

THE FRANCO-TURKISH GAME OF BLUFF

I DO not know, of course, what may be the condition of affairs between Turkey and France when this letter appears in print, but just at present "it is to laugh," as the French say, with the laugh on the side of Johnny Crapaud. In very truth, the French have taken a leaf out of the "Sick Man's" diplomatic "vade mecum" and are hugging themselves over the outcome of their coup. In fine, Rear Admiral Caillaud sailed out of Toulon on sealed orders with a magnificent squadron composed of great battleships and cruisers, carrying an aggregate crew of more than 2,000 men, landing parties, etc., with the Levant as his destination. Whether he promptly reached that destination or not was something aside from the real purport of the expedition, which was merely to "shake up" the sultan by a naval demonstration under his very nose, so to speak. How beautifully the scheme worked is already known, and the chagrin of the sultan, when his enemies beat him at his own favorite game of bluff, must have been intense. We need only to appeal to history to learn the trend of the sultan's misadventured diplomacy when he wants to save his hide and his "argent" at the same time. His peculiar strength lies, as we all know, in being able to play a seesaw game with all the powers, holding them off, as he does, by working upon their mutual distrust. The inevitable end of Turkey, already a pariah among the powers, is, of course, expulsion from Europe and perhaps extinction as a nation. But just when that end will come no man ventures to predict. All the signatories, save perhaps one, to the "concert" by which the Sick Man is held in his present position as a mischief maker are desirous of having him kicked out. But who will do the kicking? It is the "premier coup" that all fear, but once that has been administered, then goodbye Sultan Hamid II, the arch mischief maker of Europe and the prevaricating miscreant of Asia Minor.

It is needless to discuss the actuating reasons for all the display of forbearance by the great European powers toward their cringing yet insolent Mohammedan neighbor on the banks of the Bosphorus, for they have been narrated and discussed, in these many years. Not only every nation in Europe, but one might well say every civilized nation in the world, has had a grievance against Turkey. The grievance of the United States was so recent as to be universally known, but aside from that, in common with every respectable nation in the world, it has a grievance of long standing against Turkey for merely continuing to exist. But let that pass. The claim of Abdul's admirers that he is one of the world's greatest diplomats merely because he uses the arts of mendacity and procrastination with effect has been exploded, and to Johnny Crapaud belongs the credit of having punctured that indolent bubble and brought it to a collapse.

"It is to laugh," the Frenchmen say, and "Rira bien qui rira le dernier" ("they have most to laugh at who laugh last"). I venture to quote this in the original because I hear it so often in

this city. In the cafes, on the boulevards—in fact, everywhere. Still, the wily Abdul may yet have "something up his sleeve," and it is with a quasi apprehensive shiver that the French-

(not as they should, all against Turkey as a common enemy and an affront to twentieth century civilization, but according to their fancied interests) there is no doubt in the world what the out-

come would be. Notwithstanding the fact that every man in the Turkish army is a desperate fighter and that in the event of war Turkey could place 1,000,000 men in the field—her present army on a peace footing being about 130,000—it is plain that France would in the end conquer in a run, for the fight would be largely on the sea.

Has it ever occurred to you Americans that only three years ago France was acknowledged by naval authorities to be supreme in the Mediterranean, with a fighting strength there much greater than that of Great Britain, and that it now ranks only second to the latter nation as a naval power? Yet this is so, and, what is more, the French are well aware of the fact that, combined with Russia and Germany, which rank, respectively, third and

fifth—the United States standing fourth—they would have a tonnage and armament equal to Great Britain's. Besides the great battleships Gaulois and Charlemagne, which steamed

sard, Zu Chayla and Gallie. But these are surpassed by many others, such, for example, as the armored cruiser Montcalm, with displacement of nearly 10,000 tons, speed of 21 knots and for-

