

The Queer Camel Campaign of Great Britain Against the Mad Mollah of Somaliland

ONE OF GREAT BRITAIN'S CAMEL CORPS ON THE MARCH THROUGH THE DESERT.

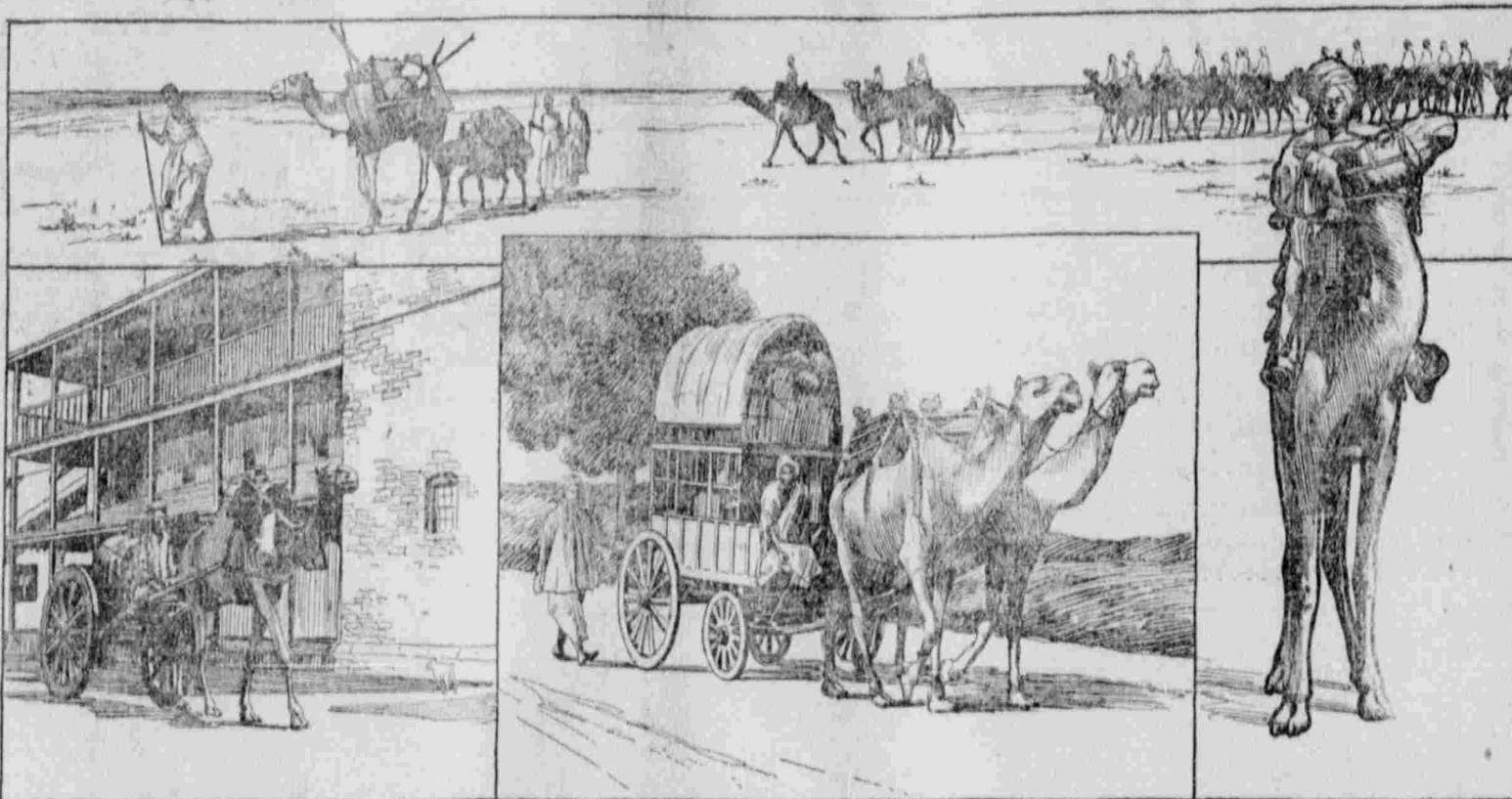


THE British campaign in Somaliland is to be a "camel campaign," and the "ship of the desert" will probably gain all the victories and receive all the kicks for the flat has gone forth from the foreign office in London that there shall be accumulated at Berberia, on the coast of the Somali, the greatest collection of camels the world ever saw, and as a consequence they are being collected. Mr. John Bull is not going to be caught napping by the Mad Mollah a second time.

