KING EDWARD'S MANY WORLD-SCATTERED VICE REGENTS

They Are Forty-odd, and They Rule for Him Over Possessions Varying in Size from Island Dots to the Great Countries of Canada and India—Not a Few of the Vice Regents Began in Lowly Positions in the Colonial Office, and Most of Them Have Wives Who Have Proved of Great Help to Them in Their Vice Regal Work.

The Earl of Aberdeen, Now a Vice Regent for the Third Time, an Unusual Distinction—His Interesting Love Story Matched Only by the Earl of Dudley's—The Latter the Only Reformed Sport Among the Proconsuls. Earl Grey, of Canada, and His Hobbies—Easy-going Earl Minto and His Intense Love for Sports.

By JOHN S. HARWOOD.

Search the British empire through and you will find no more interesting men than some of the forty-odd who to-day are serving King Edward VII as vice regents in every one of the seven seas and on every one of the continents.

There is the Earl of Aberdeen, now occupying the vice regal palace in Dublin, and for the third time a vice regent. There is the Earl of Dudley, just sent out to Australia, who has worked his way up to a governor generalship from the betting ring and the gaming table. There is the Earl of Selborne, high commissioner to South Africa, who kicked out the old fossils and put the British navy on a fighting basis. There is easy-going and sport-loving Earl Minto, successor to Lord Curzon in India. There is Plunket, of New Zealand, at one time a private secretary in the government service. There is Sir William MacGregor, whose specialty is ruling over the isles of the seas; and among still others there is Sir Eldon Gorst, successor to Cromer, in Egypt, and after him the best posted man on Egyptian affairs in the world today.

Most of the forty-odd are called, officially, colonial governors. The titles of some others have been mentioned. Yet in power and deed, if not in name, all are vice regents, for all are sent out from "home" to represent the sovereign—the lieutenant-colonel in charge of a group of land dots in the South Seas every bit as much as some earl dispatched to look after the empire's interests in a great slice of some continent—an empire in itself.

The Earl of Aberdeen, now serving for the second time as lord lieutenant of Ireland, is noted for having a wife who is more talked about nationally, even, than he, and whose intellectual brilliancy makes her as "big" a woman as he is a man. Throughout the United Kingdom she is recognized as a leading philanthropic expert, and her philanthropies are as wide as her influence, which extends pretty much over the isles. But though she is one of England's largest givers to charity, she does not scatter largess indiscriminately, as so many wealthy Englishmen do; rather by her charities she endeavors to help people to help themselves. With this object in view she has striven enthusiastically to build up the Irish lace industry, which has improved wonderfully the condition of the peasants in certain parts of the Emerald Isle. Visitors to the Irish village at the Chicago World's Fair may recall the circumstances that the countess, in her endeavor to boom the Irish trades, lived for quite a while in one of the village's diminutive houses.

The marriage of the earl and the countess was the result of a love-at-first-sight meeting, which resulted from the unintentional trespass of the young earl on the estate of the young lady's father. In his ardor of the shoot one day Aberdeen, all unknowingly, crossed the boundary line between the preserve of his host and that of the latter's neighbor, and first thing he knew he was standing face to face with a stranger, who peremptorily asked what he was doing there. The unconscious intruder informed his questioner that he was out shooting as the guest of his host. The earl, in turn, was informed that he was talking to Lord Tweedmouth, and was at that moment standing on the latter's property. The earl apologized profusely and made known his name to Tweedmouth, who invited the young man to luncheon, and thereby lost his youngest daughter some months later, for Aberdeen was not content a day after meeting the charming Lady Ishbel Majoribanks until he had made her his bride. The earl is ten years the senior of his wife, who was just turned twenty when they were married.

Aberdeen's opportunity to get into the forefront of public life came about in almost as interesting a way as his first meeting with the young lady who was destined to be his life partner. Like a great many boys, as a boy he was fascinated by the sight of a locomotive. His love for the iron horse he carried with him into young manhood, when he seized every possible chance to ride in the cab and study the giant machine under him.

