

MINISTER OF PANAMA
A MAN OF ONE IDEA
Of Pleasing Address and
Finesse of Manner.
TALENTED FRENCH ENGINEER

Has Worked Many Years to Realize
Dream of Uniting Two Oceans
at Isthmus.

As the chief representative of a new
nation sprung into being with
suddenness that has made the
whole world gaze, the limelight of public
attention has been focused all at once
on the person of M. Philippe Bunau-Varilla,
a citizen of France, whom the republic
of Panama, in recognition of the indis-
tinguishable work he has done in behalf
of the building of a canal across the
Isthmus, has named minister plenipotentiary
and envoy extraordinary to the
United States.

Duly accredited by the State Department
and President of the United States, M.
Bunau-Varilla is now fully employed
to negotiate with the Washington
Government a treaty which apparently
will make possible the consummation of
the project of uniting the waters of the
Atlantic and Pacific Oceans across the
Isthmus. The swift progress with
which events have occurred in the
rapid evolution of a state into the
family of nations is now to be followed
speedily by negotiations between the
two governments, M. Varilla losing no
time to present these matters to the
Senate.

Personally a man of exceptionally
pleasing address, with a charm and
finesse of manner that stamps him at
once as a Frenchman, M. Varilla is
likely to take high rank in the diplomatic
service. His career is of unusual
interest.

His One Idea.

M. Varilla says he has never forgot-
ten the fact that an Isthmian canal was
one of the "great projects of the ages."
"I have consecrated my life to it," are
his words, "and my devotion is that of
a soldier to his flag."

Born in 1859 at Paris, M. Bunau-Varilla
was admitted into the Ecole Poly-
technique in 1878. From this military
school he was graduated into the service
of the Ponts et Chaussées, to which only
the highest members of the class are
admitted. M. Varilla early conceived the
idea of identifying himself with the
Panama Canal project. He went to Pan-
ama in 1884 and spent the next four
years there, having been allowed to
enter the service of the old Panama
Canal Company as engineer. His com-
mission as a captain in the engineer
service of France M. Varilla holds to
this day.

In his life on the Isthmus M. Varilla
fought with nature, the terrible battle
of the Culebra which was deemed an
impassable barrier. He solved the Chan-
cel problem, and his solution is the one
adopted in its essential features by this
Government.

At the age of twenty-seven years, M.
Varilla was decorated with the Legion
of Honor by President Greys for his
works on the Isthmus. Returning from
Panama, in 1888, M. Varilla devoted his
attention to other engineering works.
He directed the building of the first
great railway in Africa, connecting Ma-
tagi with Stanley Pool, and putting
in communication with Europe the wild
center of the Dark Continent. This rail-
road system, known as the Congo Rail-
way, was opened in 1891. Its construc-
tion required a vast amount of money,
it may be interesting to note, was re-
cently bought by the Marquis de Cam-
illas, the wealthiest man in Spain,
who practically owns the Compagnie
Transatlantique. The system is now
known as the Compagnie Madrid, Ca-
ceras, and Portugal.

Letter From Dreyfus.

An interesting bit of history in con-
nection with the reopening of the fa-
mous Dreyfus case, and his final acquit-
tal, grows out of Mr. Varilla's work
with the Congo Railway. It was by
means of a personal letter from Dreyfus
to M. Varilla, asking information
with regard to conditions in the Congo
State, that the present minister, through
his brother, M. Maurice Bunau-Varilla,
proprietor of the "Paris Matin," was en-
abled to establish the falsity of the
handwriting in the famous bordereaux
which figured in the case.

The letter from Dreyfus was found by
M. Varilla in his library. He showed it
to his brother, who had an original copy
of the document that had sent Dreyfus
to prison, and together they compared
the handwriting, when the result
showed that the forgery was made in
the year 1894. The story was published in
the "Matin" the next morning, and as a result the investi-
gation followed.

Meanwhile, M. Varilla had not lost
sight of his plans for the Isthmian canal,
and in 1892 he published a book pre-
sented to the whole of Panama, as
it was at that time, and demon-
strated therein how the canal could be
finished. It is interesting to note the
fact that it was impossible to obtain a
satisfactory route across Nicaragua and
the truth of the argument was demon-
strated eight years later by the Isthmian
Canal Commission.

