

## THE AMERICAN DIFFICULTY EXPLAINED.

An ingenious correspondent contributes the following observations on the American difficulty:—"It is often difficult for the outside world to understand how the rival barristers who have employed the most violent language to each other, who have assailed each other's integrity and decried each other's honour, can go home in the same cab, dine at the same table, and be excellent friends and most cordial companions. The men are, however, hirelings, and as their vituperation and their paths are all paid for, it is not impossible to comprehend the mock earnestness with which they throw themselves into a case, or the factitious zeal with which they implore a jury. They have got a 'retainer' to be generous and noble-minded, unsuspecting and confiding, or to be watchful guardians of innocence, defenders of the widow and the orphan, merciless in exposing the wrongdoer, and actually cruel in denouncing the wives of the crafty.

"It is unquestionably a fine thing to know that in an age confessedly selfish and hard-hearted there exists a class whose sympathies can be had for asking, and whose finest sensibilities and most cherished emotions can be secured like a special carriage on the railroad or a private cabin in a Cunard steamer; and with this advantage—that you know exactly where to go for the precise quality of sentiment you are in search of, and would no more engage the Attorney-General for a panegyrist or Serjeant Parry for a drolly than you would ask Mr. Millais to paint your skye terrier or employ Landseer on a landscape. I say it is a fine age that places such gifts at our disposal, with the added satisfaction that we do no serious damage to those grand natures whose sensibilities we have been trading on. Otherwise, how should I ever forgive myself for the lasting sorrow I have occasioned Serjeant Ballantine through the cruelty of my aunt's will, or the tears Henry James has shed over my wife's frailty?

"For a long time I have lived in the delusion that it was only at the bar men possessed the prerogative of this double identity, and could be able to hurl the foulest slanders at each other with wigs on, and yet maintain relations of good breeding and even kindness in their own hair. I fancied that the combats of political life were denied these ennobling traits, and that in the struggles of party men were as violent and as unforgiving as their speeches bespoke them. I could no more imagine an exchange of courtesies between the leaders of the Treasury Bench and the Opposition than fancy Gambetta on a visit at Chiselhurst, or Garibaldi recruiting his health with Bismarck. A friend of mine who has had great opportunity of observation of political life—his father was a Home Messenger—tells me that there is less of actual bitterness—downright animosity—than I believed in; but that nasty jealousies and spiteful passages of the order the French call 'mauvaises plaisanteries' abound, and that a continual interchange of these small jokes constitutes a great share of party war. The outer world, of course, can know nothing of these. They are the true secrets of administration; and it is only by one who has had a clue that their occurrence can ever be traced. 'I will give an instance,' said he, 'from what is passing before us. Do you remember, some years back, when Lord Lytton was Colonial Minister, we had a troublesome moment with Greece? The Russians were daily plotting at Athens, and all our endeavours to conciliate the Ionian Islanders proved abortive. It was suggested to the Minister that nothing could possibly look more liberal—less tainted with the spirit of party—than to take a gentleman from the Opposition, send him out to Corfu, and ask him what measures he would devise to conciliate the people. He did so; he sent Mr. Gladstone on this mission, and the accomplished Homeric scholar saw no other road out of the difficulty than to abdicate our rule over the Islands, and make them a present to the mother country. Of course, the Tories never forgave the treacherous trick played them, but they bided their time; they waited till the Whigs asked them for a similar assistance, when they lent them Sir Stafford Northcote, and I need scarcely tell you that the Alabama convention pays off the cession of Corfu, and perhaps something more."

## TICHBORNE IN TURKEY.

The Tichborne case is drawing to an end: a similar case is soon to present itself, though not in our own courts. The story (as it reaches us) runs thus. There is in London a young Turk about twenty-five years of age. He calls himself Mustapha Djehad Bey, and he claims to be the son of his Highness the late Kibrisli Mehemet Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier, and formerly the Sultan's Envoy at the Court of St. James. The claimant has entrusted his case to a firm of English solicitors, and it will be prosecuted by English counsel at Constantinople. His claim to the property of Kibrisli Mehemet Pasha is based on the following statement—for which, of course, we do not vouch in any particular.

In 1840 Kibrisli Pasha married the widow of a European physician of Constantinople, and had by this lady a daughter and a son. The son was born in 1847, at the time that his Highness was Governor of Belgrad, in Serbia. The birth of the heir was celebrated with a considerable display of rejoicing. In the year 1848 the Pasha was sent to the British Court as the Sultan's representative. During his absence the child Djehad became seriously ill, and his mother, Melek Khanum, suffered much anxiety on his account. The loss of her only boy would have been for her a very serious matter, since the Pasha might be induced to marry again. Accordingly Melek Khanum had a consultation with a woman of the name of Fatmah—described as the lady steward of her harem—and decided on averting the dreaded evil by feigning that she was about to give birth to another child; and to carry out this deceit a child was to be bought or borrowed. This was done; and the Pasha (who was then in London) in due time received the news that Heaven had blessed him with another boy. But things did not turn out altogether according to

