

## HELEN M. STONE MAY BE DEAD.

A Macedonian Brigand Instructed  
To Ascertain.

### HITCH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

Consul-Gen. Dickinson and Minister  
Bakmeteff Antagonistic to  
Each Other.

New York, Nov. 4.—According to the Vienna Politische Correspondenz, quoted by the correspondent of the London Times and the New York Times in the Austrian capital, a well known Macedonian brigand has been instructed to obtain information as to whether Miss Helen M. Stone is still alive. Two other brigands, well acquainted with the country, have been commissioned by United States Consul-Gen. Dickinson to try to get in touch with the missionaries' captors. The prefect of the Sofia police has also been again represented as being imminent.

**THINKS MISS STONE IS DEAD.**  
New York, Nov. 4.—The positive conviction that Miss Helen M. Stone is dead is contained in a letter which has just been received in Boston from Ivan Raduloff, a student who was with the American missionary when she was captured by brigands in Turkey, together with Mrs. Telika, says the Boston correspondent of the Press. According to this letter the snow in the mountains into which Miss Stone disappeared was three feet deep three weeks ago at the time the letter was written. Even in the summer time the snow upon the highest summits of these mountains does not melt. The first snowfall usually comes at about the middle of September, and by the middle of October, the mountain passes are absolutely closed to travel.

It was the conviction among Miss Stone's friends in Samakov, Bulgaria, three weeks ago, that she could not possibly have survived the rigors of her captivity until this date. There was a hope that Miss Stone might have been concealed by her captors in the monastery of St. Ivin of Ella, which is near the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier and on the Bulgarian side of it. Sixteen miles from Samakov, Bulgaria, the Bulgarian government to do every thing in its power to assist the United States' representatives in their effort to find the missionary. It is stated that the exceedingly unpopular method of searching the monastery. This search disclosed the fact that Miss Stone had not been there. The discovery was disappointing to Miss Stone's friends in Samakov. According to the letter of Ivan Raduloff, Consul Gen. Dickinson has retarded the release of Miss Stone seriously. It is said that Mr. Dickinson, by his criticism of the Bulgarian government has antagonized the government.

It is understood in Samakov that the brigands who were in immediate charge of the captive were under positive instructions to take her life at the first indication of the possibility of a skirmish with the troops.

**HITCH IN NEGOTIATIONS.**  
New York, Nov. 4.—The hitch in the negotiations for Miss Stone's release arises from two causes: First, the fierce antagonism between the United States Diplomatic Agent Dickinson and Russian Minister Bakmeteff; second, the missionary and diplomatic disinclination to accede to the brigands' terms, though moderate, says the Samakov correspondent of the Journal and Advertiser. The relations between Mr. Bakmeteff and Mr. Dickinson are strained to the breaking point. The former, being friendly to Bulgaria, does not want his agent to finish the transaction on Bulgarian soil. Mr. Berth, a Macedonian student at the American Institute in Sofia, one of the agents sent to negotiate with the brigands, has returned from Raslog. He reports that the brigands consider Mr. Dickinson's money offer as too small. They say that they do not want to agree to terms that would disgrace them with their brethren.

Discussing the amount of ransom, Missionary Baird, pursuer of the Samakov Institute, says: "If the brigands get a quarter of what they still ask, bands will spring up like mushrooms. Samakov itself will furnish many and Macedonia will be ruined. The brigands began negotiations with us by asking twice Miss Stone's weight in gold. Even a fourth of this sum is preposterous. If the Bulgarians had either trackers or bloodhounds, Miss Stone would not be spending her sixty-first day with the brigands."

**Sanctions More Literature for Russia.**  
New York, Nov. 4.—The Russian Ministry of Education, says a dispatch from Odessa to the London Times and the New York Times, sanctions the circulation on a wide scale of popular literature in the free libraries. Hitherto a most rigorous censorship has been exercised in St. Petersburg. Now all works approved by the educational consistory of the holy synod are permitted.

**Libeled German Troops.**  
New York, Nov. 4.—A dispatch from Berlin to the London Times and New York Times quotes an article in the Vossische Zeitung, referring to the prosecution of two Stuttgart journalists for libeling the German troops in China. The Vossische Zeitung says:

"There is no question of barbarity in connection with the conduct of the campaign. There is no ground for the supposition that the troops of either nation were more humane in their conduct than those of Germany. At the same time it remains open to question whether it was necessary, as General Lessel thinks, to resort in so many cases to the punishment of blinding our men to states."

**Nicaragua Buys German Gunboat.**  
New York, Nov. 4.—The government of Nicaragua, says the Managua correspondent of the Herald, has purchased from Germany the gunboat Arminius, which carries eight guns.

**MORE MOUNTED MEN WANTED.**  
War Office Will Send 5,000 to South Africa.

New York, Nov. 4.—Commenting upon the South African military situation the London correspondent of the Tribune says:

"It is understood to be the intention of the war office to send five thousand more mounted men out to South Africa during the next six weeks. There are already about 7,000 mounted men at home, so that the military authorities are faced with the problem of training soldiers minus the necessary accompaniment of a cavalry arm. To meet this obvious falling it is probable that several composite regiments of yeomanry will be voluntarily embodied for home service. A move will soon be made to

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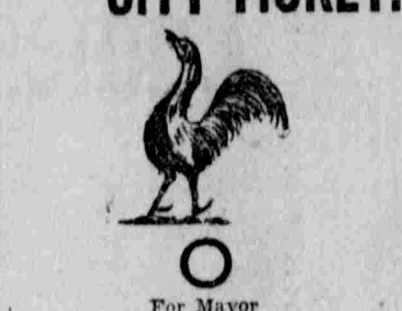
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## BOER ATTACK ON BENSON'S MEN

It Was Exceedingly Fierce and  
Determined.

### THEY LOST THREE HUNDRED

First Onslaught Was in a Blinding  
Rainstorm—A Protest Against  
Official Optimism.

Pretoria, Nov. 3.—Further details have been received regarding the attack by the Boers under Commandant-Gen. Botha last week on Col. Benson's command near Brakenlaagte, eastern Transvaal.

It appears that Gen. Botha, who had been joined by another big commando aggregating a thousand men, attacked Col. Benson's rear guard October 30 on the march and captured two guns, but was unable to keep them. Col. Benson fell mortally wounded early in the fight.

Ma Wols-Sampson took command, collected the convoy and took up a position for defense about 100 yards from entrenchments prepared by the Boers. The captured guns were so situated that neither side could touch them. The Boers made desperate efforts to overwhelm the whole British force, charging repeatedly right up to the British lines and being driven back each time with heavy loss. The defense was stubbornly and successfully maintained through the whole of the following day and the next night, until Col. Barter, who had marched all night from Bushmans' kopje, brought relief on the morning of November 1. The Boers then retired. Their losses are estimated at between 300 and 400.

Col. Benson did not long survive. Not only did Gen. Botha direct the attack, as already cabled, but he personally shared in the fighting.

**DISASTER TO THE BRITISH.**

London, Nov. 3.—A special dispatch from South Africa reveals practically nothing further about the disaster to Col. Benson's column. It appears that the first attack was made in a blinding rainstorm. The heaviest