

THE GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY, NOV 25, 1876.

TURKEY.

the Philo-Turkish Press have so evidently overlooked the mark that they have already discovered the which they have made, and are evidently changing their minds, since they are now in the line in according the Russian programme of a Conference without the presence of a representative of Turkey is beginning to be approved, undoubtably as it must have been. Turkey no doubt, has been secretly encouraged to resist the Russian advance, and to hold out, but not out that when the real tug of war came England would range herself on the side of Turkey. Come what might, we could never consent to see our old ally of the Crimean War dismembered before our eyes. Lord Russell might not be so sanguine as to see Turkey not only not Lord Beaconsfield the real head of the Administration and there could be no mistake on which side his sympathies lay. These friends of Turkey have very nearly caused her to run her head against a stone wall by offering her the aid of the Sultan, but not to do so, no exaggeration to say that the nominal friends of Turkey are virtually her enemies. They are actually, without suspecting it, playing into the hands of Russia, for the only effect of Turkish obstinacy would have been to let the six or seven or eight millions of the Sultan's subjects, and then have her exposed to the full sweep of the storm which was ready to burst on her devoted head. And what a storm it is which is brewing up! It is no use disguising the fact that this time Greece and Slave will be on the opposite directions and will continue to exist neutralise each other. If our recent information be correct which we have no reason to doubt—the preparations for a Greek rising in Epirus and Thessaly are all but complete. Arms are being smuggled into the country across the mountain-passes. Even in the Balkan States, the country, these Greeks of Thessaly mean to hide their time, and wait until the Turkish troops may be all drawn off to face the Russians on the marshes of the Danube. There would have been their opportunity for a rising, and Greek troops would be in the country, these Greeks of Thessaly mean to hold in check the enthusiasm of her own people for the Great Idea. We all know the line about the tug of war beginning when Greek meets Greek. In this case it will be when Pan-Hellenism springs into action, and the Greek people will be so thwarted it, as has hitherto been the case. If those who are interested in the integrity of Turkey, whether financially or otherwise, were well-informed, they would telegraph to the Sultan what Besseler is said to have done to the Sultan of Persia, and say, "Sultan, make peace at any price." A month hence may be too late: we are not sure that it is too late at present. Those late victories of ABER-KHAN PACHA have been draw-bought successes. The Sultan may say like that king of Egypt of old, "I have won the battle, but I have lost the war." But there remains only one more act of obstinacy which will finish him. If he may depend on our sending an auxiliary force to hold Constantinople in the event of Russian victories in Bulgaria, and, as all is possible in war, this event may occur. We may occupy Stambul and turn the Sultan out of his capital. Versus. But if the Sultan supposes that once we there he shall retire and hand him up the key of the Dardanelles, he is egregiously mistaken. The French did not march out of Rome as readily as they marched in, and it was to occupy the city of Rome in 1870 it was to occupy the city of Vienna. It would be the same with our occupation of the capital which could only and in one way and as that would be a very disagreeable result to the Grand Turk, we should say that his tone policy is to make peace when he can.

MARY MAGDALENE.

WHEN we read the story of the poor sister who came searching for her Lord on the first day of the week eighteen centuries ago, it is of the ideal Magdalene we are apt to think with her hair disheveled and elbow on a skull looking penitent perhaps, but not reformed, whom painters have produced in every phase of beauty a thousand times. We have no authority for thinking that she was fair. She may have been old and grey; she certainly was one of the worst of her class—a woman of whom the old wise clerk declared that “her feet like hold on death, her ways go down to hell.” The chronicler had no way to express her vice but by declaring that she

was possessed by seven devils. We take the fancy picture of her into our galleries and drawing-rooms; she and her sins and her repentance are one of the most beautiful and sublime chapters of the wonderful Christian story, as they ought to be. 'But what of the poor wretch is miserable rage or more miserable finery who will pass us in the gas-lighted street to-night?' Is she a subject for the compassion or even notice of our wives and daughters? What has our aesthetic sense to do with her? Where is the pathos, the sublimity in that unclean, vulgar creature? How is Christianity to be brought into relation with her? Yet here is the real Magdalene, that kneeling, inspired subject of Raphael's, the kneeling Magdalene. My dear lady, this woman, though the suburbs of the old Jewish

town of Nain; Nain or England—what matters it? Man's nature and woman's nature are the same in both. Like this poor creature, she skulked out of the sight of decent men, while decent women looked beyond her, as if the space she filled was empty air; she was fit only to be cast out and trodden under foot, and she knew it. Yet when the great Master came she entered the banqueting-room where He sat, strong in her misery and weight of sin, and washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

