

"Meantime the Turkish army, about 23,000 strong, of which only 3,000 Redif were told off to cover the place against a possible Serbian *coup de main*, had quitted Widdin and had advanced, under the command of Osman Pasha, in two columns, one *via* Kioz, the other *via* Vasats. The leading files of both armies came into collision a little to the north-west of Karaul; and at that very moment the Serbians fell into great confusion, seeing the Turks (who had hitherto been confidently reckoned upon in the Serbian ranks as certain to maintain a passive attitude) advance in such overwhelming numbers. Here it might again be readily seen, upon unmistakable evidence, that courage and patriotism in an army are unquestionably factors of great moment, but that real efficiency in the field is only acquired by troops through long exercise and practice. Such roaring, screaming, cursing, purposeless running hither and thither, incessant ordering about, from the general commanding to the youngest lieutenant, beggars description; it was a regular tower of Babel. And when at last we succeeded in opening fire, it was suddenly discovered that the greater number of the men had no ammunition. By the time cartridges had been served out most of the Turks were more or less sheltered from our fire, and all at once the Roumelian Chasseurs, with fixed bayonets at the charge, dashed forward with vehement shouts of "Allah-il-Allah!" upon the "Holy Legion," which, unable to resist the shock, broke up altogether, losing a great many men cut down in flight by the Turkish irregular horsemen, although they begged hard for quarter. To this circumstance is attributable the fact of the far greater loss of the Serbians in killed than in wounded. Only when Osman Pasha Ferik (Lieut. General) arrived with his staff on the scene of action were the Turkish soldiers restrained from further slaughter, and ordered to convey the prisoners with good usage to Widdin.

"The Turkish cavalry conducted the pursuit with remarkable energy and intelligence. The free corps of the "Holy Legion" were indeed covered by the Kraina Brigade, behind which they took refuge; but even that body could not withstand the frantic onslaught of the Osmanli troopers, its third battalion took to flight, and the day would have closed with the utter annihilation of the Serbians, had not the commander of the 73rd Battalion (4th Kraina) given the word to form square. Although this could not be properly done, clumps of men were drawn together, who broke upon their bayonet points the tempestuous attacks of the reckless horsemen, who charged the Serbian infantry again and again, holding the reins between their teeth, sabre in one hand and revolver in the other. In this crisis the Peabody rifles did good service, and the valiant battalion covered the retreat for a full hour, whereupon its commander, Major Vojanovich (formerly Lieutenant in the Ogulin Frontier Regiment, who would certainly for such a deed of valour have been distinguished in Austria by the Maria Theresa Order) commenced to retire, favoured by the darkness of evening.

"This day, most disastrous for the Serbs, caused them a loss of 600 dead and wounded, three flags (all belonging to the volunteer legion), and one mountain cannon with its team. The Turks, owing to the great superiority of the Serbian firearms, suffered as great a loss, especially heavy amongst their cavalry, in spite of the wretched behaviour of the "Holy Legion."

"At dawn of day on the following morning Osman Pasha passed the Serbian frontier and took up his position about 4,000 paces from

the Serbian entrenchments, and 7,000 from the village of Saitchar, utterly unmolested (by reason of the distance) by the Serbian infantry, and only to a trifling extent by the artillery. Major Iliadoslavlevich, at the head of two squadrons of the Timok regiment, charged the left wing of the Turks with the greatest gallantry, and caused the Nizam to fall back; but upon the advance of 1,000 Turkish troopers, and the opening of fire by the Roumelian field-batteries, he reluctantly retired. Osman Pasha now commenced his attack, led by the Roumelian battalions of chasseurs (foot). These chasseurs advanced in skirmishing order, and inflicted considerable loss upon our troops, until, attacked by the foreign legion, which thirsted to revenge its defeat of the day before, they were driven back. Then the Turks opened their artillery fire with 36 cast steel field guns, to which the Serbian artillery replied with great liveliness. But here again was promptly revealed the superiority of the Turkish field material, as well as of their splendidly trained gunners. In vain the Serbs dashed forward twice, Leschjnin at their head. The shrapnel of the Osmanli tore terrific gaps through their ranks, and broken-spirited and exhausted they fell back each time.

