during the last two years of such a nature as to stir our common humanity from its innermost recesses and to lodge a trustworthy appeal from the official to the personal conscience. Until the most recent dates these transactions had seemed to awaken no echo save in England, but now a light has flashed at least upon western Europe and an uneasy consciousness that nations as well as cabinets are concerned in what has been and is going on has taken strong hold upon the public mind, and the time seems to have come when men should speak or be forever silent.

"My ambition is for rest, and rest alone. But every grain of sand is part of the seashore, and, connected as I have been, for nearly half a century, with the Eastern question, often when in positions of responsibility, I feel that inclination does not suffice to justify silence. In yielding to this belief I keep another conviction steadily in view, namely, that to infuse into this discussion the spirit or language of party would be to give a cover and an apology to every sluggish and unmanly mind for refusing to offer its tribute to a common cause, and I have felt that, taking into view the attitude you have consistently held in our domestic politics during the last decade of years, I can offer to my countrymen of all opinions no more appropriate guarantee of my careful fidelity to this conviction than, if only by the exercise of an unusual freedom, to place the expression of my views under shelter of your name.

THE DISCORD OF THE POWERS.

"It is more easy thus to forego the liberty and license of partisanship because it is my firm inward belief that the deplorable position which the concerted action or non-action of the powers of Europe has brought about and maintained has been mainly due, not to a common accord but to a want of it; that the unwise and mistaken views of some of the powers have brought dishonor upon the whole, and that when the time comes for the distribution with full knowledge of praise and blame it will not be on the British Government or on those in sympathy with it that the heaviest sentence of condemnation will descend. Let us succinctly review the situation.

"The Armenian massacres, judiciously interspersed with intervals of breathing time, have surpassed in their scale and in the intensity and diversity of their wickedness all modern, if not all historical, experience. All this was done under the eyes of six powers, who were represented by their Ambassadors, and who thought their feeble verbiage a sufficient counterpoise to the instruments of death, shame, and torture, provided if in framing it they all chimed in with one another. Growing in confidence with each successive triumph of deeds over words, and having exhausted in Armenia every expedient of deliberate and wholesale wickedness, the Sultan, whom I have not scrupled to call the Great Assassin, recollected that he had not yet reached his climax. It yet remained to show to the powers and their Ambassadors, under their own eyes and within the hearing of their own ears, in Constantinople itself, what their organs were too dull to see and hear.

"From amid the fastnesses of the Armenian hills to this height of daring he boldly ascended, and his triumph was not less complete than before. They did, indeed, make bold to interfere with his prerogatives by protecting or exporting some Armenians who would otherwise have swelled the festering heaps of those murdered in the streets of Constantinople, but as to punishment, reparation, or even prevention, the world has yet to learn that any one of them was effectually cared for. Every extreme of wickedness is sacrosanct when it passes in Turkish garb. All comers may, as in a tournament of old, be challenged to point to any two years of diplomatic history which have been marked by more glaring inequality of forces; by more uniform and complete success of weakness combined with wrong over strength associated with right, of which it had, unhappily, neither consciousness nor confidence; by so vast an aggregation of blood-red records of massacre, or by so profound a disgrace inflicted upon and still clinging as a shirt of Nessus to collective Europe.

PHRASES USED TO SWAY THE PUBLIC MIND.

"All these terrible occurrences the six powers appear to treat as past and gone, as dead and buried. They forget that every one of them will revive in history, to say nothing of a higher record still, and in proceeding calmly to handle those further developments of the great drama which are now in progress they appear blissfully unconscious that at every step they take they are treading on the burning cinders of the Armenian massacres. To inform and sway the public mind amid the disastrous confusions of the last two years there have been set up as supreme and guiding ideas those expressed firstly in the phrase 'The Concert of Europe,' and secondly 'The Integrity of the Turkish Empire.' Of these phrases the first denotes an instrument indescribably valuable where it can be made available for purposes of good, but it is an instrument only, and as such it must be tried by the question of adaptation to its ends. When it can be made subservient to the purposes of honor, duty, liberty, and humanity it has the immense and otherwise unattainable advantage of leaving the selfish aims of each power to neutralise and destroy one another, and of acting with resistless force for such objects as will bear the light.

WHAT "CONCERT OF EUROPE" MEANT IN 1880.

"In the years 1876-80 it was the influence of England in European diplomacy which principally distracted the concert of the powers. In determining the particulars of the Treaty of Berlin she made herself conspicuous by taking the side least favorable to liberty in the East. In that state of things I for one used my best exertions to set up a European concert. In public estimation it would at least have qualified our activity in the support of Turkey, which had then sufficiently displayed her iniquitous character and policy in Bulgaria, though she has since surpassed herself.

