

TURKISH WOMEN OF TODAY TEAR OFF THEIR VEILS

March in the Streets of Constantinople Carrying Banners—Praised for Their Act—The Customs of the People—The News of the Day is Gathered at the Public Bath by Women of the Harem—An Interesting Sketch of Things as They Exist in the Dominions of the Sultan.

(By Hovan Hagopian.)

The most remarkable feature of the political uprising in Turkey has been the participation of thousands of women. For centuries Turkish women had been secluded in harems and looked upon as "things"—not human beings—created for the pleasure of men, and to see them suddenly moved by the revolutionary wave to march in the streets of Constantinople, carrying in their hands red banners inscribed "Liberty, equality and fraternity," certainly was an astounding sight.

Turkey, that dark corner of the world, after centuries of tyranny, massacres, persecutions and outrages, appears within a month to have become a country where all the liberties of civilization are bestowed on men and women. If we could trust to our eyes, the papers published in Levant, transformed into modern and free newspapers, are full of surprises. They tell of women participating in juvenile demonstrations of independence, and of their marching in politics and demanding the absolute freedom of women and the abolition of the harem, something that was impossible in Turkey of a month ago.

Asked to Drop His 300 Wives.

Since Abdul the "Red Sultan," former countenance and organizer of massacres and atrocities, has proclaimed himself to be a liberal and the president of the Committee of the Ottoman Union and Progress, the revolutionary society, why does he not abolish his own harem—as he has been asked—set free his 300 wives and then let the Sultan be an elective ruler of the Ottoman States? This Abdul Hamid could show the world that he is the marvel of the century, elevating himself from a life of despotism and tyranny to the practice of the most liberal ideas ever known in Turkish history.

Whether the Sultan will abolish his own harem or not the Mohammedan women have already revolted. The first women to abandon veils were those at Monastir, the hotbed of the revolution. The commander of the Koran—if there is such a command—that women should appear veiled, was cancelled by a Moslem priest, who issued his proclamation from the mosque: "We will help to make the world beautiful by this act," the priest declared. The radical change is greeted by remarkable scenes and universal approval.

Even the Sheikh-ul-Islam—the head of the Moslems—is reported as declaring that there is nothing in the Koran to prohibit the Mohammedan women to expose their features. Neither is there anything to show that a man must take more than one wife. Hal the Sheikh-ul-Islam uttered such radical comments before the Constitution was granted. He would have been ordered at once to the Yildiz Kiosk, and receive from the hands of some Izzet Pasha a cup of black coffee with a little poison in it. But now everybody is radical in Turkey. To be a revolutionist is a fad there.

Not long ago the Mohammedan women in Russia sent petitions to the Moslem members of the Duma asking for the ballot and for relief from the despotic authority of their husbands. It was reported that they were organizing societies with the motto: "Down with the Chadar" (the veil).

Reveling in Their Freedom.

Now Turkish women discarding their veils are taking part in street demonstrations of the men to celebrate the new liberties. Dressed in Parisian fashion, with uncovered faces they go to the Mosques—previously prohibited—they go to the Christian churches, they go to the theatres. They shake hands with Christians on the streets. The men cheer the unveiled women wherever they see one. On very side, smiling faces are seen instead of the ancient sombre veils.

All these reforms and sudden changes of the life of the Mohammedan women are hard to believe. Even in Europe and America they were compelled to follow strictly the old traditions of the harem. The wife of Mehmed Ali, the reactionary ex minister at Washington, in an interview not long published in the New York World, said: "I practically never set eyes on any man but my husband." She was never photographed, and went heavily veiled in Washington. She could not mingle in diplomatic society because she could not go where there were any men. The wife of the Italian ambassador, in order to entertain Mme. Mehmed Ali, invited only ladies at a luncheon and sent all her male servants away.

In Turkey, the harem is closed for every man, except for the husband, father and brother. While liberties of Turkish women are restricted, the harem, for from being, as is often supposed, a prison, is in many ways cheerful and free within the sphere of its walls, and the inmates are absolute masters of their own time. At home the harem—the lady—begins her day with the indispensable cup of coffee and cigarette. She may then take her bath and then wait on her husband, bring his coffee and chibuk, his pelisse and slippers. It is a mistake to suppose that the women pass all their time in music or singing and dancing. A great deal of housework is done and much time is given to embroidering scarfs, towels, sheets and other articles destined to figures in the treasury of a Turkish girl and bequeath her nuptial chamber.

Old Maids Unknown.

Turkish girls marry early. Old maids do not exist in Turkey. The

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Time Table, June 29th, 1908

EXPRESS—Leaves Riviere du Loup, 7:35 a. m.	Arrives Edmundston, 11:00 a. m.
Arrives Combes, 12:30 p. m.	Arrives Combes, 1:40 p. m.
MIXED—Leaves Riviere du Loup 9:45 a. m.	Arrives Edmundston, 3:30 p. m.
Arrives Combes, 5:30 p. m.	EXPRESS—Leaves Combes, 1:40 p. m.
Leaves Edmundston, 3:17 p. m.	Arrives Riviere du Loup, 6:30 p. m.
MIXED—Leaves Combes, 4:45 a. m.	Leaves Edmundston, 8:55 a. m.
Arrives Riviere du Loup, 1:20 p. m.	P. A. STERN TIME.

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14 1-2 yds "	60c yd— " " 5.00
10 yds "	65c yd— " " 4.00
11 1-3 yds "	55c yd— " " 4.00
14 7-8 yds "	85c yd— " " 8.20
14 yds "	70c yd— " " 5.88
17 yds "	85c yd— " " 9.35
14 2-3 Brussels "	\$1.25 yd— " " 11.35
10 1-2 yds "	1.35 yd— " " 8.40
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the reputation of doing his work well and has had much experience on the different lines of railway.

Allan B. Bridges' new dwelling house has recently been treated to a coat of paint. His new house is a credit to the master builder.

The blueberry trade in these parts boomed for a time, men, women and children at Little River, New Zion and adjoining places gave their time and attention to it for a time and through their agents they shipped to Boston, but recently there came a slump in the American market and the bottom fell out of the whole affair and it all came to naught.

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Mrs. Charlotte Bridges of Kelly's Landing is visiting friends at Little River, Swan Creek.

Mrs. Johnstone of Boston, Mass. is visiting her mother, Mrs. Jonathan Bridges, Gagetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anland, St. John, are visiting friends in Burton and Sheffield.

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