Ever since he defeated the British force under Lieutenant Colonel Eric J. Eagles Swain last October the Mollah has been riding over the deserts of Somali, arousing the tribesmen to action and implanting in their breasts a deep desire for revenge upon the hated infidels.

There will not be many British in the forthcoming campaign; only just enough to command the Indian and African soldiers and to claim all the glory when the conquest shall have been consummated. There will be Hindoos and Sikhs, Egyptians and even Boers in this formidable array of peoples subjugated in times past and recent by the British, and strong reliance will be placed upon the "First King's Own," every mother's son of them black as soot and all native Africans except the officers.

Somaliland, which is to be the theater of Great Britain's next little war, is yet very little known and is probably as mysterious a country as any of the globe today. The British have established a protectorate over a portion of it along the coast and can show a claim deed to about 6,000 square miles, mostly sand, with here and there a port washed by the waters of the gulf of Aden. Somaliland is a country of vast desert tracts and deep forests abounding with the biggest of big game, while



WATER CART DRAWN BY A CAMEL.

CAMEL TEAM DRAWING WAR MUNITIONS.

A CAMEL TROOPER.

the Somali people, of mixed Arab and negro blood, are considered among the best fighters on earth. They are Mohammedans, of course, and the Mad Mollah, who is really as mad as a hatter and almost as wise as Solomon, has worked their religious feelings up to a pitch and impressed upon them that if they wish to go to paradise by the shortest route and live there forever with uncounted hordes in their harems now is the opportunity. And they have embraced the opportunity, as

the British know to their great sorrow. What concerns the British most at this time is how they are to reach the Mollah and his followers rather than what they will do to them when discovered. The Mollah has one gun—Maxim—and about 15,000 followers of various degrees of proficiency. He is well armed and has vast stores of ammunition because the French, it is said, have been doing a little business "on the side" in furnishing him with the sinews of war.

There have been camel campaigns before, notably conducted by British generals in India and Egypt, that of Lord Kitchener in the Sudan being one of the most effective in history. But it is intended that the forthcoming campaign shall outdo all others that have preceded it, for the commanding general, Manning, will have the benefit of men of experience who were with Kitchener when he chased the Mahdi to his lair and know how to raise a camel corps in the shortest possible time and train it

in the most effective manner. At first blush it would not perhaps be considered a difficult operation to collect a few thousand camels and assemble them in a country where this beast is about the only means of communication and is as numerous almost as dogs in Constantinople, but those who have had experience tell a different story. In the first place, the natives do not like to separate themselves from an animal that is so useful to them in many ways. They depend upon him not only for

transportation, but for food and shelter. They make their goubahs, or tents, of camel's hair; they use the skin for leather, and finally they eat his meat when he is no longer serviceable for transport. Then, again, the gullest natives are prone to pass off upon the unsophisticated Briton all their old and worn-out animals and rarely bring in one that is really fit for service. A British officer who knows whereof he affirms, writing from Berberia, says:

"Camels are brought in daily from the interior for sale and are being passed as fit or otherwise by the transport officers. Sore backs, sore sides and sprains are instantly rejected, also those which cannot walk fast. Many are scored all over their bodies with wonderful patterns drawn with red hot irons, considered a sovereign remedy for lameness. But the Somali camels are willing and gentle as compared with the Indian camels. They seldom injure any one, and it is said that even when undergoing firing operations they rarely bite, although the head is left free.

"This accommodating disposition is attributed greatly to the manner in which they are treated by the natives, who, though rather cruel to their ponies and to their women, never ill use the camel. Many Somalis are utterly ignorant of loading a camel, this work being done largely by the women. The camel is everywhere in the land. He is the great means of transport and is given in payment for wives and in settlement of the incessant blood feuds which render village and town life almost unknown in the interior."

Now, if the Somali camel is as described above he is a very different from the average animal of his species in other parts of the world, where he has a reputation for obstinacy, malice and general cussedness surpassed only by the mule. He grunts and groans when his loads are affixed, bites and kicks whenever he gets a good show at any passerby, and as his teeth are long

and sharp he sometimes inflicts dangerous wounds. He also has the habit of spitting upon persons he dislikes and sometimes takes a nip at one's nose or earlobe.

