

Diagnosis of Condition of "Sick Man of Europe"



TERRIBLE and sanguinary war, shaking the four quarters of the world, was predicted as inevitable, but Turkey, the immediate sufferer, shows no disposition to take so tragic a view of the situation, and the scaremongers have now come reluctantly to recognize the fact that, so far as the chief

disputants are concerned, there is nothing to fight about. Turkey has been roughly and rudely treated, and that at a time when she had secured the sympathy and respect of all the world by her efforts at internal reform; but she has not lost an inch of territory or a piastre of revenue. We are glad to see that the weekly reviews, having had time to reflect, take this view of the situation, following the wise and judicious lead given by Sir Edward Grey. We may be permitted again to direct attention to what the Foreign Secretary said on this point, and what no doubt he repeated to M. Isvolsky in their interview. Said Sir Edward Grey:

"The material and practical change which has been made is not great. Bulgaria has declared its independence, but it had autonomy before, and the difference between autonomy and independence is not, from the practical point of view, so very great, whatever it may be from the sentimental. The provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were under Austrian administration before, and the fact that she now has announced her intention of taking them over entirely and for good is not such a very material and practical change. But the manner in which this has been brought about is, to say the least of it, both irregular and abrupt."

In a word, Bulgaria and Austria have taken a short cut, and have thus violated diplomatic etiquette, and they will have to pay for it. Money will be much more useful to Turkey just now than territory, and the "compensation" that may be decreed by European diplomacy will be very welcome to the depleted treasury of the Porte. Bulgaria has seized a section of the Eastern railway, and for that she will have to pay. She has also temporarily alienated the tribute which Eastern Roumelia owes to Turkey, and for that a capitalized sum will be due. Greece is in the same situation with regard to Crete, and, although Bosnia and Herzegovina paid no tribute, there can be little doubt that there also Austria will not grudge a monetary solatium to Turkey for the "irregular and abrupt" fashion in which the provinces were annexed. We are not sure indeed that it would not be wise for England to take advantage of the opportunity in order to "regularize" her position in Cyprus and in Egypt on the same cash basis. We pay tribute to Turkey for governing well countries which she governed ill, and it would, in our opinion, be of mutual benefit if we paid over a lump sum, and thus obtained a free hand. It has been calculated that Turkey might thus obtain in all a sum of over twenty million pounds in return for an unreal and shadowy suzerainty, and this sum would do much to place the imperial finances on something like a safe basis.

We have not in all this—any more than has Sir Edward Grey—the slightest desire to minimize or to weaken the sense of treaty obligations. We merely wish to emphasize the obvious truth that the position of Turkey is a peculiar and altogether exceptional one, and that under no circumstances can the public conscience of Europe contemplate the possibility of handing back to Turkish rule Christian populations which have by one means or another managed to emancipate themselves. If the Young Turks by their courage and statesmanship and enlightened patriotism can so restore and rejuvenate their country that Christian and Turk can dwell together in a spirit of mutual fair play and toleration, then the decay of Turkey may be arrested, and the empire placed on a normal European basis. All Europe would welcome such a consummation. But those who have by a great price already obtained their freedom are not likely to run any risks by re-entering a dubious partnership. Meanwhile, the situation is viewed more calmly in every quarter. Even in Serbia, where the danger of boiling over was very real for twenty-four hours or so, the Skupshtina appears to be taking a rational view of the affair. The Serbo-Bosnian frontier and the Turko-Bulgarian frontier are the danger points, for a band of irregulars might at any moment precipitate a collision by some act of brutal violence such as is only too common in the Balkan Peninsula. But there, too, we hope that the worst is past. As for the Great Powers, they have not, and never had, the remotest intention of fighting. Instead of that they are discussing quite calmly the best method of restoring diplomatic order. England, France, Russia and Italy have formally pointed out to Austria and Bulgaria the reprehensible nature of their conduct, and they are in active consultation as to the practical steps to be taken. England has sent a formidable fleet from Malta to the Aegean in order to give moral support to Turkey, and incidentally to keep an eye on Crete and Samos and other islands that threaten to cause trouble. Russia proposes a congress of the Powers to discuss and revise the whole situation, a proposal which is received with a decided lack of enthusiasm both by England and by Turkey. England has no great desire for a congress that might ask questions as to the precise date on which we propose to evacuate Cyprus or even Egypt, where our position, diplomatically speaking, is irregular; and as for

