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LULL IN THE STORM.

Sometimes when the "war of elements" is most furious a sudden lull will come, and the storm will cease for a few moments, only to again burst forth with renewed violence. Such it seems is the condition of the political elements throughout the nations. But a short time ago the elemental strife was waxing strong, and the storm that had poured its pitiless fury on several nations, seemed about to burst in unmitigated force upon other of the great powers of the earth. But a sudden lull has come; too sudden to be lasting. It is not the result of calm reflection, the exercise of reasoning power, an understanding that war is a terrible curse upon mankind, nor a desire to live in peace and promote universal happiness. As the nations were swayed by an influence, unaccountable to themselves, which impelled them to rush madly to carnage and slaughter; so the quietness that is now manifest does not indicate that the blessings of peace are any more appreciated than they were. Like the lull in the storm, there are evident symptoms that the cessation of strife is very temporary, and that the renewal will be more terrific and deadly than before.

There is no more genuine amity among the nations, nor among the parties in nations, than there was. In our own country there are the evidences of a temporarily exhausted wrath among conflicting parties; but with a renewal of vigor there will be renewed onslaughts upon each other, as bitter as any preceding ones. Loss of power and place have wounded the pride and inflicted a pecuniary loss upon one party, which can not be forgiven and will continue to cause a struggle that can only terminate with their return to power, or their all but total extinction as a party. Their opponents who exercise sway and govern according to the power they possess, have won a certain prestige and hold the reins of authority as they have never done before. Phase succeeds phase in the aspect of the great question that has agitated this nation for years, and no sane man would venture to say that the strife of warfare had entirely ceased and that the turbulent feelings still existing were being soothed and quieted. Before the next presidential election there may be elicited an amount of bitterness and strife that will culminate in blood.

The condition of Europe indicates more a preparation for strife than a state of prolonged peace. Kings will be on apparently the most amicable terms; governments have friendly relations existing between them; alliances be made between crowned heads and royal families; yet, for as trivial a matter as would set school boys by the ears, they will cast off the claims of friendship, relationship, and the welfare of their subjects, and involve millions in war which must increase taxation, misery, sorrow and mourning throughout the countries subject to their sway.

For the present the Paris Exposition occupies a large share of public attention on the other side of the Atlantic. The Luxemburg question is said to be settled, Napoleon and the King of Prussia having signed the treaty; and so the active belligerents on that continent are the Turks and Candians. Both sides in that struggle keep claiming victories; and the Sultan has refused to cede Candia to any other power. Meantime, France continues to increase her armaments; Prussia is adding to her military forces, while the lately united elements of Germany are not very willingly pliable in her hands; England is building monitors and iron-clads, and endeavoring to make her volunteers serviceable against traitors at home, as the reform question keeps growing, and the people are not slack in giving utterance to republicanisms that savor very strongly of treason to the ultra loyalists. And Russia is on the watch, husbanding her colossal strength for a terrific attack on her foes, and an extension of her dominions in a southeasterly direction, when opportunity offers.

Altogether, the present lull is a very significant one; and invites inspection of the political horizon to see from what point the next burst of the storm will come.

THE CRETAN REVOLUTION.

The Cretan question gains in importance by the persistency, courage and success with which the Candians maintain the contest against foes so much superior to them numerically. Still, the reports from the seat of war do not have the freshness of novelty, even though they are but few, which characterized them some months ago. All that we learn of the matter from the dispatches is an occasional reference to the progress of the revolution, or the announcement of something the great European powers have to say or do concerning it. According to one of these not long since Russia, France and Britain had concluded not to interfere between Turkey, Greece and Candia, which, if true, is simply another exposition of that policy which permitted Poland to be blotted from the map of Europe, while its dismembered portions swelled the territorial bounds of Russia, Austria and Prussia.

Nevertheless, the Cretans declare their intention of continuing the contest, until they secure their severance from Turkey and their union with Greece. And great as the odds are against which they have to contend, the Turks have found in them a determined and active enemy, well capable of continuing the unequal contest with prospects of being victorious in the end. So serious has the Porte deemed the revolt that Omar Pasha, admittedly the best general of the Turkish Army, was not long since assigned to the command of the forces operating in Candia; and it has been reported by telegraph within a few days that he has been defeated.

The Turkish army in Crete is estimated between forty and fifty thousand men; while the organized force of the insurgents, Greeks, Cretans and volunteers, is under ten thousand. In numbers, then, the disparity is fearful; but the insurgents have the advantage of strong positions in the mountains, from which the Turks have been unable to dislodge them; and while the war is carried on with vigor on both sides, the Cretans declare that now they will be satisfied with nothing short of the Turkish rule being entirely withdrawn and the island being united to Greece.

Nine years ago, in 1858, the Candians sought by appeal to the Sultan for a restoration of rights of which they had

been deprived, and for the honoring and fulfilling of a decree of 1856, which professedly guaranteed religious liberty to all Christian subjects of the Porte; at the same time professing their willingness to remain loyal to him. In June of the same year a decree was issued which promised them a fulfillment of their requests. But this decree was soon practically ignored, and they were again forced to endure the tyranny and oppression complained of before. Thus matters continued until April, 1866, when representatives of the people assembled in a deliberative body, and after consultation respectfully prepared another address to the Sultan, making some very moderate demands of rights, most of which humanity and interest should have dictated the granting of without their having to be asked for. But after three months delay they were refused, and the representatives were commanded to disperse to their homes or they would be dispersed by force of arms. To arms, then, they appealed, and the contest has raged since with varying success, but mostly on the side of the insurgents. Greek volunteers aided and still aid them; and numbers of the destitute families of the insurgents have been carried to Greece in neutral vessels, although the Turks have kept up a nominal blockade.