"When the Ministry of 1880 came into power we made it one of our first objects to organize a European concert for the purpose of procuring the fulfilment of two important provisions of the treaty of 1878, referring to Montenegro and to Greece, respectively. Fair and smiling were the first results of our endeavors. The forces of suasion had been visibly exhausted and the emblems of force were accordingly displayed, a squadron consisting of ships of war carrying the flags of each of the powers being speedily gathered on the Montenegrin or Albanian coast. But we soon discovered that for several of the powers 'concert of Europe' bore a signification totally at variance with that which we attached to it, and that it included toy demonstrations which might be made under a condition that they should not pass into reality.

"We did not waste our time in vain endeavors to galvanize a corpse, but framed a plan for the seizure of an important port of the Sultan's dominions. To this we confidently believed that some of the powers would accede, and in concert with these we prepared to go forward. It hardly needs be said that we found our principal support in wise and brave Alexander II., who then reigned over Russia. Still less need it be specified that there was no war in Europe, though, doubtless, this bugbear would have been used for intimidation had our proceedings passed beyond the stage of privacy; but the effect was perfect—the effect produced, be it observed, on Abdul Hamid, on him who has since proved himself to be the great assassin. Our plan became known to the Sultan, and without our encountering a single serious difficulty Montenegro obtained the considerable extension which she now enjoys and Thessaly was added to Greece.

"But as nothing can be better, nay, nothing so good, as the 'concert of Europe,' where it can be made to work; so, as the best when in its corruption always changes to the worst, nothing can be more mischievous than the pretence to be working with this tool when it is not really in working order. The concert of Europe then comes to mean the concealment of dissents, the lapse into generalities, and the settling down upon negations at junctures when duty loudly calls for positive action. Lord Granville was the mildest of men, but mildness may keep company with resolution, and we have seen how he dealt with the 'concert of Europe.' Very brief intercommunications enable a man of common sense to see in cases where the principles involved are clear whether there is a true concert. But the mischief of setting up a false one is immense. Let us look at it in some of its aspects.

"First the criminal at once becomes aware of it, and sets to work to flatter and seduce the power he may have reason to suppose best inclined. Secondly, what is the composition of the body? A cabinet can work together because it has a common general purpose, and this purpose has a unifying effect on particular questions as they arise. But the powers of Europe have no such common purpose to bring them together. Lastly, and what is worst of all, this pretended and ineffectual coöperation of Governments shuts out the peoples. It is from this mischief that we are now suffering. It is difficult enough for a people to use *ad hoc* a sufficient influence over its own Government standing single, but what is our case when we find ourselves standing in the face of our Government with five other Governments behind it, which we cannot call to account and over which we cannot reasonably expect to exercise the smallest influence? It is time to speak with freedom.

"TWO YOUNG MEN," WHO RULE EMPIRES.

"At this moment two great States, with a European population of one hundred and forty or perhaps one hundred and fifty millions, are under the government of two young men, each bearing the high title of Emperor, but in one case wholly without knowledge or experience; in the other, having only such knowledge and experience, in truth limited enough, as have excited much astonishment and some consternation when an inkling of them has been given to the world. In one case the Government is a pure and perfect despotism, and in the other equivalent to it in matters of foreign policy, so far as it can be understood in a land where freedom is indigenous, familiar, and full grown. These powers, so far as their sentiments are known, have been using their power in the concert to fight steadily against freedom. But why are we to have our Government pinned to their aprons? The sense of this nation is for them non-existent, and the German Emperor would lie well within his limits should he deign to say to us: 'Turkey I know, and the concert I know, but who are you?'

"At the heels of this concert we have plodded patiently for two years, and what has it done for us—done for us, not in promoting justice and humanity, for that question has long ago been answered, but in securing peace? I affirm that with all its pretension and its power it has worsened and not bettered the situation. When we pointed to the treaty obligations and treaty rights which solemnly and separately bound us to stop the Armenian massacres, we were threatened, by the credulity of some and the hypocrisy of others, with a European war as a certain consequence of any coercive measure, however disinterested, which we might adopt for checking crimes sufficient to make the stones cry out.

"Well, intimidation of this kind carried the day, and to the six powers, in their majesty and might, with their armies numbered by millions of men, and resources measured by hundreds of millions of pounds a year, was intrusted the care of the public peace. It was not a very difficult task. There was not a real breath of war in the air two years and one year ago. Now Turkey has a *casus belli* against Greece. Greece has a *casus belli* against the powers. Turkey may have one against them, too, were it to her interest to raise it. So far as Turkey and Greece are concerned, this is no mere abstraction, and Europe flutters from day to day with anxiety to know whether there is or is not war on the Thessalian frontier. It is surely time that we should have done, at least for the present occasion, with the gross and palpable delusion, under which alone can we hope for any effectual dealing by a European concert with the present crisis in the East. It is time to shake off the incubus and to remember, as in days of old, that we have an existence, a character, and a duty of our own.

