

THE SULTAN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHRISTIANITY.

THE Slick Man of Europe has an idea! He has pondered long upon the growth of Christianity and the manifest decline of Mohammedanism, of which he is as much a champion as he is a critic. He has at last come to the conclusion that in order to regain lost prestige and position he must adopt Christian methods for the spread of his belief. In ancient times it was the custom for the Mussulmans to spread their religion at the point of the sword, and millions died because of their belief that to kill the gladiators or "dogs of Christians" was a sure passport to paradise. But times have changed. Instead of being the recognized head of a powerful sect or nation, Abdul Hamid II of Turkey, the successor of Mohammed, can reckon only a total of 16,800,000 of his faith in all parts of the world, while the de-

of his predecessors and as Mohammed is by many believed to have commanded, Abdul Hamid hopes to bring about a changed condition of affairs by means of missionaries, who are to be sent everywhere for the purpose of making converts to the Koran. There is also to be a triple alliance between Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan for common defense against the encroachments of the Christian powers.

In other words, Abdul Hamid has seen the handwriting on the wall. This usurper of Christian privileges, this defiler of the holiest shrines of Chris-

remaining 150,000,000 of the faith residing outside the sublime port's dominions. As ruler over an absolute monarchy, as hereditary successor to the spiritual caliphate since 1517 and the recognized head not only of his own subjects, but of the entire Mussulman world, Abdul Hamid doubtless has great power, provided he can wield it. As to the disposition of the Mohammedan to rid the world both of Christian powers and Christian individuals there is not—there never has been—the slightest doubt. But even though the grand mufti, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the

in his filth and misery that he dispenses plagues and pestilence whenever he shakes his garments. Nearly 1,570 years have passed since the first "he-gira" to Mecca, the year the great prophet died. Since that event millions of Mohammedans have performed the pious pilgrimage to the prophet's tomb, which is enjoined upon all "true believers," and, moreover, thousands, perhaps millions, have perished of plagues and famines incident to these he-giras. So far as possible, these pilgrimages have been interdicted by the French and English (in Algiers and Egypt) and only recently allowed under rigid restrictions. Shiploads of pilgrims have been centering toward the Mecca of their desires, and the sight is not an

spective converts of similarities between the Christian and the Mohammedan religions. The central idea is monotheism, and the only unpardonable sin in the Koran is that of polytheism. "There is no God but God. The existence of the world infers a creator, and this creator is God, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient—in essence a spirit." There is nothing repugnant to either Jew or Christian in that creed, but while the Mussulman avows "There is no God but God" he adds "and Mohammed is his prophet!" The Koran ranks first of the sacred books, and after the Koran comes the Bible of the Christians.

Taking the Hebrew conceptions as his models, Mohammed evolved his confession of faith to suit himself. Adam is the first of the prophets; Christ stands superior to all the others except Mohammed, "the last and most eminent of them all!"

These are the rocks upon which Christian and Mohammedan will split, for in the latter's ritual there are no insuperable objections. The external observances are five in number—purification, prayer, ablution (some of the Arabs "wash" themselves with sand when water is scarce), fasting and the pilgrimage. Prayers must be made with the face toward the Kaaba, or the visible representation of Mecca, five times in every 24 hours—just before sunrise, at noon, in the afternoon, at evening and during the night. Prayer, in fact, is incumbent on every Mussulman, male or female, over the age of 17.

The Mohammedan moral code is excellent—on paper—inculcating all the so-called Christian virtues, and the Mussulmans are notable for their patience, honesty, temperance, submissiveness and charity. But they are also notorious as supporters and defenders of slavery and polygamy and for the propagation of their faith by means of force. In their treatment of woman alone the Turks are away back in the dark ages. Their creed is full of inconsistencies, and their rendering of it is almost as various as the races that have accepted its teachings. In short, theirs is a religion of blood and fatalism; a hidebound theocracy dominates their lives. They have contributed little to the world's advancement in the past thousand years. They have produced no great men who have moved the world since Mohammed himself; they have given the world no inventions, no works of art, even their architecture, beautiful as it is, having been derived from the peoples they conquered.

In the past the Turk was termed "the scourge of God," sent to punish the Christians on account of their sins. As fighters they were superb; even now their soldiers will fight well if ably led. But they lack moral force, they are permeated with no great ideas—they are centuries behind the times.

Now, it is an axiom in history that no great reformer or reform movement has emanated from an individual who was not superior for the time being to his contemporaries. This may be proved by going back to Mohammed himself, who became conspicuous because of the dense ignorance of his fellow countrymen. And it would be an insult to twentieth century intelligence and progress to accept an effete, polygamous sybarite like Abdul Hamid as the leader of a great reform movement which shall move the world. It is much more probable that his projected propaganda will prove a mighty "boomerang" and recoil with disastrous effect upon him and his people.

