

yards in extent to the artillery man in the fixed battery, while he would show at least twenty to her fire,

Moreover she would be constantly in motion at the rate of say eight or nine hundred feet per minute, while his shot would travel thirteen hundred per second, or over the supposed range in seven seconds which she would have moved one hundred and some odd feet during the same time, giving the artilleryman a nice little problem in lateral division to work out. It is an old proverb that a chance shot might kill his Satanic Majesty, and the long shore artillerymen might take it as a piece of comfort & being extremely problematical in the supposed case that he would get any other—especially as the ironclad would not be so very foolish as to engage in a duello with round shot or bolts alone.

The Prussians had better stick to the Potsdam parade—they are more at home there than on the vasty deep.

The readers of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW will remember that at the commencement of the recent Eastern troubles an article in its pages advocated the solution of the political problem by the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in its European Provinces, and the removal of the Turkish capital to Trebizand.

The following article from *Broad Arrow* of 15th July, under the title of "The Future Sultan," shows that the idea will assume practical shape in the future arrangements of the sick man's property:—

"The establishment of an English and Russian dynasty on the throne of Constantinople being among the possible stage effects at the disposal of sensational politicians, it may not be out of place to consider what benefit England would derive if the Duke of Edinburgh, abandoning Coburg to Prussia, should be selected to share the Eastern throne with his Russian bride. When Servia is crushed, and Montenegro forced back into the cludel of the Black Mountain, Turk and Christian will stand, as they do now face to face, unable under the old regime to live together, and equally unable to separate from each other. More unlikely things have happened in Turkey than the peaceful rule of an English dynasty over an empire of mixed races of fiercely antagonistic religious creeds; and if one prince can look forward with confidence to reign over an empire of Muslims and Brahmins, another with statesmen, instead of creatures of a harem for his guides, might solve the difficulty of Christian and Turk. A pair of scissors or a bow string, more or less, in Turkish history is a slight matter; and assuming that no massacre of Christians is destined to rid European of one or other of the antagonistic points, it is difficult to suggest a more likely to find favour in the future of the union of an English Sultan and Russian Sultana with Pashas and patriarchs, school boards and Army mobilisation. Of course Russia may feel well assured: it is only form in which a Russian Princess is likely to rule at Constantinople, and it pleased with the bauble she might be allowed to consider it a triumph of the House of Romanoff.

For our part, what would England gain

by such an accomplishment? Probably the substitution of a strong and unfriendly naval Power in the Levant for the weak but friendly alliance of Turkey, while Italy, France, Spain, and all the maritime and Eastern countries would benefit by the establishment of an independent State sufficiently powerful to defend the Dardanelles from absorption in Russia, and sufficiently weak to secure its good behaviour towards its neighbours. It may well be held that we should not waste a ship or a man to place an English Prince on any throne; but in due course the idea may come to us from St. Petersburg, and we should have but little to say against such a proposal, for if a strict equality of race and religion before the law could be secured as the basis for the reconstruction of the renewed Empire, stability must follow, and unstable elements would rapidly evaporate.

"But if the Turk, by a series of unforeseen misfortunes, should succumb before his rebellious vassals and their supporters, it is difficult to imagine a more probable issue from the destruction of the Turkish Power than the prompt suppression of the ambitious princes who have caused this danger to Europe. There will be an empty throne, and it must be filled; there will be a people to govern, and they must be governed with equity, and not with a Christian repetition of the folly and injustice which has ruined the Turk. Tunis might be spared to Italy, Egypt might take care of itself, and in a few years a just, uncompromising, and strong Government would make Turkey safe and prosperous for her own people, and a safety instead of an anxiety for the rest of Europe.

"Meanwhile, so far as England is concerned, it will please her better to see the renewed strength and reformation of Turkey under her present ruler than to witness the success of the idea which perhaps inspired the conversion of a Russian Princess into an English Duchess."