TURKEY'S PLACE AMONG CIVILIZED POWERS.

"But then we are told by the German Emperor and others that we can only have reforms in Turkey on the condition of maintaining the integrity of the Ottoman Empire. At one time this phrase had a meaning and was based upon a theory—a theory propounded by men of such high authority as Lord Palmerston and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. It was that Turkey, if only she were sheltered by European power from the hostility of her neighbor, was alike disposed and competent to enter into the circle of the civilized powers. The shelter prayed for was assured by the Crimean war. After the peace of Paris in 1856 she enjoyed twenty years of absolute immunity from foreign alarms. In no point or particular save one did she fulfil the anticipation proclaimed on her behalf. She showed herself the match for any European state in wanton expenditure and in rapid accumulation of debt, to which she added the natural sequel in shameless robbery of her creditors. It was at the cost of three hundred thousand lives and three hundred millions of money that the question of Turkey's capacity to take rank among the civilized nations was brought to a conclusive test, negatively, through the total failure of the scheme of internal reform, and, alas! positively through the horrible outrages which desolated Bulgaria and brought about fresh mutilation of the territory.

"INTEGRITY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE."

"It shows an amazing courage or an amazing infatuation that after a mass of experience, alike deplorable and conclusive, the rent and ragged catchword of 'integrity of the Ottoman Empire' should still be flaunted in our eyes. Has it then a meaning? Yes, and it had a different meaning in almost every decade of the century now expiring. In the first quarter of that century it meant that Turkey, though her system was poisoned and effete, still occupied in right of actual sovereignty the whole southeastern corner of Europe, appointed by the Almighty to be one of its choicest portions. In 1830 it meant that this baleful sovereignty had been abridged by the excision of Greece from Turkish territory. In 1860 it meant that the Danubian principalities, now forming the Kingdom of Roumania, had obtained an emancipation virtually, as it is now formally, complete. In 1878 it meant that Bosnia, with Herzegovina, had bid farewell to all active concern with Turkey; that Servia was enlarged and that northern Bulgaria was free. In 1880 it meant that Montenegro had crowned its glorious battle of 400 years by achieving acknowledgment of its independence and obtaining great accession of territory, and that Thessaly was added to free Greece. In 1886 it meant that southern Bulgaria had been permitted to associate itself with its northern sisters.

"What is the upshot of all this? That 18,000,000 of human beings who a century ago, peopling a large part of the Turkish empire, were subject to its at once paralyzing and degrading yoke are now as free from it as if they were inhabitants of these islands, and that Greece, Roumania, Servia, Montenegro, and Bulgaria stand before us as five living witnesses that, even in this world, reign of wrong is not eternal. But still it is dinned in our ears from the presses, and indeed from the thrones, of a continent, that we must not allow our regard for justice, humanity, and freedom of life and honor to bring into question or put to hazard the 'integrity of the Ottoman Empire.' The great and terrible tragedy of Armenia is, however, for the time, I trust for the time only, out of sight if not out of mind. One hundred thousand victims—such is the number at which they are placed by Dr. Lepsius, one of the latest inquirers whose works are before the world, and who adds to other recommendations that of being a German have sated for a time even a Hendish appetite. We wait in painful uncertainty until hunger shall return, and in the mean time even a milder phase of Turkish horrors absorbs the mind and rouses the alarms of Europe.

THE CASE OF CRETE.

"Of remaining fractions of European Turkey, the island of Crete has long been one of the least patient under the yoke. It was here, I think, that in one of that series of rebellions which have lately been placed before the public eye through a letter by M. Gennadios, either two or three hundred Cretans, together with their Bishop, driven by the last extremities of war to inclose themselves in a tower, chose to meet common and universal death by causing it to explode rather than to encounter horrors by which, according to Turkish usage, conquered enemies too commonly have been treated. Into one more of these struggles the gallant islanders have now entered. We have perhaps advanced in this discussion beyond the stage which it would have been necessary to enter largely upon—particulars of the Cretan case having been stated with great force in the letter addressed by M. Gennadios to the *Times*, published in that newspaper on the 15th of February, and still remaining, so far as I know, without reply—but it may be well to point out that the hopelessness of the Cretan case is manifested by a long series of rebellions, in which the islanders, though single-handed, engaged themselves against the whole strength of the Ottoman Empire in a struggle of life and death for deliverance.