expectation. The first-born recovered from his illness. The woman Fatmah and one of the eunuchs, named Beshir, made use of the secret of the borrowed child, and dictated to their mistress and the whole household. But when they had achieved this, they began to contend between themselves for absolute supremacy; the Pasha's wife (it is said) all this while playing a very humble part—the part of one who had put herself entirely at the mercy of others. In vain Melek Khanum tried to appease the contending parties, and restore order to the house. Failing altogether in this, she asked the intervention of the Pasha's man of business, Reshid Effendi, who, however, took it all very lightly, as a woman's quarrel. Thereupon Mdme. Kibrisli resolved to dismiss Fatmah, at the same time quieting the eunuch by gifts of money. A little while afterwards, during a reception given at Mdme. Kibrisli's residence, he was smothered in his bath. Mdme. Kibrisli was charged with implication in the murder, but the accusation was not substantiated. While the trial was going on the Pasha was summoned from London, and hastened to Constantinople. On his arrival there he found affairs in a hopeless state of imbroglia, and he divorced his wife. This done, the question of the legitimacy of his children arose, there being a natural suspicion that if one child had been borrowed the origin of the others might be doubtful. The question being put to the wife, she declared that the child Djehad had been borrowed also. But she now maintains that she was actuated in doing so by a feeling of revenge, awakened by her divorce and the pasha's second marriage, which soon followed. From that time the boy Djehad has been a wanderer over the earth. He spent some years in Egypt as a domestic servant; he joined the Papal Zouaves; he has been a lay inmate at the convent of St. Lazare, in Venice; and, at his reputed father's death, which occurred in September last, he repaired to England, the land of portentous lawsuits, there to prepare his claims to Kibrisli Pasha's property.

## THE NEW SALMON BILLS.

AFTER many fruitless attempts to obtain a bill for the amendment of our present Salmon Fishery Acts a measure for the accomplishment of this desirable end has at last been so far carried through the House as to leave no doubt that a new Salmon Act will come into operation this year. The two new bills which were under the consideration of the House last week have been alluded to by us on previous occasions. That prepared by Mr. Dodds was, after a division, rejected; while the second reading of "the Conservators" or Mr. Dillwyn's bill was carried. It was, however, decided that it should be referred to a Select Committee, not for the purpose of examining witnesses, but with a view of amending some of its clauses which were considered objectionable. We are not surprised at the result of the debate, and the country may, we think, be congratulated, not only at the failure of Mr. Dodds' mischievous proposition for regulating the management of our salmon waters, but also at the decision arrived at by the House of referring Mr. Dillwyn's bill to a Select Committee before it is passed into law. We have before expressed an opinion that while this bill, in most particulars, provides satisfactorily for the abatement of many serious obstacles to the further development of our inland fisheries, it unfortunately contains clauses which we fear are calculated, in time, to work disastrously on the fisheries in general, and which certainly are opposed to some of the most important principles of salmon restoration under which the fisheries of England and Wales have made such rapid progress in the amount of fish annually produced. Mr. Dillwyn's bill, as it now stands, gives very extensive powers to local boards in the matter of passing bye-laws. We cannot be astonished that this should be so, or that the measure should have gained the support of the majority of the fishery boards throughout the country, as it may be said to have been drawn up by a committee of Conservators representing various local interests, who naturally enough wish to get as much power into their own hands as possible. We however contend that the experiment of locally managing the fisheries, as proposed by Mr. Dillwyn, is a dangerous and unnecessary one, and one which, if tried at all, should be tried only in the most limited manner.

The success of the present Acts we attribute in great measure to the wholesome check which has been kept over local boards in the management, or rather mismanagement, of their rivers. In time perhaps, when our salmon fisheries are double their present value (which at the present rate of increase appears not far distant), it may be advisable to grant more extensive powers than those at present enjoyed by them to local boards. It appears, however, to us not only unnecessary but foolish in the present only partially restored condition of our rivers to grant extended facilities to persons who, experience has taught us, are prone to think more of their own immediate gain than of the good of the public, whose interest in the salmon fisheries as a valuable food-producing industry is of paramount importance.

Our chief objection to Mr. Dillwyn's bill is its tendency to weaken or alter the power of the central authority which at present governs our salmon waters; for, although official sanction is provided for in administering the law, it is such as would undoubtedly tend not only to much confusion, but would also place powers far too extensive in the hands of fishery officials. The danger of this has lately been prominently brought before us, and, however much confidence we may have in our present English inspectors, we naturally feel alarm at the adoption of a measure which would afford any possibility of our fisheries being so injudiciously managed as those of Ireland, where the Fishery Board, although nominally under the control of the Lord Lieutenant, appear to act as fancy leads them and not on any fixed principle. Were the amendments we have suggested made in Mr. Dillwyn's bill, it would, we think, work beneficially, and we trust the Committee will give the matter some consideration.

ALTHOUGH we notice. In the described as they are they over-se equally unstudie we can imagine cruised. It mu society it desc than the life in on the blush in we may imagine English library it for family u happy isles, th The shades of Cytheræa, whil to the soft lap harmony of a on this paramo to rest upon it that they could critic, and not he observes a syrens who seek in his religion, that man will and that infinite its feeble creatur in our colder s Were we to insi should pronoun Theirs is scarc seems to be wa a course of mi additional resp perpetual state turned the dec of barbarian ba of the church, would not m to bounding by ness of conduct In many of th according to th and scrupulous draw of his nat to atone for e the cruise so tions, that the They sailed from got up court d example to thei with presents of ments. In short they would nev handed. More would follow the attached to the should be very l Civilization after taking its The Earl is n rience of indiv he acknowledge from them. T produced a gre sonal influence are glad to es long way to e are rare, and n erated as the It is a pretty s you venture am at the risk of you cradle yo with few want power. For s court as the r position means Earl says, woul go out with the same guarantee instances when religion needle annoyances as native contact murder of Bish crying scandals

\* "South Sea B 1872.)