As a result, when he came to take his seat in the House of Lords he was as competent to run a locomotive as any engineman in Great Britain. Then, one day, a colleague moved that a committee be appointed to investigate the causes of railway accidents in the United Kingdom. Aberdeen's mechanical side came to the fore immediately. He rose to his feet, and in his maiden speech that followed displayed such accurate knowledge of railway matters, and especially of the locomotive, that he was made a member of the commission. A few weeks later the chairmanship of the commission was handed to him and the entire investigation was made under his immedate supervision.

From that day to this Aberdeen has been prominent politically, and though he never has been prime minister, as was his grandfather, he has held numerous important posts. Three times has he been a vice regent—in Ireland twenty-two years ago, in Canada during the five years ending in 1898, and now again in Ireland. Very few Englishmen have ever been called thrice to be vice regent. The Earl of Minto is serving his second vice regency in India, he having been Aberdeen's successor in Canada.

While he was in Canada Aberdeen and his wife maintained a private chapel, to the dissatisfaction of a certain element, who held that the governor general and his wife, since they were public officials, should worship publicly. In Ireland they are extremely popular. When they left that island at the end of their first term in the vice regal lodge, practically the entire populace united in giving them an ovation that has been described as "the most remarkable expression of public feeling and tribute of honor since the days of O'Connell." The countess, during the six months of their stay, had won the hearts of all by her democratic ways, her sympathy for and helpfulness to the poor, and her interest in and attempts to build up home industries. To-day she is giving a great deal of her time to work along these lines, and is even more popular now with the masses than at the time of her first residence in Dublin. The earl owes much of his Irish popularity to his wife's good works.

Unlike most noble fathers, Aberdeen has seen to it that each of his four sons and his daughter has received an intensely practical education, as well as the orthodox fanciful one. Each boy is a skilled practical farmer, while the daughter, now married, is qualified to act as chef for a big establishment should occasion for her to do so ever become necessary. To match this hobby of her husband the countess makes it one of her special duties to look after the intellectual welfare of her servants. She is particularly delighted when she finds one with latent musical ability, and she invariably endeavors to develop this talent at more or less expense to herself, and sometimes, it must be confessed, to the considerable annoyance of the servant.

Curzon's Sport-loving Successor.

The immediate successor of Aberdeen in the government house in Ottawa, the Earl of Minto, is accupying the viceregal lodge in Simla, going to India as King Edward's representative the same year that Aberdeen was dispatched to Ireland for the second time, 1905. He and Aberdeen are two of the many Scotsmen in the high places who are helping to run the British Empire.

Whenever his fellow-members of the nobility talk about Minto some one is sure to tell of his love for hunting and illustrate the statement with the story that the earl took his B. A. at Trinity with his academic gown hiding his riding costume, and that as soon as the graduation exercises were over he mounted his horse and rode ten miles to take part in the university steeplechase. Of course he won—legitimate result of such devotion.

This happened when he was plain Lord Melgund. At that time, too, he made a likely reputation for himself as a soldier of fortune. He has fought in battle in four continents. In Asia he took part in the Afghan war, in Europe he helped the Turks when they were contending with the Russians. He was a volunteer captain in the Egyptian campaign of 1882, and as chief of staff he aided greatly in putting down the Riel rebellion in the Canadian Northwest in 1885. His war experiences would fill several boys' books with thrills from cover to cover.

The spirit of wanderlust that developed in the earl's make-up when he was fighting here and there over the wide world he could not hold entirely in check when he came into his first viceregal honors. During the six years he was in Canada he and the countess used to make canoe excursions into the wilds, camping in the open wherever night found them and living off the land. The earl's desire for travel once took them into the Klondike, where the countess won the plaudits of the miners by riding through the Rockies on the pilot of the locomotive, and otherwise giving evidence of a hail-fellow-well-met disposition.

As governor general the Mintos gave our northern neighbors several new things to talk about. The children were not kept in the background, as the youngsters of other governors general had been. Instead, they always were in evidence at all except the most formal official social functions. The earl insisted on this! he is a fond parent, and nothing delights him more than to leave cares of state behind and spend hours with his offspring. Again, and to the intense annoyance of Canadian tradesmen, the countess watched the household expenses with a sharp eye, and not infrequently returned to certain dealers orders that she did not deem properly filled. The earl, you see, owns only about 16,000 acres, and hasn't any too large an income for one of his noble position. Therefore, his good wife has made it one of her duties to see that what does come into the family purse is not spent needlessly. Leaving out of consideration the coterie that supplied the material wants of the Mintos, they were rather popular among the Canadians.