BAMBURGH CASTLE, FAMOUS IN HISTORY FOR HAVING SHELTERED MANY FAMOUS PERSONAGES.



The accompanying illustration shows ancient Bamburgh castle, founded in 547, one of the most picturesque and historically one of the most interesting structures in Great Britain. It is connected with the life of the most interesting who surrendered it to the Danes to save the eyes of her husband from being pierced, and with King John and David Bruce; yet the deed of a simple Northumbrian maiden, Grace Darling, also associated with the locality, promises to outlive them all.

It was on the 11th of September, 1838, that Grace Darling, looking out from the lighthouse her father kept, saw the 15 survivors of a shipwrecked crew of 53 clinging to the rigging of the ill-fated Fortharshire. At her earnest solicitation her father launched their lifeboat, and these two rescued nine people who, out of the world, bringing her honors and medals, but four years later she died of consumption, brought on by exposure. Her tomb is in Bamburgh churchyard, a mile distant from the gray, grim walls of this ancient castle, the last owner of which was Lord Armstrong, famous inventor of the gun that bears his name.

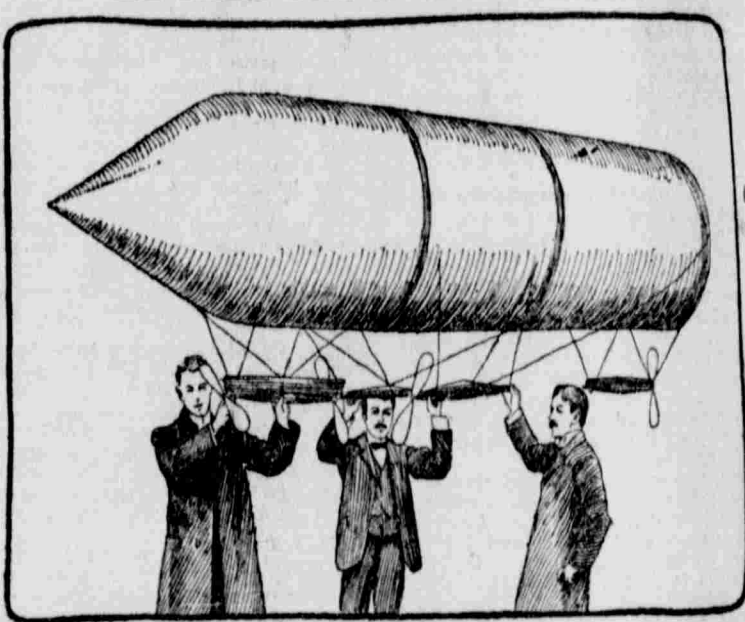


A SKYSCRAPER IN ST. LOUIS. The skyscraper has come to stay without doubt, the only question to be settled being that of how near the sky it shall be carried. Chicago and New York have led the van in the skyscraper movement with their towering



MAURICE HEWLETT, NOVELIST. Not many writers of fiction achieve a reputation like that of Mr. Maurice Hewlett, whose portrait is given in the accompanying illustration. He is only 40 years old, but is already known as a novelist of uncommon promise. His last works, "The Forest Lovers" and "The Yea and Nay," having been quite