Turkey, she has the melancholy reflection that congresses do not in general tend to an increase of Turkish territory or prestige.—Belfast Whig.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in a recent speech said: During the last three months there has been a most remarkable change in the attitude of the people of this country to the Turkish government. For a generation past our relations with the government of Turkey have been those of constant friction and remonstrance, but they have changed from friction and remonstrance to very deep sympathy. For nearly a generation past, as the papers have shown, there has been nothing but a tale of outrage and violence coming from such places as Armenia and Macedonia, and we in common with other

the improvement came later, but when it did come on the reports we have received during the last month show the change was equally favorable and complete. Hatred, strife and oppression have been swept away, and they have been replaced by fair play, peace and goodwill—goodwill which is the surest guarantee of peace, more sure than any treaty or any constitution, or anything else. (Cheers.) Well, never in history, I think, has there been a change more sudden and so beneficial. It would have been incredible if it had not occurred, and a profound impression has been produced upon all who have been in contact with it by the upright character and purity of motives of the men who have brought this change about. There has been patriotism in the best sense of the word, a patriotism which

ing the work, but at this hopeful and critical moment has come the declaration of Bulgarian independence and the news that Austria is going to take over Bosnia and Herzegovina, while she renounced her rights over another portion of Turkish territory. Well, everyone who has read the newspapers the last two or three days realizes the apprehension which that news has caused. I speak with some reserve as to consequences, because there are other Powers more intimately concerned in these particular changes than we are ourselves, but I hope and think that there is no reason why what has happened so far should lead to any disturbance of the peace. (Cheers.) And I not only hope but also think it will not lead to any disturbance. The material and practical change which has been made is not so

used to be urged upon us by other Powers that we must not press them to such a point as would make it difficult to secure the consent of the Turkish Government, because if we did press things to such a point complications would ensue. Well, I think it is doubly desirous to bear that consideration in mind at the present time, for any slighting of the new regime in Turkey might give a military direction to a movement which is now entirely peaceful. It might imperil all reforms in Turkey. It might plunge Macedonia and Armenia back into the deplorable state which they were in up to quite a short time ago, and which, if it had been continued, would undoubtedly have led sooner or later to a breach of the peace. (Hear, hear.) What therefore should our attitude be? Our attitude, I think, should be this. We cannot recognize the right of any Power or State to alter an international treaty without the consent of the other parties to it. (Cheers.) We cannot ourselves recognize the result of any such action till the other Powers have been consulted, including especially in this case Turkey, who is one of the other Powers most closely concerned. (Cheers.) Because if it is to become the practice in foreign politics that any single Power or State can at will make abrupt violations of international treaties you will undermine public confidence with all of us, and I think the feeling is growing in Europe to desire to see the pace of the increase of expenditure upon armaments diminish. But you cannot expect to see the expenditure on armaments diminish if people live in apprehension that treaties can be constantly altered without the consent of all the Powers who are parties to them, and the risk, I feel, is this, that what already has been done may lead to further questions being raised which would entail new complications. (Hear, hear.) In any case it would be very desirable to lose no time in assuring Turkey that in any revision of the Treaty of Berlin which frees other Powers or States, such as Austria and Bulgaria, from particular obligations the interest and status of Turkey will receive full consideration and be adequately safeguarded. (Cheers.) We earnestly desire to see things so fairly guided that the result of any changes may not be to discourage but to give real and effective support to the progress of the new Government and Constitution in Turkey, and we shall use our influence to that end. (Loud cheers.) The right hon. gentleman then proceeded to discuss current political questions at home, and, in reply to a vote of thanks to himself and confidence in the Government, he said—"This Government have desired to maintain peace, and have maintained peace, and I see every prospect that Great Britain is likely to continue to remain at peace." (Loud cheers.)

