

GLADSTONE'S WRATH.

THE fact that the Hon. W. E. Gladstone lost his temper in the House of Commons the other day is being widely commented upon. Although the irritation he exhibited was vented in language most unusual to the great statesman, explosions of temper have not been so uncommon with him as is generally supposed. But none of his contemporaries has ever been capable of enraging him as was the late Lord Beaconsfield. The latter always presented, outwardly, at least, the appearance of absolute imperturbability. He was master of the English language, never failed to discover the weak points in the argument of an antagonist and never missed an opportunity to pick it to pieces by cold-blooded volleys of logic mixed with sarcasm and irony. Gladstone could not endure such a mode of assault, and occasionally resented it indignantly. We have in mind an occasion when Beaconsfield had, in debate, demolished one of Gladstone's splendid speeches. The latter replied in great fury. After he resumed his seat, Beaconsfield, who sat on the opposite side of a large table from his opponent, prefaced his reply in language somewhat as follows: "And the gentleman gets up and addresses me in language that is, to say the least, most extraordinary in this house. And then his manner is so remarkably excited. Not that I care for the heat he displays; but really I sometimes think it fortunate that he is separated from me by a good broad piece of furniture."

A SIGNIFICANT PAMPHLET.

THE pamphlet entitled "Ruth of Austria," the authorship of which is attributed to Bismarck, is said to be causing a great deal of comment in Europe. If it has really emanated from the ex-Chancellor, it may well create not only deep interest but wide anxiety in some quarters of the old world, because of the significant character of its contents. It favors an alliance of Germany with Russia and Italy, and states that the Prince would, should a crisis threaten, favor the permitting of Russia to carry out her minutely mapped out traditional programme of marching to Constantinople through Bulgaria.

Should a storm arise that would render the breaking of the peace of Europe inevitable, there would doubtless be a popular demand throughout Germany for the recall to power of Bismarck. In that event any theory he may have matured in his mind would carry. And if the pamphlet in question represents his

opinions, there would be one of the most threatening attacks upon the British Empire to which it has ever been subjected. Constantinople in the hands of Russia would give to the latter power an anti-British strategical point of vantage of overwhelming importance. Such an eventuality would bring on such a situation as would render a lasting peace a remote possibility for many years.

We live in a time when nation is conspiring against nation and war rumors are constantly afloat. These conditions are perhaps but the rising of the wind before the bursting of the storm of uncontrollable fury.

Since the foregoing was in type, a St. Petersburg dispatch has come to hand which states definitely that a treaty for offensive and defensive purposes has been entered into between England and Italy. The European plot thickens.

THE DEEP CREEK EXCITEMENT.

It has become an established trait of the population of this inter-mountain region to go to extremes. Conservatism is disdained. Enthusiasm and excitement are conspicuous elements in most moves, especially of a financial nature, that affect any considerable portion of the community. Real estate, if operated in at all, must be "boomed." If a railroad is projected, there must be an excitement raised and continued in regard to it, long before any work is done. Of real estate and railroad "booms" the people of this section have seen so much during recent years that it might be supposed they would become less mercurial in regard to them.

But there is an element in our population that delights in, if it does not subsist upon, these abnormal conditions of enthusiasm and excitement; and it is ever ready to seize upon the slightest opportunity, or most slender material, for creating a "boom." It is an element that lives largely by its wits, and flourishes best when other people lose theirs.

The real estate excitement in this city has been declining for over a year, so that, at the present time, there is only about a normal amount of business being done in that line, and the tendency of the market is steadily downward, shutting off opportunity for speculation, though the drops in prices are not as sudden nor as great as might have been expected from the height at which the excitement ran, a year and a half ago. A new subject for a "boom" was wanted, and Deep Creek was seized upon, and is being utilized for all it is

worth, even though its wealth be as great as reported.

Now the Deep Creek country may be, and probably is, rich in mineral wealth. But it is a long distance from a base of supplies, and lies in the midst of a forbidding desert. Subsistence will, therefore, be very expensive. The lack of water is an especially serious drawback. Men who go there to make their fortunes will need capital to start with. In view of these facts, and others of a moral rather than a financial nature, it may be well for men who have comfortable homes, farms, or reasonably lucrative employment to inquire, before abandoning the same for Deep Creek, which is likely to pay best in the long run, to stay where they are, or go off on an uncertain hunt for a sudden fortune?

Our view is that men who have homes, families and employment, or who are settled in life with reasonable comfort and a fair prospect of permanency, would do well to let those who are in a better position to do so develop the mines, while they stay at home and cultivate the social and domestic virtues, and share in the general prosperity which flows to the community at large from the opening up of any source of wealth.

THE SCATTERED REMNANTS.

THE *Mail and Express*, of New York, has a very instructive article on "Jewish Facts and Figures." It deals principally with the Jews in Russia, but glances incidentally at the race all the world over. It appears that within the Russian pale of Jewish settlement, which includes Western Russia, Little Russia, and South Russia, there are 2,920,639 Jews. These figures are taken from the report of the Pahlen Commission. It professes to give the actual population, but the *Mail* thinks it fails to do so, by 30 per cent. Outside the pale 800,000 Jews live. In Russian Poland there are 1,178,000 Jews. This makes an aggregate of 5,000,000 of Jews under Russian dominion.

The total number of Israelites in the whole world is estimated at 9,000,000. Of these about 7,500,000 live in Europe. Next to Russia Austro-Hungary has the largest contingent, the number being 1,650,000. Germany has 500,000, England 100,000, France 80,000, Holland 80,000, Italy 50,000, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden have but a few thousands each. Spain and Portugal have only 1500, and most of these live at Gibraltar, under the British flag.

In Eastern Europe the Jews are