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THE BALKAN SITUATION AS SEEN BY A CORRESPONDENT

When last fall the Balkan States—Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro,—combined together against their hereditary enemy, the Turk, and to throw off for ever the galling yoke their ancient enemies held round their neck; their decision to combine was only reached after years of work, when Greece and the other states had tried to combat the Turk singly but without any very great success. We are, most of us, familiar to a small extent with the Armenian massacres. The late W. E. Gladstone after resigning the Premiership of Great Britain made speech after speech trying to impress on the powers the necessity of doing something to make the Turkish government recognise their responsibilities. The Powers got very little from Turkey except promises and a betterment for the time being of their treatment of the Christian subjects of the Sultan. This, however, did not last long and eventuated in the Balkan Alliance of the four named states. Roumania, although suffering the same treatment as the others, refused to join, or rather did not join the alliance. We all remember the glorious victories over the barbarous Turk which came as a great surprise to the powers and the public all over the world, as well as to the Turks themselves. The latter not being systematically organised, being poorly armed, poorly equipped, poorly provisioned and poorly paid or not paid at all, and just emerging from a disastrous war with Italy over Tripoli. After beating the Turks everywhere, the Montenegrins, the Servians, Bulgarians and the Grecians, each winning glorious victories at various strategical points, their bitter enemy of centuries old was forced to surrender and appeal to the powers for mediation. After weeks of diplomatic work, initiated by the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, and endorsed by representatives of the great powers. Peace was proclaimed and things fixed up apparently to the satisfaction of most of the Belligerents. But ambition and

greed got the better of the Balkan states and now we see Bulgaria fighting Greece and Serbia, her former allies, and also stacking up against Turkey, who seized this very favourable opportunity to get even with Bulgaria for the victories achieved less than a year ago. The world generally concedes that Bulgaria was the moving spirit in the Balkan States Alliance, and the enmity was stronger possibly in Bulgaria than even in Serbia, Greece or Montenegro. Bulgaria, however, was not content with a decent share of the spoils so Greece and Serbia were forced to take up arms to hold their share, which the Bulgarians tried to wrest from them. Now enters Roumania, who stayed out of the alliance and whose army was in good shape, to make herself solid for some territorial concessions when the final would be made. While the whole Christian world looked with sympathy on the early efforts of the different Balkan States in their efforts against Turkey, with satisfaction at their courage and the glorious battles won after long and heroic struggles, little sympathy can now be shown to either Bulgaria or Roumania, who have shown the world that they are not any more civilised than the Turk himself. Roumania, who entered the field only for the purpose of forcing Bulgaria to recognise claims to territory not gained on the battlefield. The attitude of the Bulgar is bad enough, but the attitude of the Roumanian seems almost despicable. From all accounts Greece and Serbia were almost forced into this conflict against Bulgaria, but Roumania and Turkey entered the fight to bolster up their standing when the final settlement comes. Bulgaria is apparently exhausted and is applying to the powers for mediation. What the powers will do, and what the final settlement will be, is now engaging the serious attention of the diplomats of the old world. It is a shame that a war started for the Cross against the Crescent should deteriorate into a war of aggrandisement.

SAANICHTON NEWS.

Wells are beginning to fail and we are enjoying Sidney's water supply. The Minister of Agriculture ought to take up the subject, for the thousands of dollars that have been wasted on well-boring is alarming. I know of three wells within a radius of little over eleven chains that are utter failures. I could specify others, but probably the owners would not thank me. I know of a place one and a half miles distant where I was told "We have to give up washing after the first of June." The money that has been and is being wasted on well-boring would suffice to ensure a good water supply if the government would take the trouble to investigate and study the problem. No water, no taxes should be the cry. In all probability the municipality is going to squander a big sum on paving roads before finding out that they could be paved by a municipally-owned plant; yet water is more necessary than roads; for without water roads could not be made; and yet people would stand aghast if it were to be proposed to spend half as much on a water supply as is now voted for road paving. China is not so far off after all. "Water good thing; white man no sabey good thing."

HER TENDER SOLICITUDE.

A young wife said to her husband one night: "My dear, there is a gentleman in the parlor. He wants to speak to you."
"Who is it? Do you know?" the husband asked.
"Dear," said the wife, "you must forgive me, but that cough has bothered you so much of late, and though spring is coming on it still clings to you, and, oh! if you knew how worried I've been about you!" And she threw her arms around his neck. "What would I do if I were to lose you?" she moaned.
"Come, come," said the young man, patting her shoulder tenderly, "men don't die of a slight cold. So you've called in the doctor, eh? Well, I'll see

him gladly if it will make you feel easier. Which one is it? Squills?"
"It isn't the doctor, dear," was the answer; "it's the life insurance agent."

HE KNEW HIM, TOO.

Once, on a freight train, the conductor said to the brakeman: "There's a tramp stealing a ride on that forward box-car. Go and put him off, George."
George walked over the car-tops till he came to the tramp, and then roared:
"Get off! Git now!"
But the tramp calmly drew forth an enormous revolver, and the brakeman retreated over the car-tops again.
"Well, did you put him off, George?" the conductor asked.
"No, I hadn't the heart to," George replied. "He's an old boyhood friend of mine, poor feller."
"Well, I'll settle him," said the conductor grimly, and he in his turn set off over the car-tops towards the tramp.
"Did you settle him?" George asked, on the conductor's return.
"No," was the reply. "He turned out to be an old boyhood friend of mine, too."

KILLED HIM OF COURSE.

A Bostonian was showing a British visitor the sights of the Hub. They were driving past Bunker Hill Monument. Not wishing to make any pointed reference to the fact that at one cousin, the Boston gentleman merely indicated the monument with his thumb and said: "Bunker Hill."
The Englishman looked at the hill intently, and asked: "Who was Mr. Bunker, and what did he do to the hill?"
"You don't understand," said the Bostonian. "This is where Warren fell."
The Englishman screwed his monocle into his eye, leaned back, and, looking at the top of the towering shaft, remarked enquiringly: "Killed him, of course?"

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