

The Call

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THE OZAR AND THE KAISER.

WHILE reports from various capitals in Europe concerning the Macedonian muddle continue to be contradictory and confusing, it is becoming more and more evident that the only unknown factors in the problem are the Czar and the Kaiser.

Reports from Russia are too vague to mean anything, and even should a definite statement emanate from that quarter it would hardly help us to an understanding of the situation.

For Russian statements and Russian intentions do not always agree. As for the Kaiser, it is sufficient to note that his Government has refused to sign the joint manifesto with Great Britain, Austria and France.

Evidently, then, the Kaiser has either decided to play a lone hand, or else he is going to assist the Czar.

Just what mutual interest there may be between the Kaiser and the Czar in the Macedonian disturbance is not easy to see.

The Germans and the Russians do not like one another, and their antagonisms have been increased of late by tariff retaliations.

Moreover, their Asiatic enterprises have been antagonistic. The Germans have obtained a concession from the Sultan to construct a railway from the Bosphorus to the Persian Gulf, and for the purpose of heading it off the Russians have obtained a right of way from Persia to build a branch road from their Central Asian line southward to the gulf.

For ages past the Russians have aimed at an ultimate control of the Bosphorus, but now the Germans have virtually assumed a domination over the banks and railways of the Turkish empire and have a strong interest in preserving it.

Thus there are abundant reasons for conflict between the two powers and very little in the way of a common interest.

It is of course quite possible that the very menace of antagonism between them has led the Czar and the Kaiser to arrange a compromise and an agreement in dealing with the problem.

If they have done so, it will be useless to speculate as to the terms. Those Governments are not in the habit of taking the public into their confidence, and speculation would be lost in an effort to guess by what arrangement the interests of either of the powers could be conserved in Turkey should the other be permitted to have its way.

For a long time the jingoes of Germany have been forecasting the creation of a "Greater Germany," and maps have been published to show its extent.

One of the maps, recently published by the National Review, presented a vast empire made up of Germany, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Austria and Hungary.

This empire is to extend from the Baltic to the Adriatic, and from the German Ocean to the frontiers of Russian Poland.

It contains a country which at present has upward of 100,000,000 of people. It dominates all Western Europe and constitutes an empire that would serve as an effective counterpoise to Russia no matter how she may develop in the future.

Kaiser Wilhelm can hardly be suspected of planning the attainment of such an empire by giving Russia a free hand in Turkey.

An attempt to carry out the scheme would precipitate one of the most gigantic wars in the history of the world.

Clearly such an empire is one to be dreamed of, but not to be worked for. It may please the stalwart jingoes of the fatherland to discuss it over their beer and their pipes, but it would require something of a madman to think of it as a possibility, and for all his extraordinary speeches the Kaiser has shown himself to be anything rather than a madman.

In the meantime while speculation halts at the problem of an alliance between the Kaiser and the Czar on the Macedonian problem, the force of circumstances is steadily tending toward a point where they will be compelled to play their hands out.

The Macedonians and the Bulgarians appear resolved to put an end to diplomacy in the closet, and force an open recognition of their claims.

The Sultan, on the other hand, appears to be as ready for war as any of them. He has a good army well equipped that is ready to fight without pay.

He whipped the Greeks very easily and he believes he can whip the Bulgarians and Macedonians with an equal facility.

In that belief he is doubtless right, but the powers that left Greece at his mercy will not be so indifferent toward Macedonia. The situation, therefore, is really threatening, and will so continue as long as the will of the Kaiser and that of the Czar remain unknown factors in the problem.

The Central American states which are striving to raise the storm and stress of a war cloud over themselves should leave nature attend to their differences.

The volcanoes in the pesky region seem able to do all the killing that is necessary to preserve peace if not prosperity.

DISCIPLINE AND TORTURE.

BETWEEN punishment which ends in the enforcement of discipline, and the infliction of that excessive punishment which becomes torture, the distinction is wide and plain to see. It ought not to be difficult for any one to note it and to keep it in view when giving consideration to the general subject of prison administration.

It appears, however, that the recent disclosures concerning the use of the straitjacket in the State prisons have had the effect of confusing a good many people, and unless care be taken to recall attention to the wide difference between discipline and torture, we may have either a legislative restriction that will seriously interfere with prison discipline, or else none at all, leaving the way open to excessive punishments.

The Call was first to expose the cruelty of the straitjacket punishment as sometimes applied. Every charge made by The Call has been amply sustained by the evidence submitted to the legislative committee of investigation, and confirmed by the official report of that body.

There ought to be no great difficulty in devising a means of preventing torture while leaving ample room for the exercise of punishment as a means of enforcing discipline. It is for the Legislature to make such provision. If the subject be approached calmly and judiciously it will be an easy task.

On the other hand, there be an effort to satisfy sentimentalists on the one side, or to ignore the barbarities of excessive punishments on the other, the result is certain to be unsatisfactory. Either the prison officials will be deprived of powers absolutely necessary to the government of the prison, or else no restriction will be put upon them at all.