"M. Gennadios enumerates the revolts of 1831, 1841, 1858, 1866-68, 1877-78, 1889, and finally 1896. These figures carry with them their own demonstrative efficiency. It is not in human nature, except under circumstances of grinding and destructive oppression, to renew a struggle so unequal. The details of that oppression and of the perfidy with which the pretended concessions to Cretans were neutralized and undermined, and of truly a Turkish manœuvre, by which a Mohammedan minority was sent on from Constantinople to carry on armed resistance to measures of concession, must be sought in their proper place, the histories of the time.

"This simple aggregate of the facts, presented in outline, once for all convicts the central power and shows that it has no title to retain its sanguinary and ineffectual dominion. It is needless to go further. We are really dealing with a *res judicata*, for though not of their own free will, the six powers have taken into their own hands the pacification of the island and the determination of its future. But we must not suppose that we owe this intervention to a recrudescence of spirit and courage in counsels that had hitherto resulted in a concert of miserable poltroonery.

GREECE'S SPLENDID COURAGE.

"A new actor, governed by a new temper, has appeared upon the stage; not one equipped with powerful fleets, large armies and boundless treasuries, supplied by uncounted millions, but a petty power, hardly counted in the list of European States, suddenly takes its place midway in the conflict between Turkey and its Cretan insurgents. But it is a power representing the race that had fought the battles of Thermopylæ and Salamis and had hurled back the hordes of Asia from European shores. In the heroic age of Greece, as Homer tells us, there was a champion who was small of stature but full of fight. He had in his little body a great soul, and he seems to have been reproduced in the recent and marvellously gallant action of Greece.

"It is sad to reflect that we have also before us the reverse of the picture in the six powers, who offer to the world the most conspicuous example of the reverse, and present to us a huge body animated, or rather tenanted, by a feeble heart. We have them before us, it is literally true, a David facing six Goliaths.

"Nor is Greece so easily disposed of as might have been anticipated; and what the world seems to understand is this: that there is life in the Cretan matter, that this life has been infused into it exclusively by Grecian action, and that if, under the merciful providence of God and by paths which it is hard as yet to trace, the island is to find her liberation, that inestimable boon will be owing, not to any of the great Governments of Europe, for they are paralyzed by dissension, nor even to any of the great peoples of Europe, for the door is shut in their faces by the 'concert of Europe,' but to the small and physically insignificant race known as the Greeks. Whatever good shall be permitted to emerge from the existing chaos will lie to their credit and to theirs alone.

"Is it to be wondered at that Greece should have endeavored to give aid to the Cretans? As often as they rise in rebellion and their efforts, due to Turkish blindness and bad faith, are encountered by lawless cruelty, they fly in crowds to Greece, which is their only refuge; and that poor country has to stand and stand alone between them and starvation. As to their Turkish masters, it is not to be expected that they should find any cause for uneasiness in such a state of things, for ever since that evil day, the darkest perhaps in the whole known history of humanity, when their star reeking with gore rose above the horizon, has it not been their policy and constant aim to depopulate the regions which they ruled? The title of Turkey *de jure* is, in truth, given up on all hands. In the meagre catalogue of things which the six united powers have done, there is this, at least, included, that they have taken out of the hands of the Sultan the care and administration of the island.

INTERVENTION THUS FAR.

"If Turkey has the proper rights of a governing power, every act they have done and are doing and their presence in Canea itself is a gross breach of international law. It is the violence, cruelty, and perfidy of Ottoman rule which alone gives them any title to interfere. The intention which has been announced on their behalf, an announcement incredible but true, is that when the Greek forces should have left the island the Turkish soldiery, the proved butchers of Armenia, the same body and very probably the same corps and persons were to remain as guardians of order in the island. But the six powers have no more right than I have either to confer or to limit this commission unless the Sultan by his misconduct has forfeited his right to rule. Autonomy, too, being announced for Crete, and not by his authority but by theirs, Crete being thus derelict in point of lawful sovereignty, does all reversionary care for it fall to the six powers? Are we really to commence our twentieth century under the shadow of a belief that conventions set up by the policy of the moment are everything, and that community of blood, religion, history, sympathy, and interest are nothing?

THE CRETANS ARE GREEKS.

"How stands the case of Crete in relation to Greece? Do what you will by the might of brute power, 'a man's a man for a' that,' and in respect of everything that makes a man to be a man, every Cretan is a Greek. Ottoman rule in Crete is a thing of yesterday, but Crete was part of Greece, the Cretan people of the Greek people, at least 3,000 years ago; nor have the moral and human ties between them ever been either broken or relaxed; and in the long years and centuries to come, when this bad dream of Ottoman dominion shall have passed away from Europe, that union will still subsist and cannot but prevail, as long as a human heart beats in a human bosom.

