

more energetic than that of the Sultan; and the municipal institutions of Turkey, with time and the kindly sympathy of more advanced nations, might more readily and naturally be expanded into self-governing appliances than ought that Russian centralism permits.

But if Nicholas were enthroned at Constantinople, in what aspect would Russia appear to the other nations of Europe and of the East? The phantom of a Greek Kingdom would vanish like a morning cloud. The woody slopes of newly acquired mountain regions would give ships; and the sea-loving people of the Grecian coasts and Grecian Isles would furnish seamen; which with the Baltic Squadrons would ensure to Russia an overwhelming supremacy on the seas. Turkey subdued; Persia, already weakened by Muscovite conquests, would fall speedily and ignobly. Syria is the highway to Egypt—one campaign would give to Russia the land of the Ptolemies. The waters of the Red Sea and of the Persian Gulf would float the navies of Russia. The Russian Flag would wave in triumph over the fortresses that guard the Afghanistan frontier of Persia. The dashing Afghan would be compelled to recede before the Cossack and the countless bayonets of the hardy North. Russian gold and the proverbial perfidy and cunning of Russian diplomacy would corrupt, and then excite the native races of Hindostan against British rule. Russian fleets could land the veteran legions of the Czar on the banks of the Ganges, while upon the banks of the Indus the scattered British regiments would be bravely battling against the mighty hordes that had rushed down from the Highlands of Asia to prey upon the passive millions of Hindostan. In such a conflict England might be able to call to her standard on the Indian plains, five hundred thousand men of