The earl himself is good-natured and easy going, just the sort of man to get along well with Lord Kitchener at the head of the armed force in India. He owes his present viceregal honors largely to this circumstance; before it had ceased England was mightily tired of the clashing that occurred between Curzon, Minto's immediate predecessor in India, and the hero of Khartoum. It is reported that in the viceregal lodge in Simla and in the government house in Calcutta the countess looks as carefully at the household bills as ever she did while her husband was representing his sovereign in Canada.

Reformed Sport Among Viceroys.

The Earl of Dudley, but recently told off to be governor general of the Australian commonwealth, is a sure enough reformed sport. Also, he has the distinction of being the youngest of King Edward's most important vice regents. He, too, got his viceregal training in Ireland, where he won his personal popularity by smoking and talking with the men folk of the countryside, the while his wife busied herself singing to the women folk and the children. This they did when they toured the island in an automobile. Incidentally, the earl is the brother of the Honorable John Ward, lately become the husband of Miss Jean Reid.

It was as a sport of the yellow-booked novel sort that the earl first had the public eye focused on him. As soon as he left Eton he began to see what size hole he could make in his income of two millions, with the result that after he had demonstrated an amazing ability in this line, his mother saw to it that his spending money was reduced to a bare pittance of fifty thousand every twelve-month. But before the young man was thus cut off temporarily from most of his patrimony for disciplinary purposes he earned throughout Europe the title of "The Plunger," and won and lost thousands on the ponies and at the gaming table. One night, when he was sitting in a very exciting game of cards with several other sporting noblemen, the place was raided. Later on Dudley learned that his mother had brought about the interruption just when the game was reaching its most interesting stage.

His mother's one hope was that when the earl was married he would settle down, and she tried diligently to get him what she described as "safely married." The earl, however, would have none of the highly estimable young gentlewomen that his mother paraded before him. In fact, he would give no serious thought to marriage until, one day, he accompanied his mother to her millinery shop—and promptly fell in love with the young lady who waited on the countess. She now is the Countess of Dudley; and no sooner did she become the earl's bride than he sobered down and has been a real good boy ever since.

The countess was a Miss Gurney. Her father was an English banker who failed and, after separating from his wife, headed for South America to restore his fortunes. To support herself the wife opened up a millinery shop for the fashionable trade, and had her two daughters for assistants. When the earl spied one of these girls and instantly threw his heart at her feet there was a pretty how-de-do, the mother not being appeased in the slightest even when the Countess of Bedford adopted Miss Gurney and acted as her sponsor in society. In fact, right up to the day of the wedding she pleaded with her son not to marry the little milliner girl, and she showed her dislike of the match so thoroughly at the nuptials themselves that the court paper, in its account of the wedding, remarked that "the earl's mother in pearl gray looked like a beautiful thundercloud."

Excepting the period when he was having his fling, the new Australian governor general has shown himself to be a very level-headed sort of chap; and his climb up the governmental ladder to his present eminence speaks for itself. Of course, due credit for the climb should be given to the countess; the earl himself has admitted that he has been made by his wife in more ways than one. In Australia, exceedingly democratic island that it is, the Dudleys will be very well liked, in all probability; for wherever they have been they seem to have won the affections of all by their simple and democratic ways.

Lord Northcote, who got his baronetcy eight years ago in recognition of his labors in various governmental positions, and who is about to be relieved of his Australian post by the Earl of Dudley, worked his way up to a vice regency from the post of clerk in the British foreign office. His second position would entitle him to membership in a club made up of the men who have risen nigh from private secretaryships; he served in this position to the late Lord Salisbury, when that famous statesman was at the head of the Turkish embassy.

As governor general, Northcote and his wife have traveled all over the island in an effort to encourage the development of its resources and industries. As in the case of most of the other important vice regents, Northcote's wife has been a great help to him. She was the leader in the movement to get Australian women to patronize home dressmaking, to the exclusion of London and Paris shops. Another of her hobbies has been her propaganda in behalf of native jewels, and she planned and carried through alone to a successful climax a women's exhibition that appreciably increased the output of various native industries.