"In the midst of high and self-sacrificing enthusiasm the Greek Government and people have shown their good sense in pleading that the sense of the people of Crete, not the momentary and partial sense, but that which is deliberate and general, shall be considered. The Greeks have placed themselves upon a ground of indestructible strength. They are quite right in declining to stand upon an abstract objection to the suzerainty of Turkey if it so pleases the powers. Why should not Crete be autonomously united with Greece and yet not detached in theory from the body of the Ottoman Empire? Such an arrangement would not be without example. Bosnia and Herzegovina are administered by Austria, but I apprehend that they have never been formally severed from the overlordship of the Sultan. Cyprus is similarly administered by Great Britain and European history is full of cases in which paramount or full sovereignty in one territory has been united with secondary or subordinate lordship in another. I quote the case of Cyprus as a precedent, and I apprehend that so far it is good, while I subjoin the satisfaction I should feel, were it granted me before the close of my long life, to see the population of that Hellenic island placed by friendly arrangement in organic relations with their brethren of the kingdom and of Crete.

"But in thus indicating a possible solution I claim for it no authority. I exclude no other alternative compatible with the principles which have been established by the situation. These I take to be that, by the testimony alike of living authority and of facts, Turkish rule in Crete exists only as a shadow of the past and has no place in the future; and that there is no organ upon earth, subject to independent provisions on behalf of the minority, so competent or so well entitled to define a prospective position for the people as that people itself.

"Further, it remains to be recognized that, at the present juncture, Greece, whom some seem disposed to treat as a criminal and disturber, has by her bold action conferred a great service upon Europe. She has made it impossible to palter with this question as we paltered with the bloodstained question of Armenia. She has extricated it from the meshes of diplomacy and placed it on the order of the day for definitive solution. I can remember no case in which so small a State has conferred so great a benefit.

DON'T TALK OF COERCING GREECE.

"As to the notion that Greece is to be coerced and punished, I hardly like to sully the page on which I write by the mention of an alternative so detestable. It would be about as rational to transport the Greek nation, who are in this as one man, to Siberia by what, I believe, is called an administrative order. If any one has such a scheme of policy to propose, I advise his proposing it anywhere rather than in England.

"Let it be borne in mind that in this unhappy business all along, under the cover of the 'concert of Europe,' power and speech have been the monopoly of the Governments and their organs, while the people have been shut out. Give us at length both light and air. The nations of Europe are in very various stages of their training, but I do not believe there is a European people whose judgment, could it be had, would ordain or tolerate the infliction of punishment upon Greece for the good deed she has recently performed. Certainly it would not be the French, who so largely contributed to the foundation of the kingdom, nor the Italians, still so mindful of what they and their fathers have undergone; and, least of all, I will say, the English, to whom the air of freedom is the very breath of their nostrils, who have already shown in every way open to them how they are minded, and who, were the road now laid open to them by a dissolution of Parliament, would show it by returning a Parliament which upon that question would speak with unanimity.

"Waiving any further trespass on your time by a repetition of apologies, I remain, my dear Duke, sincerely yours, W. E. GLADSTONE.

"CHATEAU THORENC, CANNES, March 13."

HELP FOR THE MOSLEMS.

A British Warship Going to Rescue a Turkish Garrison.

CANEA, March 18.—The British warship Barfleur has sailed hence for Kissamo, some twenty-five miles to the westward. It is supposed that she has been ordered there for the purpose of embarking the Turkish garrison, which, numbering 300 men, has been besieged by insurgents for several days. It is said that the Turkish position at Kissamo is surrounded by 500 insurgents.

TO CLOSE CRETE ON SUNDAY

EVERYBODY INFORMED THAT THE BLOCKADE THEN BEGINS.

The Troops of the Powers Will Be Posted All Around the Island—No Greek Vessels May Enter the Ports, nor Other Craft Without Permission—Greek Warships Must Leave, Peaceably or Otherwise—A Greek Schooner Bearing War Supplies Sunk by an Austrian Gunboat—Indignation in Athens.

CANEA, March 18.—The Admirals commanding the fleets of the powers here have cabled to the representatives of their respective Governments in Constantinople notifying them that the blockade of the island will be inaugurated on Sunday.

Warships will make a cruise around the island, delivering to the inhabitants of the chief ports proclamations declaring that the powers intend to establish autonomy in the island, and that the blockade will begin on the day specified.

