# The Daily Astorian.

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## DIFFERENT CONQUESTS.

AGAIN the news from far-off western Asia presages war between two nations that never yet met on an open battle field—England and Russia.

Russia's conquests have ever been followed by repression and tardy development. England's have always been those of progress. Her policy has been colonial; that of Russia one solely of aggrandizement.

By way of contrast it is worth while to note the difference that the different kinds of conquest pursued by England and the United States have had on their respective policies. Both countries being inhabited principally by people of the same racial instincts, delight in contest and victory, in the acquisition of new lands. But the blood-bought possessions of Britain are constant incentives to war, constant and standing menaces of the peace of the world. With us the converse is precisely the case. The war of the rebellion is so distinctly *sui generis* that it is not referred to here any more than in speaking of the wars of England reference is had to Cromwellian civil war or the wars of the roses. In adding to its possessions, gathering in the ripe and luscious fruit that used to grow for the benefit of the Mexicans, in adding Texas and all the wide stretch of states and territories west to the Pacific ocean, America has brought in no element of danger. On the contrary, the very homogeneity of the vast dominion of Uncle Sam, with no powerful neighbor near, either on the east or west, except the two oceans, and with his hives of industry inland, far from the possible reach of foreign attack, the American can regard all the wars of all the world with an equanimity born of the certain knowledge that they need not disturb him, that they threaten none of his peace or property, but that they may make trade good for him, enrich him, and only hurt his possible enemies. Thus, here, there is a tendency to conservatism, while at the same time there are memories of recent prowess that command respectful consideration of other nations.

But as we have seen, the British, a distinctly colonial empire, is always being tempted or driven into broils. War is a necessity of her existence; to know that some other European nation could successfully contend with her on the ocean would be to be able to predict her doom. One of her poets gave voice to this sentiment when he wrote a grand national lyric. Said he:

> For England's sun would set in shame,
> And dark her fate would be,
> Should ever her vaunting foes proclaim
> The empire of the sea.

Palmerston knew it, and, by convincing the world that he was ready to fight, maintained a long period of peace. Beaconsfield knew it, and made the fleet the instrument by which he became the practical dictator of the peace of '78, compelling even the haughty Bismarck to bend to his will. What the organized nation might do can only be conjectured. Within the last few years the political power has entirely passed from the hands of those who once monopolized it. Except for matters of mere form and nomenclature, England to-day is as completely democratic as this country. It will be a subject of deep interest to observe how the new governors of the ancient kingdom will guide matters after the election of the next parliament.

SINCE the government has been organized there have been only thirty-four persons named in resolutions of thanks by congress. With three exceptions this honor has only been paid to officers for great gallantry in action during war. The three exceptions were those of Capt. Ingraham, Capt. Ringgold and Capt. Dahlgren. In the first case Capt. Ingraham cleared his ship for action and rescued at the cannon's mouth an American citizen named Martin Koszta from illegal seizure and imprisonment on board the Austrian war-brig *Hussar*. Capt. Ringgold was honored for his daring and skill in rescuing the crew of the steam transport *Governor*, wrecked in a gale on the 1st of November, 1861, having on board a battalion of United States marines, and also for the search and rescue of the battle-ship *Vermont*, which was disabled in a gale on the 26th of February, 1864. The third, Capt. Dahlgren, was thanked for his improvements in gunnery. This honor gives the recipient the right to the floors of congress at any and all times.

INFORMATION has been received at Cairo that the Arabs in possession of Berber have rebelled against El Mahdi.

## UNCLE SAM ON DECK.

THE tremendous panorama now being unrolled across the sea, withdraws attention from other matters that merit comment:

Were there no probabilities of war between England and Russia, the action of our own government in this eventful month of April, would claim world-wide attention. For Uncle Sam is on deck.

One of the usual disturbances in tropical America resulted in the threatening by insurgents of American interests on the isthmus of Panama. United States troops were promptly landed at Aspinwall, the insurrection was suppressed, and the general authority of the United States made felt in that region.

Though Great Britain has the Clayton-Bulwer treaty; though France is busy with her canal, yet no protest has been received from either France or England; one reason probably being that they have both their hands full just now; and that in any event they feel that what our government has done in the matter is the proper thing to do.

The American eagle soars and the scream of that proud bird has been heard in the jungles of Panama.

But while the government in taking the action it did, has done nothing but what every citizen will endorse and approve, the fact must not be overlooked that what has been done at Aspinwall by the United States has been done in direct opposition to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, by which our government rashly bound itself to not assume any exclusive jurisdiction. The only plea for extenuation can be that "necessity knows no law," and that prompt action was necessary.

And further it is evident that if occasion arose to-morrow and necessity required it, the United States would take and hold that whole region and would be backed by universal public opinion. In this connection it is interesting to note that the administration in its prompt and commendable action in the Panama matter has exactly followed the course outlined by Blaine when secretary of state.

THE French minister of the interior disposes annually of $400,000 of secret service money, and is not required to account for the disbursement of a single franc. In theory, he is indeed responsible to the president of the republic for the use he makes of the money, and he sends him in a report every year, which, however, is practically limited to the declaration that it was spent in the way in which it was meant to be spent. No details or vouchers accompany the report, which is thus the merest formality. The emperor exercised a real control over this fund; but the existing constitution gives the president no such power, and the minister is free to dispose of, at all events, one-half of it precisely as he chooses.

A SPECIAL agent of the czar of Russia has been visiting San Francisco, and is now on his way to Alaska upon a mission connected with the relations between the Alaska commercial company and the Russian government. It appears that in 1870 the fur monopoly, not content with the possessions held under contract with the United States, secured a twenty years lease of the Behring and other islands from Russia. A strong opposition party has sprung up in St. Petersburg against renewing the lease which grants the company the right to kill 40,000 seals per annum, and the czar has appointed a commissioner to investigate the matter.

SENTIMENT is being quietly worked up in favor of an extra session of the legislature and it is hinted that if Gov. Moody thought it would be a popular idea he would call a special session. It is questionable if a special session were called would "the intelligent majority" have sense enough to elect a senator without getting into a catfight over it as they did last February.

CLEVELAND says of his cabinet: "I hope to have the same honor that President Pierce enjoyed at the end of his term of office, that of retiring to private life and parting company with seven gentlemen who through the entire four years had helped to make the yoke of presidential life less of a burden to bear."

GIBRALTAR is thus mentioned in all Spanish official documents: "Our most loyal and noble city of Gibraltar, in the Campo of Gibraltar, the city of Gibraltar being in the temporary occupation of the British."

"IT is said" that Villard is trying to fix up a transfer of the Oregon and California railroad to the Central Pacific company.

FEW towns in England under 20,000 inhabitants can boast of a daily newspaper.

IN Great Britain 10,000 landlords, for doing nothing, receive from the soil more than twice as much as the total wages paid to 860,000 laborers for working twelve hours through the seven days in every week.

AN Englishman traveling in this country expresses surprise "at Americans calling a wash hand jug a pitcher." It isn't near as surprising as to find an intelligent man calling a pitcher "a wash hand jug."

NEW TO-DAY.