

"THE SICK MAN OF EUROPE."

The Anomalous Position Occupied by Turkey. A Veritable Tinder Box—Her Debasing Record.

NEARLY everything in this world has an excuse for being, it has been said, except the Ottoman government. And even that anachronism has its apologists. Ineffable Turk has had his apologist. When, for instance, a British peer of the realm once spoke in favor of the Turk from his seat in the house of lords, he presented an unanswerable argument, from a British point of view, for his continued existence. "How convenient it has been," he naively said, "to have a power commanding the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus which is not strong enough to stand alone, but is strong enough to stand by the aid of Great Britain, and how hopeless it would be to find any exact equivalent for such an arrangement!"

There is the so-called "eastern question" in a nutshell. Were it not for the Turk and his inherent weakness the Russian in all his strength would sweep down upon the Dardanelles from the Black sea and shut out England and her marine forever. Not alone England, but all Europe, would have to bow to the mighty Muscovite, perchance, if the Turk were not squatted in his squalor at Constantinople. So it is not merely a contention that has arisen—for example, between Turkey and France, the most recent—that is now the issue, but the very existence of Turkey herself. The sultan knows, as every government of Europe knows, that he and his are merely tolerated in the position they occupy by the very exigencies of their situation. This instance of a refusal on the part of the sultan to keep faith with the "unbeliever," be he French or German, English or Russian, is no new feature of Turkish diplomacy. Deception, fraud, prostration, are interwoven into its very fabric and have been practiced so far back as the memory of man extends.

In the latest instance—that which threatened a severance of diplomatic relations between France and Turkey and a possible revision on the part of the latter nation—the sultan had made certain promises to French contractors in the matter of building quays at Constantinople and improving its water front. They had performed their part of the contract faithfully and had very properly insisted upon the sultan performing his—that is, they had imposed a tax or tariff on all goods landed at their docks, in accordance with stipulations and in order to obtain reimbursement for their vast outlay. Protests were lodged with the sultan not only by the merchants individually, but by the representatives of foreign powers, that an increased tariff was a violation of commercial treaties and could not be enforced. The sultan saw that he had placed himself in an equivocal position, from which there was no retreat save by purchasing the docks at an expense to the Turkish government of some 50,000,000 francs or repudiating the contracts. He chose the latter course, and the contractors appealed to their government. Their cause was just, the facts in the case were clearly in their favor, and finally M. Constans, the French ambassador, presented an ultimatum. There was no recession from the stand the sultan had taken save by purchase of the quays, for which his tax ridden country could not readily furnish the money. So he resorted to promises, then to subterfuges, then to a tacit disavowal of responsibility.

It is the same old story, told time and again in the history of diplomatic dealings with Turkey. The Turkish emperor will not fight unless hard pressed; he will smother beneath the garments of some other nation and thence stick

stances until he has sounded the sentiment of Europe. In a game of bluff the sultan is certain always to come out ahead, for he is a past master at it and knows what wires to pull to set all the rulers of Europe by the ears.

century Turkey was at war with either Austria or Russia. Should war have eventuated between Turkey and France it would not be the first time the Mussulmans and Gauls had been in conflict, for it was in France more than 1,100 years ago that the Moslems received their first repulse, when by the battle won by Charles Martel all western Europe was saved from conquest. It was after Spain had been invaded from Africa, the Pyrenees passed and France invaded in the year 732 that Martel met the great army at the head of his Frankish and German warriors. After six days' skirmishing the Christian infantry drove back the Arabian cavalry to their camps, from which the next day the great retreat

came out of the east and took Constantinople after a long siege in 1453. Since that time this city has been their capital, identified with their every movement in Europe. Seventy-six years later they marched upon Vienna, but did



EMBASSADOR CONSTANS AND ABDUL HAMID II, SULTAN OF TURKEY.