"The Turkish artillery then again advanced, and took up position at about 600 yards from the Serbian trenches, whilst the infantry, in skirmishing order, took advantage of every surface inequality and of every bush and shrub as cover. Osman Pasha gave orders to storm the positions from the irrational distance of 300 paces, and his soldiers exhausted by the day before's fighting, as well as by forced night marches, rushed forward fruitlessly, with magnificent bravery, against the Serbian works, above which still waved the tricolour flag pierced with shot. At last a detachment of Turkish troops, favoured by the windings of the river bank and the rushes growing thereon, as well as by the smoke, which completely hid them from sight, succeeded in turning the Serbian flank, and, themselves protected, poured a murderous fire into the defenders of the works. Large bodies of troops and some artillery followed up this detachment, and the Serbians ran imminent risk of being cut off and forced to capitulate. Should Saitchar village (in their rear) be taken, they would be caught between two fires and lose their line of retreat. Leschjnin, therefore, who had been all the time in the thick of the fighting, gave orders to retreat. The movement was executed in good order till the Turkish troops, for the fourth time in the course of that day, flung themselves with the bayonet upon the Kraina Brigade, which had suffered such heavy loss the day before. This attack was, however, repulsed. The Turkish soldiery posted along the river banks fired persistently upon the horses of the retreating Serbian artillery, the consequence of which was that the greater number of the cannon—seven, I believe—stuck fast and had to be spiked, after which they fell into the hands of the enemy, as well as a standard of the Timok regiment, the cornet in charge of which was shot from his horse. The Serbian loss was between 1,700 and 1,800 men; that of the Turks, probably, even greater. Saitchar village remains in the hands of the Serbians."

Serbia enjoys a semi-independence under Turkish rule;—it is governed by a native Prince, and has a representative Chamber called a Skuptchina—it is not under the tyranny of Pashas and had really nothing to do with the troubles in the Herzegovina. In this case, it is the tool of Austria, as she is the tool of Russia; and although Serbia has

been brought to the brink of ruin in the intrigue, Austria puts forth her hand as the first to partition the Turkish Empire by declaring her intention to annex Bosnia—in this evil course following the example of MARIA THERESA in the partition of Poland, a political sin avenged by her recent expulsion from Germany by the very powers she aided in that iniquitous transaction.

Russia has been moving the Greeks, and it is evident that the complications will end in a great European contest sooner or later.

Our contemporary the *Citizen* computing the losses of the Serbians in the recent battles, sums them up thus:—"The war in the East has proved a horrible business. On the 30th of June 40 Serbians were killed; on the 3rd of July, 500 in one engagement, 2,000 in another, and 300 in a third. On the 4th, 200 more were killed. On the 5th instant there were two more encounters, in one of which the Serbians lost 700 men, and in the other 200. On the 6th, again, 1,500 Serbians were killed, and on the 8th, 500. In nine days the number of the slain Serbians amounted to 5,940. At least so official despatches from Constantinople announced. Serbian accounts make the loss of the Turks in the same battles even more serious; so that upwards of 12,000 men must be believed to have lost their lives during this brief period. Taking four to one as the proportion of wounded to killed, we arrive at a grand result of 60,000 men disabled in little over a week. Fortunately such murderous work cannot last. The population of Serbia may be said to number—upon a very liberal computation, indeed—some 300,000 men capable of bearing arms. If, therefore, 30,000 are killed or wounded every nine days, it follows that in the space of three calendar months there will be no more Serbians left to fight!"

By recent intelligence from England we learn that the Hon. BENJAMIN D'ISRAELI is to be raised to the Peerage as Earl BEACONSFIELD. He will, however, still retain his Premiership, and Sir STAFFORD NORCOTE will become leader of the House of Commons. It is the general impression that the Conservatives are weakened by the change, but D'ISRAELI is said to be physically unable to bear the labor of leadership of the House. It is rumored that other Cabinet changes will be made after the prorogation, namely, Sir CHARLES B. ADDERLY, President of the Board of Trade, and Lord JOHN MANNERS, Postmaster General, are to be offered Peerages. WILIAM SMITH, Liberal Conservative member of Westminster, and one of the joint secretaries of the Treasury, is to replace Sir CHARLES ADDERLY, and some subordinate member of the Government to replace Lord MANNERS.

The *London Daily News*, referring to the change, says:—"For more than one session it has been manifest that the task of leading the House of Commons was growing for our