

## Onerous Responsibilities.

The responsibilities assumed by Europe with regard to the older peoples of the world are developing in an interesting manner. A number of years have elapsed since the Western powers, for selfish ends, assumed the responsibility of sustaining the Turk in his position as a ruler. Now, the Turk is not fit to govern—he is not fit to live. For fifty years his rule has been a series of massacres. Once only has Europe been shamed into recognizing a part of her own responsibility for these massacres so far as to interfere with a view to preventing their recurrence within specific areas. A second occasion of this sort is now at hand. What will come of it remains to be seen. There is precedent for its failing to effect anything for the victim people, as when Europe put down the rebellion of IBRAHIM Pacha; then, again, there is precedent the other way. The present instance is stuffed with inherent difficulty for the reason that the interests of two of the confederated Powers, England and Russia, are divergent throughout the world. Here they are to be made to harmonize. Then, the affair is enormously complicated by the nature of the remedy they are proposing to apply. This remedy is nothing short of a supervision of the Turk in his exercise of the attributes of sovereignty. This is equivalent in private life to placing an incompetent person under control of a guardian committee, each member of which is independent and sovereign, owning no common control. It is apparent that this is a state of affairs that, in the nature of things, cannot be permanent.

Its inherent impossibility is illustrated by the analogous dual control now exercised by a part of the same powers in Egypt. In that case the Powers first encouraged a profligate ruler to become indebted to their citizens. The people of the country derived no advantages to speak of from the money, which was squandered. The Powers next took forcible possession of the land and set themselves to collecting the interest claimed by their citizens. At the same time, they imposed on the subject country the cost of maintaining their own occupancy. But, since two are riding one horse, one of them must needs ride behind, and this position on the crupper has fallen to France. Hence, friction and plenty of bad blood between the two riders. The situation forecasts the state of affairs when three Powers shall find themselves exercising analogous control within the nominal dominions of the Porte. But with this difference, that the two Powers in Egypt, England and France, do not possess interests which are not only

divergent, but antagonistic throughout the world. Two of the Powers now about to interfere in Armenia, namely, England and Russia, do possess such interests. And neither of these two is of a sort to submit to occupying the crupper behind the other.

Now comes the case of China, which is apparently destined to be that of Egypt over again, only more so. In fact, it promises to combine the Egyptian and Armenian complications. The Japan-China treaty provides that the indemnity is to be secured on the Chinese customs. The customs are no security unless the creditor has some means of enforcing his claim upon them. Three of the Powers have undertaken to meet the indemnity and are now negotiating among themselves the particular measure by which they shall substitute themselves to the position arranged for by Japan as holders of the security. But these customs dues are to be levied upon and collected from a trade four-fifths of which is England's. England as a political unit has kept out of the scrape of meddling with Japan's victories, but she will not for a moment have her trade taxed without having a voice in the matter equal to that of all the other voices combined. And apart from England, the political unit, Lombard street, the financial unit, is a party necessary to the success of the proposed China loan. So we have this interesting situation, that the loan cannot be floated without the consent of the English market nor secured without the consent of the English Government. In securing it we shall have, instead of the comparatively simple situation in Egypt, a multiple control involving the antagonistic power, Russia, the same as in the pending Armenian reform.

If this is not an impossible situation, it would be difficult to conceive of one. There is nothing surprising in the news that American Adviser FOSTER hastens home. Betwixt the devil and this very deep sea, he wisely takes to the sea, leaving China to the fankwei, foreign devil—now not inaptly so called. But the foreign public funds are steady, and so we discern that all of these makeshift arrangements are accepted with confidence for the time being.

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