

## THE YEAR ABROAD.

## Leading and Significant Events Transpiring in 1880.

Nothing in the history of foreign lands during the past year has been so worthy of attention, or so fortunate for the world, as the shift of power in England from Disraeli and the Tories to Gladstone and the Liberals. England, of all the European powers, is the one to which the world looks for a policy friendly to liberty and governed by reason. But under the guidance of Lord Beaconsfield the opening year found her engaged in a series of selfish intrigues and more selfish wars of aggression, which were called a vigorous foreign policy. Its close finds her in the old place of honor, as a nation which in the main aims at doing righteousness, and honestly in love with fair play, though not always able to see what is fair play. Her policy towards Japan, China and the Trans-Republic still stains her escutcheon, and the delay in her evacuation of Afghanistan, as well as her decision to profit by the aggressions of the late Ministry in Southern Africa detract from the world's respect of her change of policy. But in the main her face is in the right direction, and it is the whole world's gain.

Mr. Gladstone's worst problems are not in South Africa but in Ireland. As the year opened, the Irish Land League was a small and rather insignificant organization, struggling rather hopelessly to check the eviction of tenants in the famine-stricken districts of Western Ireland. It was located chiefly in Connaught, with some branches in Munster. It is now confessedly the first social power in Ireland. It has filled the three Southern provinces with its organizations, and is spreading into Ulster, in spite of the resistance of the larger portion of the Orangemen. It has enlisted the people of the towns in its battles for the defense of the tenants. It has stopped not merely eviction, but also the payment of any rent except that based on Griffith Valuation, upon which Irish taxes have been levied. And it has rallied the great majority of the Irish people, not even excepting the Roman Catholic Clergy, to the support of the principle that the Landlords must give place to a peasant proprietorship. All this has not been effected without some of those unhappy excesses that generally attend great popular movements which are not under government direction. But, taken altogether, the Irish people have shown a degree of self-control far in excess of what their best friends expected. Neither the prosecution of their leaders, nor the presence of thirty thousand soldiers in Ireland, has availed in the least to stop the advance of the League, or to provoke the people to violent resistance of the civil authorities.

The influence exerted by the Irish agitation upon English opinion is matter of conjecture. As in previous instances, and especially as on the eve of the last election, it is possible to mistake London opinion for that of England at large. There seems no reason to doubt that Mr. Gladstone still commands the support of the people of England in his judgment that great reforms of the Irish land-laws must be effected before peace is restored to the sister island; and that if the resistance of the Peers makes a dissolution necessary, they will sustain him by a majority equal to that in the present House. The present session of Parliament may be expected to be one of unusual excitement. That which followed the last election was such. The struggle over the bill to check evictions in the famine-stricken districts of Ireland, brought all party antagonism to a head, and the rejection of that bill by the Peers did much to provoke an intense excitement in Ireland. It also did much to lower the popular regard for the Upper House, and to make its abolition or modification a matter of general public discussion.

The Republic of France has had a year of secondary excitements, which serve at once to show how well the new government is planted, and also how little the wisdom of its statesmen is accomplishing for its permanence. The frequent rise and fall of cabinets has made the Ministers of the Republic matters of public jeers as puppets of a power greater than themselves, while it is felt on all hands that the President of the Corps Legislatif is the power that controls the destinies of France. We think he is using the power to no good purpose. So far from seeking to conciliate the elements which, in France, are unfriendly to the Republic, he has managed to divide the French people more than ever before, through the violent suppression of the religious orders, while he has robbed the republic of a great body of liberal sympathy in lands where Liberalism and persecution are still regarded as antithetical terms.

In Germany there are signs of changes for the better and for the worse. Like all the other champions of strong government, Herr Bismarck seems to grow more despotic as he grows older. He has, indeed, abandoned the war of some years past upon the Catholic Church, and is striving toward a *modus vivendi* with the hierarchy. But his attitude towards the socialists, and the tendencies to repression and restraint shown in all his recent measures, as well as his persistence in the policy which makes an armed camp of the country, are all of evil omen for personal liberty. He is not responsible, however, for the new anti-Jewish crusade which has found a voice in the Imperial Parliament. The patrons and promoters of that movement are to be sought rather among those

who are jealous of the Chancellor than among his friends and supporters.

