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THE MASSACRE OF THE JANISSARIES.

The following is from a very interesting work now in press, by the author of "Ship and Shore," entitled, "A visit to Constantinople."

The present feeble and distracted condition of the Turkish Empire, has not resulted, as many have been led to suppose from the sudden destruction of the Janissaries. Had that body retained the patriotism and vigour which once animated and nerved them, their absence might truly be deplored by every honest Osmanlie. But they had ceased to possess those commendable attributes; they had become insolent and refractory—a terror to the throne, and to the hearth of the quiet citizen. Yet there was an unsparring precipitancy in their fate, that must awaken sentiments of commiseration. Nor can we help feeling a bewildering respect for the daring spirit that flashed through their despair.

They had long stood the firm refuge and defence of the Empire; they had impressed the terror of their arms upon the dynasties of Christendom; they had won a thousand victories, and as often had dictated the conditions of peace; they had displaced viziers, disposed sultans, and set aside the pachas of the provinces at will; they had recently consigned Selim to a bloody shroud, and given the present monarch to understand, that he owed his inviolability to the simple fact of his being the last of the Ottoman line of an age sufficient to reign. Occupying this position, and sustained by these proud recollections, they were naturally intolerant of any innovations, that infringed upon their privileges or diminished their consideration. Mahmoud saw clearly that he must raise the quick hand of ruin against them while he had the power, or submit to become the passive instrument of their caprices. He preferred his own life and independence to their domineering sway; and planned their destruction with a true Machiavelian policy.

He thinned their ranks by sending them, in small detachments, into the Moroccan expeditions in which they were intentionally unsupported, and from which they never returned. To the remainder he addressed himself in a different form. To the ambitious he proffered gold, to the refractory he gave the bow-string; till by these well adapted devices, the commander-in-chief, and a number of the master-spirits of the order, were brought firmly into his interests. The fetter for the organization of a new army now made its appearance, and produced the expected result. The Janissaries instantly rose against it, denouncing the spirit of its provisions, and demanding the sovereign to this disrespectful act; and threatening, in the event of its not being immediately rescinded, to force the gate of the seraglio.

But Mahmoud was prepared for this alarming issue. The forces which he had been secretly collecting, in anticipation of this event, now surrounded the assembled. An order for the death of the insurgents, under the sanction of Ulema was issued; the standard of the prophet unfurled from the dome of the Imperial mosque, and all faithful Mussulmen called upon to support its sacred cause against the violence of impiety and treason. The Janissaries soon saw that their case was hopeless, their mistake irretrievable; yet they determined not to disgrace the memory of their fathers by any relenting tears, or unavailing supplications. They forced their way over many of their dead companions to their barracks, where they snatched themselves sternly resolved to abide the terrible issue. From this retreat they could not be forced; and at evening, orders were given to fire their last refuge. The burning pile sent up its fitful flashes through the long night; and the next day dawned upon a smouldering mass of embers and bones and blood! Those who had escaped the tumult and carnage of the execution, street and alley of the city. They were betrayed, overwhelmed, cut to pieces; and their mangled bodies cast into the Bosphorus, till that mighty current became literally choked with the dead.

Thus perished in a day one of the most formidable orders of men known to this or any other age; they numbered at the time of their massacre (July 1826) 39,300 souls. Their achievements are interwoven with the highest splendour of the Ottoman name. Their watch fires were kindled from the mountains of Asia to the centre of Europe; and their war-song seems still to echo from every torrent and steep. Their chivalric valour, their unshrinking hardihood and contempt of death, will long disturb the pen of history, and furnish themes around which the spirit of poetry will hover, and catch the romance of its wildest flights.

METALLIC LIGHTHOUSES.—Mr Samuel Brown proposes employing bronze or cast-iron in the construction of lighthouses, instead of stone. He seems to have made out that a bronze light-house would be incomparably cheaper than a stone one, that it would be more secure against dilapidation or subversion by the waves, that the lights would be better protected from the spray by which they are occasionally extinguished, that they would be erected in one twentieth part of the time, and in situations where a stone structure would be impracticable. It has been proposed to place a light-house on the Wolf Rock near Land's End, a position where it would be exposed to the most violent storms of the Atlantic; and a plan was drawn up for the purpose by Mr Stephenson, who holds a high rank in this department of engineering; which plan Mr Brown thinks would require fifteen years for its execution and cost £150,000. Mr Brown undertakes to erect one of bronze, ninety feet high, which would answer the purpose as well as the stone one of 134 feet, for £15,000, and to complete it in four months.

Festival at Hamburgh.—At Hamburgh there is an annual festival, in which the troops of children parade the streets carrying green garlands, ornamented with cherries, to commemorate a remarkable event which occurred in 1432. When the Hussites menaced the city with immediate destruction, one of the citizens North of England as substitutes for the emancipated negroes, but found them

ven to fourteen years of age, should be clad in mourning and sent as supplicants to the enemy. Procopius Nasus, the Hussite chief, was so touched with this spectacle that he received the young supplicants, regaled them with cherries and other fruit, and promised to spare the city. The children returned crowned with leaves, holding cherries, and crying with victory.

