

## THE BALKANS.

The news of the rising in the Balkans which lately came to hand, may be sufficiently serious in its results. One would like to be satisfied that the course which Russia, in particular, has taken with regard to it was in good faith, but this does not seem in the light of other matters at all probable. It is some considerable time since Russia has been able to moisten her thirst for conquest and the acquisition of territory, and it is more than possible that she has her eagle eye fixed on the entrance to the Bosphorus and Constantinople as her share in the booty after the war, for which she has been long preparing, has been precipitated by her scheming. It is a new thing to see a country with Russia's reputation, so eager to press reforms on States such as those on the Balkan Peninsula, so that there is remarkably good reason to doubt her good intentions in the matter. With these States, and Turkey set by the ears, what possibilities might not open for Russia?

The extensive manner in which preparations are being made for the rapid movement of troops from Sebastopol and Odessa to Bulgarian ports certainly points much more directly to hunger for conquest than to the mere preservation of order, and the next few months may easily see the outbreak of a European war, the result and complications of which is not easy to foretell.

## FRANCE.

Everyone will hail with pleasure the prospect of an arbitration treaty with France. It will form an admirable object lesson for other countries if, as seems highly probable at the time of writing, it is brought about. And the fact that

such powerful bodies as the British Chambers of Commerce, and Trades Unions, and similar bodies in France, are all in favour of such a treaty, argues very strongly for its completion, though there may of course be much haggling over details.

It is surprising to see the difference in France's attitude towards Great Britain now that she sees that we are not disposed to allow Germany to lead us by the nose. King Edward's visit to Paris will doubtless facilitate matters with reference to this most desirable treaty. Little by little the cementing of bonds of union between the nations goes on, all working towards one and the same end, which, be it near or be it far, is devoutly to be wished for.

## OUR LOSSES.

During the last few months New Zealand has lost by death an unusual number of those who have in one way or another taken a vigorous part in making the Colony what it now is. They have bravely borne the heat and burden of the day and left, as they went to their well-earned rest, the country undoubtedly the better for their strenuous life work in it. The list includes Major-General Sir George Whitmore, K.C.M.G. and M.L.C., Hon. William Rolleston, Hon. George Bentham Morris, M.L.C., Hon. William Swanson, M.L.C., Dr. Grace, M.L.C. It is not our purpose to dismiss these notable public men with this scanty notice, arrangements having been already made to devote considerable space in our next issue to an extended sketch of the services they have rendered their country, with reproductions of their photos.