The condition of the people in Germany is reported as altogether miserable. The period of stimulation and feverish excitement which followed the war of 1870 has passed away, leaving a prostration which the country feels more decidedly than Americans can realize. The social suppression of the military laws is growing constantly more intolerable, and large emigration to our own country and Brazil is a natural consequence. That this great military establishment may be needed at a moment's notice is quite true. It is not many years since a renewal of the invasion of France was seriously contemplated, and was only prevented, or shall we say postponed, by the intervention of the Czar. All Central Europe is armed to the teeth, in the expectation of a great continental war; and such expectations often bring about their own realization.

In Russia the year opened most gloomily, and it closes most gloomily, although in some important respects the auspices are more favorable. The change of the methods of government, represented by the accession of General Loris Melikoff to a power all but despotic, has removed the danger of social anarchy through the success of the Nihilists. The Armenian dictator, by doing away with the oppression exercised by the secret police, rallied the people of the great cities to the support of the government, and made the excesses of Nihilism no longer possible, in fact, by removing many of the motives which prompted them. On the other hand, the failure of the crops in considerable districts of the empire has caused a degree of distress little short of famine, and effecting millions of people. But this is a temporary evil, which the government can alleviate and one good harvest will correct, while the plague of Nihilism might have lasted for ages. The credit of the reforms effected by Melikoff is due in the first instance to the Czarowitch, whose accession to power—probably early in 1881—will open a new era for the empire. Indeed, it is notable that the three principal heirs apparent to European thrones are all much more liberal in sympathy than the present occupants of those thrones.

The Eastern question has not advanced much nearer to a solution during the year. Bulgaria has settled down under a regular government, but has not abandoned its purpose of securing the addition to its territories of the province created at Berlin, and named Eastern Roumelia. Montenegro has secured through the aid of the European Concert, the tiny addition to her tiny territory which the Berlin Congress promised; and Greece has had fair warning that whatever she gets of the territory awarded her by the late Berlin conference she must take by the sword. Within the Turkish territories there is no improvement upon the disorder and prostration produced by bad government. The Turks suffer, and the Christians are oppressed almost beyond endurance, so that the Armenians have leagued together for the common defence.

In northern Europe, the unevenful history of the Scandinavian peninsula is enlivened by something like a crisis in the chronic disagreement between Norway and her Swedish king, and it seems not impossible that the most democratic of the kingdoms of Europe will soon seek for independence, if not for a Republican form of government.

The defeat of the Beaconsfield Ministry put a period to a large plan for the rearrangement of England's relations to her colonies. Proposals were under discussion for making the British empire a vast Zollverein, with a tariff upon both raw materials (including food) and manufactured goods brought from other countries into any part of the empire. In this way it was hoped that Canada would be given the English market for grain, and Australia that for wool, while these and other colonies would procure their manufactures exclusively from the British Islands. There is no reason to believe that Mr. Gladstone will listen to such proposals, although they seem to have dazzled his predecessor in office. But the promoters of the scheme have not ceased their agitation for it, and a convention in its interest is to meet in London next month. The history of the colonies, if a colony can be said to have history, is uneventful. In the Dominion there has been a steady growth of dissatisfaction in the coast provinces on each side of the Continent, and the effort making to have the Canadian Pacific railroad finished is meant to remove this dissatisfaction in British Columbia. On the whole, the year has not been one of great events abroad, while it has been one rather of gains than of losses for mankind. The reign of "right, reason and the will of God," while not visibly and swiftly hastened during its course, has made advances enough to cheer us with hope for the future.

## Having His Money's Worth.

They had just the loveliest sleighing in Philadelphia all last week, says an exchange, and young Keeptup was out enjoying it all one afternoon. When he drove into the stable, oh! but the man was mad. He roared when he looked at the horse, and danced around, and, as Uncle Remus says, "he cuss, he did."