class battleship of 12,000 tons, is nearly 400 feet in length, with an armor belt from 10 to 17 inches in thickness. These are not the only giants the French possess, for they have launched several times in the past decade. As for the smaller fry, such as torpedo boats and destroyers, they have turned them out by the dozen. France has at least forty battleships, built and building, besides as many more armored and second class cruisers—let us say eighty armored ships and 120 "unarmored," or 200 in all; while Turkey at her best cannot summon to her aid more than twenty ironclads, obsolete and rusty from neglect, and perhaps two dozen torpedo boats, which no Turk dare handle from fear of going to the bottom. Altogether, Turkey can show only 125 vessels of all classes, mostly out of date, and can muster but 1,500 sailors. Her total steam and sail, amounts to only 64,000 tons, while France has more than 430 vessels of all classes, with a tonnage of above 730,000. The coast of France fairly swarms with cruisers, armored and unarmored, torpedo boats and submarines and is defended by forts of great strength, while the coast of Turkey, in Europe and in Asia, along the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus even, is absolutely unprotected, as a modern naval expert would protest it.

In a comparison of land forces, even though the French army on a peace footing is 500,000 and more from 3,000,000 on a war basis, the Turkish army, with its million or so on a war footing, would not be perhaps at such a disadvantage on account of the distance that France would have to transport her men, supplies and munitions. The last war with Greece proved the Turks no cowards, their petticoated enemies running before their onslaughts like flocks of sheep; so the French would probably have no advantage over their opponents on the score of bravery.

But the war, should it come to pass, will not be fought on land, but mainly on the sea, or at least from the decks of cruisers and battleships. As the bulk of the Turkish navy has paper walls, or, in other words, does not actually exist, there is little doubt as to the outcome of the first encounter between the respective warships. And when once the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus are cleared and Constantinople lies undefended before the advancing fleets, her only salvation will be that invisible hand which will be stretched forth by the "concert" to arrest the progress of the victor. Sentiment will save Constantinople from the French—peradventure they even penetrate so far—as it saved it from the Russian runs in 1878. It matters not that this sentiment is one of jealousy and commercialism, sordid and unworthy. It will prevail, and the Turk will be allowed another respite before being commanded to pack up his things and leave.

It seems, however, to be the prevailing belief that France will be allowed a free hand up to a certain point. When she reaches the danger line, she will be compelled to halt, even though behind her stand the czar and his Russian legions.

JAMES WELLMAN JOHNSON.

THE FORMER BRITISH MINISTER TO PEKING.

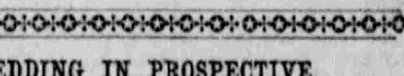
The rumor that Sir Claude Macdonald, formerly British minister plenipotentiary to China, is soon to visit this country revives interest in this individual, whose portrait is presented in the accompanying illustration. Sir Claude has lately been enjoying a rest with some friends in Grantown, Edin-



shire, where this snapshot, was taken as he was walking in a garden. The passing out of sight of this gentleman, so prominent in Peking during the Boxer uprising and who with his family was at one time given up for lost, shows how uncertain is fame that rests upon mere notoriety.

INDIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

The gentleman whose portrait is here with presented, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, enjoys the unique distinction of being the only native East Indian in the British parliament. He is seventy-six years old and still vigorous, having just published a book on British rule in India, in which he fiercely lashes the government. Born a Parsee, the son of a priest who died when he was four years old, he owes his education to his mother. For many years he was known as "Lord Salisbury's black man," though but little darker in complexion than the average Englishman and intellectually superior to most of his critics. In the house he has spoken often and eloquently on Indian affairs.



ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE BUILDINGS IN THE WORLD.



