

ABDUL HAMID AT HOME.

A Familiar Chat With Royalty.

Mr. Hewitt, member of Congress for New York, has been received by his Majesty at a special audience at the Yildiz Kiosk. Mr. Hewitt was accompanied by General Wallace and the chief interpreter of the Legation. The Sultan chatted very familiarly with Mr. Hewitt, who thus describes his interview.

Driving out to Yildiz we passed through the well laid out and well protected palace gardens. Reaching the main entrance we were received by Munir Bey and introduced to the ambassador, who ushered us at once into the presence of the Sultan. His Majesty came forward as I entered, and holding out his hand shook mine in a very frank, cordial manner. Then, leading the way toward a sofa at the other end of the room, he bade me be seated in a large armchair on one side, while he directed General Wallace to take possession of a similar one on the other side.

There was a total absence of courtly etiquette and ceremony. There were no servants and no guards about, the only person present besides ourselves and the Sultan being Munir Bey. I felt just as much at ease as if I were visiting any private gentleman in New York. A good twenty minutes were occupied in an interchange of compliments and mutual enquiries after each other's health. Then we got on to some interesting topics. The French Ambassador had been having an audience with the Sultan in the morning. Referring to this, and to the fact that in both America and France the form of Government was Republican, the Sultan remarked:—"The stability of your institutions in the United States is owing to the absence of politicians, a superabundance of which in France is such a disturbing element."

FRANCE AND AMERICA.

Seeing that the Sultan was, in his own mind, comparing the tranquillity of the United States with the effervescence of France, I endeavored to explain the great difference between the two Republics. I had to give a sketch of the history of America, but his Majesty was exceedingly attentive, and I found him very quick in seizing my ideas. The Sultan observed:—"I have heard that you are likely before long to become a member of the Government. Allow me to congratulate you upon the said Government being that of the United States, and not of France. I am very fond of the American nation, because it harbours no designs and pit-falls against my empire."

His Majesty was very anxious to impress me with the idea that perfect religious freedom existed throughout the empire, and that the followers of all creeds were equally protected by law. His Majesty said:—"In some respects a Christian has the advantage of a Moslem, as, for instance, in the settlement of debts, when Christian creditors are paid first. Moreover, Jews have over and over again come to Turkey to avoid persecution in their native countries. Most of the European Jews in Turkey have descended from Spanish Jews who fled from Spain and were granted homes in Turkey at a time when to Christian country would receive them. Most of the Jews in Turkey still continue to speak Spanish."

A LEADING QUESTION.

The Sultan finally asked me what I thought about his country and its condition. I naturally felt great hesitation in giving a reply. It would have been unbecoming on my part to criticize freely what I had seen, or to have thought of giving his Majesty a lecture on the duties of government. I made some commonplace remarks, sheltering myself from further questions on the subject under the excuse of my limited opportunity of observation.

His Majesty struck me as being a perfect gentleman. His manner was exceedingly courteous and friendly, tinged, however, with a little nervous anxiety—not shyness or timidity, but just that amount of hesitation as betrayed the Sultan's fears that he might be asserting himself too much, when his desire was to place himself on a conversational level with his guests. He seemed a man of great intelligence of thought. His intellect, I should say, was rather of a metaphysical order and his mind was given to searching out and studying details rather than considering subjects generally. His Majesty, as we presented our adieux, desired me to write to him when in New York.

Capitol on Culture.

"The whole discussion," said the lecturer, "turns upon this single fact: Does all end with death? If so, we might say, as the Apostle Paul has observed, 'Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die.' But if we take that life as but a stopping at no to a greater existence, to that which is never to end, then must the character of our education be of another kind. I take it for granted that the audience is fairly Christian; but yet I will deal with the double question. I will deal with the secular part, and then with what is required in Christian education. There should be a physical, intellectual and moral training. Education in its true sense must cover the whole field. If the intellect alone is culled and the will neglected, education only becomes a power for indulging the will. There must be education of both head and heart. If not, man, instead of being educated becomes a deformity, and his intellect is spoiled or dwarfed. So far as the thorough education of both body and intellect is concerned, we are at one with the secularists. We advocate the full development of both, and join hands with the secular party in this respect; but we are not unmindful of the fact that the body is to be subject to the spirit."