Thus the question stands to-day, and apart from the interest which is elicited by a people contending for liberty against almost overwhelming odds, there is the interest attached to this revolution that it may eventually stir up the very difficult "Eastern question," and give it an aspect even more forbidding, than it was over the affair of the "Holy Sepulchre." If Russia, France and Britain have concluded not to interfere, leaving Greece and Candia to contend with their common enemy, the most plausible solution that presents itself of their so doing is, that Russia believes Greece can still more weaken Turkey, now tottering with feebleness; and that the long coveted territory will then fall into her hands much easier and cheaper than by provoking a war with Britain and France; for it is scarcely credible that the traditional policy of Russia for an extension towards India can have been foregone by so astute, shrewd and ambitious a monarch as Alexander has proved himself to be.

Those powers may deem it policy for the present to let the Christians of Crete battle unaided against their former masters, except whatever assistance they receive from Greece; but that part of the Turkish empire known as Asia Minor is destined to play so important a part in the history of a not very distant future, that it is probable diplomacy may fail to preserve their being embroiled in some way concerning or with the power that now holds possession of it. And whether the ostensible cause of that embodiment be the "Holy Sepulchre," the Cretan revolution, or something else, one thing is certain, that instead of less there must be more liberty enjoyed in that, if not in other parts of Turkey, before the prophecies can be fulfilled; and another thing seems almost certain, that concessions of liberty must be wrung from the Porte, or Palestine must pass into other hands, before the degree of liberty requisite for the gathering of the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem can be secured.

This Cretan question may seem to some a trifling one, but it is not the number engaged in the revolution that gives it the significance which it possesses; it is the fact that grave interests may be touched, before it is got through with, which will stir to activity the

great powers; and also that a principle is involved which is not circumscribed by the waters of the Mediterranean that wash the shores of Crete,—the great principle of mental liberty, the right to worship God free and untrammelled, the right to be a man before the Maker of men; and that principle grows daily; it gains ground slowly, but surely; it is being felt through all the nations of the old world, and it shakes the provinces of the Turkish empire where Christians reside until the whole fabric feels the convulsions.

We cannot help watching with interest anything that bears so directly on the condition and future prospects of Syria or the Holy Land, seeing that so many predictions concerning it stud the pages of the prophets,—predictions that must have their fulfillment before many years have passed away.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Bishop E. F. Sheets spoke of the increased privileges and blessings which the Saints are enjoying now over those which they had in the past; of the great blessings which all who live the gospel are sure to receive; and of the breadth and completeness of the plan of salvation.

Bishop E. D. Wooley referred to his early labors in the ministry, and the success with which the Lord had blessed his efforts. The knowledge of the gospel is increasing, and the Lord in many ways is bringing the minds of the Saints to an understanding of the principles of life and salvation. He advocated observing the Word of Wisdom, and reasoned in favor of educating the young in all sciences and branches of education, that they, with the knowledge of the truth and the power of God added thereto, may be mighty in presenting the principles of life in places where it has not yet reached, and in accomplishing the purposes of the Lord.

AFTERNOON.

Elder W. H. Hooper was glad to meet with the Saints once more, and glad to have the privilege of again being with his family and friends at home. He spoke of his sojourn in Washington, as Delegate from this Territory; and, referring to the feelings that exist among the leading men of the nation concerning the inhabitants of Utah, he was pleased to say that the people of this Territory were beginning to be better understood; the strong prejudices which have existed against us are yielding to a more correct understanding, and there is a desire to accord us credit for that which we have accomplished by industry, energy and perseverance. He spoke of the blessings enjoyed by us; of the vast developments which this Territory displays, and of the query that involuntarily starts in the minds of intelligent persons, when they hear of these developments from reliable sources. "Have not the Mormons been maligned and slandered?" He exhorted the Saints to live pure and holy before God, obeying His commandments, that we may continue to receive the blessings which the Lord bestows upon the faithful.

President B. Young spoke very highly of the faithfulness and labors of br. Hooper, while absent as Delegate from the Territory at Washington. He referred to the increase of faith and good works among the Saints, and to the strictness with which they are observing the Word of Wisdom, without any special effort being made to impress its observance upon them; and instructed the people in various matters pertaining to their duties as Latter-day Saints.

THE WEATHER.—Friday Morning:—

Great Salt Lake City, pleasant, but cloudy.

By Deseret State Telegraph Line:—

Logan, pleasant, warm and very cloudy; looks like a storm.

Ogden, very cloudy, disagreeable underfoot, prospects of another shower; it rained nearly all last night.

Provo, cloudy, with rain at intervals.

Payson, cloudy, pleasant and somewhat cooler than common. Rained some last night; looks like more soon.

Nephi, very cloudy, shower here last night; appearances of a storm soon.

Manti, cloudy and cool; looks like a storm soon.

Fillmore, pleasant but cloudy.

Cove Creek, quite cloudy, and looks like a storm.

Beaver, very cloudy and pleasant; prospects of a shower before long.

Parowan, rather cloudy but pleasant, indications of rain.

Kanarra, a little cloudy but pleasant; slight breeze from the south.

Tokerville, very pleasant, with a slight south wind; a few hovering clouds.

St. George, cool and pleasant, with a few scattering clouds.

Monday noon:

Great Salt Lake City, cloudy and showery, has rained more or less since Saturday morning.