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### KING EDWARD'S JOURNEY.

Paris, March 6. President Fallières paid a visit to the King at the British Embassy after luncheon. In the evening His Majesty dined with the President at the Elysée. The French Minister for Foreign Affairs and the British Ambassador were present. Military honours were paid to the King on his arrival and departure.

Paris, March 7. King Edward left Paris for Biarritz this morning.

### THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND'S HEALTH.

It is officially stated that the Queen is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

#### THE NEAR EAST.

TURKEY AND SERVIA.

PRESS OPINION.

Constantinople, March 8. The Tanin writes, with reference to the idea of pacifying Servia with a railway in the Sandjak: "It is unjust to bring Turkey into the matter of compensations for Servia. Turkey has gained nothing; she has only lost, but she keeps silence for peace' sake. An attempt to oblige Turkey to compensate Servia and Montenegro, if only by granting railway concessions, would be an injustice, and would exhaust the patience of Turkey.

### OPINION OF SERVIAN POLITICIANS.

Belgrade, March 6. The contents of the Servian Note to Russia, as published by the St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency -to the effect that Servia wished neither to occasion war with Austria-Hungary nor to alter her friendly relations with that country; that, in connection with the Bosnia-Herzegovina question, she made no demand on Austria-Hungary for territorial, political, or economical compensation, but trusted entirely to the sense of justice and the wisdom of the great Powers-is explained in political circles here to mean that Servia neither claims nor will claim territorial compensation, but that she confidently expects that the justice of Europe will secure it for her; as, after Turkey's cession of her rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only the Powers signatory to the Berlin treaty, who had given Austria-Hungary the mandate to occupy those countries. could decide their fate. Russia, by her independent action, had constituted herself Servia's attorney. Servia's answer had transferred the centre of gravity from Belgrade to St. Petersburg; and the Servian Government had at the same time shifted the responsibility from the Servian people and from its own shoulders to those of the Russian Government, which could not now recognise the annexation until Servia's claims are satisfied. If, however, Russia should recognise the annexation without securing consideration for Servia's claims, she would release Servia from all obligations to Russia and to the peace of Europe. The success of the Servian answer lay in the result that Servia's claims would now be laid before the great Powers of Europe through the medium of Russia, Servia being thereby freed from care and trouble in the matter.

### AUSTRIA ASKS SERVIA'S INTENTIONS.

### A DECIDED MOVE.

The Austro-Hungarian diplomatic representative at Belgrade, Count Forgach, had received instructions, to inform the Servian Government that the Governments of the dual monarchy regretted not to be able to put the commercial treaty with Servia be-fore their parliaments, in view of Servia's attitude during the last months. In addition thereto Count Forgach was to inform the Servian Government that Austria-Hungary confidently hoped that Serviawhich, as is generally believed, has decided to accept the advice of the Powers and change her policy with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina-will com-

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municate this her decision to Austria-Hungary, together with her assurance that it is her intention to maintain peaceable and friendly relations with her neighbour. As soon as such a communication would have been received by the Austro-Hungarian Government they were prepared to negotiate with Servia as to economic questions.

Belgrade, March 6. At noon today the Austro-Hungarian Minister Resident communicated to the Servian Government the views of Austria-Hungary with regard to the queson of a commercial treaty. The report that the Minister asked for an audience with the King is entirely unfounded.

### MONTENEGRIN PRESS OPINION.

Cetinje, March 7. The official Cazette, in a leading article on the agreement between Austria-Hungary and Turkey, remarks: "We leave it to the Powers to judge whether it is allowable that anybody appropriates what has been entrusted to him. The Powers, at the Berlin Conference, entrusted Bosnia and the Herzegovina to Austria-Hungary because those provinces were a cause of dispute between the Servian Principalities and Turkey. By this action the dis-pute remained unsettled. Consequently Austria-Hungary has, by her agreement with Turkey, taken the place of Turkey in the unsettled dispute with the Servian Principalities, and has, therefore, not acquired ownership but has become a party in the dispute with the Servian States.

