

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

NEW YORK, May 11.—The Journal publishes a cable dispatch from Stephen Crane who saw the battle of Velestino, where General Smolenski hurled back Edhem Pasha.

Mr. Crane says:

Velestino has proved that the Greek soldiers when well led can cope successfully with Turks even though outnumbered. This battle has proved them great fighters, long fighters and stayers. To be sure, the army retreated from Velestino, but it was no fault of the army. The commander bit his fingers and cursed when the order came to retreat. He was at that time perfectly confident of success. For three days he had been holding the Turks back and inflicting upon them heavy losses. Then came the order to fall back, due to reverses or something in other places.

Gen. Smolenski knew, of course, his retreat would be at the sacrifice of Volo, and he raged.

But orders must be obeyed; hence the occupation of the Turks first of Velestino and later of Volo. In the middle of intoxication of victory came the orders to fall back. Why?

I only arrived at noon of the second day. The roll of musketry was tremendous. From a distance it was like tearing a cloth; nearer it sounded like rain on a roof and close up it was just a long crash after crash. It was a beautiful sound—beautiful as I had never dreamed. It was more impressive than the roar of Niagara and finer than thunder or an avalanche—because it had the wonder of human tragedy in it.

It was the most beautiful sound of my experience, barring no symphony. The crash of it was ideal.

The slaughter of the Turks was enormous. The fire of the Greeks was so fierce that the Turkish soldiers while charging shielded their eyes with their hands. Eight charges the Turks made on Saturday, and they were repulsed each time. The desperate Turkish cavalry even attacked their enemy on a steep, rocky hill. The insane squadrons were practically annihilated. Scattered fragments slid slowly black, leaving the plain black with wounded and dead men and horses.

From a distance it was like a game.

There was no blood, no expression, no horror to be seen. All the assaults of the Turks this day resulted disastrously to them. The Greek troops fought with the steadiness of salaried bookkeepers, never tired, never complaining. The Greeks fought all the time with the artillery fire on them, even in a musketry lull, but nobody minded anything. The Turks were in great numbers and fought according to the precepts of their religion.

But the Greeks were never daunted. Some times it was fighting among gaunt hills, sometimes fighting on green plains, but always the Greeks held their positions. When night came shells burst in fury lighting the darkness. By the red flashes I saw wounded taken to Volo. There was very little outcry among them. They were mostly silent.

In the gray early morning the

musketry fire began again. It rattled from hill to hill; batteries awoke, and the whole play was resumed. The Turkish guns were superior to those of the Greeks who had mostly mountain bowitzers. I watched for a long time the blue clad Greek infantry marching in position across a small plain. While I watched the Turks changed their attack from the Greek right on the plain to the Greek left on the rocky hill. Then the fighting became obscured from view. The Greeks lay in trenches snugly flattened against the dirt, firing carefully, while the Turks loomed close before them.

Every ridge was fringed with smoke. I saw soldiers in the trenches ease off and take a drink from their canteens, twist their cartridge belts to put the empty links behind them, or turn around to say something to a comrade.

They then went at it again.

I noticed one lieutenant standing up in the rear of a trench rolling a cigarette, his lips wide apart. In this careless attitude a shot went through his neck. His servant came from the trench and knelt weeping over the body regardless of the battle. The men had to drag him in by the legs.

The reserves coming up passed a wayside shrine. The men paused to cross themselves and pray. A shell struck the shrine and demolished it. The men in the rear of the column were obliged to pray to the spot where the shrine had been.

News came from the left that the Turks had tried to turn the flank and failed. The Turks formed on the right and moved slowly across the plain and the battery opened on them. I saw troops moving to the rear to prevent a possible flank attack, in the direction of Volo. The fight on the plain to the right began. Masses of Turkish troops like shadows slowly moved forward toward the Greek trenches, indicated by gray lines of smoke. Shots began to rake the trenches on the hill and to also rake the battery to the rear. I hoped the Greeks on the plain would hurry and drive the Turks from their position. They did it gallantly in a short ferocious infantry fight.

The bit of woods where the fight occurred seemed on fire. There was a great rattling and banging and then the Turks went off defeated. There was general rejoicing all along the Greek line. The officers walked proudly; the men in the trenches grinned. Then, mind you, just at this time, late in the afternoon, after another successful day, came the order to retreat.

Smolenski had apparently received the brunt of the fighting. Yet the center and left near Karadjah and at Pharsala had again retired.

No one could explain it. We were not aware of the situation they faced but it seemed an extraordinary order. They say Smolenski wept. I went down to see the retreat. A curious thing was that the Turks seemed to understand the order as quickly as we did. They moved up batteries with startling rapidity for the Turks. The retreat was not disorderly, but wrathful and sullen. A regiment of Evzones,

the killed men, 2,000 strong, came down to cover the retreat and in the twilight, brightened by Turkish shells, the Greeks slowly withdrew.

LONDON, May 11.—In the House of Commons today the first lord of the treasury and government leader, A. J. Balfour, announced that information had been received this morning from all the representatives of the powers at Athens saying that mediation between Greece and Turkey had been offered the former country and accepted by the Greek government.

ATHENS, May 11.—The diplomatic pour parlers have been brought to definite conclusion. Greece formally has adhered to the preliminaries of the peace agreed upon between the powers and the heads of the different legations have received positive assurances investing them with authority to treat with Turkey.

LONDON, May 12.—The correspondent of the Daily News at Rome says: It is reported here that Russia and Austria have concluded an agreement to maintain the status quo in the Levant and to divide influence in the Balkans, giving Russia a free hand in the eastern portion and Austria in the western.

NEW YORK, May 11.—A dispatch to the World from Jacksonville says: A band of Cubans under Degaldo encompassed Havana Saturday and Sunday, firing at the outposts. Sunday night the firing was heavy for over an hour, and it is said that several Spanish soldiers were killed and wounded and that the Cuban loss was still greater. The Cubans are making frequent dashes around the outposts with their cavalry, and every morning from ten to twenty-five wounded Spanish soldiers are taken into the city hospitals.

PHARSALA, May 12. — Edhem Pasha, the Turkish commander-in-chief, has established headquarters on a hill opposite Pharsala.

Greek irregulars are raiding parts of Thessaly and irregular Greek bands have attempted to cut the Turkish line of communication with Ellassona.

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 12. — Turnpike raiders, murder from ambush, mob lynching in Kentucky, especially the defiant continuation of the raiders, have driven the legislature to desperate means. The senate has defeated a bill passed by the house ostensibly for stopping turnpike raiding but which was practically ineffective. The senate unanimously passed a substitute which is considered the most vigorous law ever placed on the statute books. It requires jailors and other officers holding persons threatened with mob violence to arm the prisoner that he may defend himself and to protect the prisoner with aid of a posse with the right of fortifying his own house. It makes it mandatory upon the county judge to furnish not less than two nor more than ten armed guards, summoned from among the citizens, who are compelled under heavy penalty to protect for thirty days any toll gate or other public or private property threatened by raiders and provides pay for guardian and severe penalties for all offenders captured.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 12.—A Huntsville, Alabama, special to the Banner says at daybreak today the bodies of Mollie Smith and Mandy