

The Baffling Personality of the Sultan

ONE WRITER COMPARES HIM TO HAMLET AND ANOTHER TO LOUIS PHILIPPE—ROYAL MISERY—MISS ELLIOTT DESCRIBES SOME OF HIS CHARACTERISTICS.

From time to time Abdul Hamid II. becomes the central figure of Europe. Three years ago "The Great Assassin," Mr. Gladstone named him, showed absolute sangfroid when brought face to face with an attempt at assassination. Abdul Hamid proved, on that occasion at least, that whatever else he was he was no coward.

EATEN BY SUSPICION.

But from cowardice to sleepless suspicion the step is not heroic. Abdul is the most suspicious man in Europe. And this is not strange. He is not strange that suspicion should haunt a throne founded by terror and maintained for centuries by terror alone. It is not strange that however personally brave the Sultan may be, he has long seen and felt that the inevitable assassin, in every appeal for liberty a challenge to be answered by the sword. This is not strange; what is strange almost beyond the irony of human affairs is that Abdul Hamid II. of Turkey, "Abdul the God," has declared himself a constitutional monarch with his own lips.

DRIVING THROUGH HIS CAPITAL.

Of such a man it is not to be expected that he should have intimate glimpses. And yet in his long reign, and in the flash of many crises, the figure of Abdul has taken recognizable shape. We can at least see him as his people see him when he swiftly crosses the stage of Constantinople life. This is how an ex-attaché in the Turkish war office describes Abdul in the act of driving through his capital:

"Crouching at the back of a victoria—he never rides in a closed carriage, fearing not to be able to get out quickly enough in case of an accident—the raised hood of which conceals a steel shield between the out-leather and the cloth lining, the Sultan, with his two magnificent horses at full gallop, passes like the wind, surrounded by a long dark overcoat of aide-de-camp and courtiers, who hide him almost completely from the gaze of the crowd.

The luxury and beauty of the carriages and liveries, the glittering uniforms of the hussars, the fine escort, form a striking contrast with the look of consternation impressed on the face of the unwilling pilgrim. Bent double, his shoulders sloping, his consumptive body buried in the loose folds of a long dark overcoat, his thin face of a pallor that even his rouge cannot entirely conceal, his enormous red fez pulled down over his eyes, his long, hooked nose, his badly dyed beard, lantern-shaped jaws, and sombre glances, uneasy and fugitive, which pierce eyes cast ceaselessly around him, the Sultan is that day particularly repellent-looking, and of neither imposing nor royal demeanor."

On the other hand, others have drawn him as anything but a brooding on his own terror, or rather as a philanthropist eager to scatter benefits all over his dominions. Mr. Terrell, the American ex-ambassador, has described the Sultan as "the ablest sovereign in Europe," and a man of real intellectual power, a view which he shared with other predecessors, including General Lew Wallace. "The Sultan," wrote Mr. Terrell eleven years ago, "is over fifty years old, of medium height, with clear olive complexion."

AFTER DOCTORS FAILED

DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS RESTORE A DEPONDENT SUFFERER TO HEALTH.

"Although it is now some years since I found it necessary to take medicine of any kind, I attribute my present good health entirely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills." Thus writes Mr. Wm. Ferguson, St. James, N. B. Mr. Ferguson continues: "For years I was a sufferer from chronic bronchitis and general debility. I had always been delicate, but as I grew older I seemed to grow weaker, and at the approach of autumn I commenced coughing and had to remain in the house all winter. With the coming of summer I always got a little better, only to be laid low again when the fine weather was over. During my last winter my cough and attack my cough became more distressing and I raised considerable phlegm, while at night I would be bathed, in a cold, clammy sweat. The doctor's medicine relieved my cough a little during the day, but there was no other improvement as I had no appetite, the night sweats continued and I was growing weaker. I changed doctors three different times, but with no improvement. Then I began to take cod liver oil, but my stomach had grown so weak that it refused to retain it. It was at this time when I was trying to reconcile myself to my fate that a pamphlet relating cures wrought by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills was left at my door. Although my friends thought me in a decline, and although I was feeling hopeless myself, I decided to try the Pills. After using several boxes, though I still continued to cough, I felt better in other respects, and my appetite was gradually returning. I was not only surprised, but pleased to find this improvement, and I gladly continued their use. By the time I had taken ten boxes the night sweats and the cough had entirely disappeared, and I was feeling quite vigorous. I took two more boxes, and felt that there was no necessity to continue the treatment as I was in better health than I had ever been before. When I completed the twelfth box I weighed myself and found that I had gained 32 pounds. As I said before it is some years since my cure was effected, and I have not had a cough in any season since, and have always enjoyed the best of health. I believe, therefore, that it is entirely due to the agency of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills that I am alive and well today, and I trust that others will benefit by my personal experience."