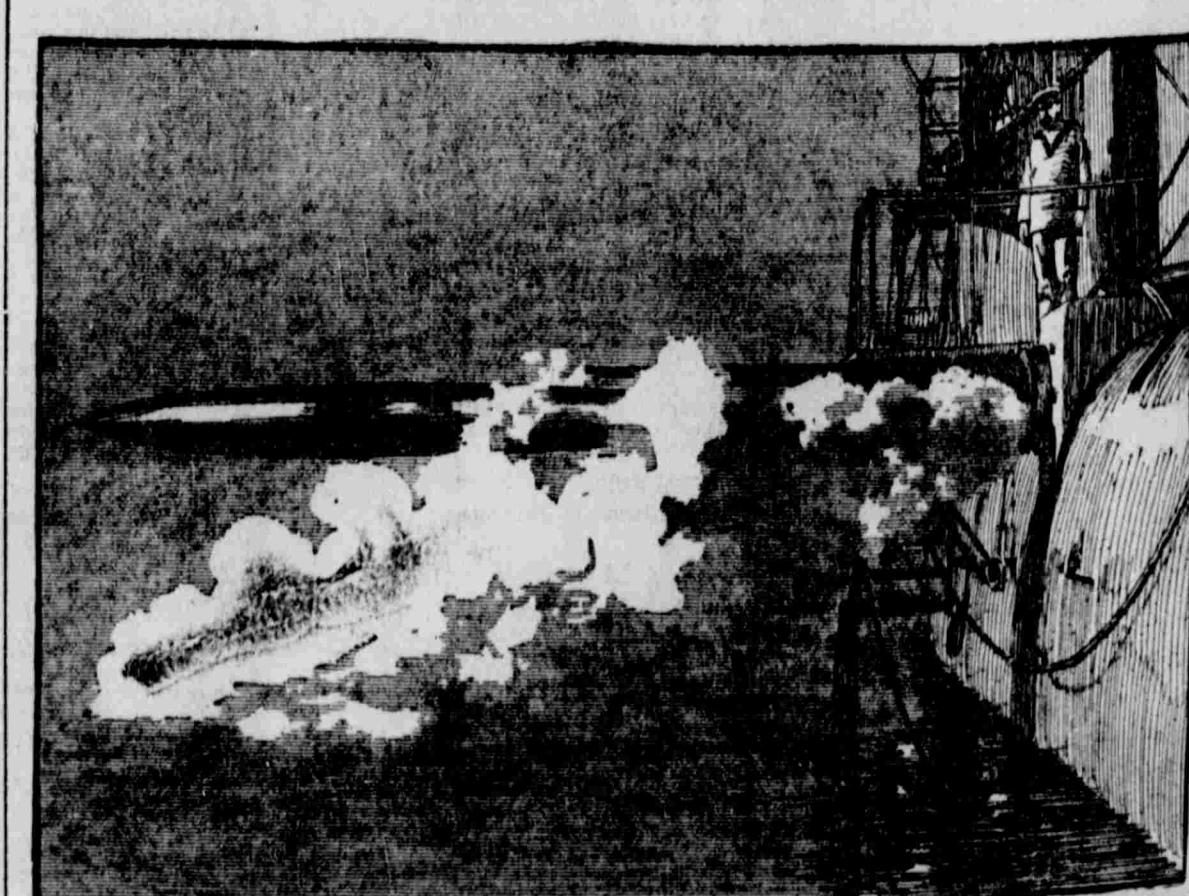
THE LATEST TYPE OF FLYING MACHINE.



A model of the very latest form of flying machine, shown in the accompanying illustration, is now on exhibition and has proved quite successful, being perfectly dirigible and easily controlled. As a flying machine of this type costs only \$10,000, it is possible that wealthy Americans will soon be flying about in private aerial cars as they now speed over the country in their automobiles. "Own your own flying machine" will probably be the advice of dealers in "aerials" in the very near future.

This machine is the invention of M. Gaudron, a Frenchman, who claims that in this perfected "aerial torpedo boat" 100 feet long five passengers can be carried at a speed of 30 miles an hour. It will be driven by petroleum motors, with propellers, and the lifting power is hydrogen gas.

BEST INSTANTANEOUS PHOTOGRAPH EVER TAKEN OF A TORPEDO IN FLIGHT.



What is acknowledged to be the best photograph ever taken of a torpedo in flight is reproduced in the accompanying illustration. It was secured in the fraction of a second during which the vast missile emerged from the torpedo tube of a French cruiser off Toulon, where a fleet was assembled to greet an incoming Italian squadron.