It has been decided that the foreign troops who are to be landed to carry out the purposes of the powers shall be assigned to different places. The French troops will be placed at Sitia and Spinalonga, the British at Candia, the Russian at Retimo, and the German at Suda Bay and Canea. It has not been reported where the Austrian and Italian forces shall be placed.

ATHENS, March 18.—In the Boule to-day M. Skouzes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced that the foreign Admirals in Cretan waters had issued a proclamation declaring that a blockade of Crete would begin at 8 o'clock on the morning of March 21—Sunday next.

After that time no Greek vessels would be allowed to enter the ports of the island, and the vessels of other nations desiring to enter must first obtain permission from the Admirals.

The announcement by M. Skouzes that the blockade would begin on Sunday was received calmly. The Chamber and the people generally are resigned to this action on the part of the powers, believing that the attempted imposition of autonomy on the Cretans will prove futile, and that the island will ultimately fall to Greece.

A number of prominent Cretans who are now in Athens say that their property has been destroyed by Moslems, and that they will never return to the island. They could never have the slightest confidence in the novel regime that is proposed by the powers, and believe that an autonomous government initiated by force of arms would never be self-sustaining, and that the latter end of it would be worse than the first.

The Greek troops in the island are in a position, so far as supplies are concerned, to hold out for an indefinite period, notwithstanding a blockade.

As soon as the Greek Government learned that it was the intention of the powers to blockade the island, large quantities of provisions, munitions of war, medicines, and all supplies necessary for an army in the field were hurried forward.

During the past week great quantities of these supplies have been successfully transferred to the troops.

Greek sailors are confident that the blockade will not prove effective against their superior knowledge of the coasts of Crete. They assert that they can and will easily run the blockade, and land whatever cargoes they carry.

LONDON, March 18.—The *St. James's Gazette* says that the foreign Admirals have requested Greece to withdraw her warships from Cretan waters before Sunday, otherwise force will be employed to compel their departure.

EXCITEMENT IN THE COMMONS.

Mr. Balfour Declines to Answer Questions on Greece Which Are Put to Him.

LONDON, March 18.—In the House of Commons to-day Sir Charles Dilke, Liberal, asked whether a blockade of the ports of Crete had been declared by the powers and whether Germany had declined to employ her forces in the interior of the island.

Mr. John Morley, Liberal, asked whether Greece had been invited to accede to the terms of the identical note of the powers before the blockade of the ports of Crete was instituted.

Mr. A. J. Balfour replied that the British Minister at Athens, Mr. E. H. Egerton, had been instructed to notify the Government of Greece that a blockade of Cretan ports would be instituted.

In reply to Sir Charles Dilke's other question Mr. Balfour said he had no information that Germany had declined to send troops to Crete. Germany thoroughly agreed with the policy of the powers.

Mr. Morley asked if this technical notification was what M. Meline, the French Premier, referred to in his recent speech in the French Chamber of Deputies.

Mr. Balfour—I don't know. I must say that it is not satisfactory to answer questions put by gentlemen who embarrass the Government as much as they can by questions inside and speeches outside of the House. [Loud cheering by the Conservatives.]

Sir William Harcourt, amid Liberal cheers, protested against Mr. Balfour's censuring the opposition members who sought legitimate information. He then proceeded to say:

"Lord Salisbury referred to Premier Meline's speech and we must have an answer thereto. That reference, made in the House of Lords, contains the only information that has been given to this House or to the country. [Cheers.] I again ask, M. Meline having stated that Greece would be reinvited to accede to the terms of the note of the powers, and that the ports of Crete would not be blockaded nor the number of European troops in the island increased until Greece had been again notified, whether that has been done?" [Liberal cheers and great excitement in the House.]

Mr. Balfour refused to make any explanation concerning M. Meline's speech, and said that if Sir William Harcourt wished to move a vote of censure on account of his refusal let him name the day. [Conservative cheers.]

THE SULTAN'S NEW SCHEMES.

His Plans for Administrating the Empire to Be Considered by a Council.

LONDON, March 18.—The Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Post* telegraphs that a great council of Ministers, ex-Ministers, ex-Grand Viziers, and other exalted officials will be held in the Yildiz Kiosk to consider a new scheme of the Sultan's for the administration of the empire.

The correspondent adds that Jemalleddin Effendi, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, has turned over to the Government the reserve fund destined for extraordinary measures.

The Porte is massing troops on the Austrian frontier. All the Mustafiz reserves have been summoned to join the colors.

Extreme distress and much sickness prevail in the provinces. The populace is greatly exasperated because of the universal calling of the reserves to arms, and disorders among the peasantry are threatened.

The Armenian Patriarch, despairing of the Porte's promises ever being fulfilled, resigned his office, but the Sultan refused to accept it and promised that further concessions would be made to the Armenians. His Majesty asked, however, that the granting of these concessions be delayed until after Easter.