out his head and snarl and snap at his pursuers. The sultan knows that, viewed from an international standpoint, he will be backed up by England, Austria, Roumania and Greece, who have protested against the imposition of increased taxes on shipping. So he shrugs his shoulders, tells Johnny Crapaud that he is sorry, but—well, he knows what to do under the circumstances, etc. But Johnny Crapaud is not quite certain what he ought to do under the circum-

stances. In this case, however, he had reckoned without his host, as his partial backer indicates. But in the event of actual conflict between Turkey and France, with their respective allies, what would have been the probable outcome of the issue? An appeal to history might throw light upon the matter, as it would show the manners and methods of the Turk during several centuries. Going no further back than the fifteenth century, we shall find that the Ottomans or Turks

did not capture it, and in the third quarter of the sixteenth century were probably at the zenith of their military power and glory. The naval battle of Lepanto in 1571, when Turkey had arrayed against her the allied forces of Venice, Spain and Rome, started the decline of Turkish power. Her fleet was completely destroyed, and her prestige at sea went with the fleet. In 1699 nearly all the Turkish possessions in Hungary were surrendered to Austria, and during almost the whole of the eighteenth

century it was from his conduct on this occasion and the vigor of his arm that Charles received his renowned surname of "Martel" (the hammer). The French came in touch with Moslems again during the campaigns of Louis XIV and yet again near the end of the last century, when Bonaparte invaded Egypt and obtained many concessions from the Turks. At Navarino in 1827 the French combined with the English and Russians against the Turco-Egyptian fleet, which was destroyed.

the victory greatly aiding the Greeks in achieving their independence. As the Turkish empire has correspondingly retrograded, it has been shorn of more and more of its territory in each century for the past 300 years until it is now protected only by its own weakness, while it inspires no suspicion or dread and has become an object more of pity than of fear, yet sufficiently powerful as a mischief maker to set all Europe ablaze from one end to the other.

Take the Crimean war for example. Turkey dates her admission into the political system of Europe only from 1840-1 and has been associated in polite society for scarcely 60 years. It came about somehow that the integrity of Turkey became a cardinal principle of European diplomacy. This was strengthened by the coalition of England, France and Sardinia with Turkey against Russia, resulting in the Crimean war, the discomfiture of Russia and the neutralization of the Black sea by the treaty of Paris, 1856. France and England fought shoulder to shoulder with Turkey in the Crimea, but in 1860 a French army and an English fleet were obliged to interfere to bring to an end the massacre of Christians at Damascus and in the Lebanon.

The Moslem invaders of France were turned back more than a thousand years ago; from Austria 200 years ago; Turkey's naval prestige was destroyed 200 years ago; her territorial disintegration began more than 40 years ago, with the rise of the Danubian principalities. Servia gained her independence more than 30 years ago. Since then Bulgaria and Roumania have followed after her, together with several minor affairs, all carried from territory that had at one time been the Turk's. Yet the "Sick Man of the East" still sits astride the Bosphorus, holding the key to the eastern situation and snapping his fingers in the face of Europe!

While France was incapacitated by the war with Germany from rendering aid to the ports Russia endeavored to gain the ground lost by the treaty of Paris and in 1871 abrogated the articles restricting her operations in the Black sea. A few years later Turkey virtually lost control of Egypt by her concessions to the khedive, who became almost an absolute ruler, and in 1875, the Turkish empire being seemingly threatened with dismemberment, the five powers who had signed the treaty of Paris proposed a scheme of reforms, which the sultan accepted as to the letter, but violated in spirit.

Revolts in Herzegovina were followed by atrocious massacres of Christians by the Turks and the murder of the French and German consuls at Salonica. Then followed the Russo-Turkish war, the ostensible cause of which was Russian interest in the ports of the Christian subjects, though the true cause probably was Russian desire to acquire territory in the Balkan peninsula and ultimate possession of Constantinople. After repeated repulses the Russians, with the aid of the Roumanians, were finally victorious at Plevna. They crossed the Balkans, captured one Turkish army at Shipka, routed another and in January, 1878, entered Adrianople.