It is the single humped camel, *Camelus dromedarius*, that is most numerous in Africa and the one brought into requisition in this campaign. Just now Tommy Atkins is wondering how he shall get to the top of that hump. Books on natural history tell us that it is upon the natural hump, in addition to the vast quantity of water the camel takes in at the station—sufficient to last him a week, perhaps—that he subsists while on a journey. It is said that this hump steadily diminishes as the journey proceeds, and at last it is quite small. But Tommy Atkins for how long is the world is growing. The native Somali, you know, is a swinging jump from the ground and landing right on top of the hump, but when a novice mounts he must first kneel at the side of the hump and get up. The camel is a pacer, moving both legs on each side at the same time, and it is thought that by the time the soldiers have made their few hundred miles camel back into the Somali desert they will be desirous of having the Mad Mollah kill them as part payment for their journey. The camel is a creature more bones at a slow pace and in a given time than any other animal. It is proposed to mount some of the swift dromedaries with Maxim guns, necessary, are them from their backs, but the experiment will not be tried more than once, it is believed, for the animal takes fright easily and might prove a veritable boomerang. The review has gone out that the Mad Mollah has some of the best of his territory for the invasion of camel corps. Sardonic complacency, knowing well enough that if he can only get up a stampede at close quarters the game is his. FREDERICK A. OBER.

Honorable Richard Olney as a Democratic Presidential Possibility

WHATEVER may be the outcome of the movement in favor of nominating ex-President Cleveland's former attorney general and secretary of state, Richard Olney, as the Democratic candidate for the presidency, it is agreed on all sides that Mr. Olney himself has not made any efforts toward that end. He may believe, as late Thomas B. Reed once said of his own prospective nomination, that "they might do worse—and probably will," but at all events he has not declared himself. As a noted politician once said of him, "Olney never put up any lightning rods hoping to get a shock, for he is not that kind of a man."

Born Sept. 15, 1835, Mr. Olney is now in his sixty-eighth year and is rather beyond the age limit an unwritten law has prescribed as that which no presidential candidate shall exceed. The oldest of our presidents, W. H. Harrison, was just this age when inaugurated and Buchanan was sixty-six, but Mr. Olney, if elected, would in 1905 be in his seventeenth year. However, the gentleman under consideration has a record for age that his health and appearance belie, having always taken the best of care of himself and lived a life conducive to longevity.

No objection against Mr. Olney can be found on the score of age, and his record is a clean and commendable one from start to finish. He had the good fortune to be born of "poor but honest parents" and in the country, having first seen the light in the little town of Oxford, Mass., as the direct descendant of Thomas Olney, the first of the name in America, who did not come over in the Mayflower, but a few years later,

and settled at Salem, Mass. In 1825, he can trace his lineage back to a sturdy English ancestry. The first Olney in this country was of an independent turn and, becoming attached to the famous Roger Williams, accompanied that worthy when he was banished from the state for his opinions, shared with him his martyrdom and also assisted in the founding of Providence Plantations, in Rhode Island. One of his descendants, Richard Olney, removed from Providence to the town of Oxford, Worcester county, Mass., in 1819, where his eldest son, Wilson Olney, became active in the manufacture of wooden goods and in the management of a bank. Here Wilson's eldest son, Richard, the subject of this sketch, was born, exactly 200 years after his first American ancestor settled at Salem, and here he passed his youth. The house in which he was born still stands in Oxford, a square, old-fashioned dwelling once owned by his grandfather. As the eldest of three sons Richard set the pace for his younger brothers, and it was a good one, too, for he was always first in his class at school and foremost in healthy, hearty exercise. His father's means were limited, but the elder Olney decided to give his sons a good education whether he accumulated wealth or not, and so sent Richard to Leicester academy, whence he went to Brown university, where he was graduated with high honors in 1856. After taking his degree at Harvard Law school in 1858 he was admitted to the Suffolk bar and entered the office of Judge Benjamin F. Thomas, with whom he was associated many years and whose daughter he married in 1861.



