LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

BY SPECIAL WIRE.)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

London, Monday Morning.

The official British news of the relief of the Imperials exerted but little very faithful interest when announced in London on Saturday. The information had already been received through every other possible channel, and nobody really imagined for a moment that the Queen's Office was due to anything else than its usual disinterestness in matters of the kind. Admiral Bruce's message was accordingly regarded as simply a belated confirmation of news already a day old. Indeed, quite those immediately concerned—that is, those who held relatives in peril or who were otherwise directly interested—the public had begun to view the situation with almost perfect unconcern. It was true, of course, that there were several hundred lives in imminent peril of being sacrificed. But then it was the history of a long time that, with the other losses to reckon with, England had little sense of grabbing any fresh territory.

Now that the Allies have seized the seat of government and secured the safety of their representatives, the question arises, "What next? Peace do next?" It may be taken for granted, of course, that they will insist on very complete reparation for the events of the last couple of months. But distrust of the use to which this reparation should take must sum up at once questions of very serious difficulty. There is clearly very little prospect of the Powers of the country being able to bear any pecuniary indemnity. Some other method of securing compensation must accordingly be devised, and it is just here that the difficulty will at once arise. What other method is there that will be agreeable to all the Powers, for of course it is essential that there be complete unanimity? The question is one that is likely to form the subject of many an international wrangle before it is finally decided—that is, if it ever is peaceably settled. But there are many to prophesy that its settlement will plunge the whole world into war.

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One thing is pretty certain at any rate. There will be no partition of China, simply because the plan is too big to be undertaken. It is generally agreed here that the Powers will make some endeavour to reform the internal organisation of the Chinese Empire. The attempt is made that if the Emperor be found not to be alive he should be reinstated in some authority, or, that failing him, another figure should be appointed; but in either case he will be placed at the head of a council, consisting of representatives of the Powers working in unison with the provincial viceroys. Here again, however, even if such arrangements were possible, the entire basis of a successful administration must rest on the separation of the common interest of the Powers, and no one who knows anything of the state of factious existing can imagine for a moment that such a condition of things could last for a single month. It is evident that so far from the relief of the Legations being the end, it is really only the beginning of the end.

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The meeting of London Nationalists, to be held in the Westminster Palace Hotel on Wednesday evening, in aid of the General Election fund, gives promise of being a splendid success. Leading Irishmen from all parts of the country will be there, and we have every reason to look on a project for many years cooperated in as a project for many years, and have stated their intention of being present on the occasion. Promises of support have also been received from many Nationalists who will be unable to attend, and it is confidently expected that the general response to the appeal will be in all respects worthy of the best traditions of Nationalist movements in London. T P O'Connor, M P, is returning from Ireland to preside, and he will be supported by several other distinguished speakers.

The weather in London has again been very trying during the past few days. It rained nearly done on Saturday morning, people with overcoats in the streets, while yesterday it almost as bad. The city police authorities were at last taken compassion on the hot their constables who are obliged to remain on their beats in the broiling sun for hours at a stretch. Each man is now supplied with a large waterproof, which he can wear over his uniform, and quickly on the scene, so to protect the naps of the helmet, preventing sunstroke or the violent headaches caused by long exposure to the hot sun, and brings so as