North American Colonies.—On the motion of the Duke of Leinster, a select Committee was appointed "to inquire into the existing facilities of intercourse between the United Kingdom and our Colonies in North America.

Irish Emigration.—The last number of the Quarterly Review contains the following observations, on the effects of emigration, in reference to Ireland:—"It is to emigration that Ireland must mainly look for the amelioration of its social condition. At this very time we are persuaded that a large proportion of its agricultural population ought to be removed either to our own colonies or elsewhere, and that this removal would be highly beneficial both to them and the landlords. That it would be beneficial to the small farmers and labourers themselves, we think admits of no dispute. In every one of our colonies, in the United States, and in various parts of South America, if they acted with ordinary diligence and prudence, they would soon find that their removal had both improved their own condition and that of the connections they had left behind them. Look at the ratio in which the population has advanced within the last one hundred and fifty years. In 1672, Sir William Petty calculated it at 1,200,000. In 1800, Mr Gordon, from his own observations, and documents furnished to him by Mr. Burke, supposed it to be nearer five than four millions. By the return made to Parliament in 1821, it had risen to 6,801,827; by the last return, in 1831, to 7,767,401; and by the Appendix to the First Report of the Commissioners of Public Instruction, it amounted in 1834 to 7,954,000. It is impossible that this progressive augmentation can continue. A large proportion of the country must always remain in pasture, for which it is peculiarly fitted. The other parts are already under the spade or the plough; and although cultivation will for many years steal slowly up the hills and along the bogs, it will gradually slacken. \* \* \* The mass of the people are reduced to the lowest scale of subsistence; extreme destitution has been proved; and yet the multiplication of numbers has not ceased to advance in the before-mentioned rapid ratio. That Ireland ought to have poor laws, we have often and very recently expressed our opinion in detail; but it is obvious that the wisest system of poor laws which could be framed cannot be safely relied on as the sole remedy for such an evil as this. An extensive, considerate, and continued system of emigration appears to be the necessary accompaniment of a legislative measure for the relief of the infirm and destitute in Ireland."

EUROPEAN LABOURERS IN THE WEST INDIES.—The Arab of Liverpool, has arrived at Gravesend, with nine stout English labourers who emigrated from the North of England as substitutes for the emancipated negroes, but found them

selves completely unable to stand a tropical sun and climate. Twenty-two other labourers went with them to Jamaica, of whom nineteen are dead of the fever, and the remaining three were left in a hospital in the city of Kingston, Jamaica.

Pompeii.—A rich discovery was made at Pompeii in January last of a house situated in the street of Mercury. The exterior is not remarkable, though it has some paintings of Narcissus and Endymion; but the house contained four vases of silver, and a great number of medals among which were 29 pieces of gold of the first Roman Emperors. Two vases of silver of five inches in diameter, ornamented with reliefs of Cupids and Centaurs, and emblems of Bacchus and Ceres, have also been found.

Household Manufacture of Sugar.—A remarkable proof of the facility with which beet-root sugar manufactures may be established is presented at this moment at Wallers, in the department du Nord. Four of the villagers, by advancing 50 francs each, have formed a joint capital of 200 francs, and with this they produced between 40 and 50 lbs. of sugar, of rather inferior quality, a day. They employ curry-combs to rasp the beet-roots, which they put into a napkin press to extract the juice, and then boil the syrup in common culinary boilers.

Intelligence from Barcelona to the 23rd April. The letters state that several bands of Carlists in the mountainous quarters of Catalonia had been attacked and dispersed by the National Guards. The bands commanded by Borges and Liarch were routed about the middle of the month. Several friars, who accompanied the former, were taken in the pursuit, and instantly shot. The National Guard of Copons, being informed that Liarch and his followers were passing through a part of the country, marched in pursuit of them, and harassed them by repeated attacks, but the Carlists succeeded in carrying off a countman who had served as a guide to the Christians. A message was immediately sent to Liarch to inform him, that if shot the prisoner, one of his own relations, in custody at Copons, would be executed in retaliation. This had the effect of producing the release of the countman, who brought with him a letter from the Carlist leader. In that letter Liarch, who styles himself commander of the first brigade of the division of ragons, threatens to burn the town of Copons, and put to death all the inhabitants without distinction of age or sex, if the National Guard should in future attack any of his troops while on their excursions in that neighbourhood. In this barbarous manner is the war carried on. Letters from persons serving with the corps of the Queen's troops and National Guards employed on this harassing vice speak much of the hardships and endurance, of the difficulties they have to fruitlessly to encounter in forced marches, and above all, of the deficiency of provisions. To be *sin pah* is a constant complaint. On the 7th April the top manufacturers of all descriptions Catalonia, spinners, weavers, and printers, had a meeting at Barcelona, and addressed a representation to the Queen's support of Menzibah. A instruction