

insignificant question arising within the area of that debatable land, European Turkey. It was, therefore, not to be wondered at that when the flames of insurrection broke out in territory of the "Sick Man" their lurid glare should light up the council rooms of the Continent and force Ministers of State to a hurried consultation as to the means of averting the threatened danger. The peace of Europe has been so frequently disturbed of late years and the balance of power of the great States and Empires being so delicately adjusted on the point of the bayonet, any little jar may precipitate a disturbance, and it would in all probability take a mighty war to restore again that quiescent condition which we have become accustomed to call peace. The Eastern question can be compared only to a great bombshell loaded with fearful explosives and dotted over with fuses which any spark, no matter how accidentally applied, might set blazing toward the charge. Even the flames of a burning cow shed in Herzegovina might prove sufficient to destroy the combustible walls of Europe's temple of peace. It was not a surprise, therefore, to the world when the diplomatic corps of Russia, Germany, Austria and England began to pour despatches into Constantinople giving friendly council and ominous warning in relation to obscure disturbances in one or two of the Sultan's provinces.

These soon brought forth their natural fruits in the congenial atmosphere created by international jealousies. Each one of the great Powers had its particular interests to serve, and in the case of Russia and England these were best protected by the defeat of the ambitious and desires of the other. Russia recognized the revolt of Herzegovina and Bosnia, "the beginning of the end" of "the Sick Man," and strove to fan the war flame into a conflagration that would envelop the entire Turkish Empire in Europe and drive the Moslems across the Bosphorus. The Czar was even willing to take possession of the smoking ruins of Stamboul as payment in full of all the cost of winning such a desirable winter residence. Russian emissaries were busy in the revolted provinces giving encouragement and substantial aid to the peasant bands, and many a soldier of the Crescent was sent to the embraces of the hours of the Mohammedan paradise with a bullet in his breast that was paid for out of the Treasurer at St. Petersburg. On the other hand England, with a vigilant eye to the control of the Key of East, and remembering the blood and treasure expended so lavishly on the heights before Sebastopol, filed an objection to the Russian programme, and presented it at Constantinople, set in the grim framework of bristling caution from the broadsides of her ironed fleets. Germany, believing in her destiny and anxious to complete the unification of her people under one imperial standard, undertook the role of referee, but retired from the ring—temporarily, it is supposed—when England spoiled the match by her belligerent attitude. Austria, with only one object in view, and that self preservation, took an active part in the Council of Emperors, and by assuring the Sultan of neutral sympathy and furnishing the insurgents with powder and bullets, has kept the question open and, therefore, retains a controlling influence in its settlement.

The effect of this influence on the progress of events has been to enable all parties interested to get ready for the arbitrament of war. In reality the conditions arising out of the presentation of the Andrassy note and its withdrawal at the instance of Eng-

land have been equivalent only to a stay of proceedings which was to extent over just such time as certain powerful parties in the case needed for preparation for a vigorous solution by the ordeal of battle. We have seen how the hopes of the Turks and the insurgents have been alternately raised and depressed by the great Powers in order to retain both from any precipitation of a regular organized warfare until the said great Powers were ready to take advantage of the results.

Servia has been held in check by threats and promises until Russian army corps were massed in Bessarabia and the military frontier of Austria was occupied by her swarming battalions. The large standing Army of Germany places her in a position of constant readiness for the most threatening condition of affairs, and England's great Armada is within a few hours' sail of the Golder Horn. It would be absurd to imagine Servia attacking the Turkish Power single handed and with limited resources. The aid of Montenegro, a petty and impoverished little State, with an area of only 1,552 square miles, cannot be counted on to influence the struggle. Even an uprising of the Turkish dependencies in Europe unaided by some one of the mighty empires that almost surround that country, would fail to overthrow the Sultan's power, so that we may infer with safety that the wau-like movement of Servia, which has now become one of active hostility in the field, is but a part of the game that must result in the disruption of the Turkish Empire in Europe.