Do we know that these women, whom it is a shame to even mention, have no weight of misery and sin to bear? The very emotional, temperment which has made them liable to fall quickens their power of suffering. Any one who has attempted their rescue will testify that their remorse is sometimes extreme. Mr. Moody's meetings in Philadelphia chanced to be held near a street where numbers of them lived, and they went constantly to hear him. They would sit down on the benches and sing with eager devotion, seldom using the book, as they knew all the moral-emotional hymns by heart. Of course we be told that the spasms of remorse do not last, that the hymn is forgotten when sung, and that the tears are soon dried.

What then is to be done? The Magdalene is as absolute a fact in England as in Nain. Society has no way of dealing with her but the prison; it is left for the Christian to dispose of her—most terrible of all problems. How did the Master deal with her? He portioned her no austere punishment, laid down no hard lines of duty; the woman capable of logic or of tough adherence to duty for

But he did not censure *her* for excess of abasement, check the wiping of her face, or hint that she was in the habit of doing so. In all this he spoke in infinite compassion. In *His* life He spoke so words more tender than then, when *He* little would shrink back from this poor woman in disgust, "Her sin, which are many, are forgiven: for she loves much." We are constantly told that reformatories for these women fail because they will not submit to prison discipline, strict rules, and orderly routine. But *He* was a reformatory for the women of His measure; He trusted to the "much love" of the woman, and showed that He trusted; she was allowed at once to work for *His* cause with the other disciples. That very emotional nature which had been her temptation was the lever by which she was moved to the best ends. It kept her faithful. She had probably no high conception of *Him*; indeed, she did not; but *He* knew *His* sin against *His* dead, *She*, singing to the cross, saw *His* dead, and, late in the evening followed with *His* mother as Joseph carried *Him* to the sepulchre wherein never before man was laid. Early in the morning she came, not to find a risen

Saviour, but with spices to embalm the body of the one man who had recognized her humanity and treated her as a friend. It is a significant fact that as His birth into the world was first announced to the poorest of the poor, His resurrection, which made life sure to all men who have ever lived, was first made known to this most vile of sinners, who had no claim but her great love. Coming in the early dawn, the "look in the sepulchre. He was not there." "Sir," she said, thinking he was the gardener, "they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him."

These outcasts of ours, whom we count by the thousands, are not willing always to live in the shadow. Sometimes, doubtless, they look into magnificent churches of carved stone, among the gaily dressed worshippers, to find the Friend for whose coming every soul, however lost, hopes. Too often they see only carved stone and linen vestments, and hear unknown tongues. "Sir," they might cry, "they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." Their Lord is not asleep in any sepulchre or church; He is living at work among men. But who will take this later Magdalone by the hand and show Him to her?

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

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hamptonshire. In the early part of the week he had gone down to his country seat; but he has now been summoned up by telegraph. Another Cabinet Council was held on Saturday, and the Ministry will certainly not have a quiet time of it till Christmas, if even then. But where are we drifting to? Apparently blindly towards war. We allow our Prime Minister to utter after-dinner threats to Russia, and laugh at them next day, as the *Times* writes, as if Lord Beaconsfield were a licensed jester at the Lord Mayor's Banquet. We affect astonishment that our words are taken seriously; and so is the old story over again.

The marriage of Lady Florence Leveson-Gower with Mr Chaplin is scarcely over when another alliance of a daughter of a ducal house with a commoner is talked of. In this case it is Lady Hedra Grosvenor, the youngest sister of the Duke of Westminster, who is to become the wife of Mr T. Mervyn Guesst, the second brother of Sir Ivor Guesst. The great Mervyn Ironmaster's family are well settled for some time in Dorsetshire, where the Dowager Duchess of Westminster chiefly resides. In politics it may be said that both families are typical instances of what may be called the non-ferrous reaction. Sir Ivor Guesst is, like most ironmasters who have to deal with strikes and

The Rev. Pelham Dale, who has had to put up with an inhibition served on him at St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, has been brought to a standstill. Like Sir Robert Peel, he sees three courses opening out to him: he may submit, he may accede, or he may

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leaders, a new whip on the box-seat would be desirable.

