

consolation is found in the great doctrine of the "survival of the fittest," and so the work is continued.

It is not often that the victims of un-Christian missionary efforts have intelligence enough to protest against the corruption of their brethren by the signs of civilization, but when this protest is being made, as it was during the congress of religions in Chicago and now by the learned Buddhist Dharmapala, the fact is brought home to all thinking persons that a time must come when Christian nations will have to account for the way in which they have used the talent that was entrusted to their care, also in their dealings with the weaker brethren of the human family.

RUSSIA'S PART IN THE PLAY.

If the statement of the Russian paper *Novoe Vremya* that when the war is declared between Greece and Russia, intervention by the European powers must cease, is to be considered official in any way, Russia's position is clear. It is then evident that that country, notwithstanding appearances, is backing King George and that the czar's government considers the time favorable for reaping the fruit of seed sown in 1895. Early that year, it will be remembered, Russian emissaries were sent to Trapezunt and Erzeroum, and shortly afterwards the storm broke loose that cost the Armenians so many lives. Russian troops were massed on the frontier but nothing further was done.

Russia's manipulations since that time are interestingly reviewed by Bergen's *Tidende*, a Norwegian exchange. That country refused to accede to the proposition of Great Britain to intervene in Armenia in order to end the massacres. It served Russia's purpose to have these continue until the sultan in the eyes of Europe assumed the form of a blood-thirsty assassin. Then came the performance of the well known farce of Turkish reforms, as if the experience of centuries had not sufficiently demonstrated the impossibility of introducing any radical changes in the government in favor of the Christian subjects. From 1895 to 1897 Europe has been entertained by this reform-talk and the stupid allegation that the integrity of Turkey is necessary for the peace of the world. Everybody knows from history that the Ottoman empire repeatedly has been reduced in size, also for the maintenance of peace. But a phrase was needed as a basis for the European concert, and the phrase selected at this time was the integrity of Turkey.

The time, however, came for the consummation of Russia's plans, and the row had to be started somewhere. Crete was evidently selected as a convenient point. Greece was previously prepared for the act she had to take in the play. A military camp had been formed near Thebe and the fleet was being put in shape for service secretly, and when the Cretan insurrection occurred, a squadron was dispatched there with most astonishing expedition for a power that was supposed to entertain friendly relations with all the world.

While Greece was quietly rallying

her war forces, Russia concentrated troops near Odessa and the Black Sea fleet was put in shape for action. The disorders in Crete in January this year were insignificant when compared to the events in Armenia and elsewhere, but they instantly kindled a fire that spread throughout Europe. The outbreak probably was premature, the season for a campaign in Macedonia not being favorable. European fleets gathered in Cretan waters, but nothing was done to stop the atrocities perpetrated under the very bows of the ships. Col. Vassos embarked with his followers, though the admirals easily might have prevented him from doing so. The Greeks ignored both proclamations and shells, and Europe was defiled by a handful of soldiers—a fact that goes far to prove that some of the powers secretly carried on an intrigue against the others. Russia's position was perhaps illustrated in the part her cruisers took in the bombardment on the 21st of February. The Russian admiral fired two shots, one shell hitting a little church at Canes and the other falling alarmingly near an English steamer. It was not the Russians who on that day stained their conscience with the blood of Catholic nuns.

Looking at the position Russia all along has taken, it appears probable that the war now threatening to break out in the Levant really is only a prelude to the great drama in which it is believed Russia is to play the leading role. The fact must at last have dawned upon the understanding of the sultan, for that potentate is reported to have assumed a friendly attitude towards Greece. But if this theory is correct, the Ottoman empire, as far as Europe is concerned, is probably doomed. If Russia advances this time toward Constantinople, she is not likely to retreat.

THE ORIENTAL DRAMA.

The situation in the Levant is slowly developing. At present it appears improbable that a conflict can be avoided. Turks are said to be as eager for an affray as are the Greeks, and as confident of victory. All Europe is in a state of excitement, the nations freely sympathizing with the Christians while the governments hold back the threatening thunders, only because unwilling to assume the responsibility for the first shot.

The key note to the feeling in Europe was given by the Austrian emperor who, in his address to the parliament, almost apologized for the position taken by the allied powers. After having stated that Greece could not count on the sympathy of the governments, he emphasized that Turkey would assume great responsibility if, closing her eyes to her own interests, she would disregard the unanimous counsel of Europe and refuse to correct the abuses that contain the germs of dissatisfaction. Everybody knows that Turkey for years has assumed this great responsibility and carried it with great composure and without serious consequences. The emperor's reference to it at this time may therefore be considered as an admission that the real responsibility in fact rests with the sultan's government, and this certainly is the public opinion every-

where except perhaps in Russia, where no public opinion is allowed to exist.

It is quite possible that civilized Europe ultimately will feel called upon to aid the heroic sons of Hellas to fasten the responsibility where it belongs. A leading Berlin paper has already characterized the Kaiser's Greek policy as "shameful," while another designates it "brutal and absurd." The sentiment in Italy may be judged from the fact that the Italian admiral in Cretan waters has asked for release from his painful position and the popular sentiment in England and France is well known. How long will the governments be able to resist the pressure from below? That is the main question, and when it is considered that the Greeks have the sympathy of public opinion throughout the civilized world, their struggle may not be as hopeless as the magnitude of the undertaking would make it appear to be.

JEFFERSON'S BIRTHDAY.

Yesterday, April 13, was the 154th anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest figures in American history, that being the date of the advent upon this mundane sphere of Thomas Jefferson. The event was fittingly commemorated by a Democratic celebration at Washington in the evening, at which William J. Bryan was present as the guest of honor. Although the political party named claims Jefferson as its paternal source, and thus has some foundation for a partisan celebration, it seems as though such occasions should be held in respectful if not reverential regard by all classes of American people, whatever their politics, religion or station. Jefferson's principles were more national than anything else, and such a thing as classiness never found prominent expression in word or exemption in any act of the great statesman. He was a republican in the national, not the party sense of the word, and a democrat in the dictionary as well as the political meaning of the term—that is, he upheld in the fullest manner possible a republican form of government, and believed and practiced the doctrine of the political and social equality of mankind.

The mind of the student of American history instinctively reverts to the inauguration of Jefferson, when witnessing or reading of the showy demonstrations which have obtained on such occasions in more recent times and under the auspices of all parties. There was then no great pageant made up of brilliantly uniformed cordons of troops; great columns of gallily equipped citizens in vehicles, on horseback and afoot; magnificent decorations everywhere; grand aggregations of various organizations, representing all the interests of the country; and the air filled with martial and other music by bands gathered from every part of the nation—none of these nor any pomp or display of any kind. Mr. Jefferson, having taken the oath of office, bestrode his horse, rode him to the White House gate, and there dismounting tied the animal to the fence, and walked in and took possession in the name of the common people of the land which he honored and had