ONCE DOMINATED PACIFIC

"When the United States fleet steamed into New Zealand waters," writes an Auckland correspondent of The Standard of Empire, "the magnificent array of warships left one section of the community wholly unmoved. No Maori could be brought to see anything wonderful about it. They have traditions of their own about navigation, and when they recall the fact that their ancestors explored the Antarctic in their big decked canoes, discovered America, populated Japan, and sailed the Pacific from end to end, you cannot persuade them that there is anything remarkable about the visit of the United States' battleships. All the way from the Siam Peninsula to New Zealand, and up to the northward beyond Saghalien, the Maoris, according to their own legends, have left their traces; and it is certainly a curious fact that there are hundreds of words in Malaysian dialects which are still part of the Maori vernacular of today."

ONE THING SURE

A young lady whose beauty is equal to her bluntness in conversation was visiting a house where other guests were assembled, among them the eldest son of a rich manufacturer. The talk turned on matrimonial squabbles. Said the eligible party: "I hold that the correct thing for the husband is to begin as he intends to go on. Say that the question was one of smoking. Almost immediately I would show my intentions by lighting a cigar and settling the question forever."

"And I would knock the thing out of your mouth!" cried the imperious beauty.

"Do you know," rejoined the young man, "I don't think you would be there!"—Everybody's Magazine.

NATURAL DEDUCTION

Her Mother—How long has Mr. Sloboy been courting you?

The Daughter—Nearly two years.

Her Mother—I should think he'd get tired of making love to you.

The Daughter—I guess he has. At least he proposed last night.—Chicago News.

Snicker—I dreamed last night that I was a millionaire.

Kicker—Well, I might as well have been one for all the sleep I got last night.—Bohemian Magazine.

"Old man, I hate to say it, but you're drunk."

"G'wan, I've been to a new thought banquet. I'm thinking in curves."—Louisville Courier-Journal.



HIS MAJESTY ABDUL HAMID II.

—The Sphere.

Powers have been devoting ourselves to the arduous and exhausting and thankless task of endeavoring to improve these affairs against the will of the Turkish government. Well, just lately, within the last few months, the Turks themselves have shown sympathy with the sufferings of their own people, because the sufferings were not confined to Christians, but were those of Mahometans and Christians alike. They have shown alarm at the certain ruin which would overtake their own country if the misgovernment continued. The Turkish army share that feeling, and the people and the army together swept away the old regime, obtained a constitution and have changed the government. The effect of that has been nothing short of marvelous in those parts of the Turkish empire which had been suffering before. In Macedonia crimes of violence on any large scale ceased almost immediately. In Armenia

was peaceful and unaggressive, desiring nothing but the good of their own country without designs upon any other. (Hear, hear.) Well, the task of the new Turkish government was bound to be difficult. You cannot repair the mischief of generations in a month or a year, but the prospect under the new regime in Turkey was fair and wonderful compared with the prospect which had obtained before. Now, I am sure I speak not only my own feelings, but the feelings of the whole of this country when I say that when we contemplated the change which has been produced in Turkey in the last few months by the new regime it was our desire and our hope that nothing should be done outside Turkey which would in any way disturb the work of reform which the Turks had taken in hand. We wished to see them have a fair opportunity and every encouragement, and that they should have every chance of develop-

great. Bulgaria has declared its independence, but it had autonomy before, and the difference between autonomy and independence is not from the practical point of view so very great, whatever it may be from the sentimental. The provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were under Austrian administration before, and the fact that she now has announced her intention of taking them over entirely and for good is not such a very great material and practical change, but the manner in which this has been brought about is, to say the least of it, both irregular and abrupt. It is an alteration of the Treaty of Berlin which was done without previous agreement with other Powers, and, so far as I know, without any word in advance to Turkey, who is the Power most intimately concerned in the change. Now, ladies and gentlemen, when we were pressing for reforms in Macedonia it

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