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What is to become of the Alsatians? That is the mind-boggling question that has been haunting the peace-loving inhabitants of Hoxsey and West Hill. Some say it is going to be turned into a park, others say it is to be a housing estate. In the latter part of the last century in the neighbourhood. If it is really to be the debris of the grounds, I suggest that the crumpled mass should be drained off and be fabled to become green. Others suppose that the London and North-Western railway has designs on it, but surely it is they who are the debris of the past. I think it is more than Euston station? Others, again, think that the Zoological Gardens were about to be built there, but I am sure that the Government suggested to turn the place into a small-pox hospital. This is a proposal which ought to meet with the approval of the people of the nation, who are in such high gear just now. Mr Gladstone's recent letters, which I should like his calmer moments have had almost as much effect as the letters of the other great statesmen, who are in such high gear just now. Why does such a man answer every bumping connoisseur who writes "squeeze an opinion out of him. I have no opinion to give." I think that we must find it very difficult to answer his multitudinous letters, his lordship replied that the difficulty in his case was to decide what to do with the letters. I think that Mr Gladstone's letters are a great deal of a point, it is true, of answering all his letters, however trivial, but his reply to the latter, though it is not a reply, is a very good one. I think that we are hearing behind his compliments. This cannot be said of Mr Gladstone's.

THE LIBERAL PARTY AND THE

PROPOSED NATIONAL CONFERENCE.
The Reform Club has issued the following important information relative to the attitude of the liberal party on the Eastern Question:—"The

liamentary Committee, which was formed late last Session at a meeting under the presidency of the late Lord Salisbury, met on Friday, 12th July, at 10 o'clock, in the House of Commons, Turkey, held an important meeting on Friday afternoon, at Canada Buildings, Westminster. The regulars have been sent out in inferior numbers, and the irregulars have been sent in inferior numbers. It was, therefore, resolved to hold a National Conference in London at an early date, to consider the present means of effecting the desired result.

Question through the concert of the Powers and Nations of Europe, and particularly (1) of obtaining for the Christian provinces of the East the right of free trade with the ports of the direct route of the Porte, with due guarantees for the equal rights of the non-Christian population; (2) and also of diffusing the light of knowledge and civilization among the tribes of the question. It is expected that the first list of conveners will contain about 200 names, including members of Parliament, nobles, members of the House of Commons, and distinguished men of letters, scientists and artists, have already signed the list, and the names of many more members of Parliament, and other notabilities."

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT OLD

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A MINER SHOT AT SEG HILL.

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The deceased was 21 years of age, and was unmarried. The prisoner is 23 years of age, and is a married man having one child.

On Monday an inquest on the body of the deceased was held at Sehill before Mr. Cockerell, coroner. At the close of the evidence the following verdict was returned: "That John Thomas Nuttall did kill Harrow-lane, parish of Cramlington, from a gun shot wound accidentally received by the discharge of a gun in the hands of John Pearson." On Monday night Pearson, who had been in custody since Saturday, was taken before Mr. Alderman Potter, a county magistrate, and the final order of Coroner's jury having been returned, he was discharged. His journey home after the liberation with many demonstrations of joy on the part of friends who awaited the result of the magistrate's inquiry.

WRECK OF A FINE STEAMER.

THE MASTER AND SEVERAL OF THE CREW
DROWNED.

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THE WESLEYAN METHODIST YEAR.

BOOK.

The conventional record for 1876-77 has just appeared, and, as usual, contains a large amount of interesting and authoritative information on many points pertaining to Wesleyan Methodism. We select the following items, which will be of interest to our readers:—The next Conference will be held in Bristol, and will be the thirtieth held in that town. The year following (1878) that important Conference will be held in London. The next will be held in Bradford, in 1882 in Leeds, and in 1884 in Liverpool. The income of the Foreign Missionary Society for 1876-77 was £10,982, the receipts of the Canadian Missionary Society, and the income, as compared with last year, were as follows:—

The operations of the fund and the practical character of the society may be judged from the following summary:—Central or principal stations, 1,000; branches, 1,000; churches, 1,000; parts of the world, 61; chapels and other places

missionaries, including supernumeraries, 797; other paid agents, as catechists, interpreters, day school

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£65,550. The total amount promised to the fund for the extension of Wesleyan Methodism in Great

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FRESH FLOODS IN SCOTLAND.—Sunday night was extremely stormy on the Scotch east coast, and rain fell in torrents, setting the rivers once more in flood. A serious landslide took place on the Milnathwait and Dunfermline section of the North British Railway, completely covering the rails. Further falls of earth, rock, and trees are feared, and great is the accumulation of fall-in material that the line is to be diverted in order to allow a resumption of traffic. The block on the Caledonian system continues, and Sunday night's rain materially interrupted clearing operations.

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