Lectured on Canal.

Following upon this M. Varilla began
a vigorous campaign in behalf of the
canal project, both in France and in
America. In this country he gave a series
of lectures at Cincinnati as the guest
of Myron T. Herrick; at Chicago as
the guest of James Dearing; at Boston
before the Commercial bodies
there; at Princeton University, and before
the Chamber of Commerce of the
State of New York. It was through
this campaign that he gained a number
of friends in influential circles in
this country.

Returning to France he again brought
the matter up before the govern-
ment, offering to take stock to the
amount of \$50,000 to aid in raising the
sum of \$100,000 to complete the canal
scheme. He continued an active
opponent of the Nicaraguan route, and
wrote articles in the French papers.
In this country, George Morison, a
member of the Isthmian Canal Com-
mission, proposed to the French Govern-
ment to give the name of Bunau-Varilla
to the island that will be formed in the
middle of Lake Bonin in Panama. "The
commemorate," as he said, "the bril-
liant Frenchman who consecrated his
life to the Panama Canal, and to whom
we owe much."

M. Varilla has a charming home in
Paris, but he has now opened a tem-
porary legation at Legation de New
York and will reside there with his family.

TURKEY NOT THE OPPRESSOR
OF HER CHRISTIAN SUBJECTS

The Rule of Sultan Abdul Hamid Either Maliciously Maligned or Deliberately
Thwarted by European Diplomacy—Absolute Religious
Toleration in His Realm.

By HERMANN SCHOENFELD, Consul General
at Turkey.

At this moment when the so-called
Macedonian question in Southern
Europe is being cleared after a peaceful
understanding between Bulgaria and
her suzerain, Turkey, when the flood
of misinformation and misrepresentation
regarding the latter power has exhaust-
ed itself, the time has come for a brief
survey of the realities of the situation.
A healthy return to reasonable thought
begins to assert itself, and just and un-
biased voices are heard again here and
there. The other Christian races in the
vilayets of the Danube, representing
vast majorities, besides the unruly and
boisterous, so-called Macedonians, also
contributed not a little to the clearing
of the atmosphere, and to neutralizing
the brazen reports or the mills of fal-
sification carried on by the anarchistic
committees of dynamite, Serbia and
elsewhere, far from the spot. A histori-
cal retrospect of the events of 1876-78,
when the Bulgarian rising was the direct
cause of the Turko-Russian war, and
the history of the great Bulgarian
Christianity, Stamboul, who was backed
to pieces by "compatriots" of Macedonian
extraction in foreign pay, because he
thought that Bulgaria should belong
to the Bulgarians, in close alliance with
Turkey, also furnished ample food for
thought. The hope of the incendiaries
and dynamite makers, who were backed
in the extreme Orient, made such a
course inadvisable. All this does not,
however, remove the ardent desire that
Turkey should be weakened by peace-
able or diplomatic means.

The Great-Bulgaria Dream.

The Servians in Macedonia, whose
sympathies are claimed by the Bulgari-
an brigands, are fully conscious that
the success of the latter would signify
the death knell of Servia's independence
in the very near future. The Roumanian
Kutzo-Wallachians know well
enough how heavily the Bulgarian hand
would weigh upon them and their inde-
pendent religious aspirations. Were the
dream of autonomous Bulgaria, a
dream realizable at all, a life and death
struggle with Roumania would be the
next consequence. The Greeks, who con-
stitute the greatest number of inhabi-
tants in the vilayets in question, justly
feel that they are the most ancient and
original dwellers of the soil, not the
Bulgarian late-comers, whose barbarous
origin is indistinct ethnologically. To
the Greeks those provinces are a more
Hellenic land than any ever were since
the great Heraclean dynasty with its
too stupendous expenses, King Philip-
pe and Alexander the Great.

All the Christian races prefer by far
the mild rule and absolute religious tol-
eration of the Turks. For, in spite of all
the fraudulent assertions to the con-
trary, which thus have become crystal-
lized errors, there is no country in the
world, where a state church exists, more
tolerant in religious matters than Tur-
key. Since the establishment of the
Ottoman Empire in Europe there was
never the slightest attempt at the
prosecution of their non-Mohammedan
subjects. It is true, that great numbers
willingly adopted the new faith, espe-
cially the Albanians, who became
more ardent Moslems than their liberal
conquerors. The latter permitted the
conquered races to exercise with abso-
lute freedom their religion, their lan-
guage, their estates, together with the
privilege of administering freely their
communities, their religious hierarchy,
and their schools, which remain with-
out any interference on the part of the
Ottoman government to this very day.