Prior to going to Australia, Lord Northcote was governor of Bombay. He has been absent from home for nearly a decade, and the Earl of Dudley was sent out to relieve him, as he longed to see England once more. Australia has developed Northcote in one thing, if none other. When in Parliament he very rarely opened his mouth in speech. As governor general he was forced to speak frequently, and as a result has become a very fair off-hand talker, with somewhat of a reputation for saying humorous things at the psychological moment.

Vice Regents Who Worked Way Up.

Lord William Lee Plunkett, governor of New Zealand, and an active entertainer of our fleet when it was in Auckland Harbor recently, is another of the empire's vice regents who has served as private secretary. This post he held to the lord lieutenant of Ireland just prior to his appointment to the New Zealand honor, and so he comes in the rather long list of British proconsuls of the present day who have received at least a part of their training in governing in the Emerald Isle. Plunket is only forty-four and among the youngest of the colonial representatives of the throne.

Lord Cromer's successor in Egypt, Sir Eldon Gorst, began his diplomatic career in Egypt as an attache when he was twenty-six years old. Excepting only his immediate successor, he is the world's best posted authority on Egypt and its divers problems, and this intricate knowledge he has obtained by working himself up step by step in the Egyptian service. "Johnnie" Gorst, as he is familiarly known in the land of the Pharaohs, was Cromer's right hand man for years, and because a Liberal government could find no one in its party skilled enough to handle Egyptian affairs it perforce gave Cromer's position to Gorst, a thorough Conservative in sentiment and in deeds. Physically, Gorst looks more like a shrewd Yankee than a son of Britannia.

Unlike most of the British proconsuls, "Johnnie" Gorst cannot boast of possessing a diplomatic helpmeet. The daughter of a former partner of Cecil Rhodes, she brought a fortune to her husband, but the advantages derived from this have been counterbalanced in large part by Lady Gorst's delight in commenting wittily and sharply on persons and things. Which does not go in Egypt any more than in less ancient quarters of the globe.

Sir Sydney Olivier, who succeeded Swettenham, of earthquake notoriety, in Jamaica, got into the colonial service over a quarter of a century ago by heading the open competition for entrance. He has seen a lot of service in this country, where he is extremely popular, and in the West Indies. He writes, but evidently does not take his literary work seriously, for he declares that his recreations are "normal forms of loafing and dilettanism."

In Sir William MacGregor, of Newfoundland, the empire has a proconsul who has his gold medal for saving life at sea. He also has the distinction of having proclaimed British sovereignty over a rather large, though still considerably unexplored possession of the crown, British New Guinea. Sir William's specialty is governing islands, at various periods of his life having been in charge of quite a few of Britain's Pacific possessions before being transferred to the Atlantic.

The Earl of Selborne, who is keeping an anxious eye on Britain's interests in South Africa, where he is known as high commissioner, is the same chap who several years ago stirred up the old fossils in the admiralty by co-ordinating the different branches of the service, so that now an officer of the British navy is able to sail a ship, fight a ship, and run its mechanism. He side-tracked the figurehead admirals, hastened promotions, and otherwise turned the admiralty upside down in reforming it. When he was made first lord of the admiralty by Salisbury, his father-in-law, a great many people declared it another case of rank nepotism, especially as the cabinet already contained three Salisbury relatives. But when Selborne began putting the navy on a fighting basis the sneering ceased, and since then he has been recognized as one of the empire's best executive statesmen.

The post he now fills calls for all the tact that he has at his command, and tact has been one of his marked possessions. To be sent to South Africa these days means to be given the hardest post in the gift of the colonial office. So far Selborne seems to have pleased all classes fairly well, being ably assisted in this delicate task by his wife, whose political ability, inherited from her father, has been of immense use to her husband since he began the direction of South African affairs. Friends of the family say that while the earl furnishes the hard common sense and the humor that should be put into every situation in order to ease it, the countess contributes the gift of insight to a remarkable degree, being an exceedingly clever reader of the significance of passing events.

Earl Grey and His Hobbies.