You can get these pills from your medicine dealer, or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont.

dark hair, high forehead, and large dark-brown eyes. The habitual expression of his face is one of extreme sadness. Though the Pashas who attend his palace when ministers or ambassadors are entertained are decorated with regal splendor, he always appears in plain garb, wearing a red fez, a frock-coat and trousers of dark-blue stuff, and patent-leather shoes. A broad service-sword with steel scabbard, which he holds sheathed in his hand, completes the costume. Sometimes a single decoration is worn on his breast. No sovereign in Europe is more courtly or refined in entertaining his guests, and few can be more agreeable in conversation. In his personal intercourse with foreign representatives he is alike free from that stilted dignity which repels confidence, and from that absence of reality which invites familiarity."

A BOURGEOIS KING.

Mr. Stead has compared Abdul Hamid to Hamlet, while Professor Vamory, writing in the New Review when the Sultan was in the early forties, seems to have regarded him as a kind of Louis-Philippe: "Sultan Abdul Hamid is the very personification of a new bourgeois, who is anxious to do away with all the encumbering etiquette of Oriental court life, and who likes to show himself plain, civil, and unaffected to his visitors. 'We are all tired and exhausted,' said one of the ministers to me, but the Sultan never is, and if he yields to our entreaties it is only for our sakes and not for his own.' The Sultan, owing to his extraordinary memory, recollects events long ago forgotten by his ministers." Contrast with this the conception of his character given by a Greek ex-attaché in the Turkish foreign office, who said some years later, in the course of a sketch in the Pall Mall Magazine: "If, as has been said, generalizing rather too freely, cunning is the intelligence of the Oriental people, the Sultan may be considered among them as a man of genius. It was, indeed, by cunning that he arrived at power, and it is by the same means that he now keeps himself there, and that he governs. He is a skillful layer of traps, and capable of all kinds of abjectness towards his enemies when he fears them, and of the greatest severity when he has them in his power, and his vengeance is the heavier for having been patiently nourished in secret."

AT YILDIZ.

How Abdul Hamid lives in the recesses of Yildiz has long been a mystery exploited in many languages. Miss Elliott, who has just published "The Sultan in Constantinople" lifted the veil so far as English readers are concerned many years ago:

"Abdul Hamid is a nervous man. Ever since the tragic death of his brother, he has been obstinately refused to move from the small kiosk or palace."

THE ORIGIN OF VEGETABLES

WHERE MANY OF THOSE IN DAILY USAGE WERE FIRST GROWN.

The potato, which was already cultivated in America when the continent was discovered, is spontaneous in Chile. It was introduced to Europe in 1580 and 1585 by the Spaniards, and almost at the same time by the English, who brought it from Virginia, where it had appeared about 1550.

The sweet potato and the Jerusalem artichoke are also supposed to come from America. Salsify is found in a wild state in Greece, Dalmatia, Italy and Algeria. According to Olivier de Serres, it has been cultivated in the south of France since the sixteenth century.

Turnips and radishes came originally from Central Europe. The beetroot and the beet, which have been greatly improved by cultivation, are considered as the same species by botanists. The beet, only the stalk of which is eaten, grows wild in the Mediterranean, Persia and Babylonia.

Garlic, onions, shallots and leeks have long been cultivated in almost all countries, and their origin is very uncertain. It grows spontaneously in Siberia. One finds chives in a wild state throughout the North American continent. The radish greatly modified by cultivation, probably had its origin in the temperate zone, but from what wild species it is derived is not exactly known.

The lettuce appears to be derived from the endive, which is found wild in the Canary Islands, Europe, in the Canaries, Algeria, Abyssinia and temperate western Asia. Wild succory is spontaneous throughout Europe, Asia Minor, Siberia, Northern China, Abyssinia, Northern Africa, Madeira and the Canary Islands.

Corn salad is found wild throughout Europe, Asia Minor and Japan. Cabbage and the vegetables which have been cultivated from remote times, is believed to be of European origin. Asparagus had its origin in Europe and temperate Western Asia.

The artichoke is the cultivated form of the wild cardoon, indigenous to Macedonia, the Canaries, Morocco, the south of France, Spain, Italy and the Mediterranean Islands.

The origin of the egg plant is India, that of the broadbean is unknown, as also that of the chick pea, the chick pea and haricot. The last named appears to have come originally from America.

The carrot grows spontaneously throughout Europe, Asia Minor, Siberia, Northern China, Abyssinia, Northern Africa, Madeira and the Canary Islands. Chervil comes from temperate Western Asia, parsley from the south of Europe, and the dill, the mountain dill and Northern Asia. The mountain dill is said to come from Northern Asia. For some twenty years past the crocus has been used. This little tubercle with fine saffron flesh, which has long been cultivated in China and Japan, is probably indigenous to Eastern Asia. The tomato comes from Peru, the cucumber from India and the pumpkin from Guinea.

zetto called Yildiz, about three miles from the city, on the European range of hills bordering the Bosphorus. The way to Yildiz lies through the draggled streets of Pera, into comparative country. After going up and down hill at a breakneck gallop, the outline of a palace kiosk, modern and small, reveals itself, rising out of a cincture of dark groves. This is Yildiz Kiosk, where lives the Commander of the Faithful. It is not a palace at all, but originally was a summer villa. The park, which is well wooded, is spacious, with grassy slopes, diversified with other kiosks, also shaded with groves descending to a quay in the Bosphorus. It has most charming views over land and sea, Europe and Asia. Near at hand is the broad channel of the deep blue Bosphorus, with its fringes of white palaces, steamers, caïques, and vessels with sails set gliding by every instant.