Greeks Emigrating to Turkey.

No wonder, therefore, that since the
independence of Greece more Greeks
have emigrated to Turkey, where they
enjoyed entire freedom of conscience
and could exert their superior talent
for business than the whole population
of the Hellenic kingdom amounts to.
No wonder, also, that the Christian races
in the agitated vilayets petitioned at
Constantinople to be permitted to take
up arms against the Bulgarian outlaws
who employed the means of anarchy
and terrorism to bring about the dis-
seizable people without distinction of
race or religion. If the Turkish govern-
ment declined the request, it was
because it sought to suppress the anar-
chists lawfully, and not to unchain
the terrible reprisals which remain
meted out to the destroyers of their
homes and to the lives of their families.
It cannot be repeated too often that all
the Christian religious denominations in
Turkey are invested with equal rights
of freedom of conscience, and are
and are interfered with in no way.
The work of their spiritual heads, pi-
triarchs and exarchs, and their clergy is
absolutely free. If handicapped at all
this is done by foreign missionaries who
try to attract converts of Christianity,
which dates back to the era of the
apostles themselves. It is an estab-
lished fact that the missionaries, in spite
of their earnest endeavors, have never
yet permanently converted a single
Mahomedan; and, regarding the Chris-
tian races in those regions, it is certain
that they have enjoyed a very pure and
original mode of Christianity, since the
divine light of Christ shone upon them
from its fountain in Jerusalem, some
fifteen centuries before the Christian
denominations, which send mis-
sionaries out, had sprung into existence.

Mischief of the Missionaries.

If the modern apostles were satisfied
to spread and improve schools
among those ancient races, and confine
their labors to that practical Christian-
ity which elevates and purifies the
standard of living, instead of perma-
nently engaged in the unchristian
and ungrateful task of converting from
one mode of Christianity to another,
their labors would be a great blessing,
and would be so regarded by everybody
in Turkey. But as soon as the agita-
tion in behalf of new and various
denominations begins, and as long as
the majority of the Christian people there
remain loyal to their old faith, a number
of centrifugal and contradictory
tendencies arise, which serve to disinte-
grate the unity, in the possession of
which the people live quietly and peace-
fully for centuries. But to speak with
the words of an eminent Mohammedan
writer—"The Christian races of Turkey
having been imbued with seditions

through the influence of foreign mis-
sionaries, were filled with separatist ideas,
formed secret societies, intrigued with
the Christians of the continent, and
played the Cross versus the Crescent."

Foreign powers arrogated the role of
protectors of the various Christians in
the Orient, thus employing religion as
a screen for their political games, play-
ing out one race against the other, until
today there is a bitter feud between all
of them, which would degenerate into
a war of all against all if the Turks
did not strongly police the country and
powerfully suppress disorder.

Turkish People Not Cruel.

The one wonder to me is that the Otto-
man government, spreading over the
vast domains of three continents, is able
to prevail at all times any out-
breaks of Mohammedan patriotism and
religion against those disintegrating
forces and the disturbers of peace
who are ready tools in foreign hands.
For the fair tales of Turkish atrocities,
reiterated at all occasions by those who
revile them and would profit by them,
do no longer deceive anybody. The
Turkish people are never cruel. If pro-
per retaliation in a military sense were
practiced against the Bulgarian brig-
ands, the suppression of outlawry would
not have been long delayed. But there
is, on the contrary, the perhaps erro-
neous practice of suppressing rebellion by
persuasion, or, at best, military half-
measures, in order to counteract the
reproach of cruelty which is never made
in good faith.

The concessions made to meddling for-
eign powers are certainly not made from
fear of their military superiority. For
no one single power, with which a con-
flict would be possible, is superior to
Turkey in a military way. The assump-
tion by ignorant people who have never
set foot on Turkish soil, that the Mus-
sulin forces could be easily vanquished,
is dangerous in the extreme. It is well
known how near the powerful Russian
armies came to defeat in 1877. In
spite of the entire Greek-Orthodox
Christianity within the confines of the
Ottoman empire, especially Roumania,
under the Hohenzollern prince, Carol,
who excommunicated Russia from the jaws
of defeat, and in spite of the then pre-
carious condition of Turkey, owing to a
three-fold change of throne within a
few months.