As the Porte had already begun to negotiate for peace, the treaty of San Stefano was signed in March, 1878, by which Russia obtained practically all she asked for at the time. This was, however, subjected to review and modification at the Berlin congress of the powers the following June-July. That congress at Berlin in 1878 set a seal upon the sentiment quoted at the opening of this article—that Turkey is a necessary evil, to be endured for diplomatic reasons; that is, that she is necessary to preserve the balance of power

in Europe and that her integrity should not be altogether destroyed. The sensations of the congress, engineered by Disraeli, were supplied by Great Britain and were the secret trait, less then first time revealed, entered into between Great Britain and Turkey, by which the former agreed to all future time to defend the Asiatic dominions of the Ottoman empire "by force of arms," while Turkey, on the other hand, promised to introduce necessary reforms as agreed upon with its ally and to assign the island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by Great Britain so long as Russia should occupy Batum, Ardahan and Kars. This was a fly in the Russian ointment, and it sticks there still, greatly to the annoyance of the Russian Bear.

Since then have occurred the atrocious Armenian massacres, beginning in 1894, in which it was reported more than 50,000 persons of both sexes and all ages met death at the hands of the Kurds and Turkish soldiery. England was at the time almost as greatly reprobated as the real criminal, Turkey, on account of her apathy and apparent indifference.

The war between Greece and Turkey in 1897 is the most recent appearance of large bodies of Turkish soldiery in the field. It arose from the Cretan insurrection, during which the so-called "cert of powers" rallied to the aid of the Cretan insurgents and blocked their ports. In the hostilities which followed between Greece and Turkey it must be confessed that the soldiers of the former made a bad showing as compared with those of the latter. They were beaten at every point, and their cowardice was in marked contrast to Turkish bravery. In the peace negotiations Turkey demanded permanent possession of Thessaly, which had been ravaged by overrun by her soldiery, but eventually obtained little territory and was obliged to be content with a large money indemnity instead.

The epitome of Turkey's doings as a nation we can see that of late she has been supported more by outside influence than by innate capacity. She holds her position on sufferance only and would quickly lose her grip on Europe and be summarily kicked across the Bosphorus were it not for the quarrel that would surely arise among the powers over the vacated territory. Structurally weak, her only strength lies in the incongruous elements of her population, so dissimilar that there can be no union among them for a successful rebellion. As to area, while Turkey in Europe covers about 82,500 square miles, Turkey in Asia covers 725,179 square miles. The population of the former is 4,700,000, of the latter 16,000,000, with about 14,000,000 more in territories such as Bulgaria, Tripoli and Egypt, which acknowledge hardly more than nominal suzerainty.

If war were to occur, the ports could reckon upon the support of only the 10,000,000 or 11,000,000 Ottomans, or with a million or so of Circassians, Tartars and Albanians, for the majority of his subjects are secretly hostile to his government. Many of them are non-Moslems and hate their rulers heartily. The Turkish army on a nominal footing is 150,000; on a war footing over 1,000,000 of all categories. The Turkish soldiers are brave and faithful, capable of great endurance and excellent fighters, but they lack skilled commanders and leaders. As compared with some of the other powers, they are poor shots, deficient in discipline and armed with obsolete weapons. The Turkish artillery comprises some great guns furnished by the Krupps, but, taken altogether, is inefficient.

In the Turkish navy there are 102 steamers, all of a more or less ancient type, including 15 ironclads and 25 torpedo boats, with a total power strength of about 15,000 horse power. The navy, however, is not seriously considered by any power in Europe and is likely to prove more formidable to its owners than to their foes. In her commercial marine Turkey has hardly more than 100 steamers and 160 sailing vessels, about 100,000 tons in all. The annual revenue of late has been the miserably small sum of \$20,000,000, with an expenditure always above receipts, no matter what they may be. The total Turkish debt is about \$300,000,000; imports, \$100,000,000 annually, and exports approximately \$60,000,000.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

ECENTRIC SUMMER FOLK.
"The eccentricities of some of the people who come to my apartments would fill a small volume," remarked a seaside landlady.

"Their whims and peculiarities are well nigh incredible, and at times I hardly know how to restrain myself from laughter when interviewing my potential patrons."

"Only the other day a fashionably dressed woman of some 40 summers refused to take my latest room merely because she did not like the mirror therein. She averred that it made her look 'old and ugly,' and I accordingly suggested that another glass should be substituted."