So far as its foundations go, it is said that the building recently erected by the Mutual Life Insurance company at the corner of Liberty, Nassau and Cedar streets, New York, is one of the most remarkable in the world. The structure, shown in the accompanying illustration, is eight stories in height on Cedar street and sixteen stories on Liberty street. But it is not so much as a skyscraper that it is worthy of attention as for the great engineering skill exhibited in overcoming the structural difficulties connected with its foundation. This foundation rests on bedrock 100 feet below the street level, while the cellar floor is 35 feet below the average level of standing water and 55 feet beneath the sidewalk. In order to prevent the adjoining buildings from falling during construction 81 steel caissons were sunk for their support, and in the permanent foundations for the structure itself there were used 2,000 tons of steel, 10,000 cubic yards of stone, 5,000 of sand and 20,000 barrels of cement. The total cost of this addition, it is estimated, will foot up not less than \$2,500,000.

OSTRICHES GOING TO BE PLUCKED OF THEIR PLUMES.



The accompanying illustration, showing a procession of ostriches on their way to be plucked of their plumage, indicates the extent to which the breeding of the birds is now carried on in this country. The prevailing impression that the ostrich will subsist on a diet chiefly of old nails and scrap iron is said to be erroneous, for, while not given to drink and capable of living in the most barren of deserts, "Struthio camelus" has a healthy appetite and demands a good deal of food of a sort that costs the farmer considerable hard cash. His owner is rewarded, however, by the plumes he yields, which are worth anywhere up to \$200 per pound.

SCIENTIFIC AND OTHERWISE.

Wireless telegraphy seems to have a great future in the Sahara desert, as communication can be readily set up between the oases—and there are no wires to steal.

Arrangements are practically completed for running parlor and sleeping cars from Cincinnati to Columbus, O. Sleeping cars for street railways will

be a novelty. It is expected that the running time between Columbus and Cincinnati will be about six hours.

American electrical engineers have scored another victory in England. The firm of J. G. White & Co. has been awarded a contract to build the corporation tramways of Bournemouth at a cost of \$700,000. Especial interest at-

taches to the proposed lines for the reason that they will be the first ever constructed in Great Britain combining conduit and overhead trolley sections. If the system proves satisfactory, it will be adopted by a number of British municipalities. The Bournemouth lines will be constructed by an English company organized by Americans.

Bangkok, Siam, now has an electric light plant and a tramway six miles

long and is laying a second line of equal length. The service is fairly good. The telephone system, however, is decidedly bad. It is owned by the government, and there are some 200 instruments of German make.

The Amazon has over 400 tributaries, great and small, which rise in so many different climates that when some are at flood height others are at ebb, and vice versa, so that the bulk of the great

river remains unchanged the whole year round. At 1,000 miles from its mouth it is navigable for large ships.

Electric light is being installed in Buckingham palace, which is being refitted throughout.

The unusual optical phenomenon of a rainbow produced by the sun shining, not on raindrops, but on particles of sand suspended in the air by wind, was witnessed over a part of the Great Salt

lake recently by Professor James P. Talmage of the University of Utah. The colors were very brilliant, and there was a secondary bow visible.

The most wonderful bridge in the world is a petrified tree from three feet to four feet in diameter spanning a chasm forty feet wide. More than 100 feet of its length is in sight, both ends being imbedded in the sandstone of the

canyon. A petrified forest covering an area of 100 square miles has existed for centuries in Arizona. Thousands and thousands of petrified logs strew the ground and represent beautiful shades of green, purple, red, gray, blue and yellow.

The use of the "E Pluribus Unum" on coin was never authorized by law. Its first known use was on a New Jersey cent struck off in 1776.

FRENCH SOLDIERS A LA CHINOISE.

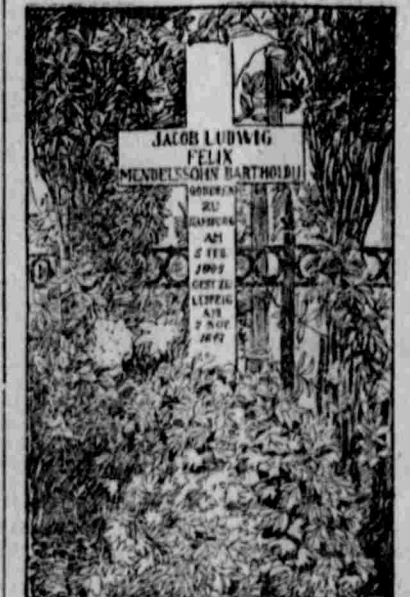
In the curious figures shown in the accompanying illustration the native artists of Shanghai express their conception of what the French soldier looks like from a Chinese point of view.