Army of the Sultan.

But since then the Sultan's army has
impressively advanced in drill as well
as in strategic training, and the
material of muscle and bone, which is
the best in the world. The great
military instructor of Turkey, General
von der Goltz-Pasha, is witness that
the reforms proposed by him and the
staff of German instructors, have been
religiously put into practice, and theo-
retically studied with that zeal ordi-
narily accredited only to German profes-
sionists.

"The Sultan being satisfied that Ger-
man drill and strategy are superior to
any other system, he allowed myself and
brother officers full sway in our de-
partments," said von der Goltz-Pasha,
"reorganizing his standing army down to
the last gaiter's button, as the phrase
goes, working harmoniously with the
Turkish authorities, who gladly recog-
nized us as teachers. If it comes to
war, the success of our efforts to raise
the Turkish troops to the standard of
modern efficiency will now become ap-
parent. If the powers had known the
full extent of Turkey's indirect prepara-
tion for war, they would surely have
interfered, either by accusing his maj-
esty of double dealing, or by cutting off
our supply of war material by financial
judgery."

Truly von der Goltz-Pasha does not
furnish the best testimony to the purity
of anti-Turkish diplomacy. One word
from the Sultan would call the entire
male population, as far as it is Mus-
sulin, to arms, and it must not be for-
gotten that the Turkish soldier is en-
during and hardy beyond normal hu-
man strength, sober, withal, splendidly
disciplined, and absolutely fearless of
death.

"Such a soldier," says von der Goltz,
"needs only capable officers to be almost
invincible, and the Sultan's army is
now splendidly officered, and good ma-
terial added daily. The mobilization of
the Turkish army, if such ever becomes
necessary, will be effected within one
week."

Moslem Military Spirit.

As to the Moslem military spirit it is
as strong today as it ever was in its
glorious history, and it should always be
remembered that the pressure and in-
justice committed by a pseudo Chris-
tianity, in flagrant contrast to all-mer-
ciful Christ, is cementing ever stronger
the ties between the Islamic forces all
over the world—300,000,000 in all. It is
regrettable that Islam, which embraces
Moses and Christ as the first prophets
with divine veneration, to whom God
joined Mohammed as the last prophet to
raise the Arabic world from the mire of
idolatry, is still persecuted as paganism
by men who are held as Christian
teachers. Islam is the third great mono-
theistic religion which has fulfilled and
is fulfilling an immense mission of cul-
ture for millions of people who other-
wise would perish in darkness.

It is incumbent upon religious leaders
of the great Christian sister religion
not to strain the bow too far, and faith-
ful to the teachings of our Saviour, the
incarnation of brotherly love, not to un-
loosen the terrors of war between two
worlds which would swamp the earth
with blood.
It is true that the Ottoman empire,
strong as it is in a military way, has
not yet been able to strengthen itself
economically, as its tremendous re-
sources would warrant. Every real at-
tempt at reform from within is thwarted
by an unscrupulous diplomacy which
has divested itself of all principles of
honor and humanity.

Economic Reforms Thwarted.

When upon the initiative of the pre-
sent ruler—in view of the fact that all
Europe and America have chosen the
panacea of protection a-outrance, and
that Turkey could not develop her in-
fant industries (for here the term is
really appropriate), being flooded with
the cheap manufactures from abroad—
the imperial government proposed the
modest increase of duty on foreign
goods from 8 per cent to 11 per cent ad
valorem, a universal howl was raised
from abroad, where the tariff ranges
from 25 to 66-2-3 per cent, against the
audacious innovation. The necessary
measure was nipped in the bud. In the
same way any reform or improvement
for the welfare of the poor people in
Turkey is obstructed from abroad, and
at the same time the hypocritical outcry
against Turkish mismanagement is sung
in 4 thousand voices.