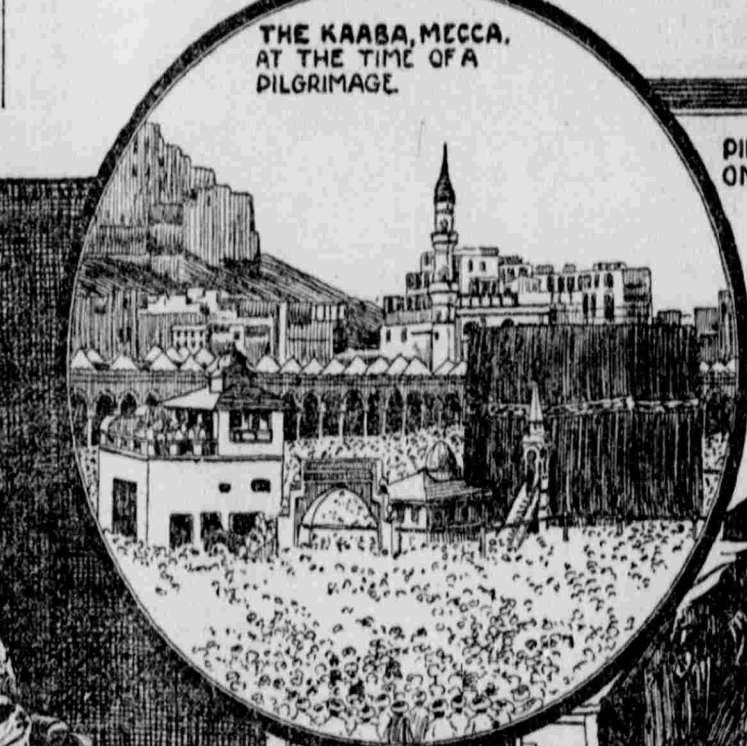


ABDUL HAMID II, SULTAN OF TURKEY.

spised Christians number, all told, 477,000,000. He and his are in a minority by some 300,000,000, and even the lethargic Turk sees the necessity for bestirring himself if he would not be left behind in the race for religious supremacy.

He has consequently proclaimed a movement for the revival of Mohammedanism and has announced a forthcoming pilgrimage of vast proportions from every point of the compass toward Constantinople.

Instead of persuading the infidels to surrender their beliefs by means of fire and sword, as was anciently the custom



THE KAABA, MECCA, AT THE TIME OF A PILGRIMAGE.

PILGRIMS AT PRAYER ON SHIPBOARD.



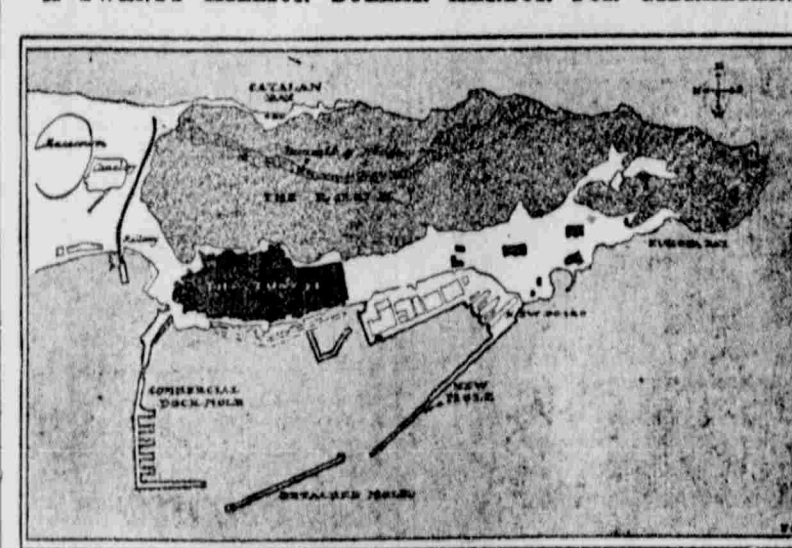
supreme director of Mohammedan spiritual affairs, should join with the sultan to excite the religious fanaticism of the entire world of Mohammed's followers it would be of no avail. The Ottoman government and the fragmentary remains of Mussulman rule in different parts of the world exist today only by sufferance of the Christian nations, who allow them to continue in order to preserve an equivoque in international affairs. That the Turks will eventually be swept out of Europe and the Holy Land and that the sacred shines they have so long polluted by their presence will be released to those who reverence them must not be doubted.

But there is a menace even in stirring up the Turk, who has squatted so long

unusual one of whole rows of the "faithful" prostrate upon deck, with their faces toward the tomb of Mohammed. If this tide should be turned toward Constantinople, the superior facilities for travel to which city would enormously increase the number of pilgrims, no one can estimate the terrible results. All the powers of Europe would be compelled to combine against the sultan and his adherents for mutual protection, and that much desired consummation the expulsion of the Slick Man from Europe might thus be brought about.

But, assuming that the missionaries to be sent forth by Abdul Hamid were to commence proselytizing, they will probably attempt to convince their pro-

A TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR HARBOR FOR GIBRALTAR.



It has cost Great Britain a "pretty penny" to retain the great rock of Gibraltar, seized by her in 1704 and ever since kept in possession by strong garrisons and expensive armaments. Spain looks upon its continued retention by the British as a perpetual menace to her adjacent coast. Works have been carried forward for nearly 200 years until Gibraltar has become well nigh impregnable. The latest improvement is the building adjacent to the town at the foot of the rock of an artificial harbor, which will cost at least \$20,000,000. But now that the great work is well under way, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall having recently superintended the laying of a stone, it has been discovered that the harbor will be wholly at the mercy of guns on Spanish territory and hence altogether useless unless some way may be found out of the difficulty, say by annexing Spain or acquiring control of Morocco.