### SERVIAN WAR BUDGET INCREASED.

Belgrade, March 6. According to the Politika, the financial Committee of the Skupshtina has approved of the increase of this year's budget of the Minister of War by 15,000,000 dinars (francs) in addition to the extraordinary armaments credit of 33,000,000 francs. The former amount is to be raised by a 30 per cent. increase of the taxes.

### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND FRANCE.

Paris, March 6. The Austrian Ambassador called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Pichon, this morning to communicate to him the text of the agreement between Austria-Hungary and Turkey. It is understood that the Ambassador, in the course of conversation, also spoke of the desire of Austria-Hungary for a peaceful settlement of the Balkan ques-tion. M. Pichon received the Russian Ambassador

### QUEEN VICTORIA.

A SURVEY OF HER LIFE.

At the Royal Institution in London last Friday night Viscount Esher delivered a lecture on "The Letters of Queen Victoria."

During the course of the lecture, a London contemporary reports, Lord Esher read several hitherto unpublished entries from Queen Victoria's journal, revealing the simple and girlish personality of the Queen when she was first burdened with responsibilities of State.

"The Queen thoroughly believed in herself as the Sovereign of the realm," Lord Esher said. "She 'took herself seriously,' as the saying goes. She never doubted that the people were her people, that the Ministers and Parliament existed to assist her to govern, and that the country was hers. The crown was not the coping-stone, but the foundation

of the fabric of government."
"This outlook," Lord Esher explained, "was the source of the Queen's influence, and sometimes the cause of her few mistakes. She wished to know everything that her Ministers were going to do. She became insatiable for detail. She believed that central and independent criticism by the Crown was the way to avoid the danger which beset constitutional monarchies of leaving the government in the hands of specialists. The real power of the Crown lies in the power of influence," Lord Esher said, "and not by direct action. She showed courage to act alone, and 'confidence in my country.' In the dismal, gloomy winter of 1854 (Crimean War), in the terrible summer of 1857 (Indian Mutiny), and in the dark days of 1900, these two qualities never deserted her. 'All will come right' was her constant cry. The Queen never initiated policy, but she assisted Ministers to carry out their policy. If the remarkable correspondence between Lord Beaconsfield and Queen Victoria were published nothing would be found more striking than the minute care with which he, notwithstanding his perspicacity and infinite resource, reasoned and debated in daily letters and memoranda the successive stages of his foreign policy.

"The whole efforts of the Queen were in the interests of peace. There are no instances where e can be shown to have favoured war. It was largely due to her that England was not dragged into the conflict between Prussia and Denmark in 1850. In 1861, in a time of national heat, this country, as her correspondence shows, was saved from a conflict with the United States."

Lord Esher pointed out that he had enjoyed exceptional opportunities of examining at first hand the inner history of Queen Victoria's long reign, during which every document was preserved, even the least important of telegrams.

"I can find no trace of any grave mistake committed by the Queen in her capacity as Sovereign. Perhaps the only fault was her seclusion from 1861 to 1874, when she allowed her claim as a woman to take precedence of her position as Queen."

When the late Queen was thirteen years old her life, as described by herself, began, for on that day her mother gave the Princess a small octavo volume, half bound in red morocco, with the words, "Princess Victoria" stamped on the side. The first entry was as follows:-

This book mama gave me that I might write the journal of my journey to Wales in it.

The last entry was dictated and dated January 12, and the Queen died on January 22, 1901. These journals would never be seen hereafter in their entirety. By the Queen's express wish they have been carefully examined by her youngest daughter, who with infinite labour had copied in her own hand many volumes of them, excising passages which the Queen desired should not be seen by any eye but hers.

At the age of thirteen and a half, a child Princess, with hundreds of dolls which she labelled with the names of famous people, she wrote this typical entry in her journal: "Thursday, February 21, 1833.—I awoke at seven and got up at eight. At nine we breakfasted. At half-past nine came the dean till half-past eleven. At ten minutes to twelve we went to pay a visit to Aunt Gloucester. At half-past one we lunched. At two came the Du-

(Continued on page 4.)