In the new reform plan of Russia and
Austria for the so-called Macedonian
vilayets there occurs not one word in
favor of the Mohammedan population
whose villages have been burned, whose
women and children have been slaugh-
tered by the Bulgarian brigands and
dynamiters; and yet everybody knows
well that the Turkish people, as such,
are a law-abiding, gentle, sober, chari-
table, deeply religious incapable of com-
mitting a cruel deed even against a
dumb animal. Religion with all its
tenets of charity, is a living issue with
them, but they are alas! too unsophis-
ticated to entertain the world with their
wrongs.

MILLER AND JOHNS FREE.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 21.—D. V. Miller,
of Torrey House, and Joseph M. Johns,
of Rockville, Ind., were last night ac-
quitted of the charge of conspiracy to
extort a bribe from John J. Ryan. The
verdict of "not guilty" was received by
the crowd with demonstrations that
could not be suppressed by the court
officers.

FROM FAR AWAY JAPAN
COMES A GLOBE-TROTTER

Nawokichi Nakamura Pays
Visit to White House.

TRAVELING IS HIS PASSION

Will Not Rest Content Until He Has
Been to Every Portion of
the World.

An interesting visitor at the Japanese
legation here is Nawokichi Nakamura,
a globe-trotter from far away Japan,
who, in spite of the fact that he is
making a tour of the world on the same
plan as an American hobnobber—without
funds—has yet managed to keep up a
clean, respectable appearance, and at
the end of his three years of travel is
as well endowed with worldly goods as
he was at the start.

Mr. Nakamura, caparisoned in a neat
hunting costume with a knapsack
slung over his shoulder, appeared at the
White House yesterday to see the Presi-
dent, but could not do so on account of
the number of callers ahead of him.
"I am not touring the world for a
wage as you might suppose," said Mr.
Nakamura to a Times reporter, "but
traveling is a passion with me, and I
will not rest content until I have been
to every portion of the globe and seen
everything that is to be seen on this
great wide earth. When I have done
it and it may not be for many years—I
will lay down my knapsack with a sigh
and then—why then, I don't know what
I shall do; write a book, I suppose."

Mr. Nakamura left his home at Fujii-
San, the sacred mountain of Japan, in
August three years ago. Since then he
has been wandering all over the earth.
In Persia he was received by the Shah,
who thanked the Japanese traveler
through all of his dominion and gave
him a mule on which to travel. Siam,
Sumatra, and Java were next visited,
and all over the Eastern Hemisphere
Mr. Nakamura traveled.

The remarkable part about his jour-
ney is the fact that he had practically
no money with which to keep on the
move. He started with 100 yen, about
\$50 in our money, which was presented
to him by his friends, and at present
Mr. Nakamura has the larger part of
this contribution with him, and many
valuable possessions besides. He dresses
in the style of the most fashionable
Japanese and in manner and address is
most gentlemanly. Mr. Nakamura has
a personal letter from Lord Osawa of
England and the indorsement of several
prominent officials. He has traveled
through Europe, Canada and part of
the United States, and will now journey
westward.

ISAAC KHAN RETURNS
FROM SOUTH AMERICA

On a Prolonged Trip in In-
terest of Persia.

SEEKS FOR TRADE TREATIES

Will Soon Establish Consulates in Bal-
timore, Charleston and
Other Cities.

The Persian minister, Gen. Isaac
Khan, after a prolonged leave of ab-
sence, part of which was spent in a
trip to South American countries, on
official business, has returned to Wash-
ington for the winter. He called on
Thursday, the regular diplomatic day,
at the State Department, to pay his
respects to Secretary Hay and other of-
ficials.

Important to the Persian government
will be the result of the minister's trip
to Mexico and South America. He went
at the instance of his majesty, the
Shah of Persia, to lay the foundation
for trade treaties between Mexico, and
the more important of the southern
republics, with Persia. It can be declar-
ed on the highest authority that the
minister's visit was successful, and the
conclusion of conventions by Persia with
these countries may be expected soon.
Probably never before has the Persian
legation in Washington been more active
in the development of Persian inter-
ests in this country than during the
administration of the present minister.

Promoting Persian Trade.

Not content with confining himself
to the ordinary diplomatic routine, Gen.
Isaac Khan proposes to make Persia
an important factor in the commer-
cial life of the Pan-American republics.
As there are comparatively few Per-
sian business men outside of the large
cities, it is the intention of the minister
to appoint representative American
business men as Persian consuls at im-
portant ports along the Atlantic sea-
board and in the interior cities. At
present Persia has but three consulates
in this country—at Chicago, New York,
and Philadelphia, and the consuls
general in the first two cities are Amer-
icans.