In Earl Grey—"Bertie" Grey, as he is called by his intimates—King Edward has in Canada a representative who is at once full of hobbies and common sense, one of his brainiest proconsuls and a man who is popular not only in the dominion, but in the United States as well. The Earl gained his popularity in this country by returning to us two years ago a painting of Franklin that the first Earl Grey, when he was a general in the Revolution, became possessed of when he was quartered in Franklin's house in Philadelphia at the time of the British occupancy of that city. Still later the governor general increased this popularity considerably by having Secretary of State Root as his personal guest at the Government House in Ottawa.

One of the earl's numerous hobbies that has an American twist is his apparently insatiable craving to invest in tunnel projects in and around New York. He has placed a lot of money in such schemes, getting out of them nothing like what he has put in. Another of his hobbies is temperance. Several years ago he organized a company for the establishment of municipal saloons, his idea being to make liquor selling profitless and to substitute for strong beverages the recognized soft ones—tea, coffee, milk, &c. The scheme, however, did not work out to a successful issue. As an advocate of national preservation of natural resources he is every bit as enthusiastic as President Roosevelt himself, and one night, when he got to talking on this head with Gifford Pinchot, at the head of our forest bureau, the earl forgot to go to bed. Another subject which gets a lot of his attention is the world-wide fight now being made to eradicate tuberculosis. He has contributed quite liberally to this movement.

When the earl, on the death of his uncle, came into his title and estates, he was lost in the jungles of Mashonaland, and it was some time after he became earl that the news was broken to him. In his younger days he was fond of traveling, and Africa was the scene of most of his excursions. There, too, he filled several important governmental posts, was mixed up in the famous Jameson raid, and afterward helped to put down the Matabele rebellion. In brief, he got his training at governing in Africa when Rhodes, the natives, and the Boers were making it uncomfortable for one another at every possible opportunity.

An interesting fact in connection with the earl is that his family has been exceedingly close to the throne practically from the beginning of the Victorian era. The earl's father, Gen. Charles Grey, conducted the prince consort to England from his Coburg home when he came to make Victoria his bride. Afterward the general was the young Queen's private secretary, and when the present King visited America Gen. Grey came with him. The earl himself was born in St. James' Palace (his father was then the Queen's private secretary), an unusual distinction for one not of royal blood, and at his baptism prince consort and queen were his sponsors. The earl has long been on intimate terms with King Edward, and his position before the throne was greatly strengthened during the Boer war, when the countess fitted out a hospital ship and sent it to South Africa, thereby winning the gratefulness of Queen Alexandra in particular and of the English nation generally. The countess, by the way, is not of noble descent, but her brother owns Dorchester House, which is distinction sufficient for any right-minded man in the "right little, tight little island."

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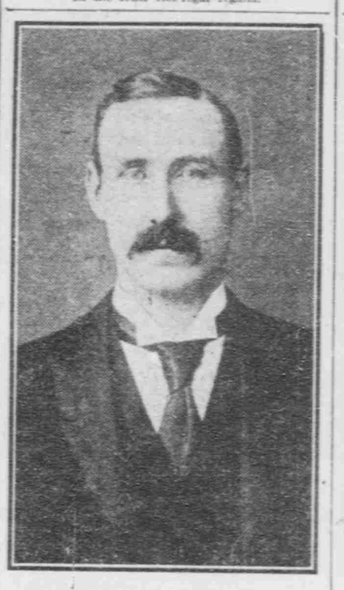
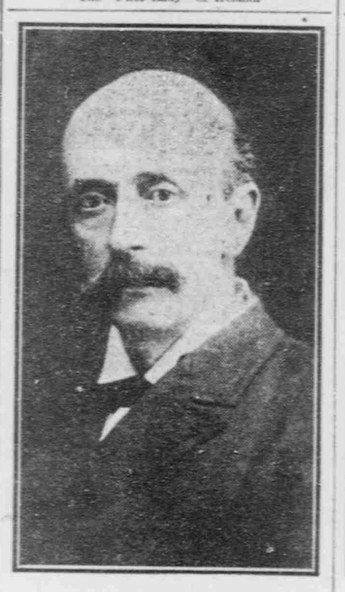
THE EARL OF ABERDEEN,
In the Irish vice-regal regalia.

LADY ABERDEEN,
The "First Lady" of Ireland.

SIR ELDEN GORST,
Britain's Vice Regent in Egypt.



THE EARL OF SELBOURNE,
High Commissioner to South Africa.