The evils that have followed the use of the straitjacket in many cases are to be deplored. Something must be done to prevent anything that may even so much as approach the torture of an unfortunate inmate of the prisons, no matter how vicious and dangerous he may be.

A New York newspaper having referred to Marconi as an "Anglo-Italian," an indignant correspondent wrote to warn the editor that if Marconi ever hears of the matter he will give the editor a thrashing, for Marconi's mother is Irish; and thus do well-meaning men get into trouble when trying to pay compliments to distinguished foreigners.

MASSACHUSETTS BIRTH RATE.

PRESIDENT ELIOT'S recent report for Harvard University is marked by two salient features. First, a plea for denying admission to professional schools to all applicants who have not taken the degree of bachelor of arts; and second, a statement based upon reports from six classes graduating from 1872 to 1877, inclusive, that Harvard men are not begetting children enough to reproduce their numbers.

The latter statement has produced the greater impression upon the public, and to some extent has been misrepresented. In the report itself President Eliot gives a detailed statement in tabular form of the number of marriages and the number of children for each of the six classes, the totals being 881 graduates, of whom 634 are married with 1262 surviving children.

President Eliot goes on to add: "The table suggests further that the highly educated part of the American people does not increase the population at all, but on the contrary fails to reproduce itself. If many other colleges and universities publish class reports analogous to the Harvard reports, a competent statistician might establish from the assembled reports some interesting and important conclusions."

It will be seen President Eliot does not assert positively that the more highly educated classes do not reproduce themselves, but only that the Harvard graduates do not. It is quite probable that statistics of the graduates of universities in other sections of the country would show quite a different state of things.

Almost simultaneously with the publication of the Harvard report there was published the annual report of births, marriages and deaths registered in Massachusetts. The one throws a good deal of light upon the other. A summary of the report on the birth rates says: "The rate, calculated on the estimated population of 2,870,710, is only 25.07 to 1000 of the living population, less than that of the previous year, and the least since 1882.

by marriages, 17.34 to 1000), is scarcely more encouraging, for it is less than the rate of the previous year, and shows a decrease of .42 below the average rate for the ten-year period just closed. The death rate during the year (16.82 to 1000), is the least since the year 1851, so that the excess of births over deaths (8.26) is favored by other conditions than increase in number of children.

It is noted further that in Massachusetts the children of foreign born mothers are largely in excess of the children of native mothers, so that the showing is much better than it would be were not Massachusetts helped out by immigration.

A lecture on the philosophy of Hindostan told a woman's club in New York the other day that in the lore of the Brahmins there are recorded eighty-seven ways by which a woman can get rid of a lover, but it is safe to say none is better than the American woman's way of tapping his pocketbook incessantly for caramels and ice cream.

ALTON B. PARKER.

OWING to the vigor with which Judge Alton B. Parker of New York is being recommended as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in 1904 there has developed a good deal of curiosity concerning him.

Under such circumstances it is impossible to keep Parker any longer as a dark horse. Diligent search has been made of his record and his life is now being made known to the public.

The reviewer says: "The history of Alton B. Parker's boyhood and youth reads like the history of the boyhood and youth of ninety-five out of one hundred other lads."

Parker was born in Cortland County, New York, and studied at Cortland Academy, afterward graduating from the Albany Law School in 1871 and beginning the practice of law at Kingston, which has ever since been his home.

It is rather late in the day to boom Parker as the man who was instrumental in nominating Cleveland, and the assertion sounds much like a fish story, but it must be borne in mind that something has to be said for Parker, and as the things that can be well said are few, his friends must be permitted a large liberty in the eulogies.

During the New York faction fight between Cleveland and Hill, Judge Parker sided with Hill and was rewarded by appointment to a vacancy in the Supreme Court and afterward to a position in the Court of Appeals. In 1897 he was elected Chief Justice of that court. Then the reviewer adds: "Aside from the judicial positions mentioned and his campaign work for his friend, Mr. Benedict, in the latter's Speakership contest, Judge Parker's active participation in practical politics has been limited to his efforts as chairman of the executive committee of the Democratic State Committee during Mr. Hill's successful 1885 campaign for the Governorship."

That is the total of the man's political record. For the rest we are told that his physique is splendid; that he looks not more than 40; he is at ease in any company, and has the faculty of adapting himself to any surroundings. It is a happy faculty to have, and if the Judge has any eager desire to be President, he might as well rejoice in his ability to adapt himself to defeat.

A curious illustration of the petty spite and jealousy that exist in high society circles in Washington is found in the recent report that a grand reception at the White House was made as uncomfortable as possible for everybody by the officer in charge for the purpose of discrediting the alterations made by the architect.

The Pennsylvania Legislature is discussing the advisability of reducing the State poll tax from \$1 to 20 cents. As voters are required to pay the tax before they can cast a ballot, it is believed the bill is in the interest of economy, as it will make it much cheaper for the bosses to fit their gangs for the exercise of the franchise.