According to them, he has oblique eyes and a decidedly Mongolian cast of countenance, although his mustaches are as French as can be made. To show the high esteem in which the Gallic species of "foreign devil" is held the artist represents him as holding a Chinese baby in his arms.

NEW MEMORIAL TO MENDELSSOHN.

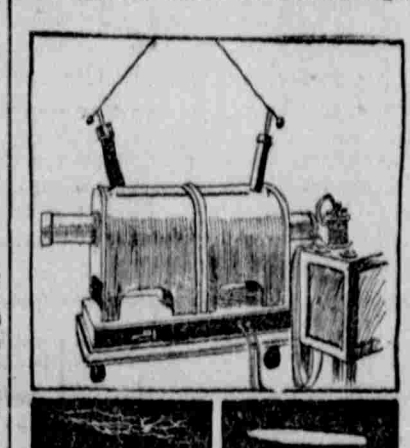
Only recently, and fifty-four years after the death of the famous composer and musician Mendelssohn, the marble cross over his grave has been replaced by another, as shown in the accompanying illustration. It bears sim-



ply his name, dates and places of birth and death and rises above a mound covered with ivy and fuchsias. The inscription on the cross, in German, reads: "Johann Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, born at Hamburg February 3, 1809, died in Leipzig November 4, 1847."

BIGGEST ELECTRIC COIL IN THE WORLD.

The largest induction coil, which produces the longest spark for service in wireless telegraphy, is said to be the one shown in the accompanying illustration and which was recently made for flashing messages between the coast of Japan and Korea. It can produce, in fact, a miniature streak of lightning forty-five inches in length, capable of killing any number of persons who might get in its way, and when in operation sends out tremendous thunder rolls. The entire apparatus weighs about 2,600 pounds. A large amount, or 1,320,000 feet, of copper wire was used in its construction, and with a proper receiving apparatus wireless messages



should be sent across a space of 500 miles. This immense coil requires about one horsepower of electrical energy for the perfect transmission of wireless waves, which are picked up by the "electric eye" of the receiver.

ANOTHER ROYAL WEDDING IN PROSPECTIVE.



The engagement has been reported of the Princess Thyra of Denmark and the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and the portraits of the pair are shown in the accompanying illustration. Princess Thyra is two years the senior of the grand duke, as she was born in 1880 and he in 1882. Her brother, Prince Christian, son of the Danish crown prince, is already married to the grand duke's sister. Grand Duke Frederick Francis IV, succeeded to the little duchy, with its less than half a million population, four years ago, at first "reigning" under the regency of his uncle. He is represented here wearing around his neck the grand collar of the Order of the Crown of Wenden, the honor of presenting which to worthy individuals he shares with the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, three-fourths of the decorations falling to his share and the other fourth to Strelitz.

THIS MAGNIFICENT EPERGNE WAS DESIGNED BY THE KAISER.



The illustration shows the magnificent epergne designed by the Kaiser and presented, as the inscription around the central flagon shows, "by Emperor William to King Edward VII." It was executed at the Royal Industrial School of Arts in Berlin. The centerpiece is a flagon of silver gilt 3 feet high and 2 feet broad, mounted upon a cubical pedestal of wood. Its

surface is richly chased with festoons of acanthus and laurel leaves, while the flower baskets which surround it are in the shape of balustrades of gilt bronze, so arranged as to be capable of being used in connection with any other ornamental features, such as the king's coat of arms or the royal monogram.

