

28. That we attach great importance to giving sufficient inducement to private capitalists to construct the East and West Coast and Nelson railways.

26. That, to meet the demand for cheaper money for land improvements and for loans to local bodies, we will submit a Mortgage Debenture Bill, which will embody the system which has been found to work advantageously in Great Britain, without entailing any liability on the State.

A P A R A L L E L.

(Bombay Catholic Examiner, April 24.)

To trace out a resemblance between the manner in which Russian statesmen conduct their home and foreign policy or, which is very much the same thing, between the manner in which they encroach upon the territories of their neighbours and upon the rights of the Catholic Church is not difficult to anyone who has of late years watched the development of Russian policy at home and abroad. In both directions may be perceived the same persistent and unscrupulous energy, the same violation of promises and the same habit of ceasing to advance for a time with the intention of awaiting a more favourable moment for attack. To make this the clearer a few words concerning what Russia is striving to bring about both within the borders of her colossal empire and without them will not be thrown away.

What the great Muscovite empire is just now aiming at abroad does not need many words to describe. It is a question which has received the fullest treatment from writers of all religions and of every shade of politics, and they all come to pretty much the same conclusion. Whether Peter the Great did or did not leave it in his will that the rule of his successors should extend far into Central and Southern Asia is a matter of no great moment, for those successors have for some years past been acting precisely as though they had received such instructions from the founder of the empire which has its headquarters on the Neva. With unparalleled steadiness and determination they have advanced slowly but rapidly along the destined road, overcoming every obstacle as they progressed onwards, continually laying the foundations of a great imperial structure and converting their very difficulties into the means of future success. Again and again they have promised to advance no further, but their promises have been broken almost as soon as made. They have made dupes in abundance owing to the seeming honesty of their professions, but at length the mask has been so completely thrown aside that not even the simplest of their admirers fails to understand what is their present policy and what it has been all along. Not even the most confiding of their friends believes that they have any serious intention of fixing the boundaries of Russian dominion where they are at present, or that any check can be put upon their designs except through fear of an opposition as powerful and energetic as is their own determination to advance. In a resolute policy on the part of the opponents of Russian aggression lies the only hope of averting a serious war on the northwest frontier of India.

The aims of Russian statesmen or of many of them abroad are thus sufficiently clear to enable us to dispense with dealing with them further. What those same rulers desire at home is not so generally understood. Their object is to establish throughout the empire that uniformity of political feelings, language and religion which they deem essential to its security and greatness. In the language of modern politicians their desire is to "Russify" everything. Throughout the dominions of the Czar they would have no language spoken but the Russian, and no religion followed but that which the Czar, the head of the so-called Orthodox Greek Church, professes. In Russia in Europe at the present day there are members of more than one nationality and more than one religion. Besides members of the Greek Church, there are a few Lutherans of German descent and some millions of Catholic Poles. About the former little more need be said than that the task of converting them is proceeding rapidly and with considerable smoothness. Far greater difficulty is encountered in dealing with the Poles, who with the well known spirit and fidelity of their race cling tenaciously to their national traditions, their language, and above all to their holy religion. But all this cannot shake the determination of their tyrants to "Russify" them, and this determination is the motive for the terrible persecutions which ever and anon startle the civilized world. The Draconian laws which impose heavy penalties upon the use of the Polish language and forbid it to be employed as a medium for conveying instruction whether secular or religious; the exile of Polish Bishops for no crime save that of teaching and enforcing the doctrines of the Catholic Church and the forcible "conversion" of whole bodies of men who profess the Catholic religion; all these acts of tyranny have their origin in the determination to carry out the great political doctrine upheld by the advisers of the Czar that all religions and languages throughout the wide dominions of that autocrat should make room for the one which he and his Ministers have determined to impose sooner or later upon all the subjects of the empire. It is true that at times there is a relaxation of severity either induced by prudential motives as the faint hopes of peace are just now said to be, or due to the fact that a "peace party" is in power. But such periods of truce are of very short duration, the men of peace and justice yield to their more vigorous and unprincipled rivals, and the work of aggression goes on as before.

The plan of proceedings in Russia towards the Catholic Church, very much resembling that lately pursued in the neighbourhood of Penjdeh, has been justly said to be the glorification of the wolf and lamb strategy. Whether it be a question of slaughtering the Afghans or persecuting the Poles, the same method is followed, of imputing impossible acts of aggression to the weaker party as a pretext for deeds of savage injustice. Thus among other excuses for the banishment of the Bishop of Wilna and the projected suppression of his diocese, the most ridiculous stories were circulated by the Russian Press, of acts of violence perpetrated upon Russian officials by Polish