"She accompanied me from room to room inspecting the mirrors, but eventually decided that the mirror there was sufficiently flattering to suit her requirements. I did not care to point out that it was her face and not the looking glass which was at fault, but such was the fact, for the glass would have been cunningly contrived indeed that would have rendered her features at all attractive."

A WOODEN CRavat.
Grinling Gibbons, the famous wood-carver (1651-1721), fashioned a cravat from wood, and the fine point lace so delicately wrought that it could be folded and tied like a necktie of the ordinary materials. On completing his artistic labors at Chatsworth, England, Grinling Gibbons presented the cravat to the Duke of Devonshire. At one time it was in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire, and according to a letter of his dated May, 1769, was worn by him at a banquet which he gave to various continental and English noblemen. Strawberry Hill, together with a pair of gloves that had been James I's.

MUSICAL TOOTH PULLING.
In the proposed method of tooth extraction of M. Laborde nitrous oxide is administered, and the nightmare often caused by this anesthetic is charmed away by lively music from a phonograph. It is suggested that the same soothing influence may lessen the disagreeable experiences from other anesthetics, like ether and chloroform.

BOER PRISONERS IN BERMUDA, WITHIN 700 MILES OF OUR COAST

A Letter
From
Hamilton

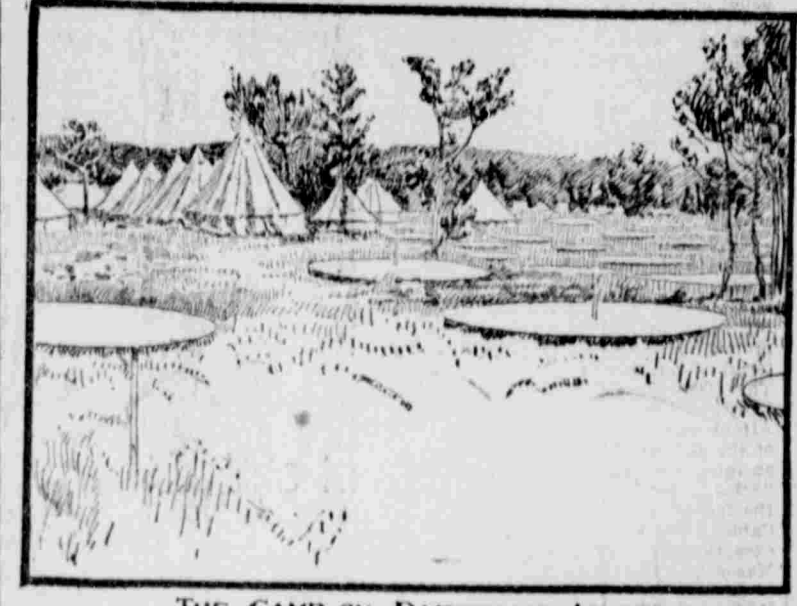
WHILE literally carrying the war into Africa, the British at the same time have been bringing their prisoners of war out of Africa and internment them at places wide apart, such as Ceylon, St. Helena and the Bermudas, from which there is no possible hope of escape. "When this cruel war is over," as the Americans used to say a generation and more ago, such Boers as are then captive will be so widely separated from their homes that their return will be a difficult matter indeed. As only the male Boers are exiled in this manner and the women and children are mainly left behind in South Africa, we may imagine the heartbreakings and non-sensicalness of the captives.

But that is a matter aside from the purport of this letter. A thousand Boers are in Bermuda, and they have now been here several weeks, with many more to come. It is reported, until the number will be swelled to above 8,000. As the population of these islands is only a little over 16,000, we shall have an addition of 50 per cent to the total within the space of a few months, and as there are only 5,000 white inhabitants in the Bermudas the newcomers will outnumber them by at least 3,000. However, we have several hundred British soldiers here on guard and as many warships and gunboats as his majesty chooses to detach for the purpose of watching the islands where the Boers are encamped and the narrow, tortuous channels leading in between the coral ledges from the open ocean. Preparations for their reception began last April, but it was not until June that the first arrivals made their appearance and occupied the two islands, Darrell's and Burt's, in the great sound which had been fitted up for the purpose.

