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THE TURK.

No one who has studied the history of the Near East for the last five centuries will be surprised that the Allied Powers have declared their purpose to put an end to the rule of the Turk in Europe, and still less will he dissent from their determination to deliver the Christian population of what is called the Turkish Empire, whether in Asia or in Europe, from a Government which during those five centuries has done nothing but oppress them. These changes are indeed long overdue. They ought to have come more than a century ago, because it had then already become manifest that the Turk was hopelessly unfit to govern, with any approach to justice, subject races of a different religion. The Turk has never been of any use for any purpose except fighting. He cannot administer, though in his earlier days he had the sense to employ intelligent Christian administrators. He cannot secure justice. As a governing power, he has always shown himself incapable, corrupt and cruel. He has always destroyed; he has never created.

A TRIBE OF FIGHTERS—A ROBBER BAND.

Those whom we call the Turks are not a nation at all in the proper sense of the word. The Ottoman Turks were a small conquering tribe from Central Asia, ruled during the first two centuries of their conquests by a succession of singularly able and unscrupulous Sultans, who subjugated the Christian populations of Asia Minor and South-Eastern Europe, compelling part of these populations to embrace Mohammedanism, and supporting their own power by seizing the children of the rest, forcibly converting them to Islam, and making out of them an efficient standing army, the Janizaries, by whose valour and discipline the Turkish wars of conquest were carried on from early in the fifteenth down into the nineteenth century. As a famous English historian wrote, the Turks are nothing but a robber band, encamped in the countries they have desolated. As Edmund Burke wrote, the Turks are savages, with whom no civilised Christian nation ought to form any alliance.

TURKISH RULE SHOULD BE ENDED.

Turkish rule ought to be ended in Europe, because, even in that small part of it which the Sultan still holds, it is an alien power, which has in that region been, and is now, oppressing or massacring, slaughtering or driving from their homes, the Christian population of Greek or Bulgarian stock. It ought to be turned out of the western coast regions of Asia Minor for a like reason. The people there are largely, perhaps mostly, Greek-speaking Christians. So ought it to be turned out of Constantinople, a city of incomparable commercial and political importance, with the guardianship of which it is unfit to be trusted. So ought it to be turned out of Armenia and Cilicia, and Syria, where within the last two years it has been destroying its

Christian subjects, the most peaceful and industrious and intelligent part of the population.

EUROPE TO BE FREE OF TURK.

If a Turkish Sultanate is to be left in being at all, it may, with least injury to the world, be suffered to exist in Central and Northern Asia Minor, where the population is mainly Mussulman, and there are comparatively few Christians—and those only in the cities—to suffer from its misgovernment. Even there one would be sorry for its subjects, Mussulman as well as Christian, but a weak Turkish State, such as it would then be, could not venture on the crimes of which it has been guilty when it was comparatively strong.

YOUNG TURKISH GANG.

That the faults of Turkish government are incurable, has been most clearly shown by the fact that the Young Turkish gang who gained power when they had deposed Abd-ul-Hamid, have surpassed even that monster of cruelty in their slaughter of the unoffending Armenians. The "Committee of Union and Progress" began by promising equal rights to all races and faiths. This was "Union". It proceeded forthwith not only to expel the Greek-speaking inhabitants of Western Asia Minor, and to exterminate the Armenians, but to attempt to Turkify the Albanians (Muslims as well as Christians) and to proscribe their language. This is what "Union" has in fact meant. What "Progress" has meant in the hands of ruffians like Enver and Talaat, Prussianised Muslims worse than the old Turkish pashas, we have all seen within the last four years, and the Allied Powers would have been false to all the principles of Right and Humanity for which they are fighting if they had not proclaimed that no Turkish Government shall hereafter be permitted to tyrannize over subjects of another faith.

LEST WE FORGET.

At Nimy in Belgium on their march to Mons the Germans ran amok. They plundered and massacred, and set the houses on fire. Eighty four houses were destroyed and seventeen of its inhabitants killed. The rest were driven forward as a screen. For the British holding Mons this pitiful crowd of civilians was the first indication that the Germans were within range.

"We waited for the advance of the Hun," states a British officer; "but could only discern a crowd of civilians—men, women and children—waving white handkerchiefs and being pushed down the road in front of troops. I saw them shoot women and children who refused to march."

This is how the Germans made their way through Mons.

Ed.:—This is the first of a series of short articles which are to appear under this title. Lest we forget for the moment what the beast we are fighting, and licking, has to account for.

OVERHEARD IN SERGENTS
MESS.

1st. Sergt.:—"Say, Bill, have you volunteered for Siberia?"

2nd Sergt.:—"Yes—you bet I have."

1st Sergt.:—"So've I."

2nd Sergt.:—"That's fine, but what makes you want to go?"

1st Sergt.:—"Oh! you can get snowballs twenty four for a quarter over there."

it's all abaht. Talk abaht a sight! There was a lot of people all kneeling down on one side, and a bloke in overalls on the other. As soon as 'e sees me, he shouts over: 'Lord 'ave mercy upon us.' Then all the people they ses: 'Lord 'ave mercy upon us.' Then 'e ses again: 'Lord 'ave mercy upon us.' That made me wild. 'Lumme,' I ses, 'ain't none of you ever seen a blooming navy before?'"

ENTERTAINMENT.

A MISINTERPRETATION.

Jim of the Navvies' Brigade was in a fearful state of excitement. "See that there place yonder," he said, pointing to a church on the horizon. "Well, I was a-coming by there, when I 'ears a lot of moaning. I goes in to see what

A social will be held on the lawn of Victoria Hall, under the auspices of the Beaver Club, on Saturday, August 1th, from 4 to 9 p.m. Ice cream and cake will be served. Programme in the evening. All soldiers are made welcome. Tickets 15c.