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THE WAR IN TRIPOLI recalls the ancient strifes in which the Romans sought to establish their sway in North Africa. Now, as then, it is a conflict of Aryan against Semite, the former being the aggressor. When Rome cast jealous eyes on the Carthaginian power, she found a flimsy pretext for attacking her rival in assuming protection of the Mamertine outlaws of Sicily. That was in 264 B. C. In this year of grace modern Italy has a no less imaginary cause of quarrel. Her ultimatum to Turkey stated that Italians were being unfairly treated in Tripoli, excluded from commercial enterprise and exposed to personal injuries. In terms of meekness and surprise the Porte gave answer, promising satisfaction. But in the Italian cabinet Turkey had already been sentenced, and it only remained to execute the sentence.

The military task undertaken by Italy is proving larger than she expected. The initial successes of the war have been followed by reverses, and the forty thousand Italian soldiers now in Africa are reported on the defensive. The numbers of their opponents are variously estimated, but must far exceed the invading force. The Young Turks, by employing German officers, have succeeded