The forces that will open this Turko-Servian war are so disproportioned in relative strength that we must soon expect to learn of the advance of Austrian and Russian corps across the respective frontiers of both countries. The former, as in the time of the Crimean war, to protect her interests by occupying strategic points in the Danubian provinces, and the latter to watch the movements of the Austrian army. According to the law of 1869, military service is obligatory on all male Mahammedon subjects of the Sultan. Recruiting is accomplished by the engagement of volunteers and by conscription. The term of service in the Turkish army is twenty years, of which four are spent in the regular active army, two years in the first reserve, six years in the second reserve, and eight years in the militia or landwehr. The army is divided into three parts, namely: The regular army, the irregular troops, and the auxiliaries. The law above named fixed the strength of the army at 700,000 men until 1876. Of this force the regular army numbers 150,000 men, the first reserve 70,000 men, and the second reserve, 420,000 men, rendering an annual quota of 37,500 men necessary to maintain the effective strength. The regular army is divided into seven *corps d'armée*, distributed as follows:—

No.	Corps.	District.
1	The Guard	Constantinople.
2	Danube	Sehoumla.
3	Roumelia	Monastyr.
4	Anatolia	Erzeroum.
5	Syria	Damas.
6	Irak	Bagdad.
7	Yemen	Sanaa.

The irregular troops compose sixteen regiments of military police; the *Bashi-Bazouks* and the volunteers, such as *Spahis*, *Bedouins*, &c., the whole force numbering about 50,000 men.

The auxiliary troops are the contingents from such of the provinces as have not furnished their quota to the militia or landwehr and the other States or Provinces dependant to the Sultan. Of these, Upper Albania fur-

nishes 10,000 men, Bosnia, 30,000, Egypt 15,000, Tunis and Tripoli 4,000 men.

In time of war the effective army strength of Turkey is as follows:—

	No. of Men.
Active army	203,700
First reserve	105,600
Second reserve	24,000
Military police	32,000
Militia	120,000
Total, regular army	486,200
To these may be added:—	
Irregular troops	50,000
Auxiliary troops	50,000
Total, irregular army	100,000
Making a grand total of	586,100

The army of Servia is composed as follows:—

REGULAR ARMY.	
Four battalions of infantry	2,400
Two squadrons of cavalry	300
Seven batteries of artillery	1,400
Four companies of Engineers	620
Total	4,270
RESERVES.	
First Ban, 80 battalions	67,280
Second Ban, 80 battalions	48,400
Thirty three squadrons	4,950
Twenty eight batteries	5,120
Nine companies of engineers	3,632
Military train	21,168
Total	150,490

Grand Total.....154,760
The gunboats of the Turkish fleets have ascended the Danube above Widdin, and are said to be threatening even Belgrade itself with bombardment. This floating force is comparatively small and will probably be compelled to retire; but in order to guard against any future attempts of the Turks in this direction the Servians propose to torpedo the Danube, and it has even been proposed to obstruct the river at the Iron Gats so as to render it entirely impassable.

The following extract from the correspondence published in the London *Standard* describes the preparations:—

"If the telegrams are to be believed which say that some Turkish gunboats are cruising off Widdin, between that and Negotin the struggle is entering on quite a new phase. From Widdin it is but a few hours' steaming distance to Belgrade, and the gunboats, if they have come, either mean to menace that city or to cover the movement of the Turks across the river to invade Servia through Negotin. The latter is, beyond a doubt, Servia's weak point, but still the attempt on it would now be most hazardous, and, if not successful, would mean a fearful disaster for the assailants. The authorities at Belgrade, however, are by no means unaware of the danger to the city from a gunboat attack. When the Turks, over the fortress they have with their large stores of the very heaviest smooth bore bronze cannon, all eight inch or ten inch calibre, some of them throwing shot of more than 200 pounds weight. When I left about four weeks ago all the arrangements were complete for mounting these on the river walls of the fortress overlooking the Danube, and the same will be done, or now most likely has been done, on the side which commands the Sane. Still it has not been forgotten that a gunboat moving quickly is but a small mark, whereas the city, rising like a small mountain at the