

European.

PUBLIC OPINION ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

[The following demonstrations of public opinion in England on the Eastern question, and the British Ministry, we extract from the London *Non-conformist*.—Ed.]

The threatened demonstrations in support of the independence of Turkey—or rather, in resistance to the aggressions of Russia on the general liberties of Europe—commenced on Monday, the 3rd inst., in the Town Hall, Hanley. The Chief Bailiff occupied the chair. Mr. R. Stevenson moved the following series of resolutions:—

That the actual events in the East have proved that the present Ministry are incompetent to manage the intercourse of nations with due regard to the interests and honour of England, and the acknowledged rights of her allies. That by means of such incompetency the physical power of Great Britain ceases to exist for the maintenance of our interests and the protection of our honour, and that, on the contrary, it comes to be used for ends injurious and fatal to the one and the other. That such a state of things is not endurable and must be altered; that while it endures, freedom is an empty word—government a mockery—and peace or war alike dangerous. That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the Sultan of Turkey for the noble stand he has made against the Russian invader, and the firmness displayed by him on all occasions, notwithstanding the deceptive policy of pretended friends.

A memorial to her Majesty, in the same strain as the resolutions, was also adopted.

The people of Leicester had their meeting on Tuesday. It was convened by the Mayor, Mr. John Manning, in obedience to a requisition signed by 166 of the inhabitants. The speakers were Dr. Noble, Mr. W. Hardy, Mr. J. F. Hollings, Mr. J. Biggs, and Captain Harris. The last-named gentleman said he had visited Turkey more than once, and so lately as four years ago he left the Turkish dominions for this country:—

The Turks have been represented by many of the public organs to be a barbarous people, whom it would be to the interest of Christianity to chase out of Europe. A more fallacious representation was never made. The Turks, he was able to say, were among the most enlightened of European nations, if enlightenment meant high moral principle. He had never met with greater hospitality or greater respect than he, being a Christian, met with in Turkey from all classes. He placed himself frequently among the Turkish soldiers—not among the highest ranks, but among the private soldiers and non-commissioned officers—and he was received with hospitality and kindness, and especially because he was an Englishman.

The resolution declared:—

That the invasion of the Danubian Principalities, and the continued occupation of those provinces by the army of the Emperor of Russia, is an unprincipled act of aggression, contrary to the law of nations, and calling for the most decisive interference on the part of the English people; and that the integrity of the Turkish empire being guaranteed by the most solemn treaties, to which Great Britain has been a party, it is the plain duty of the English Government to fulfil its engagements to the utmost, by preserving her territory inviolate, and by maintaining the Sultan in the full possession of his rights as an independent sovereign.

The metropolitan demonstration was made on Friday evening at the London Tavern. Long before the hour appointed for commencing proceedings, the great room was crowded; and when, at a quarter past seven, Lord Dudley Stuart took the chair, and some hundreds had been turned from the doors. The following resolutions, agreed upon after considerable discussion in committee, were proposed:—

1. That the series of Russian aggressions convinces this meeting that there is in the Russian Cabinet a fixed purpose not only to subdue Turkey, but to dominate over all Europe, and extirpate all freedom. We look upon this as the true reason why no diplomatic settlement of the Russo-Russian quarrel was possible, and we lament that the British Government has wasted most valuable time, damaged the just cause of the Turks, inflicted upon commerce months of needless depression, and (worst of all) has inspired universal suspicion of the good faith of England, in a vain effort to negotiate with an unscrupulous and violent power, which acted while we talked, and which, if now momentarily appeased, would only become more dangerous on some early occasion.

2. That this meeting applauds the glorious patriotic spirit of the Turkish people, at the present crisis, and would deplore any attempt on the part of the British Government to suppress that spirit, as an act of unparalleled infamy; especially considering the many solemn ways in which England has bound herself to maintain Turkish independence.

3. That not only the interest but the duty and honour of England call upon her Government to discard all secret and dynastic diplomacy, and to render prompt, decisive, and effective aid to Turkey.

4. That this meeting is of opinion that Austria, by reason of her previous course of policy, and of her recent perfidious behaviour towards Turkey, ought to be regarded as an enemy by us, and not cherished as an ally.

5. That an address embodying the foregoing resolutions be entrusted to a deputation to be presented to her Majesty.

6. That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Turkish ambassador.

The Chairman opened the proceedings in a characteristic speech. Professor Newman, in moving the first resolution, said:—

I have lived, I believe, for more than forty years in this world under the delusion that it was the part of a private citizen to leave to the Government the direction of foreign affairs; but, unfortunately, I have been converted to an opposite opinion by discovering—that Lord John Russell has also discovered—that there is in Europe a conspiracy of despots against liberty. Another discovery I have unfortunately made, which Lord John Russell has not made—namely, that that conspiracy of despots has put forth an influence within the Cabinet of the Queen. I look upon it as a fact that, unhappily, cannot be doubted, and it is the duty of all Englishmen to step aside from their private position, and declare to the world, if they feel it, their shame, indignation, and disgust, at the way in which the honour of England has been cast into the dust in these recent affairs. What, then, is needed? It must be admitted that the time for persuasion and concession is passed, and the time for action has arrived [cheers]. I trust that all who are acquainted with the proceedings of the meeting will be left under no possible doubt as to what are its feelings, temper, and judgment, and will be aware that you all feel what I feel—namely, that the confidence which we have been accustomed to put in ministers has been abused.

