



Constantinople—The Famous Yildiz Kiosk, showing the Palace and the Sultan's Private Mosque. Every Friday, which is the Turkish Sabbath, the Selamlık or Procession of the Sultan to the Mosque, occurs. All the Household Troops are assembled for the occasion.

CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM

MANY people will remember Mr. Gladstone's famous pamphlet, "Bulgarian Horrors and the Question of the East." The Turk had put down the Bulgarian rebellion with unparalleled ferocity. Thousands of women and children were butchered and the land was made desolate. Great Britain went wild. Mr. Disraeli treated the horrifying spectacle with levity, and at the general election which followed Mr. Gladstone was returned to power. Russia, with Britain's backing, went to Constantinople and by the Treaty of Berlin, Bulgaria was free. But what of Armenia, and Anatolia, and Mesopotamia, and Syria and Yemen—the Turkish provinces of Asia Minor? In Armenia, especially, the Bulgarian horrors have been repeated a dozen times and no one has marched on Constantinople. Mr. Gladstone is dead; the United States has been busy in Cuba and the Philippines; the Young Turks have been too weak. Thessaly, Servia, Montenegro, Roumania, Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia have been freed; Bosnia has been placed under Austria's protection; Egypt has the benefit of Britain's suzerainty—but what is to be done for the remainder of Turkey in Europe and Turkey in Asia? Is the fanatical despotism of an Islam Turk to exist forever to the detriment of religious freedom and modern civilisation?

For twenty-five years, these questions have been asked and no one could frame an answer. The German Emperor visited Constantinople and told Abdul Hamid that the Christians must be respected and protected—but he has done little to fulfil his

divine mission. Christendom has failed ignominiously. The missionaries were sent in by the score to convert the infidel to Christianity, and as soon as the Christian colony became large enough the Bazi-bazouks followed to perform a religious massacre. The assassin of the Yildiz Kiosk has been much abused by Christian editors and preachers, and has been in receipt of numerous threatening messages from Christian governments, but the massacres continue to occur with remarkable regularity.

Only last autumn, the world heard that constitutional government had been established at Constantinople, and a Turkish parliament elected. Henceforth, the Sultan was to govern on the advice of elected rulers, and to rule according to occidental ideas of justice, freedom and liberty. It seemed as if the Moslem Devil had reformed. But in spite of complacent Christian hopes the massacres have been renewed and Asia Minor is again red with the blood of converted heathen.

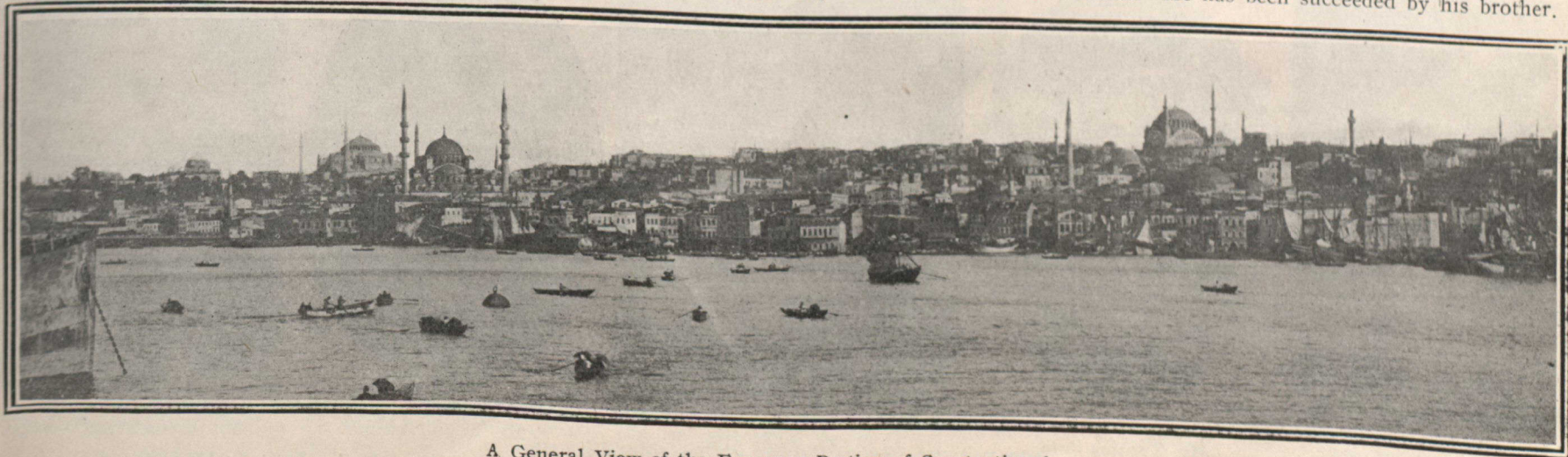
Now comes a revolution. Many centuries ago, Macedonia sent a cry across the Levant to Syria, "Come over and help us." Macedonia is now, to some extent, paying back the long-standing debt. She has taken forcible possession of the Great Assassin and proposes that he shall spill no more blood. Let us hope that they will succeed, but let us not forget that Macedonia has shamed Rome and Berlin and London and Washington.

The events during the past nine months are worth summarising. The Hamidian regime ended in July last because the despotism had become in-

tolerable. The terrorism, favouritism and extravagance of that regime killed it. The army was disgusted and the Young Turk party, at home and in exile, was in favour of reform. The Macedonian Army Corps backed the nationalism movement and, after a show of force on both sides, Abdul Hamid yielded. A parliament was summoned, the press was given freedom, and Turks, Arabs, Greeks and Albanians joined in a jubilation over the new liberal era. The Committee of Union and Progress had triumphed.

For a time it seemed as if this swift, bloodless revolution would be marvellously successful. Apparently Hamid's yielding was only a blind to retain peace and popularity. He and his reactionary followers were but biding their time. They secretly planned a counter revolution. They began to set race against race and creed against creed. Kiamil Pasha, the new Grand Vizier, tried to steer between the two courses and finally the Young Turks turned him out of office. About three weeks ago there was a third revolution, led by the First Army Corps in Constantinople, and in turn the new Grand Vizier, Hilmi Pasha, was deposed and the Minister of Justice slain. The members of the Committee of Union and Progress were again fugitives.

Then came the fourth and final revolution. Again the Macedonian army Corps rallied to the Young Turks' standard and marched on Constantinople. Only the Sultan's own body guard at the Yildiz Kiosk stood true to him. The contest was short if keen. The fighting was soon over and the Sultan was once again in the hands of the Young Turks. He has been succeeded by his brother.



A General View of the European Portion of Constantinople.