HON. RICHARD OLNEY, EX-SECRETARY OF STATE.

perception and soundness of intellect, aided by his profound knowledge of the law and his truly judicial quality of mind," says a prominent law journal, "gave him peculiar advantage in leading his clients to a safe and sure position. He had taken no prominent part in

politics, save having served a year in the legislature in 1874, and when in 1893 he accepted the position of attorney general in President Cleveland's second cabinet all his brother members of the Suffolk bar were greatly surprised, as he had always shrank from holding public office. In fact, so pro-

nounced was his aversion to publicity that, notwithstanding he was then one of the foremost lawyers in the country and in receipt of an income comparable with that of the national executive himself, the newspapers of his own city at the time hardly knew him and had great difficulty in getting his portrait.

President Cleveland had become acquainted with him in a professional way, however, and was greatly impressed with the superior mental qualities of the successful Boston lawyer, whom he not only admired, but later on stood in awe of, it is averred, as a man more unyielding than himself when he had taken a position he believed to be right. Mr. Olney had a summer cottage at Falmouth, only fifteen miles from the president's Gray Gables, and as the society of their section was as limited as it was exclusive the Boston lawyer and the erstwhile Buffalo practitioner were thrown together a great deal.

On the death of Walter Q. Gresham Mr. Olney was appointed secretary of state and took the oath of office June 10, 1895. It was stated at the time that it had been a foregone conclusion that Olney should succeed Judge Gresham in the position made vacant by his death and that, in fact, the president had no other choice. That Mr. Olney filled it to the president's satisfaction and carried forward the energetic policy that had been outlined by his lamented predecessor is admitted by all. He had become rather unpopular with some public men on account of his somewhat brusque manner of receiving politicians on the hunt for positions when he was attorney general, but he was, on the other hand, always popular with his friends, who admired his unaffected air of frankness, his wit and his brilliant powers of conversation. As a host he was and is unequalled, and his charming wife aided him greatly in entertaining during their stay in Washington.

The greatest triumph of Mr. Olney's diplomatic career without doubt was won while he was secretary of state and in connection with the settlement of the Venezuelan boundary question. It is said that even before the death of Judge Gresham Mr. Cleveland was casting about for a strong man to take the helm in case of need, and this man he certainly found in Mr. Olney. As attorney general Mr. Olney had frequently been in consultation with Judge Gresham over the Venezuela dispute and was thoroughly informed as to its status when he succeeded the latter as secretary of state. Not only had he studied it in the abstract, but also the bearings upon the Monroe doctrine, its widest application, forerunner of the latter might be involved or called in question during the progress of the discussion. Thus it was that when he came to this affair of international importance early in his incumbency the office of secretary of state he was patently better equipped for consideration than any other public man in the country. He brought to bear upon it, in fact, the same concentration of effort, fidelity and intensity of purpose that characterized his work as a lawyer, by which he rose to supremacy in his profession and acquired the fame which he is enjoying today.

Personally speaking, Mr. Olney is tall, weighing about 200 pounds, muscular and well set up. He believes in and practices outdoor exercise of every sort and by these means has preserved himself in health and strength. Though he has not at first glance a winning personality, being reserved to the point of brusqueness, yet he is companionable among friends and is always to be relied upon in any emergency. After leaving public office he resumed the practice of law in Boston, in which city he has a beautiful residence on Commonwealth avenue. J. MARTIN DEWEY.

The Bulgarian-Macedonian Movement and What the Trouble With the Turkish Government Is All About

THE real significance of the warlike preparations now going on in the Balkan peninsula can only be understood by reference to the time when similar conditions existed in that region, more than a quarter of a century ago. A good starting point for investigation would be the assembling of the Berlin congress of 1878 and the consequent changes the resultant treaty made in territorial delimitation.

In the year 1875 an insurrection broke out in Bosnia and Herzegovina against the Turkish government which eventually extended to Bulgaria and which was aided by troops from Serbia and Montenegro. The subsequent massacres by the Turks, especially in Bulgaria, were such as to horrify the world, and nearly all the European powers joined in a note of protest to the sultan. Austria, Russia and Germany initiated this note, in which the sultan was informed that he had not carried out his promises of reform and that the other powers of Europe would insist upon immediate fulfillment of them, as this year, twenty-eight years later, Austria, France and Russia have united in addressing to the Porte a similar note. They were joined by England, but it was not until the horrible "Bulgarian massacres" by the Turks, not only of men, but of women and children, the number of 12,000 in the single district of Philippopolis that the powers awoke to their duty in the case.