VIENNA, March 18.—The Austrian Government has made a protest to the Porte against an assault made by a Moslem upon the Austrian Consul at Uskub, European Turkey, and a companion. It appears that the Russian and Austrian Consuls, with a friend, an Italian subject, were sitting in a cafe when a Moslem rushed in with a knife in his hand and attacked the Austrian Consul and tried to stab him. The Consul repulsed his assailant, who then turned upon the Italian and stabbed him in the side, wounding him seriously. The Austrian Consul was not hurt.

GREECE EXPECTS WAR.

The News of the First Shot on the Northern Frontier May Come at Any Moment.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 18.—The obscurity which has clouded the Cretan crisis from the first still continues. Greek advices are all to the effect that war is considered inevitable, and it will be welcomed by the entire nation. Everybody in Athens is in hourly expectation of the news that the first shot has been fired on the northern frontier. The impression, even in western Europe, is that nothing short of a great naval demonstration and the threatened bombardment of some important Greek town will prevent an outbreak of hostilities against Turkey. It is difficult to believe that the British Government, in any event, will participate in or sanction such an extreme measure.

The situation in England has been changing rapidly during the last twenty-four hours. Sir William Harcourt's speech last night has at last arrayed the Liberal party in sharp opposition to Lord Salisbury's policy in the East. Mr. Gladstone's letter will shape and solidify public opinion. There are indications, however, that the question will rapidly become a party one and that much confusion and bitterness will result. This was plainly manifested in the House of Commons to-night, where there was a scene of the greatest turmoil which has been witnessed since the most rancorous days of the Home Rule debates.

Speculation as to the turn of events at Athens and Constantinople is vain. No hint has yet been given which affords a clue to the motives and purposes of the great game that the world is watching with the keenest interest.

SANK A GREEK SCHOONER.

Nearing Crete with War Supplies When an Austrian Gunboat Fired on Her.

VIENNA, March 18.—The Government has received advices that the Austrian gunboat Sebenico has sunk a Greek schooner with a cargo of munitions of war and a number of Cretan insurgents on board.

The Sebenico, under the orders of the British Admiral commanding the British squadron in Cretan waters, was patrolling off Cape Dia, Crete, when the schooner hove in sight. The schooner was hailed by the gunboat and the insurgents on board in reply opened fire upon the Sebenico, whereupon the latter turned her guns on the schooner and sank her. The crew of the schooner swam ashore. None of them was injured.

LONDON, March 18.—A despatch from Rome to the *Daily News* says that Greece will protest against the firing upon and sinking of the schooner. She will claim that the action of the Austrian warship was arbitrary, the place where she sank the schooner not being directly under the protection of the powers, and will also protest that the warship was not warranted in firing upon the vessel, as there was no blockade declared or established at the time.

The despatch adds that the incident is regarded in Rome as being significant, inasmuch as it is considered proof that the concert of the powers is perfect. This had the effect of causing a rise in prices at the Bourse.

It is reported in Rome that the insurgents refuse to accept autonomy and demand that Crete be annexed by Greece.

ATHENS, March 18.—The news of the sinking of a Greek schooner by an Austrian warship in Cretan waters caused the greatest excitement and indignation here, which was not tempered by the information that the crew of the vessel has escaped to the shore uninjured.

The newspapers voice the opinion of the public when they denounce the action of the warship as a crime against civilization by the nations which claim to lead the world in humanity. On every hand can be heard the bitterest denunciations of all who had to do with the sinking of the vessel.

CANEA, March 18.—It is learned here that the schooner was landing stores when she was approached by the warship. The latter sent boats to intercept the schooner's boats and forbade them to approach nearer to the shore.

There were a large number of insurgents about the place where the schooner intended to land her cargo, and when they saw the boats leaving the warship they divined what their intention was, and poured a lively fusillade in their direction with rifles and cannon.

The boats, however, were out of range of the guns on shore and no one was hurt. Accounts differ as to whether the schooner fired or not, but a majority of them concur in stating that she did.

At any rate the Sebenico quickly trained some of her guns on the insurgents ashore and very quickly silenced their fire. At the same time other of her guns were fired at the schooner, which sank shortly thereafter.

The Austrians here are filled with the greatest resentment at what they term the insolence of the Greeks in daring to fire upon the Austrian flag.

TROOPS ON THE WAY TO CRETE.

The Powers Will Make the Island Look Like a Military Camp.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 18.—A Russian steamer, conveying a battalion of troops to Crete, has passed through the Dardanelles.

