

As members of that nation we cannot but regret that there are international considerations which prevent us from resorting to extremities, discarding our present ally and giving her a severe and much required lesson on the evils of allowing her hunger for land and thirst for domination to over-ride all other principles and sentiments.

The excommunication of Tolstoi by the Holy Synod has at last worked up the feelings of the students in long-suffering Russia, and caused them to make matters extremely lively in St. Petersburg. Revolutionary proclamations, petitions from students to be excommunicated also, and disorderly conduct in the Kazan Cathedral were the means whereby the students expressed their disapprobation of the insult put upon the man whom they naturally venerated.

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#### AUSTRALIA.

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PREPARATIONS on a colossal scale of magnificence, which have attracted the attention of the *Times*, are being made in Melbourne for the reception of the royal guests. The spirit of rivalry which has always been dominant between the two great cities of the Commonwealth is spurring the capital of Victoria into almost superhuman efforts to make the coming spectacle one which will surpass anything ever seen even in such a progressive and pleasure-loving colony as Australia. The opening of the Federal Parliament by H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York is an opportunity for display which will not occur again, and our friends across the water naturally wish to take the fullest possible advantage of it.

The fresh outbreak of plague in Sydney and Brisbane is a matter much to be deplored at any time, but after the precautions taken and the cleansing of the city of Sydney, which took place on the previous occasion, the present outbreak should neither assume such alarming proportions nor be so difficult of suppression, notwithstanding the predictions of many alarmists, who, on the first appearance, quoted cases, which are

ancient history, and from them foretold that a certain period after the first mild attack there would be another which would be decimating in its intensity, forgetting entirely the difference in the present state of civilization and sanitation and that of the period from which they drew their examples.

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#### CHINA.

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THE position in China has not altered during the month, save and except Russia's aggressive demands, now somewhat modified, alluded to in another paragraph, and the fact that Germany, the bitterest member of the European Concert, appears to be wholly indifferent to the manner in which vengeance is wreaked on China as long as it is wreaked. She shows signs of standing by complacently while Russia takes the whip hand and secures the portion which will add greatly to her power and prestige in the Pacific. The future combination of China and Russia, which is foreshadowed, will be an exceedingly powerful one, and one which will assuredly have to be reckoned with later.

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#### SOUTH AFRICA.

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THE marvellous aptitude which De Wet possesses of withdrawing from every tight corner, however impossible such a movement seems, at times when to all appearance he cannot fail to be cornered, has been often the subject of remark. In many instances he has to sacrifice guns, waggons, and commissariat, but apparently nothing loth, he does so, and disappears only to appear again fully equipped and equally aggressive in another locality, repudiating all peace negotiations. The marvel is how he manages to keep up the hearts of his men and obtain fresh recruits and supplies when needed, thus by his own personal courage, daring and obstinacy prolonging a war to indefinite limits which the best authorities on the subject anticipated would be completed in a few months.