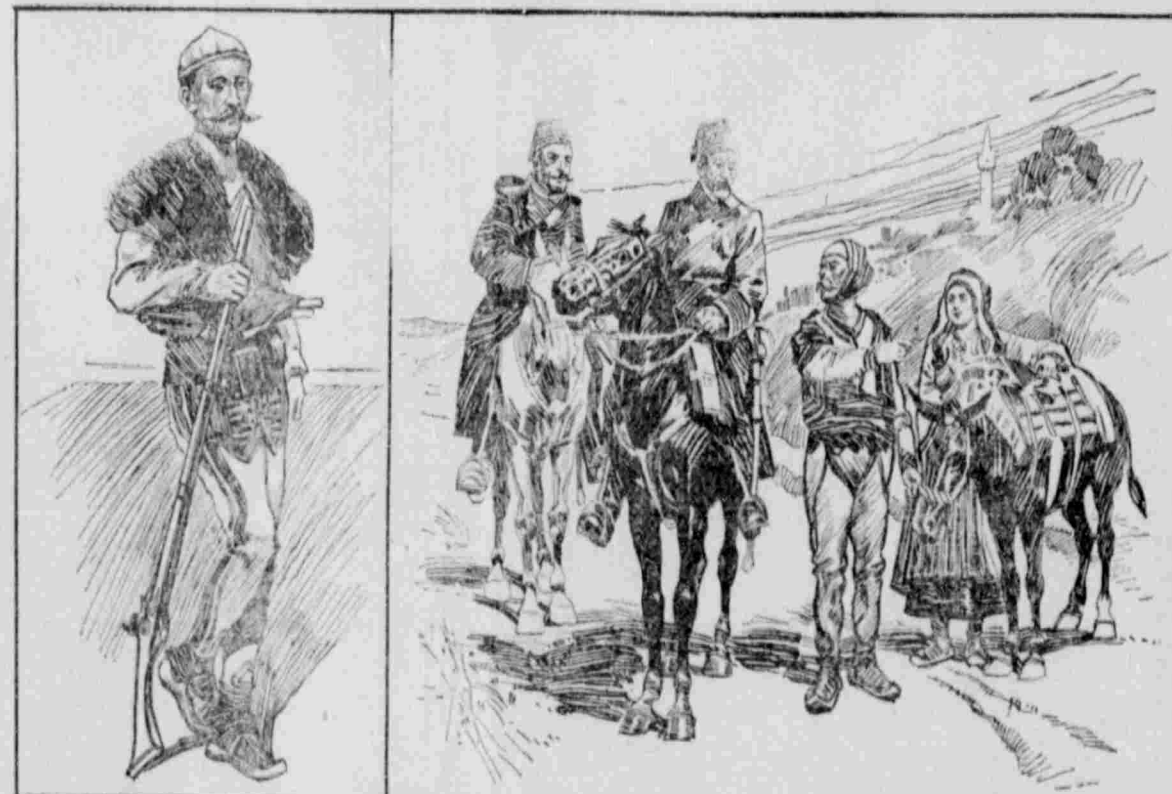
By the treaty of Berlin, the signatories to which were the representatives of Austria, Russia, France, England, Germany, Italy and Turkey and which was signed the 13th of July, 1878, the process was actually begun which materially reduced Turkey's territorial holdings in Europe, and the way was paved for her eventual expulsion. It may or may not have been intentional with the protesting Christian powers, but the expelling of the "Sick Man" from Europe is a contingency which was made possible by the entering

wedge of this treaty of Berlin, which has since been driven home with consummate skill. At any rate Turkey's nails were for the time effectively pared, and Turkish atrocities ceased for a season to disturb the Balkan peninsula. By the terms of this treaty (1) Bulgaria was created an independent, autonomous principality, yet nominally a tributary to Turkey; (2) Bulgaria south of the Balkans was retained, as eastern Roumelia, under the direct rule of the Porte, but was granted administrative autonomy; (3) Turkey retained the right of garrisoning the Roumelian frontier with regular troops; (4) reforms were promised in Crete; (5) Montenegro was declared independent and (6) Serbia likewise, with an accession of territory; (7) Roumelia was declared independent; (8) Kars, Batum and Ardahan were ceded to Russia; (9) the Porte promised to carry out measures of reform in Armenia and Macedonia.

