

will be able to bring about the same number of troops into the field. In military skill and excellence in tactics the two sides are about equal, neither side having any decided superiority over the other. The forces on both sides consist to a great extent of irregular and undisciplined troops.

In both camps there will be an equal deficiency of well trained officers, and of an educated staff. The Servian brigades are now—as might have been foreseen by anyone acquainted with the state of the country—commanded by officers who have been in the Russian service; and I am convinced that hundreds of Russian officers will secretly enter the Servian army. On the other hand the Porte has a great many trained European officers. Many English, Polish, and Hungarian officers are now in the Turkish service, and their numbers will increase. It may be expected that young officers of the English army in India will offer themselves as volunteers, partly from hostility to Russia, and partly from a desire for active service, which they cannot at present gratify in India. The Polish emigration, too, though it has gradually fallen off very much, will send many officers to Turkey, where they may satisfy their hatred of Russia. Thus the number of well trained foreign officers will probably be about equal on both sides. The men of Servia, Bosnia, and Montenegro are for the most part tall, strong, of uncommon powers of endurance, and of wild personal courage. But all these good military qualities are also possessed by the Albanians, the Mahometan Bosnians, the Circassians, and many other of the Turkish troops from Asia. And though we find many small and apparently weakly soldiers among the Turkish troops of the line recruited in Turkey in Europe, yet these soldiers show more toughness and endurance than their external appearance would lead one to expect. Both sides will also be perfectly equal in savage fanaticism, and in the relentless cruelty with which they are accustomed to conduct warfare. The Servian, and the still rougher Montenegrin, on the one side; and the Albanian, the Circassian, and the Arab, on the other side, are on an equally low level of culture and civilization, the only difference between them being that the former are fanatics of the Cross, and the latter of the Crescent. The horrible stories which fill the Servian and all other South Slavonic papers, of the barbarities of the Bashi Bazouks, of massacres of prisoners, burnings of villages, killing of women and children, are, I believe, true in many respects, though exaggerated and highly coloured; but the Servians and Montenegrins are guilty of acts of equal cruelty and barbarity. I myself recently saw in a house in Montenegro fourteen heads of Turks dried in smoke, and the owner of the house told me with joyful pride that he had himself killed all those Turks, and then cut off their heads as trophies. Recently, certain Christian robbers in Bosnia took four Turkish gendarmes, and buried themselves up to the breast, and then used them as targets for shooting at. Thus, this horrible war, which has unfortunately now begun, will assuredly be conducted with equal savagery and cruelty on both sides, though probably the South Slavonic papers will give more frequent and skillful accounts of the Turkish deeds of cruelty, than the scanty and more taciturn Turkish reports will give of the deeds on the other side. Therefore, if people in Germany cherish and sympathize for the Servians and Montenegrins on the assumption that they are struggling for liberty, justice, and true Christianity, or even for humanity and civilization, they are most decidedly mistaken. The whole struggle has

arisen from the savage and unrestrained warlike propensities of the Servians and Montenegrins, from the constant incitement of a certain party in Russia, and from the ambitious plans of the Pan Slavists to found a large South Slavonic State on the Balkan peninsula and the lower Danube; this is the truth of the matter, all the rest is humbug.

These forces of the contending powers being so equally balanced, the struggle will not in all probability come to an end very soon. The whole campaign will probably turn into a guerilla war in the hills; and such a war may last for years without either side gaining a decisive victory. In the first encounters on the Servian frontier the Servians may gain some successes, as they are better acquainted with that district than the Turks. But they will not be able to make themselves masters of the Turkish fortresses of Widdin on the Danube, Varna, Silistria, and the fortified places in Bosnia, and without doing so they cannot regard themselves as masters of Bulgaria and Bosnia. In the improbable event of a pitched battle in the plains the Turks might gain a victory, owing to the decided superiority of their artillery. But we can foretell with tolerable certainty that Servia and Montenegro, as well as Turkey, will place themselves in an even worse financial position than at present by this useless war, and that the unhappy districts of Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Servia itself, which will have to serve as the scene of war, are destined to undergo terrible devastation. The little progress which these districts have made in civilization will be completely lost. A State which is so poor as to be unable to pay its servants at the beginning of the war, and to be obliged to raise a forced loan to buy powder and weapons, must be desperately crippled in its resources by the war. Turkey will be able to hold out longer than Servia, for its resources are ten times as great, and it has the immense advantage of being able to supply its troops with war material through the harbours of Albania and of the Black Sea.