Our governor and commander in chief, General Sir George Digby Barker, K. C. B., made a pretense at earning a portion of the salary we allow him—which, by the way, is \$15,000 a year—by steaming fussily about in a launch, together with his gorgeous staff, and finally selected Darrell's and Burt's islands, mentioned as most favorably situated, for the Boer camp. When the Boers arrived, they were delighted at the appearance of things, particularly the white sand beaches and blue water, the clean, new tents and the cedar trees. Broad, grassy

lanes were left between the tents. Each tent is fitted up for seven men of rank and file, while the officers have

coral rock is everywhere visible where not covered by scum layers of soil and scrubby cedar trees, and that rock is



THE CAMP ON DARRELL'S ISLAND.

a group by themselves, with arrangements for only two to a tent. All these things were very welcome to the Boers, some of whom had been in captivity 15 months when they arrived here, and they nearly went wild with delight at the change from the close prison ships to the open air. But already some of them are beginning to weary of the confinement, lodged in as they are by barbed wire entanglements and the searchlights of the gunboats turned upon them all through the night. To tell the truth, the Bermudas do get wearisome in summer time even to those of us not in captivity, and at their very best they are extremely monotonous. To a visitor from the States who comes here, perchance in midwinter, when his native land is covered with snow and ice and assailed by winter's blasts, the change to perpetual sunshine and balmy breezes is very grateful, but the aforesaid visitor lies himself to his home again as soon as spring opens, or, at the latest, before summer begins and knows nothing by experience of the long period of heat and the monotony of that same perpetual sunshine. Again, the islands' skeleton of



PRISONERS PREPARING TO OCCUPY THEIR TENTS.

white, of a fierce and staring whiteness which under the sun's rays furnishes a glare without equal in the world. And, as if that were not



VIEW OF DARRELL'S AND BURT'S ISLANDS.

but it does seem shameful that any body of brawny men like these should be running to waste for lack of employment in these days when the world needs intelligent labor so much. We read of your tramps in the States who seek to avoid work by every means in their power, but here are men and boys who are anxious to labor without any recompense save that of mere occupation for their hands and minds. Even in this island we could make use of a thousand or two willing workers like these, and who knows but that some of the Boers will settle down here after their release and become good 'Mudians,' like the rest of us? The United States, of course, is the magnet that would be likely to attract them were they free, and this decrease of height begins as early as the age of 35 years. At 20 we are told, the human body has reached its full height, which is retained for a few years, after which the "growing down" process begins. At first and for many years the process is so slow as to be almost imperceptible, but at the age of 40 it begins to be noticeable, and after 50, even though the veteran does not stoop, the fact that he is "growing down" becomes apparent.

islands and that they must be supported by the British government, a government already deeply in debt and practically unable to afford us colonists any aid whatever. If we had it and Canada and the West Indies had but a tithe of the millions expended in this war, we could become props to the empire instead of being mere appendages. Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados, as well as the Bahamas and Bermuda and all the tropical colonies of Great Britain in America, are languishing from lack of encouragement from the home government and becoming more and more dependent upon the United States. So far as the Bermudas are concerned, though they always have been dependent upon the States for their very life, all their exports going to New York and all their ready cash being derived from them and from American visitors. This is aside from what is received from the naval and military forces located here. Our exports to Great Britain last year amounted to less than \$10,000, while our imports from there exceeded \$600,000—that is, we got the money we spend from the States, but send home to England for what we need, and, moreover, still make use of the obsolete system of pounds, shillings and pence. That is one reason why we are backward and non-progressive, for while New York is only two days away from London by rail, the time of regular transit for mails being 14 days and the cost of cablegrams 60 cents per word. At the beginning of the American Revolution the 'Mudians' sent barrels of gunpowder to General Washington, then on Dorchester heights, and in this manner helped him to drive the British out of Boston. The Bermudas would have gone over to the States but for the stupidity of the American politicians. But now that Great Britain has created a great naval station here and planted regiments of her soldiers all over the islands we cannot but be loyal to the crown, so that there is little danger that we shall ever again send powder to the States.

WESTON F. BROWNE,
Hamilton, Bermuda.

ON "GROWING DOWN."