Of Mr. Blackett's neat and pointed speech, one or two sentences will show the spirit:—

God forbid that he or any other Christian man should deprecate the calamities of war. But though he felt all the misfortunes which war would inflict upon the human race, still, when he considered the evils of the extension of Russian despotism, the derangement that would take place all over the continent by the alteration of the balance of power—when he remembered that the progress of Russia was identical with high-tariffs and prohibitory duties, and the injuries that resulted to British commerce from the preservation of the present state of things, which was called peace, but which, in the language of Lord John Russell, was no peace at all, but was a precarious truce, to be denounced by the aggressor whenever he thought he could secure his own advantage [cheers]—he believed that, taking the meanest and most mercantile view of these matters, it was probable that the cost of war would be but a moderate insurance against what was fast becoming the intolerable calamity of so-called peace [cheers]. But, even on higher considerations, he could not forget that the faith of this country was pledged to Turkey, or the assurance which the Ministers themselves had given of their determination to maintain the independence of Turkey; he could not doubt that there was a man in this room but would join in the earnest prayer that England would be true to her ancient honour, and that our Government would not belie the gallant spirit of their countrymen [loud cheers].

Sir Charles Napier's appearance as a speaker drew forth protracted applause. He condemned the present Ministry, and declared that our fleet would have entered the Dardanelles in May had we been prepared to meet the Russians in Yarmouth Roads. Instead of reviewing a grand fleet at Spithead, he would have treated the Russians to the old Nelson trick in the Baltic [immense cheering].

The decided feeling of the meeting was for war and in condemnation of Ministers.

A similar meeting held on Monday evening, in Kensington, was well attended and enthusiastic.

THE LATE RAILWAY DISASTER NEAR DUBLIN.—

The terrible scene which followed this dreadful Railway collision, by which fourteen lives were lost, and about fifty injured, is thus described by Captain Collis:—

Mr. Kelly was going to step into his carriage also when I said, "Stop a little. There is no hurry. The train won't go without some warning, and, at all events, you and I are active enough to jump in if it should. But just wait till this train comes up." "Oh," said he, "it is merely walking up to us; but, nevertheless, he waited. I stepped close to the line and cast my eye along, when I saw by the reflection of the light upon the shining rails that it was coming at full speed, and I heard by the beat of the engine that the steam was not eased off. I at once shouted out—"Good God! she is coming at full speed—look out, look out," and I jumped

over the wire fence into the field and looked round me. I saw the cattle train run right into the last carriage of the passenger train, indeed through it. In an instant all was a pile of ruin. I ran back and saw the driver of the cattle train, who seemed horrified at the frightful calamity. I asked him was he hurt? He replied, "No but I'll never get over it." He then proceeded to assist the wounded passengers. I perceived that the steam was being generated, and that in a minute more we would all be blown away by the explosion of the engine, and I sang out for the engineer, and bid him blow off the steam. He did so, and then we set to work. The first sight I came on was the bodies of two women quite dead. They lay on the bank as if they had been shot out of the door. Near them was a priest, or friar, or monk. He was quite dead lying close to the rails, as if he had been thrown against the embankment and had rebounded back. I next saw a man, both of whose thighs were broken across. Messrs. Kelly and Connor and I pulled him out from under the ruins of the carriages. He was living, and we laid him upon the bank. We were then attracted by the cries of a lady whose hand was jammed between the carriages. Her sister lay near her, either dead or insensible. After laboring very hard for some time we failed to extricate them, and had to turn to others whilst more assistance was being procured. From a heap of ruins where we saw shawls, hats, and handkerchiefs, we next got out a lady greatly disfigured, but still alive. We then came to the body of Mr. Jelly, which could hardly be recognized, his head being torn and smashed off, his legs both cut off, his body torn up, and his clothes torn all off him. I adjusted his clothes, and we put the body aside, and from near him we got out the bodies of the English gentleman's wife and sister. Poor fellow! He threw himself frantically upon the body of his wife, and kissed her, and then we got the little baby from under her and the aunt's clothes, alive. We then went to the first class carriage that had been first struck by the engine, and there we saw the bodies of two ladies, apparently cut in two at the waist. They were so jammed in that we could not get at them. Near them was the body of another lady, whose dress only we could see, she was so buried in the ruins. The cries of a little boy then attracted me. He was about eight years old. He was lying under the axle-tree of a carriage which had broken both his legs, and was lying across them. With great difficulty we got him out by raising the axle with a crowbar. I then returned with more help to the two ladies, one of whose hands was jammed, and we got them out. I don't know whether the insensible lady was dead or not, but I think she was. We laid her on the bank. The other was not much hurt. We next discovered the body of a very large man under the train. His head was cut off and gone. We found no trace of it. Both his legs were cut off, also, from the thighs down. We got out the remains, and placed them on the bank. I was at this time a good deal exhausted, having worked very hard. Sir Edward Kennedy now came up. He had been a passenger in the carriage next the engine, which had been shot on by the collision past Straffan station. He had escaped unhurt, and had rendered every assistance to the passengers in those two carriages, which, with the engine, had been sent on by the concussion. He then returned down the line to help there, and took the command from me, to my great relief, for I was quite worn out. I cannot tell you how hard he worked, as also did those gentlemen whose names I have mentioned, and indeed every one, railway people, country people, and all.

MISS CUNNINGHAM.

The present ruler of the little State of Tuscany has done all in his power to confer historic immortality on this Scottish lady. Scarcely has the interest excited by the wrongs of ROSA and FRANCESCO MADDAI subsided, when the eyes of Christendom are again fixed upon another victim of Tuscan-Papal intolerance. The letter of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, which, to his own honour, and that of England, we recall to our readers' minds, was speedily followed by the release of the two injured subjects of the GRAND-DUC. That letter indignantly exposed the absurdity of the persecution under which they were suffering. It treated it as an insult to the public opinion of the age, and, coming from the British Minister, must have had, however acknowledged, a powerful effect in loosening the grasp of the tyrant. After this forced con-