While Carnegie is dispensing millions for libraries, Croker is buying race horses, and of the two the latter is doubtless getting rid of his money the quicker and is least in danger of what Carnegie called "the disgrace of dying rich."

ETHEL KITTREDGE WEDS YOUNG BUSINESS MAN



BUSINESS MAN AND SOCIETY GIRL MARRIED YESTERDAY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY HEBENTHY.

A quiet but charming home wedding was that of Miss May Palmer, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George H. Palmer, to Dr. Richard F. Tomlinson at the home of the bride at 9 o'clock last evening.

The bride was beautiful in heavy white satin and duchesse lace. Her filmy tulle veil was fastened with orange blossoms and she carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley. She was attended by Miss Mary Barker, maid of honor, who was becomingly gowned in white chiffon with lace embroidered in spangles, and carried carnations.

The bridesmaids, Miss Eleanor Warner and Miss Grace Holt, were also gowned in similar creations of white chiffon and lace. Miss Kittredge was charming in white lace over silk with garniture of lavender velvet and pearls.

The Misses Mary and Gertrude Jonsenly gave a very pretty luncheon to a number of their young friends at their home yesterday. Among those present were: Miss Ruth McNutt, Miss Buckley, Miss Allen, Miss Emily Wilson, Miss Maud Bourn, Miss Mary L. Ford, Mrs. William Dean, Miss Katherine Herrin, Miss Elsie Sperry, Miss Moore, Miss Genevieve King, Miss Hazel King, Miss Spreckels and Miss Jolliffe.

Annual Cornell Dinner.

Former members of Cornell College held their annual dinner last night at the California Hotel. About fifty were seated around the tables at which covers were drawn at 6:30 o'clock.

To Refund Duties.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The Senate Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico has favorably reported the House bill to refund the amount of duties paid on merchandise brought into the United States between April 1, 1899, and May 1, 1900, and also on merchandise brought to the United States from the Philippines between April 1, 1898, and March 1, 1902.

The reception given last Thursday afternoon by Mrs. E. C. Prier and her daughters, Miss Linda and Miss Lucy, at their residence on Scott street, was most successful and enjoyable.

The national president of the Woman's Relief Corps, Mrs. Ludusky Y. Taylor, of Minnesota, will be the guest of honor at a reception at Utopia Hall to-day from 3 to 6 p. m.

Mrs. Joseph Masten will be at home on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Levene announce the engagement of their daughter, Lena, to Daniel Harns of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Spreckels have taken apartments in the Oliver Hotel.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Flakes of Dandruff on the Collar and Shoulders of a Gentleman in Full Dress.

This is the thing you quite frequently see in the ballroom—a man's black dress coat literally covered with dandruff. It must be annoying to the wearer, and certainly not a pleasant thing to observe. But dandruff can be eradicated. It is a germ disease that will some day cause baldness.

ALHAMBRA RINGS WITH SCOTLAND'S SWEET MELODIES

Even to the whiskies on the programme of the "Kitties" concert yesterday everything was the bravest of brave Scotch. Mascagni Sunday, and William F. Robinson, Gordon Highlander, with a regiment of bonnie Scotchmen at his heels yesterday at the Alhambra—so the baton wags. And 'twas a piquant and suggestive contrast.

Forty men at least there are in the band, in the full glory of the Gordon Highlanders' regimentals. They make a brave show as they march on with military precision, with their tartans and kilts of Gordon plaid, their calrgonnies and their phibags adorned their hands and feet.

The "Kitties" virtue in chief is precision; that they reach to a most creditable degree. There are many excellent executants in the band, playing with full, sweet, sure tone and large technical facility.

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PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. D. Smith of Livermore is at the Palace.

L. L. Green, the Oroville banker, is at the Grand.

Dr. R. F. Winchester of Santa Barbara is at the Palace.

A. W. Ferguson, a large landowner of Colusa, is at the Grand.

Louis Conrade, a mining man of Marysville, is at the Russ.

S. Potter, who owns a large ranch near Martinez, is at the Grand.

W. C. Ruddle, a cattleman of Lovelocks, Nev., is at the Russ.

A. T. J. Reynolds, a fruit grower of Walnut Creek, is at the Lock.

A. W. Ferguson, executive secretary for the Philippine Islands, and his wife and son arrived from the East yesterday and are registered at the Palace.

William A. and Robert A. Pinkerton, the well known detectives, are due here in a few days.

Miss M. White, who is said to be one of the wealthiest young women in New South Wales, is a guest at the Palace.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 203 California street. Telephone Main 1042.

ARE YOU READING THE LEOPARD'S SPOTS? By THOMAS DIXON JR. BEGAN FEBRUARY 22 AND WILL BE CONTINUED IN : : : : Next Sunday's Call. The Tenderest, Most Dramatic Book of the Age. Read the Short Story Series. Read The "Colonel Kate" Papers.