Everybody has noticed that in extreme old age people grow rapidly shorter, so that a person formerly of average height "grows down" into quite a diminutive man or woman. A German contemporary now points out that this decrease of height begins as early as the age of 35 years. At 20 we are told, the human body has reached its full height, which is retained for a few years, after which the "growing down" process begins. At first and for many years the process is so slow as to be almost imperceptible, but at the age of 40 it begins to be noticeable, and after 50, even though the veteran does not stoop, the fact that he is "growing down" becomes apparent.

That, however, is in the future, far or near we cannot tell. What we know now is that the Boers are here in these islands and that they must be supported by the British government, a government already deeply in debt and practically unable to afford us colonists any aid whatever. If we had it and Canada and the West Indies had but a tithe of the millions expended in this war, we could become props to the empire instead of being mere appendages. Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados, as well as the Bahamas and Bermuda and all the tropical colonies of Great Britain in America, are languishing from lack of encouragement from the home government and becoming more and more dependent upon the United States. So far as the Bermudas are concerned, though they always have been dependent upon the States for their very life, all their exports going to New York and all their ready cash being derived from them and from American visitors. This is aside from what is received from the naval and military forces located here. Our exports to Great Britain last year amounted to less than \$10,000, while our imports from there exceeded \$600,000—that is, we got the money we spend from the States, but send home to England for what we need, and, moreover, still make use of the obsolete system of pounds, shillings and pence. That is one reason why we are backward and non-progressive, for while New York is only two days away from London by rail, the time of regular transit for mails being 14 days and the cost of cablegrams 60 cents per word. At the beginning of the American Revolution the 'Mudians' sent barrels of gunpowder to General Washington, then on Dorchester heights, and in this manner helped him to drive the British out of Boston. The Bermudas would have gone over to the States but for the stupidity of the American politicians. But now that Great Britain has created a great naval station here and planted regiments of her soldiers all over the islands we cannot but be loyal to the crown, so that there is little danger that we shall ever again send powder to the States.

BITS OF INFORMATION.

A musty diary in which for ten years David Sewall, a register of probate of York county, Me., recorded memoranda of his daily life has been discovered in the courthouse archives at Alfred. Judge Sewall was appointed by President Washington judge of the district court of Massachusetts. A majority of the attorneys at law

in Berlin have agreed not to do any business with clients on Saturday afternoons. Seven new steamers are to be constructed for a line from Hamburg via Southampton and Lisbon to Brazil. A copy of the first folio edition of Shakespeare, printed in 1623, was sold at auction in London. *av for

\$8,600. This is the record price for copies of this edition. Wah-ta-Wass, the full blood Indian girl who is preparing to enter Radcliffe college, Cambridge, Mass., is at present employed as a typewriter and stenographer in the office of a Boston lawyer and does her studying for her examinations at night. The manuscript of an appeal for funds for Dartmouth college dated

1781 has just been given that college by the estate of a Miss Hopkins of Northampton, Mass. It is signed by Washington T. Lincoln, Livingston Moore, Robert Morris and other historical persons. By Oct. 1 Washington will be receiving its water supply from a new reservoir. The quantity of cotton worked by Russian mills in 1889 was 577,592,000

pounds (180,560,000 pounds Russian and 397,332,000 pounds foreign), valued at \$78,220,000. These mills furnished employment for 178,000 workmen, and 150,000 were engaged in the weaving works. The amount of capital invested is \$137,500,000. It is reported that the prune business has been overdone in the Santa Clara valley, California. For the first summer in the memory

of the oldest inhabitant there has been no gambling at Long Branch this year. All of the half dozen or so clubhouses, as the gambling places are politely called, are bolted and barred, the chains are up at the gates, and the grass is growing where flower gardens have been accustomed to bloom. The traffic on the new electric underground railways in London and Paris is about the same. The total number

of passengers carried from July 20 to Dec. 31, 1900, was 14,458,405 for the London road and 15,950,528 for the Paris line. The receipts are highest for the English road, but the London road cost much more to build, the expense being \$13,800,000 more, while the French road cost only \$1,400,000 per mile. The graduating lists of the American colleges this year show an increase of 25 per cent.