EARL GREY, OF CANADA.

THE EARL OF MINTO,
Viceroy in India.

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FEAR ROCKS AHEAD AT STAMBOUL

"The chancelleries of Europe must prepare for the worst, even if they hope for the best." This pithy summary of the situation in Turkey at the time of writing, and which comes from a statesman of international fame, who is regarded as an authority upon the Eastern question, correctly describes the sentiments of the various governments of the Old World with regard to the condition of affairs in the Ottoman empire. There are all sorts of dangers ahead, and already in view, which may alter in a moment the aspect of things at Constantinople, and they are dangers of much gravity, because it is difficult to see just at present how they can possibly be averted or successfully combatted. The very fact that everything has gone so smoothly until now in the remarkable revolution that has taken place within the last few weeks at Stamboul, furnishes additional grounds for apprehension, and striking evidence of the fact that the comparative calm now prevailing on the shores of the Bosphorus is not likely to last, is furnished by the decision reached by the leaders of the Young Turk party to continue for some time to come to make the headquarters of the movement in Paris, instead of transferring them to the Golden Horn.

Of course, it is idle to attempt to make any definite predictions as to what is going to take place in Turkey. For the Orient remains to-day, as in times gone by, an impenetrable mystery to Western nations. Sir Robert Hart, who spent half a century in the service of the Chinese government, and who has seen far more of the Chinese during that time than of his own countrymen, as well as the foreign diplomatists, consular officials, and missionaries who have been longest in China, had no inkling in advance of the Boxer rebellion of 1900, and were totally unprepared for the native insurrection which resulted in the siege of the legations at Pekin. In the same way, not only those powers of Europe which devote the most constant and unremitting attention to the Eastern question, as well as their most experienced and trusted ambassadors, and agents of one kind and another accredited to the Sublime Porte, were all caught napping by the recent coup d' etat at Constantinople. In the Occident it is always possible, being given certain facts, to deduct therefrom the more or less logical consequences. This is out of the question in the Orient. The Asiatic mind, character, and logic travel in wholly different, and to us mysterious, grooves, and likewise have other equally unknown points of departure. All, therefore, that can be done is to draw attention to the dangers which are already in sight in connection with the new state of affairs in Turkey, and to point out the rocks which loom ominously ahead, and which may or may not precipitate disaster, bloodshed, and even war.

Among the most serious of all the problems that confront the new Turkish government is that of finance. The treasury is to all intents and purposes empty, and the demands for money are of the most pressing character. In fact, it may be safely asserted that had the army received regularly its pay, instead of the latter being left in arrears not merely months, but years together, there would have been no coup d'etat and no revolution. Baron von der Goltz, one of the ablest of Emperor William's generals, and who has had charge of the training and organization of the Ottoman army, did not hesitate to declare, on his return the other day from a protracted visit to Turkey, that had the officers and men of the army received proper treatment from the government in the matter of pay and commisariat, they would never have taken any hand in the revolt, which could not have been accomplished without their assistance. Moreover, he expresses the opinion, shared by many others who have made a study of the Turkish question, that once the troops receive their money, they will return to their complete allegiance to the Sultan, ready to obey his behests with the same blind obedience as in days gone by, to protect him, if necessary, against those of the reformers who aim at robbing him of his authority. As von der Goltz says, the Turkish troops were "suffering indescribable wrong." There was a never-ending drama of unheard-of tragedy. Signs of discontent at length appeared among them, but when the palace sought to deal with this, not by righting the wrongs of the men, but by means of spies and denunciations, branding innocent and guilty alike, and placing the responsibility upon the regimental officers, the latter themselves lost patience and courage, and finally broke into open mutiny.

