

so we snatched up several uv the hot-headed leaders, tuk 'em off, tied 'em an' locked 'em up till the election was over. Yes, sir, ef we had er let them fellers have their way ther would er been fraud, fur the most uv Lane's men in this neighborhood is too ignurant to vote, no-how. I tell you that election frauds is gittin' too thick, an' they oughter be stopped. Why, over at Hensley's store we had ter kill four uv Lane's men. They swore they would vote whuther ur no, an' our boys jest nachully had ter settle 'em."

#### Terrible Eyes.

Two men possessed eyes whose cold glance seemed to read the scheme of any opponent from their inception to their completion, and whose recollection haunted those on whom they had been turned, for years afterwards—as in each case contemporary witnesses have left on record—even when no result of any injurious character followed. One of these was Richelieu. Probably no man ever ruled a kingdom more despotically, yet, on the whole, more successfully when surrounded from first to last by a multitude of enemies perennially increasing, yet in every case foiled by the minister's giant intellect. Yet very much of this success was due to the idea that Richelieu knew far more than he actually did of the conspiracies of his foes, and that, therefore, it was useless to plot against him beyond a certain point.

Certain it is that when he entered the council room and gazed with full, cold, fixed glance on the most astute plotter who was there for examination, the most hardened and ingenious conspirator, for whom the torture chamber had no terrors, cowered under the silent scrutiny, and ultimately poured forth a full confession, under the idea that a great part, if not all, was already known—and did so simply under the mesmeric power of those much feared eyes of the cardinal.

To have been under the hostile gaze, no word or sign added, of Richelieu was to secure a memory which for years after gave the possessor of it, however changed the scene and circumstances might be, a thrill of most unpleasant personal fear. And a very analogous case within the memories of our own time can be adduced. It is that of a man who certainly, as far as personal advantages went, was every inch a king. With Herculean frame and inherited beauty of manly features, he had that dignity which, as was noticed by another royal hand, seemed to spring from the sense of unlimited power, which the same observer mentions as particularly characteristic of the large, full eyes. It is of those eyes that we have more to add.

Not only did they imply a long experience of unlimited sovereignty, but they spoke in tones of terror to all those on whom they were bent in anger. For those who were intimate with the ways of the Russian court have unanimously recorded how much of influence in the shape of absolute fear there was in the eyes of the Emperor Nicholas. He

looked at culprits or suspected culprits with his slow stare of anger, and the unhappy wretches felt, in a very different sense from that in which the phrase was originally used, "under the wand of the enchanter." But large as were the Czar's eyes—the Romanoff inheritance from their beautiful, statuesque German ancestress—there was no brilliant or sparkling glance of ire when they were directed toward an offender.

On the contrary, those who have had most experience of them describe them as being dull, cold, almost fish-like in aspect. Stolid as the gaze was, none recorded in history ever produced more terrorizing effects on its objects. In many cases where there was any real ground of offense, the person at whom the Czar in his accustomed silent fashion was looking, frequently, did not wait to be interrogated, sometimes was hardly suspected; but, like the victim of Richelieu, as just mentioned, poured forth a full confession, under the gaze of the phlegmatic sovereign. Thus, in both the case of Richelieu and Nicholas, the influence of fear in their eyes was more subjective than objective, and operated by the potency of strong minds over weak ones—not so much from any active aspect of anger at that particular time.—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

#### EUROPEAN TOPICS.

The abdication of King Milan of Serbia has somewhat changed the aspect of affairs in the East. At the present moment the influence of Russia seems to be in the ascendant throughout the Balkan Peninsula. Both in Roumania and Serbia the Russophile party control their respective governments, and Bulgaria is evidently fast escaping from the hands of Prince Ferdinand and his prime minister. On the other hand Austria seems to have lost influence in the East; even her hold on her own Province of Bosnia is none of the strongest. The sword of Damocles, suspended by a single thread, aptly describes the position of affairs in south eastern Europe, and a serious outbreak may occur there at any moment. If there should happily be peace in these volcanic regions for some time longer, it is simply because it is the pleasure of Russia to restrain her numerous partisans, and the present moment is deemed unfavorable for letting loose the dogs of war.

There are those who assert that Count Kalnosky, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has not been equal to the situation; but if such be the case it is not the Count's policy has collapsed but that of Prince Bismarck himself. It is well known that ever since the Count's accession to power he has received his foreign policy from Berlin, and no doubt it is this fact that keeps him in the undisturbed possession of his office.

The railroad enterprises of Austria in the Balkan States, while greatly benefiting those countries, do not seem to be greatly appreciated by the people. The Servians, like the

inhabitants of the other Balkan States, are drawn toward Russia not only by the powerful force of religious sympathy, but also by the fact that parliamentary institutions among these primitive populations are totally incomprehensible. The stern rule of the sabre is what the people of the Balkans have been accustomed to for a thousand years. The complicated machinery of constitutional government seems as much out of place in Bulgaria, Roumania and Serbia as it would be in the Soudan or Timbuctoo, and therefore it is not to be wondered at that it has turned out an egregious failure. Everyone has heard of the terrible atrocities committed by the Turks against these people, but it would seem that the greatest atrocity ever perpetrated on either Bulgarians, Roumanians or Servians was to endow them with constitutional government.

Then, again, the Bulgarians, Roumanians and Servians want the right to persecute all religions except the orthodox Greek Church. Russia would willingly grant this, and likewise the right to appropriate the property of the rival Roman Church to their own purposes. To this Austria will never accede; hence alienation from her. However, the influence of these new railways and consequent commercial intercourse with other nations are beginning to be felt. There are those who believe that in the near future a confederacy of petty States will be formed from what was formerly the northern portion of the Turkish Empire.

"The first and most distinguished of my royal titles is 'Margrave of Brandenburg.'" These words commence a recent speech of the Emperor William II. at a banquet in that province. People are not always inclined to look with complacency at the small beginnings of their fortune. It is therefore all the more to the honor of the German Emperor that he puts into the foreground the comparatively humble origin of his race. It is a long way from a "Margrave of Brandenburg" to a German Emperor, and even a Hohenzollern may well be proud of the achievement. What, it may be asked, was there in a Margrave of Brandenburg that he should not only have escaped the fate of so many German Princes, but should practically have absorbed them all. The world asks, "Was it luck, or was it genius?"

The new city government of London is beginning to awaken to the agitation for the improvement of its internal affairs. Since the accession of Queen Victoria the population of the great metropolis has more than tripled itself, and is still augmenting at the rate of more than one hundred thousand souls per annum. In proportion as the population has increased the rich have become richer and the poor poorer. The words of the Lord Chancellor uttered at the Mansion House on a recent occasion are pregnant with truth and common sense. "There is hardly a more serious danger that any na-