

## THE QUEEN AND ARMENIA.

As we have been obliged to remark before, it is impossible for many of our countrymen to approach what is called the Eastern question in other than an emotional mood. Of late we have observed the extraction of several delicious thrills from the fact that "the Queen, God bless her," being led by her true womanliness, had insisted upon the institution of reforms in Armenia.

Now, if the Queen is behind the stiff front that the Ambassadors are making at Constantinople, it may be owing to her "true womanliness," but if so, it is also owing to the fact that policy for once coincides with sentiment. This coincidence may proceed from a number of causes, one being that the Turk, contrary to the jingo anthem, has proved so untrue that the Queen, now the oldest and most experienced, if not the ablest foreign minister in Europe, has concluded that her Empire has no further use for him as an ally.

When the Turk was true the Queen never allowed her womanliness to interfere with her perspective of British interests. When her meddlesome Prussian uncle tried to separate her from the Turkish alliance in 1854 he found that his domestic and dutiful little niece was as eager to send her "dear army and navy" to war for the crescent as they were to go. Of all her favorite ministers Beaconsfield was the one whom she in her mature years really agreed with. Melbourne and

Peel she looked up to in her youth. And in the late Earl's Eastern policy he was not painfully hampered by petticoat government of the true womanly order.

Queen Victoria is most certainly a true woman. She is also, as we have said, the oldest living diplomatic hand. When the present generation of foreign secretaries were in knee-breeches she was bringing their exemplar, Palmerston, to book and eventually turning him out of office. She was the one force in Europe whom the rare old joker could neither bully nor cajole, and since his experience no note has left the Foreign Office without her approval. When her dear brother of France showed her his new forts at Cherbourg, she posted home and told the War Office to put some up at Dover. When Lord John Russell penned a rasping note to Seward over the Trent affair, she toned it down to suit the touchy American temper. She got a much better measure of both the Hungarian and American rebellions than did her ministers. Her only serious miscalculation in foreign affairs was in the expectation of a Prussian defeat in 1870, and half the world shared it with her.

If she is taking an interest in the Armenian reforms, we may be sure that throughout it Victoria the Queen is keeping a tight rein on Victoria the woman and will be quite able to restrain any tendency toward hysteria.

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