The body, however, must be brought into subjection and treated with a certain amount of severity in order to make it subservient in carrying out the intellectual work we have to do. When memory and imagination have developed themselves, then comes out the power of thinking. You can tell a child 5 or 6 years of age the strangest stories, and it will bubble over in a deluge of its imagination to listen to the most amazing exaggerations; but if you present a problem in arithmetic or algebra to its mind, it becomes irksome. Facts must be gradually presented to the memory and imagination, so that the child may be able to see and observe and think for its life. Everything should be done to enrich its vocabulary and draw out its descriptive powers and to give promptitude to its faculty of memory, but there is an obligation upon the Christian to do more. We are made not merely for this world, but for the next."

The Future Feeder of the States.

A statement has been published on the authority of a St. Paul correspondent that the wheat crop of the Manitoba district has been frozen and rendered valueless, and a doubt is expressed that the land north of the Canada line can be depended upon for permanent crops. I have just returned from Prince Albert on the North Saskatchewan, some 500 miles north-west of the City of Winnipeg, where I witnessed the harvesting of probably the choicest wheat on the continent, saved in the finest order and entirely free from frost. On my way to Windsor I stopped for a day at Portage la Prairie, sixty miles west of Winnipeg, in order to attend the Provincial Exhibition now being held at that point. I had lived there and met at the Exhibition scores of farmers whom I knew intimately—many of them the early immigrants to the province. The damage done by frost in that region is confined mainly to late sowings, the spring having been exceptionally late; but though the summer was rather cool throughout the bulk of grain escaped serious injury. Southern Manitoba has suffered more severely in common with Dakota and Minnesota, and indeed with almost every American State east of the mountains and every eastern Canadian Province. Relatively speaking, far more injury has been done to crops south of 49 degrees than north of it; while in the vast "fertilized belt" of the Saskatchewan country—a region more susceptible to Pacific influences than Manitoba—no injury whatever has been done to crops, and the summer has been, as it usually is, fine and favorable throughout.

I have myself lived some sixteen years in the Canadian North-west and during my residence there have farmed extensively both in Manitoba and the Territories. During all that time my crops have only suffered twice from severe frost. Throughout the entire North-west a sudden break takes place in the weather about the end of August. The nights then become chilly and frost is to be feared, though it may seldom come. On the other hand there is no June frost, such as you have here, and you can readily understand that when the berry of the wheat plant has taken, without check, all its nutriment from the soil and atmosphere that it can take (and this result has been attained by the end of August everywhere in the

fertile belt of the North-west) the late August frost, even when it does come, cannot do substantial injury. It may deepen the color of the pile and shrink it somewhat, but the nutriment is there.

So far from wheat culture north of the Canada line being "doubtful," it is a fact well known where I live that the quality of the grain improves as you approach the north western limit of its growth. The only difficulty, indeed, seems to be to reach this limit. Prince Albert for example, 500 miles north west of Winnipeg, is unquestionably one of the finest wheat-growing districts on the continent, and the wheat grown there this year is of the choicest quality and uninjured by frost. It may be well, to point out, too, that this great district, by way of Hudson's Bay—a route which will speedily be developed—is nearer Liverpool than Western Ontario. But wheat grown at Fort Chippewyan, hundred miles north-west of Prince Albert, took, if I mistake not, a leading prize at your Centennial Exposition, while all over the immense Peace River country, still further north west, which has a finer climate yet than that of the Saskatchewan, it is and can be grown successfully; and as far North, even, as far as Fort Providence, Mackenzie River, near the sixty-third parallel of north latitude. The highly esteemed American Consul at Winnipeg, the Hon. I. W. Taylor, who has made a life-long study of this question, is much better informed than the St. Paul correspondent, when he states that the future wheat-producing areas of the continent lie north of latitude forty nine. It is a fact as important to the people of the United States as it is to the people of Canada. Your Western States must eventually cease to export wheat, just as your Eastern States have ceased to do so; and the time is not far distant when your enormously increased population will be largely fed by the cereals of Peace River and the Saskatchewan.

You will then, I have no doubt, find the North-west Canadian farmer as willing to feed and trade with the kindred people of the United States on equal terms as to feed and trade with his fellow-citizens of the Eastern Provinces.

Yours respectfully,
C. MAIR,
Victoria Avenue, Windsor, Ont.
Detroit Free Press.

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River St., Buckland, Mass., May 13, 1882.

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