It is probable that Persian consulates
will shortly be established at Baltimore
and Charleston, S. C., and that Amer-
icans will be selected for these posts.
In the absence of Gen. Isaac Khan,
the affairs of his legation have been in
charge of Chekib Bey, the Turkish
minister.

THANKSGIVING
Turkey Roasters
Self-Basting.
This is the only right way to
roast a turkey—so that you will re-
tain all the natural juices and pre-
vent loss of weight.
Splendid 8, 10, and 12-pound Tur-
key Roasters at
40c, 45c, and 50c
Royal Roasters
(Self-basting.)
No. 1 (for 6-lb. turkey)..... 50c
No. 2 (for 8-lb. turkey)..... \$1.15
No. 3 (for 10-lb. turkey)..... \$1.20
No. 4 (for 12-lb. turkey)..... \$1.60
No. 5 (for 15 or 12-lb. turkeys)..... \$2.00
Steel Roasting Pans
8x15..... 15c
12x15..... 15c
14x14..... 20c
18x17..... 45c
Food Choppers, \$1.00.
(Receipt Books Free.)
Thanksgiving Carvers
Elegant 2-piece Stag
handle Carving Set,
guaranteed. Special at..... **\$1.00**
Fine 3-piece Stag
handle Carving Sets,
fully guaranteed. Spe-
cial at..... **\$2.75**
Barber & Ross
11th and G Sts.
Sewing Machines \$4.00 Up.
All makes. Guaranteed five years. Repair-
ing, 50c. Graphophones and records of all kinds.
ROBERTSON & BICKERTON,
56 H St. N. W. Open Till 9 P. M.
YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD.
EBBITT HOUSE.
Washington, D. C. American plan. Army and
Navy Headquarters.
H. C. BURCH, Manager.

THE PALAIS ROYAL
"OPENING"
200,000 Christmas Presents
The holiday season commences tomorrow with the opening at the Palais
Royal. None too soon—you can count only twenty-seven shopping days between
now and Christmas. Note that the Palais Royal closes all day Thanksgiving Day.

Free! Initials engraved on Umbrellas, Jewelry, Silverware, etc. Name stamped in gold on Pocketbooks, Card Cases, Bibles, Prayer Books, etc. The work done is superior without hurry, with deliberation.

Home Needs. Thanksgiving Day is thought of with 72-inch Satin Damask and Napkins, such as usually sell at \$1.25, for only 88c. The family size Turkey Roaster, self basting, and with perforated top, is to be 16c instead of 25c.

Free! Articles selected for presentation will be suitably boxed, free. Laid aside on receipt of small deposit. Mail orders intelligently filled. Goods skillfully packed and forwarded to any part of the world.

Dolls. They vary as much as live babies do. One of the prettiest \$1 Dolls in the world, "The Model," is to be here tomorrow at a compe- 88c

Bring the children tomorrow to see "Dolltown"—a treat is promised you and them.

Books. Hundreds of thousands of them—more than in any book-store in town. Cloth Bound Sets, 5 volumes; famous works of famous au- 69c Copyright books, published at \$1.50. Only \$1 for only 44c Works of E. P. Roe, Amelia Barr, and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. 21c

Stationery. Hurd's, Whiting's, Hake's—all the best makers are represented here. Bargain spots told of below: Cabinet boxes of Station- 33c ery, usually \$6; for only 15c Children's Boxes, with holly 15c decoration; 5c kind for 33c Children's boxes of Picture Stationery; 5c kind..... 33c

Fans. Plenty of expensive beauties from Vienna and Paris—and not a few that are beautiful, though little priced. Pleasant Fans, with peac- 44c cock tips; look worth \$1. Fans with medallion and spangle ornamentation; beau- 92c tiful. Think of a pretty spangled Fan and long chain for..... 25c

Jewelry. Parisian Jewelry is the Palais Royal's specialty, and marvelous imitations of precious stones are shown, in unique settings. See the real gold Cuff Links for men, and pins for 98c women, at..... 15c Real gold Scarf Pins and Silet Rings for only..... 48c

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