

the Byzantine empire. In 1185 King Asan declared the country independent of Constantinople, which resulted badly for it, as the kings of Hungary demanded that it should accept their protection. Upon the refusal to accede to this demand, a long war followed, which left Bulgaria in such a weak condition that it fell easily into the hands of the Turks when they made their appearance in Europe.

From 1392 until 1879 it was a province of the Turkish empire, and during that time retrograded lamentably. The "unspeakable" Turk distinguished his rule here, as elsewhere, by mal-administration and oppression of the worst kind.

As was the case with Roumania, Bulgaria owed its deliverance from the Turks to Russia. Emperor Alexander II came to the rescue of the Christians of Turkey and tributary states in their struggle for liberty, and the Russia-Turkish War of 1877 resulted. As this ended disastrously for Turkey, the demands of Russia for reforms in the Balkan states were granted to a large extent.

By the treaty of Berlin, Bulgaria was made a tributary principality of the sultan with a Christian government, a national militia and the right to make its own laws. A prince was to be elected by the people and confirmed by the porte with the consent of the powers. That portion of Bulgaria south of the Balkans was to have a Christian governor appointed by the sultan, to serve for a term of ten years, this appointment to be confirmed by the powers.

Alexander of Battenburg, brother of the late Prince Henry of Battenburg, was elected prince in April, 1879, and duly confirmed. Things did not run smoothly in the new state, however, Ministerial crises and internal dissensions of all sorts embarrassed the government. The inhabitants of South Bulgaria, that part under the Turkish

governor, were constantly clamoring for union with the principality. The efforts of the national party to bring this about and the repeated interference of Russia in the affairs of the country, caused continual uproar.

The fact that Russians were in possession of positions in the cabinet and in the civil and military service was a severe blow to the national pride. The national assembly opposed the foreign officials, and as the prince did not support them, the Russians gave up their places and left the country. This resulted in very strained relations between Russia and Bulgaria.

The South Bulgarians revolted, made their governor a prisoner and invited Prince Alexander to rule over them also. He accepted and declared the two portions of the country united. This action was, of course, contrary to the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin, but rather than provoke another war, the porte allowed matters to remain as they were, and while South Bulgaria nominally belongs to Turkey, it is really in the hands of Bulgaria.

The enlargement of Bulgaria was observed by Servia with jealous eyes, and that country declared war against Bulgaria in 1885. The Servians received a good drubbing in the short campaign that followed, but no change was made in the conditions of the countries.

In spite of these successes, Prince Alexander's government did not get on well, and various conspiracies against him were discovered. Finally he was kidnapped by Russian agents and taken to Russia. He returned to Sofia later, and was received by the people with enthusiasm, but as it was impossible for him to obtain the good will of Russia, he resigned his position and left the country.

Prince Waldemar of Denmark was offered the vacant throne, but declined with thanks, for which action he was certainly not to blame. After search-