

peaceable means only, especially education through schools and newspapers, and has adopted as its political policy a strong central government and the fusion of races. Although discountenancing the assassinations and armed revolt by which the Armenians especially sought to further their cause, this party joined the other two on a platform comprising the adoption of a constitution for Turkey, equality of races before the law, and freedom of religion and the press. The Reval meeting, which was to be followed by more definite action with regard to Macedonia, precipitated the revolution. The coalition was formed in December, 1907. Immediately the Armenians started a revolution in Armenia proper. The Kurds and Arabs were encouraged to harass the government. And the propaganda was rapidly pushed in the two army corps in Europe. Among the converts to the constitutionalists were two young officers, Enver and Niazi Beys. Seeing Macedonia slipping from them, these two raised the standard of revolt in the European provinces and proclaimed the constitution. They telegraphed to the palace insisting that the constitution should also be proclaimed in Asiatic Turkey and Constantinople, or else they would march on the capital. Deserted by his ablest generals and his army, Abdul Hamid gave in. The story of the revolution is to be told by Niazi Bey in a book which is to be translated into many languages, a book which will be as interesting as would be the revelation by a magician of the secrets whereby he can perform miracles. The work of the revolution is, of course, by no means done—it is but started. The Greek and Bulgarian committees, whose interests in Macedonia are diametrically opposed, accept the new regime with some reserve, being inclined to demand more local autonomy and special privileges than the Young Turks feel justified in giving. Therefore the truce in Macedonia is only an armed truce. But that is better than the country has seen for years, and as time goes on the hope grows stronger for a peaceable solution. The situation in Armenia proper is more serious. Kurdish chiefs—never really conquered—continue their depredations, for they shared with the officials of the old regime the privilege of robbing the Christians. And many of these same officials have refused to surrender their lucrative posts, while the Constantinople government has its hands so full of problems that require immediate attention as to find it difficult to make its power felt everywhere with equal force. And the revolutionaries continue to keep up their agitation against these insubordinate officials. So that the people, ignorant, famine-stricken, driven mad with despair and too far away to receive reliable first-hand information, know not which master to serve. But we must give the constitutional government time before we criticize its weakness. And indeed, what has already been accomplished is in itself a miracle of statesmanship. A heterogeneous people divided into antagonistic camps by racial and religious prejudice, by bloodshed and unachieved revenge,—these have, throughout the greater part of the empire, rallied round the magic standard of liberty and brotherhood; the past forgotten, they kiss each other in the streets, and Mohammendans weep at the graves of Christian martyrs.

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