

of what was European Turkey, that hope can only be realized by bringing to the task such a spirit of justice as will make the welfare of those populations and their civil and religious liberties paramount to all other considerations.

9. It is much to be hoped, in the interests of all Europe, that another phase of this Eastern question will soon be reached by the meeting of a European Congress, to settle the new status of the peoples inhabiting the Balkan peninsula. This is the great problem to which the chancellor of the exchequer referred, in the House of Commons, on the 9th of February, 1878, when he said, "We recognize that questions have now to be settled the discussion of which will amount to a reconstruction of the whole system of south-eastern Europe." In such a question England must and ought to have a voice: that voice, too, must be on the side of humanity, freedom, and progress, if it is to be in harmony with both her interests and her duty. She must ally herself to the living forces of the future, instead of crippling herself by hopeless efforts to uphold the effete systems of the past. As the chancellor truly said, "England is the foremost representative of the spirit of freedom." She ought, therefore, in the assembly of the European powers to prove herself worthy of this high vocation. It is for the government of that great and free country to see to it that she declares, with no uncertain sound, for the cause of liberty and right. That this may be so is to be hoped from the chancellor's words: "I wish to repudiate with all the energy I can command . . . that there is any desire on our part to cripple or fetter the extension of free and good government to the Christian populations in Turkey." That is a wise resolve, for thus only can be obtained the end which Sir Stafford desires, viz., "such a settlement as will offer reasonable promise of a durable peace; an arrangement of such a character as will leave as few points as possible of contact and difficulty for the admission of intrigue and future struggle." If England's government enter upon the work of the "reconstruction" of the whole system of what was European Turkey in such a spirit, and remain true to it throughout, England may hope to see that freedom, of which she is "the foremost representative," dawn upon those fair provinces of Europe hitherto blighted by the misrule of venal and tyrannical pashas. But the work must be done faithfully and thoroughly, not marred in the doing of it, as in the case of the Greek kingdom some fifty years ago.

10. What, then, are the chief questions which Europe is now