ROME, March 18.—The Italian warship Eridano, with 600 troops on board, will start for Crete to-morrow.

TOULON, March 18.—The French transport ship Auvergne, having on board troops, arms, stores, &c., destined for Canea, Crete, is aground, and it has been necessary to land the men and stores in order to float her.

The Auvergne got afloat this afternoon, and the work of reëmbarking the men and stores was immediately proceeded with.

ATHENS, March 18.—It is reported here that Russia is arranging to land troops in Macedonia.

HARCOURT WILL CARRY A MUSKET.

Liberals Must Uphold the Only Policy Consistent with England's Honor.

LONDON, March 18.—At the meeting of the Council of the National Liberal Federation at Norwich to-day, Sir William Harcourt expressed hope that the opinions collected at last evening's meeting of the Federation could be relied upon as samples of the policy which the Liberals were prepared to pursue in this great crisis of the reputation of the English nation.

He said that in the glorious fight against Lord Beaconsfield, from 1876 to 1878, he had carried a musket, and he was ready to do so again. The recollection of that fight, he said, ought to sustain the Liberals of to-day in upholding the only policy consistent with the honor and fame of England.

GREECE'S HISTORIC FLAG

Unfurled in the War of Independence, and Now Will Float Again.

ATHENS, March 18.—The historic flag, the standard of the Cross, which was raised by Prince Alexander when the war of independence began in 1821, resulting in freeing Greece from the Turkish yoke, will be formally handed to the regiment commanded by Crown Prince Constantin upon the occasion of its departure for Thessaly. The flag has been kept in the monastery of Labria since the close of the war of independence.

PROCLAMATION OF THE ADMIRALS.

They Hold Out to Crete the Promise of a Good Time Coming.

CANEA, March 18.—The proclamation issued by the foreign admirals, announcing the conditions under which autonomy will be granted to Crete, promises the adoption of measures to regulate the workings of complete autonomy for the island and guarantees to every one, of whatever race or religion, perfect liberty and security of property. The proclamation concludes by saying:

"A new era is opening for Crete. Let all persons lay down their arms. The powers count upon the co-operation of Christians and Moslems alike to aid in the task which promises to insure order and prosperity."

A FIGHT ON THE TARIFF.

INDICATIONS THAT THE BILL WILL BE OPPOSED IN BOTH HOUSES.

Republican Senators and Representatives Think the Rates on Lumber and Copper Are Too High—Possibility of a Fight in the House Against Limiting Debate to Ten Days.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Some of the Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee are not pleased with all the features of the Dingley Tariff bill. They express the same opinion about it that Mayor Strong did yesterday, and criticise it as having fixed the rates of certain schedules altogether too high. The rates on certain products are much higher than the producers themselves desired. This is particularly true of the rates on copper and lumber, which were especially referred to by the Senators above quoted as showing that the bill is not altogether a revenue raising measure, as its authors have claimed. About the time of the inauguration the Northwestern lumbermen were very much surprised to learn that the bill provided for a duty of $2 per 1,000 feet on white pine lumber. This is double the rate of the McKinley law of 1890, and a committee representing the most extensive dealers in the Northwest came to Washington to see the committee. They explained that they had not presented themselves at the hearing granted on Dec. 31 to those interested in Schedule D, covering wood and manufactures of wood, because they had no idea that the rates contained in the proposed Dingley bill of last year would be ignored and the McKinley rates of 1890 doubled. This committee made an earnest protest against the proposed rate of $2 per 1,000 feet on white pine lumber, and in the name of business firms representing an annual product of 750,000,000 feet, or more than the annual importation from Canada, protested against the proposed duty as prohibitive, as unwarranted by our forestry conditions, and as not justifiable before the people, who must see a good plain reason for the attacks upon the roof tree. Among the members of this committee who came to Washington was ex-Gov. Rich of Michigan, and among the signers of the protest were the names of Alger, Smith & Co., the senior partner being the present Secretary of War.

There are many Republicans in the House who are not only bitterly opposed to many features of the Tariff bill, such as the lumber schedule, but who are inclined to support the complaint of Democratic members, that ten days of debate would be crowding the thing altogether too close, and they are now considering the advisability of making a fight in the House when the proposed rule governing the time of debate shall be brought up. Many of the Representatives who are in this frame of mind are included in the list of those who on the opening day of the House attempted to defeat the plan for the adoption of the Reed rules. They are not especially numerous, but they can make themselves very troublesome if they adhere to their present intention. At present, however, it is the purpose of the Speaker and his lieutenants of the House to close debate on the last of the month whether or not their plan is agreeable to the minority, then to pass the appropriation bills that have failed and do nothing further until the Senate shall have acted upon the Tariff b