A READY MADE ROYAL SAILOR.

The portrait accompanying this article is that of Prince Christian Frederick Charles of Denmark, G. C. B., G. C. V. O., etc., who married his cousin, the Princess Maude, daughter of the Prince of Wales, in 1896. He is the latest example of the "ready made" royal sailor, having been created "honorary lieutenant



an" (the only one of the kind in existence) by request of King Edward of England, his father-in-law. He is the second son of the crown prince of Denmark and is 23 years old, three years younger than his wife.

His case is mentioned as but one of many similar appointments which have been made to the British army and navy of royal dummies who hold purely honorary positions, and it is no wonder that when a test comes, like that of the Boer war for instance, the "service" falls to pieces.

JOE CHAMBERLAIN'S BROTHER.

Although Mr. Arthur Chamberlain is younger than his famous brother and is chiefly known through his family relations with the British colonial secretary, yet, as recently shown during the action he brought against certain papers for libel, he might have achieved a reputation on his own account had he devoted himself to politics. As it is, the gentleman whose portrait appears in the accompanying illustration has acquired an international business reputation and shown himself possessed of all those pushing qualities which have caused "Brother Joe" to forge so rapidly to the front.

LONDON'S BUSY PEOPLE. London's total passenger traffic is 1,267,000,000 a year. This means that every person in London takes over 200 journeys in bus, train or tram in a year.

FIRST FOREIGN TWENTIETH CENTURY EXPOSITION, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.



The accompanying illustration gives a panoramic view of the main building and fine arts gallery of the "international" exposition to be opened at Glasgow, Scotland, on the 7th of May. The Prince of Wales had promised to attend, but the demise of his mother and his accession to the throne prevent his carrying out the intention, so the pleasing task will devolve upon his daughter, the Duchess of Fife.

While this exposition is to extend from May to November and will be the finest ever held in Great Britain, there can be no comparison between it and our great Pan-American exposition at Buffalo. The grounds will comprise about a hundred acres in beautiful Kelvingrove park, where the main buildings, divided into three groups, will be the industrial hall, 700 feet long; machinery hall, 600 feet, and the grand concert hall, capable of seating some three thousand people. The scheme was started several years ago, with a guarantee fund which now exceeds \$2,500,000.

AROUND THE WORLD.

Cotton exports brought to this country \$119,000,000 more in 1900 than in 1899. Colonel John Jacob Astor's military company at Rhinebeck, N. Y., has been formally disbanded, owing, it is said, to a lack of interest on the part of the members.

The mourning worn by the royal family is very, very deep. Long veils which

measure 71 inches in length are worn, hanging down behind from the bonnets, and the maids of honor also wear long veils attached to their headgear, and even in the house the royal princesses are to wear black crepe on their heads—caplike things with long ends.

A poor family in Boston overlooked a credit of \$40 in a savings bank in 1850,

and the matter was forgotten until 1857, when the accumulated amount was \$422.61. It was allowed to remain, and on Jan. 16, 1891, was \$1,820.10. The interest allowed has gradually been reduced from 7 to 4 per cent.

An enormous quantity of fruit is going to waste in southern California for lack of cars to convey it east. The crop was the greatest on record, being estimated at from 22,000 to 25,000 carloads.

There are from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 boxes of oranges there just now, worth under favorable conditions about \$5,000,000, but owing to delay in shipment it is questionable whether they represent much value.

You can take out a patent in Belgium for \$25, in France for \$50, in Russia for \$25.

The largest building ever erected was the temporary structure known as the

Manufactures and Liberal Arts building at the Columbian exposition at Chicago, 1893. It was 787 feet wide, 1,687 feet long, 203 feet high, covered 30½ acres and had 44 acres of floor space, including galleries.

It does not appear that the English are ready to withdraw from South Africa. British agents are in this country asking bids on 20,000 bags of feeding oats, 20,000 bags of seed oats, 20,000

bales of alfalfa hay and 20,000 bags of bran. It is understood that these supplies are for the troops in South Africa.

After having experimented for several years a Copenhagen chemist has succeeded in producing a material called "sollicum," which possesses qualities that will render it of the greatest importance to the caoutchouc industry. It is produced, it seems, from asphalt and can be used for the manufacture of

linoleum, rubbers, insulators, etc. It is also claimed that the material can be used as a paint in all colors and that it is absolutely waterproof.

Unless a private offer is accepted the crown lease of 4 Whitehall Gardens, London, will be sold. It was here that Sir Robert Peel lived from 1823 until his death in 1850. Externally the house is now pretty much the same as it was then.