"Look at that hoss!" he wailed. "Look at that hoss! Ain't a dry hair on him, an' he's nigh ready to drop. That's a pretty lookin' way to bring in a hoss. Nice man, you are, to let a good horse to!"

Young Keeptup was fairly astonished. "Man alive!" he yelled, picturing his amaze-

ment in his voice, "and what did you expect when I hired him? When a horse is costing me an even \$5 an hour, he's got to keep moving, you understand. When I'm paying out more than 8 cents every minute, I can't afford to let no horse lean up against an ice-box while he figures out the oat crop of the United States for 1880. I did my level best to keep my whip arm warm, and then I couldn't get more than \$4.25 an hour out of him. I didn't hire the horse to rest him. Now, if you had only charged 15 cents an hour, I would have had the horse fed every thirty minutes, while I was out, and I would have rocked him to sleep in my arms, wrapped him up in blankets, and laid him in the sleigh and hauled him back to the stable myself. That is the difference, you see, Mr. Silk-cracker. Here's your money, and I want the same horse, or a better one next Saturday afternoon, if the snow holds on."

## FLOATING FANCIES.

A study in oil: The attempt to get a sardine out whole.

The most afflicted part of the house is the window. It is always full of panes, and who has not seen more than one window-blind?

"I'm afraid the bed is not long enough for you," said the landlord to a seven-foot guest. "Never mind," he replied; "I'll add two more feet to it when I get in."

"Take back the lovetheon gav'st me," she sang. It was a love of a bonnet, but didn't match her complexion, and she wanted him to exchange it for one that did.

A newspaper gushing over a recent painting, says: "In front stands a rustic maiden, wrapped in her own thoughts." The scene is laid in latitude 1 degree south.

The English newspapers are dishing up Irish stew: the French newspapers, Or'istmus pie; the German newspapers, jewjew paste; the American newspapers, cabinet pudding.

Nautica—Husband (jokingly)—"Oh, I'm the mainstay of the family." Wife—"Yes, and the jibboom, and the—and the," Small boy (from experience)—"And the spanker, too, mamma."

It is proposed to connect the royal residence of Great Britain with the ministerial quarters. Her most gracious majesty, with a receiver at her ear and a scowl on her face, as she shouts "Hello! hello!" is a picture for a painter.

Teacher—"John, what are your boots made of?" Boy—"Of leather." "Where does the leather come from?" "From the hide of an ox." "What animal, therefore, supplies you with boots and gives you meat to eat?" "My father."

Dr. X., who has been in the habit of visiting Mme. A. three times a week as medical adviser, was rather taken aback the other by the servant who answered the bell, saying: "Mme. A. will be unable to see you to-day, doctor, because she is sick."

"I want you to put a new pair of heels to these boots," said Dr. Ipecac to the shoemaker. "Why don't you do it yourself, doctor?" asked old Waxends. "I?" said the doctor in astonishment. "Why, yes. Does not the good book say, 'Physician, heal thyself?'"

"What, call this the aquarium!" cried Uncle Peter, as he gazed upon Cetewayo's sylph-like daughters and their dusky-skinned attendants. "Aquarium! I should have thought it was the Zoological gardens." We took the old man tenderly but firmly to the the Underground railway and stretched him in front of a Hammersmith train.

A queer freak of a plant is spoken of by an Indiana paper, which says that a wild clematic vine has forced its way through a brick wall into the south parlor in ex-Mayor Miller's residence in that city, and is growing like a thrifty house-plant. It came into the parlor between the wall and the mop-board, and is now over two feet high.

"Mr. O'Rafferty," said the Galveston recorder, "the witnesses all say you kicked this gentleman and called him all manner of vile names." "I don't know what happened, your honor. If I did that I am very sorry, indeed." "Yes, you ought to regret it very much." "I do, indeed. It's only with me own family that I take such liberties, and if I have been tratrin' such an ill-favored scoundrel as if he was a member of me own family, I'll regret it to the last day of me life, I will."

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