What undoubtedly precipitated the crisis was the conviction that further foreign intervention in Macedonia was imminent. As I pointed out in these letters at the time of the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian agreement, and again on the occasion of the meeting of King Edward and the Czar at Reval last Whitsuntide, the Turks have always banked upon the long standing enmity between Russia and Great Britain. They saw in the animosity and jealousy of these two nations the safety of their empire. They did not like England, but they felt that they could rely upon her, for her own sake, to stay Russia from seizing Ottoman territory, as she did in 1877, when she arrested the advance of the Muscovite army at San Stefano; that is to say, actually within sight of Constantinople, and prevented the seizure of the Sultan's capital by the victorious troops of the Czar. This species of British protection from Russian aggression was regarded in Turkey as ceasing to exist when the convention between the cabinets of London and St. Petersburg was concluded just a year ago, and learning that at the meeting of Edward VII and Nicholas II at Reval, an agreement had been reached for foreign action of a drastic and armed character in Macedonia, the Turks came to the conclusion that unless something was done quickly that province would be lost to the Sultan's empire, like Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, Bornia, Herrogovina, and Crete. It became known soon after the meeting at Reval that the various great powers, notably, France, Italy, and after some hesitation, Austria, had intimated their approval of the course agreed upon by Russia, and England with regard to Macedonia. Berlin, when appealed to by the Porte, pointed out that in view of the terrible maladministration of that province, the neglect of the Porte to institute any of the methods of government and reforms to which it had pledged itself by the terms of the treaty of Paris of 1878, and considering, moreover, the continual sanguinary disturbances in all parts of Macedonia, affecting the tranquility and the trade of the neighboring countries, Emperor William could not see his way to fly in the face of popular sentiment in Germany; indeed, in the face of united Christendom in the matter, or of embarking in a possible conflict with England and Russia in order to perpetuate the present state of affairs in the unhappy province.

Now, as asserted by Baron von der Goltz, the officers of the very large Ottoman army represent the greatest amount of modern education, of enlightenment, and of patriotism, to be met with in any single class in Turkey. Composed, like the rank and file under their orders, exclusively of Moslems, they resent bitterly the notion abhorrent to Islam of the alienation of territory belonging to a Mahommedan ruler to Christian, that is to say, unbelieving powers. The officers knew that in any steps that they devised to avert this they would have not only the whole of the army, but the entire Moslem population of the Ottoman empire at their back, and that is what precipitated the military risings at Monastir, at Adrianople, and at Saloniki, demanding the enforcement of the constitution granted some thirty years previously, but which has remained ever since a dead letter. If they demanded the constitution it was because these officers, of whom von der Goltz, who knows them well and trained them, speaks so highly, were aware that its adoption would arrest, at any rate for a time, all further foreign intervention in Macedonia, avert its alienation from the Ottoman empire, and remove in a measure the wrongs from which they and their men had suffered so cruelly.

It is related by one who was present at the scene that when Abdul Hamid first heard of the mutiny of the officers at Saloniki and Monastir he demanded of his principal ministers, the Grand Viziers Said and Kismil Pashas that troops should be at once sent from Anatolia to crush the insurgents. Both of them pointed out to him that, according to the fundamental laws and traditions of the empire, not even the sovereign could employ Moslem troops against Moslems without a Fetva, or religious decree of approval bearing the signature of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the highest ecclessiastical dignitary at Stamboul. The Sheikh-ul-Islam was summoned, and when he heard what was wanted of him he, with a courage due, perhaps, to the fact that he has already one foot in the grave, declared that under no circumstances would he issue a Fetva, since it would be contrary to the precepts of the Koran. He asserted that the mutineers in Macedonia, who had professed no emity against the throne, but who merely demanded the enforcement of the constitution which the Sultan had granted, with the ecclesiastical approval, three decades ago, were guilty of no offense in the eyes of the Mahommedan church; and when Padishah protested he is said to have gone so far as to have announced to Abdul Hamid, in the presence of all his ministers, that he was only Caliph as long as he complied with the laws of the Koran, and that if he transgressed the letter, as he would be doing by employing Moslem troops against Moslems, innocent of any real crime, he would cease to be considered by Islam as the Defender of the Faith, and would forfeit the allegiance of his people. It was then, and then only, that the Sultan gave way, and directing Said Pasha, as grand vizier, to draw up a decree announcing the recall into existence of the constitution, affixed his signature and seal thereto, the document bearing the names, too, of the Sheikh-ul-Islam and of all the ministers.