The Eastern troubles are of such a character as to preclude the possibility of obtaining anything like a reliable account of the actual military events of the struggle between Turkey and her rebellious provinces. All information from the Seat of War is filtered through Austrian, Russian, and Prussian channels, while that from Constantinople is derived from Pashas in command whose interests are concerned in magnifying their own prowess—while the others colour their intelligence according to their own supposed interests. We have therefore refrained from attempting to give our readers any of the so called war news, save short telegraph despatches; but the following description of the Servian defeat at the battle of Sutehar by an eye witness, whose credibility is vouched for by the *Daily Telegraph*, is of such a character as to warrant our placing it before our readers:—

"On July 1, Colonel Leschjnin received from the War Ministry at Belgrade the peremptory order to attack the Turkish troops encamped before Widdin, in order to render it impossible that the commandant of that fortress should despatch troops forming part of its garrison to reinforce the garrison of Nisch, against which the main effort of Tchernayeff's army was to be made. The commander-in-chief of the Servian forces did not, of course, propose to himself to reduce the fortress of Widdin with a mere handful of

troops, but, with the small force in question, to keep the Widdin garrison in check.

"Meanwhile Osman Pasha had been made acquainted with Leschjnin's intentions by spies and deserters; he at once telegraphed to Kustchuk, where a force of 10,000 Nizam had been collected, for reinforcements, and Khuram Pasha was sent off at once to join Osman by forced marches, with three battalions of chasseurs, eleven of the Lino, and fourteen companies of *gens d'armes* (Zaptichs) in all about 8,000 men; so that the Widdin garrison, originally about 15,000 strong, was speedily raised to 23,000—nearly double the strength of the Servian Timok army. As soon as Leschjnin became aware of this he forthwith sent Staff Captain Lukincrovich to the headquarters-in-chief, in order to make known his grave objections to taking the offensive with an army the evident mission of which, dictated by the natural conditions of its position, was for the time being confined to the defence of Sutehar. The Timok division had had its headquarters at this place for fully three months past, and Leschjnin had strengthened his position there with half-moon earthworks, constructed with scarp and counterscarp, and provided with both wet and dry ditches, as well as with appliances for preventing the soil detached from the faces of the work by the enemy's fire from falling into and filling up the ditches. The earthworks were fitted with *banquettes* whereon to mount cannon and infantry, and the position—the only disadvantage of which was that it was commanded by the heights to its north eastwards—had been strengthened in every possible manner. Matters stood thus when Leschjnin, despite his urgent representations to the Commander-in-Chief, received the reiterated order to advance against the Turks, who, in far greater force than his own, occupied a strong position near Kureul.

"At midday on July 2, the Servians crossed the frontier, not far from the village of Vojeka. When the Turkish outposts perceived the enemy, they fired off their rifles shouting loudly, without inflicting any damage, except on a few shakoos, which they knocked off, and then took flight in all directions. The Servian cavalry replied by a few salvoes from their carbines, which, however, took no effect upon the fugitives; and at once was seen what a disadvantage it is, to the Servian cavalry as well as artillery, that their horses, although good strong beasts, capable of considerable endurance, have hardly any of them been trained to stand fire. At Vojeka a considerable number of horses shied desperately, and some few even bolted straight away to the Turks, who caught them, tore their riders off their backs, and cut the unfortunate troopers absolutely to pieces. When the Turks, who, after the *fiasco* of Servian cavalry, displayed great caution in their movements, perceived they had to deal with a strong hostile force, they retreated in good order; and immediately afterwards the main body of the Servian troops commenced its march into Turkish territory. The *avant-garde* (or *tele*) was a squadron of the 4th (Timok) cavalry regiment; then came a section of Guides commanded by a staff captain; then the so-called "Holy Legion," a corps of foreigners composed of three infantry battalions, and three independent companies of chasseurs, which was followed by the divisional commander with his staff and the pioneers of the 4th engineer battalion. The "Kralna" brigade brought up the rear, three cavalry squadrons, the whole field artillery, and two brigades of militia remaining in the entrenchments as first and second reserve, with orders to follow during the night of the 2nd—3rd.