Thus we have the prospect of a protracted cruel, and probably resultless war on the Balkan Peninsula. May the Great Powers, and, above all, Russia, soon come forward vigorously as mediators. But we fear this will not happen, and that the powerful and influential Pan Slavist party in Russia will seek rather to pour oil into the fire than to extinguish it. Unfortunately, we cannot say that we are convinced they will fail in their attempt.

Latest News from the Seat of War.

LONDON, July 29.—The *Standard's* special despatch from Vienna says: Among the prisoners taken by the Turks are several Russians, who confessed that they had only recently been relieved from the Russian army, and that the chief commands are given to Russians. The Servian plan of operations have been changed, Prince Milan is to command the Western army in person. The Servians are marching on the valley of Moravia. It is persistently stated that the intervention of the Powers in the Servian Turkish question will occur on the 5th August.

LONDON, July 29.—The *Daily News's* Vienna despatch says. The Greek Government is to protest to the Powers against the violence of the regular Turkish troops in Epirus and Thessaly. Bashi Bazouks and Circassians recently plundered villages in Macedonia and afterwards fought each other. Forty-two were killed.

The *Standard's* Ragusa special says that Sotim Pasha has been killed,

The *Times's* Vienna special says: The Porte has communicated to the Powers, through its ambassadors, the Roumanian note presented at Constantinople. The Porte, in turn, was informed of the views of the Cabinets. These remove the apprehensions of any Power, much less the majority of Powers espousing too warmly the wish of Roumania or pressing the Porte.

LONDON, July 29.—Moukhtar Pasha has outflanked Prince Mikita's army near Korita, making the position of the latter critical. Dervish Pasha was driven back while endeavoring to reinforce Sientza, and the Turks were repulsed at Schekulare with the loss of 129 killed.

BELOGRADE, July 29.—The *Pesther Lloyd* newspaper says:—The British representative in Servia is endeavouring to induce Prince Milan to make an offer of reconciliation to the Porte.

BELOGRADE, July 29th.—General Laschjman announces that he cannonaded Osman Pasha's camp at Izvor, compelling him to withdraw from Kilamotres.

CETTINJE, July 29.—An official despatch announces that the Turks were defeated in attacking the Montenegrins near Mondur.

RAGUSA, July 29.—Advices from Slavonic sources state that Peko Paulovitch, an insurgent leader, re-assumed the offensive yesterday, inflicting a serious defeat upon the Turks.

BELOGRADE, July 29.—Colonel Antithe, after assuming command of the Servian army, besieged Sientza, on the 27th inst., thereby surrounding Mehemmet Ali Pasha.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 29.—The *Golos* publishes a special from Cetinje, stating that a telegram received from Prince Nikitide, dated Grahano, the 28th says. The Turks, under Moukhtar Pasha, attacked us early today near Urbiza. A severe engagement ensued, and fighting is still proceeding. We have broken through the Turkish lines. Osman Pasha was captured and brought here alive, and we have taken many prisoners.

LONDON, July 30.—A special despatch from Kaidfat, says that the Turkish army crossed the Servian frontier at Messa on Saturday. A great battle is expected. There is great excitement at the seat of war among the Christians, on account of a proclamation by Deervish Pasha, the Turkish commander in Bosnia prohibiting any quarter to Christians.

The *Times's* special telegram says: The Turks at Urbiza, after two hours fighting, fled in an uncontrollable panic. The greater part of the army was lost. Belak is surrounded. There is a panic at Tribenja. This disaster leaves Herzegovina practically defenceless.

The *Standard's* Vienna special says The death of the Sultan may be expected momentarily.

PARIS, July 30.—Special telegrams give details of massacres by the Turks in Bosnia. Three hundred Christians were tortured and drowned in the villages of Pervano and Timar, twelve women were cut to pieces at Favis, 60 children were stoned to death at Ruhlavo, 180 girls were violated and murdered at Lokavolo, 3,000 Christians were massacred at Pryedor.

The *Times's* Berlin despatch says: It is stated from Slavonic sources that the Russian General Von Kauffman, well known as the conqueror of Kutva, is going to the Servian camp. Ex Marshal Bazaine, of the French army, directs the Turkish forces at Szentiz.

The *Telegraph's* Vienna special says the relations between Turkey and Greece are growing more doubtful. Decisive action is expected at Athens.