The actual result during the past twenty-five years has been, first, Roumelia has become independent and is now practically annexed to Bulgaria; Crete is lost to Turkey through the failure of the Porte to carry out reforms, and now there is a hope, if not an assurance, that the vast western province of Turkey, comprising what is popularly known as Macedonia, will also be severed from the governing power, and for similar reasons that caused the loss of Crete through the interference of the great powers.

These are the facts briefly stated. The conditions still prevail that forced European intervention as between Turkey and her territorial tributaries, and it is believed that the results of a second intervention will be greater than those of 1878. The trail of the Turk, in fact, is a bloody one, as there need be no extensive citations to prove. All the Christian world knows that wherever the Turk has trod the land has been blasted as if an army of locusts had settled on the country.

As to the necessity for expelling the "unbearable Turk" from Europe, the arguments advanced are incontestable, but as to the methods now employed to



A MACEDONIAN INSURGENT.

TURKISH PATROL ON THE BULGARIAN FRONTIER.

bring about that consummation so devoutly desired there are many opinions. The contestants are chiefly the same as in 1878, but the local scenes have shifted. It is Bulgaria now that takes the initiative, and Macedonia that raises the cry of oppression by the Turk. Bulgaria, including eastern Roumelia, has an area of about 55,000 square miles and a population of nearly 4,000,000, of which there are less than 600,000 Turks. Since 1878 Bulgaria has been ruled by Prince Ferdinand of Coburg, successor of Prince Alexander of Battenberg, who was installed by the powers in 1878. The Bulgarian army contains about

60,000 men on a peace footing and 250,000 in wartime, with about 750 guns, the navy being hardly worth considering. This army, however, is largely officered by Macedonians and, together with almost the entire population, is entirely in sympathy with the Macedonian cause.

Macedonia, the province that has excited so many vain hopes and caused so much trouble during the past ten years or so, is more deserving of assistance than any other country in the world, for there is no question that it is terribly oppressed by the Turk. Atrocities nameless and dreadful are daily

perpetrated there. As lords and masters the Turks are scattered all over the land, and it does not matter that there is no country really known as Macedonia, no land that inherits the traditions of bravery and Alexander the Great. The Turkish province that covers the territory once known as Macedonia is divided between the Christians and the Moslems. The former represent a variety of religions, but they also represent the native population, while the Turks are aliens in every sense and as brutal and oppressive as the mind of man can conceive. They have perpetrated



PRINCE FERDINAND OF BULGARIA.

In the most fertile tracts and have taken possession of all that is worth possessing in Macedonia, leaving to the native Christians scarcely means for the barest existence. The Christian Macedonians have been reduced to a lower stage of civilization than even the Russian serfs of former times.

On the other hand, these methods of the Turks have driven thousands of Macedonians to the hills and mountains, where they maintain themselves as brigands, beyond the reach of the law. There is no law in Macedonia, but that of force, and it is quite natural that the common people in their des-

peration should have turned brigands and given the Turk a taste of his own medicine. The Turks cannot make head against a guerrilla warfare of this sort, and the success of these lawless brigands has inspired the mass of the people with a hope of ultimate independence through continual fighting and agitation. Several years ago a body of agitators was formed known as the "Macedonian committee," and in view of eventual freedom from the Turk by means of outside interference brought about by making public the Turkish atrocities. The success of the committee has been great, and the powers have decided to prevent further going further in its highhanded career is a tribute to their capacity. At all events they now see the necessity of the "irreducible maximum" of the great powers, and forced to ponder the reforms he has delayed for the past twenty-five years.

It is alleged that it was the Macedonian committee which brought about the notorious abduction of the American missionary Miss Stone in September of last year and successfully secured all the Turkish and Bulgarian soldiers who were sent against them in more than five months, in the end receiving the ransom that was raised by getting away with their booty. The committee, of course, charged the Turkish government with the responsibility of the abduction and the Bulgarian government with the responsibility of the ransom. The accusation against the Macedonians, having been sworn to, was not the same time body, with their names until not alone Bulgaria, but also the adjoining states and provinces, as well as the greater European powers. EDWARD H. ANSLANT.