ladies and of attacks made by Polish women upon any preacher who should dare to preach in the Russian language. These, however, are but silly pretexts and worthy only of notice on account of the resemblance they bear to the frivolous reasons alleged as an excuse for Russian aggression in Central Asia. Unchecked by any sense of right or justice and utterly heedless of the wishes even of the Czar himself, who is said really to desire peace with the Sovereign Pontiff, the Ministers at St. Petersburg pursue with unabated zeal their policy of crushing the Catholic Church. Among the most cruel of their attempts may be mentioned the enforcing of the ukase by which the Poles are forbidden to hold offices in the State or even to acquire or farm lands in many parts of the empire. Still worse is the persecution of the Uniates or Greek Catholics who have been all ordered to embrace the Russian religion,—General Gourko himself a renegade Pole having been appointed to see that the order is obeyed. The sufferings of these martyrs to Russian tyranny are only equalled by the constancy they display. To force them to embrace a religion they detest, the districts they inhabit have been flooded by soldiers and schismatic priests, while the spiritual aid of the clergy of their own faith is kept at a distance from them. Still they hold out, and we may hope that they will long continue to do so; but it must be confessed that their cause appears all but desperate. With truth it may indeed be said that nothing save the interposition of that Divine Providence, in which they place their trust, is able to give victory to the Catholic subjects of the Czar in the contest they are condemned to wage for the preservation of their national traditions and their holy faith.

BRITISH BATTLES IN ELEVEN YEARS.

(From the *Pall Mall Gazette*.)

THE following is a list of British battles, with the losses thereat fought in the last eleven years, from Amoafal to the fight at Baker's zereba on Sunday. At Amoafal, where Sir Garnet Wolseley routed the Ashantees, our loss was seven killed and 200 wounded. At Peiwar Kotal (Afghan war, General Roberts), our loss was two officers and ten men killed, and two officers, seventy-one men wounded. At Isandlana (Zulu, Col. Durnford), all our men were killed—twenty-three officers, 500 men, and 1,000 natives. At Rorke's Drift we lost seventeen killed and ten wounded. At Slobane Mountain, South Africa, we lost eleven officers, and eighty men killed and wounded. At Ekowe our loss was trifling, there being scarcely more than forty-one killed and wounded. At Uhundi we lost 104 killed and wounded. At Charasiab, in the second Afghan war, General Roberts, marching to Cabul, lost in action twenty-four killed and fifty-seven wounded. At Cabul, where the fighting lasted three or four days and Roberts retreated to the Sherpur cantonments, we lost sixty two killed and 164 wounded. General Gough, struggling to relieve Saerpur, lost five killed and thirty-three wounded. At Ahmed Khel we lost seventeen killed and 124 wounded. At Maiwand, when General Burrows was defeated by Ayoub Khan, we lost twenty-one officers, 300 English, and 700 natives killed, fifteen officers and ninety men missing. At Mazra, when General Roberts defeated Ayoub Khan and brought the war to an end, we lost twenty-nine killed and 161 wounded. At Laing's Nek our losses were eighty-one killed and missing, and 109 wounded. At Ingogo we lost 150 killed and wounded, and at Majuba eighty-five killed, 131 wounded, and sixty prisoners taken. At Tel-el-Kebir we lost nine officers and forty-five men killed, seventeen wounded, twenty-five non-commissioned officers and privates killed and 123 wounded. At Tamasi our loss was five officers and eighty-six men killed, eight officers and 105 men wounded. At Abu-Klea we lost nine officers and sixty-five men killed, nine officers and eighty-five men wounded. At the battle of Gubat we lost nineteen killed and 66 wounded. At Hasheen on Friday our loss was twenty-one killed and forty-two wounded. In the battle of Sunday we lost seven officers and sixty-three men killed, six officers and eighty-nine men wounded, besides a large number of men belonging to the Indian contingent.

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Barrios, the Dictator of Guatemala, who was killed in battle while invading the territory of his peaceful neighbours, was a tyrant of the most arbitrary kind, torturing or killing any citizens who did not fall in with his views, and even subjecting to gross indignities native ladies who refused to accept invitations to his social parties. He seized all the Church property in the country some years ago, expelled the Jesuits and turned the nuns out of their convents. An ex-aid-de-camp of the dictator, now in New York, says that Barrios has been much maligned; and as an instance we quote his version of the punishment administered to the ladies of Guatemala: "Barrios was not terrified by opposition from this quarter, and his inventive mind hit upon a plan to bring these gentle insurgents to their senses. He had a huge sack made, which was suspended from a tightly stretched rope. Into this sack he put a dozen or more of the scheming ladies of his capital, and then he had the bunch of them whirled round and round until the rope grew kinked then the bag was let go, and it naturally flew with great speed in the opposite direction. The result was that its occupants were made deathly sick, and the subsequent proceedings of Gen. Barrios interested them no more." The dead tyrant was also avaricious in the extreme. He is said to have accumulated millions of dollars which he invested, against the rainy day, in English and American securities. His death and the collapse of his ambitious schemes are blessings for long-suffering Central America.—*Pilot*.