There is not an officer of the Turkish army, in fact, not a single Moslem in the Ottoman empire who can read, who does not know by heart all the terms and principles of this constitution. For although its enforcement was suspended until the coup d'état a little over a month ago, yet for the past thirty years it has been printed each year in all the official almanacs and analogous works of reference. The constitution in question, while it enumerates the principles of popular government, does not actually itself define the organization of the latter. But it provides for the election of a national assembly which shall elaborate and complete the organization of parliamentary methods of administration. In Russia, when the Czar first granted a constitution to his people, at least 90 per cent of the population were completely ignorant of what was meant thereby, and altogether at sea as to its terms and aims. But in Turkey, every one who can read, and even many of those who are entirely illiterate, but who turn a ready ear to public and private speakers, are thoroughly acquainted with every article of the Turkish constitution.

As to the responsibility of the Young Turks in bringing about the coup d'etat, we have nothing but their word for it. True, they have done all the talking since its occurrence, and have claimed all the glory. But none of them thus far seem to have come to the front at Constantinople, that is to say, none of those who have hitherto been regarded as the leaders of their movement. In nine cases out of ten they have prudently remained in Paris, London, and Brussels, where they are held in singularly low estimation by the authorities, who have had them under observation for some time past. Many of them fled from Turkey to escape the penalty of offenses that were of a criminal character, and adopted the cloak of political disgrace in order to save their face abroad.

Much speculation prevails as to the sincerity of the Sultan in giving his approval to the new order of things; but there is really no reason why he should not be sincere. He was perfectly aware that if he had lost Macedonia it would have cost him his throne. He was probably glad to be ridded by the coup d'etat of Tract Pasha and of all that nefarious palace gang which had stood between him and his people—a gang which had fattened to an inconceivable degree at the expense of the nation and of his own private purse, and which had rendered itself guilty of all sorts of cruelties, persecutions, and acts of crime and barbarity, for which he has been held responsible. No one knows to what extent its members may or may not have terrorized him. There are many who have always believed that the Sultan would have been assassinated, like most of his predecessors on the throne, if he had made any attempt to rid himself of their evil presence; and it was only because the coup d'etat came so quickly and unexpectedly that they had no time to concert measures, but were compelled to devote all their energies to a flight with as much plunder as they could carry off before being seized. The Sultan is, according to those who know him best, not only an extremely clever man, but also of a relatively humane and kindly disposition, and now, in the eventide of his long and eventful life, he would certainly sooner go down to posterity as a popular and liberal monarch, admired as much both at home and abroad, than execrated as a sanguinary despot, and as the "Great Assassin," the name applied to him by Gladstone.

I have mentioned above the question of finance as one of the gravest difficulties by which the new reform government is confronted. It does not furnish sufficient assurances of stability to enable it to borrow money abroad. And yet funds are needed without delay to pay off, not merely the troops upon whom the government must rely to maintain order, but also all those civilian employes who have been turned adrift for the sake of sorely needed economy, and who now find themselves destitute, and even desperate. For an official who has served the state for many years, and who finds himself suddenly, not merely deprived of his means of livelihood, but who cannot even obtain, in some cases, years of arrears of salary due him, and who is moreover confronted by the starvation of himself and of his family, there is nothing but despair, and despair is apt to breed crime and outrage. Then, too, there is the question of equality of civic rights and of taxation. Until now, the military service has been closed to all but Moslems, while the Christians have been obliged to pay considerably higher taxes. Now, according to the terms of the constitution, and to the decrees of the new government, Christians are to serve as soldiers just as well as Moslems, while the latter are to be required to pay as large an amount of taxes as the unbeliever, that is to say, the Christian and the Jew. This is already resulting in widespread dissatisfaction, as the Christians object to serve in the army, and the Moslems to pay more taxes. Still another problem is the difficulty, nay, the impossibility of redressing of wrongs, and of satisfying every vengeance, no matter how much deserved. Finally, and this is one of the most serious questions of all, there is the movement in which all the subjects of the Sultan, irrespective of creed, are now united, namely, for the maintenance of the integrity of the empire. It is a movement which, of course, the Mahommedans have more especially at heart, and it involves the demand upon Austria for the restoration to the porte of its provinces of Herzegovina and Bosnia, which since 1878 have been subject to the nominally temporary administration of Emperor Francis Joseph, and a similar demand upon Great Britain for the evacuation of Egypt, and of the Sudan, and upon Bulgaria for Eastern Roumelia.

No wonder that under the circumstances the great powers of Europe are hoping for the best, but prepared for the worst.

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