THE DAILY ROUTINE.

Abdul Hamid is an early riser, according to Miss Elliott's book, and from the moment that he had completed his religious prayers and ablutions, which were followed by a cup of coffee, he would begin smoking cigarettes and reading the papers. At 10 a.m. he receives the reports of his ministers, works alone or with his secretaries till one, when he eats; then he drives in the grounds, or floats in a gilded calque on a lake for a couple of hours, never leaving the park at Yildiz, except to go to the mosque, after which he returns to preside at the Council of State, or to receive ambassadors or ministers. His dinner is at sunset, when the national pillar of rice and sweets is served with sherbet and leeks. After this he betakes himself to the Selamluk to receive pashas and generals of high rank, such as Osman Ghazi, or officer he disappears into the harem to pass the evening hours with wives, mother, and children."

ROYAL MISERY.

Miss Elliott gives her own personal impression of the Sultan in these outspoken words: "The Sultan is the most wretched, pinched-up little sovereign I ever saw. A most unhappy looking man, of dark complexion, with a look of absolute terror in his large eastern eyes. People say he is nervous, and no wonder, considering the fate of his predecessor. Yet this is to be regretted, for if he could surmount these fears, his would be an agreeable and refined countenance, eminently Asiatic in type, and with a certain charm of expression. All I can say is that his eyes haunted me for days, as of one gazing at some unknown terror. So emaciated and unnatural is his appearance that were he a European we should pronounce him in a swift decline. I hear that his greatest friend and favorite is his physician. And no wonder, for he must need his constant care, considering the life he leads. How all the fabled state of the Oriental potentate palls before such a lesson in royal misery! The poorest of his subjects in his dominion is happier than he!"

OLDEST LONDON POLICE CELL

SUPPOSED TO BE MORE THAN 300 YEARS OLD.

Behind a building known as the Old Court House, Wellesch Square, Stepney, stand what are said to be the oldest police cells in London, and under these is the entrance to a subway believed to have once led to the Tower, nearly a mile distant. This subterranean passage is now blocked up, and at the entrance there stands a skeleton.

The building was formerly known as the high court of liberty and is supposed to be over 300 years old. The court house is now the home of the German Club, and the fire and the fire, and the trials took place in the court house, while the adjoining rooms provide accommodation for billiards.

A winding staircase leads to the two cells at the rear of the court house. At the top of the stairs is a staircase and strongly barred door, with a peephole in it. The only light which penetrates these dens comes through gratings in the ceiling, and each is fitted with a shutter, by means of which the cells can be plunged into darkness.

Nearly half the floor space in each room is filled by a wooden bed, and attached to the walls are the rusty chains which the prisoners were manacled. Another object to be seen is a straight jacket made of stiff canvas, with iron rings which can be fastened to the chains.

Many names, inscriptions and pictures are carved on the wooden walls. One can still read the name of Edward Burke, who is said to have been hanged for murder by the gallows in the Old Court House, and another inscription runs "Francis Brittain, June 27, 1758. Pray remember the poor debtors."

On the floor of the first cell can be distinguished the squares of a chess-board, cut in the solid oak. Over the door between the two cells can be traced the words, "The rule of the house is a gallon of beer," and just below, in heater characters, are the words, "John Burns came in April 11, 1751."

One prisoner broke into verse thus: The cup is empty, To our sorrow; But hope it will be filled tomorrow.

Another prisoner signed himself "James Carr, smuggler, 1787." The pictorial evidence includes churches, a crude anchor and the triple emblem of the rose, shamrock and thistle.

Running under the roadway of Well-croft Square is a tunnel lined with brickwork a foot thick.

FATIGUE AS A STIMULANT.

That one may be stimulated by fatigue seems a contradiction of terms. It is now generally held, however, that

PILLS THAT NEVER GRIP.

They cure headaches, relieve constipation, help digestion, clear the skin, make you feel better in one day—that's how Dr. Hamilton's Pills act. No family medicine equals Dr. Hamilton's Pills.

fatigue is due to poisoning by waste products of muscular activity, and recent experiment goes to show that these products at first stimulate rather than retard action. This is what we call "warming up" to our work, which is partly due to improvement in the circulation, but chiefly to a positively stimulating effect. Says the American Journal of Public Hygiene:

"The conception that fatigue products at first favor activity and only later retard it may be of great value in clearing up various hygienic problems. Take for example the explanation of sleep. The lapse into unconsciousness after the customary hours of waking may be primarily due to cerebral anemia produced by the failure of the vasomotor center to maintain full activity, as Dr. Howell supposes. But back of this direct cause lies the general question of fatigue products and their action upon the system. Upon the old assumption that such products are always to be depressing it was difficult to see why the efficiency of the body did not steadily decline from a maximum early in the day to evening levels little above that of sleep. That the general command of the vasomotor center to maintain full activity, as Dr. Howell supposes. But back of this direct cause lies the general question of fatigue products and their action upon the system. 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