

FATAL STAMBOUL.

More Revelations from the Bosphorus.

Abdul Aziz Murdered by a Greek Physician—Assassination of Ministers by Hassan Bey—Murad's Short Reign.

Cairo, Jan. 24, 1890.

On the morning of May 30, 1876, the inhabitants of Constantinople were aroused by the firing of an imperial salute. During the previous evening events of the utmost importance had occurred. Hussein Avni Pacha had dethroned the Sultan, Abdul Aziz. The ex-Sultan had to be conducted in a small boat under guard to the island of Prinkipo, near the Bosphorus. At about one o'clock in the morning a steam launch belonging to the Hayden Pacha crossed the Bosphorus to the residence of Murad Effendi, on the Asiatic side. On board this steam launch were Hussein Avni Pacha, Khairullah Effendi, Sheik ul Islam, Kasim Pacha, and other high functionaries. They came to salute their new master, and to announce to him that the Ottoman Empire was now entrusted to Murad Padiashah. The new Sultan's surprise at hearing this news was not unaccompanied with fear. He was afraid that this was a trap arranged by Abdul Aziz, his uncle, to cause his ruin. The day before, the very men who were now offering him the sceptre had been apparently the most devoted subjects of his uncle. Murad had the more reason for this opinion because, as has already been shown in a previous letter, the fate of Abdul Aziz was in no way the result of any political movement. His deposition was caused solely by Hussein Avni's fear of being denounced for having had a criminal intimacy with the ex-third bashkadeen, who had been killed by her imperial husband.

MURAD BECOMES SULTAN.

Murad did not realize that he had become Sultan until he arrived at the Palace of Dolma Bagtchi. Here the most indescribable disorder prevailed. Terrified eunuchs rushed to and fro in the corridors, trying to get out—for the entrance to the Palace had been closed by Hussein Avni. The shrieks of the women filled the harem. The aides-de-camp of the ex-sovereign nervously awaited the turn of events, and the servants prepared the rooms for the ceremony of the Bait. The accession of Murad was proclaimed in the streets by public cries. By nine o'clock all the higher officials, whether they lived on the shores of the Bosphorus or in the most distant quarters of the city, had made their bow to the new sovereign.

ABDUL AZIZ MURDERED.

Unfortunately this accession, which promised so many happy days to Turkey, was but the prelude to a reign as melancholy as it was short. Six days later Abdul Aziz died by the hand of an assassin, and the ex-fourth bashkadeen, F. Kasim Bey's sister, died by poison. The fatal and direct influence of the third bashkadeen in causing the falling of Abdul Aziz has already been related—and by a singular coincidence it was the influence of the new third bashkadeen (Hassan Bey's sister, who replaced the one killed by Abdul Aziz) which brought about the death of Murad. When this woman heard that her husband had been deposed, she knew that sooner or later she would also become the object of Hussein Avni's vengeance—if the Pacha delayed it was only for some personal motives. She was also afraid to appear before Abdul Aziz, and when the Grand Vizier refused her to rejoin their master at the Kiosk of the Point du Serail, she, by means of various pretexts, contrived to remain away. On June 3 the Sultan ordered that Abdul Aziz and all his women should be transported to the Palace of Terhagan.

During the three days preceding his death Abdul Aziz was in a highly excited state and frequently gave way to the most violent outbursts of anger—he resembled those tigers which he had himself formerly taken so much pleasure in imprisoning.

On the 5th Abdul Aziz made an attempt to escape from his confinement. The guards covered him and compelled him to return. He then went to the door of his room. A sentinel barred his passage. Abdul Aziz, eluding the sentry's bayonet, seized him by the throat and threw him upon the floor with such violence as to render him insensible. The noise of the scuffle brought the relief guard, which was posted in an adjoining apartment, and the ex-Sultana was forced back into her room by the points of his guards, bayonets. The ex-Sultana Valideh came and endeavored, in vain, to quiet her son. Abdul Aziz would not be comforted by his wife, Izzeden, and merely held out his hand for her to kiss. As to his favorite son, Djouledden, he had only seen him twice since he had killed his mother, and after his death thronement he refused to admit him to his presence.

To appreciate the events which follow it will be necessary to refer to the circumstances which place about two months before Abdul Aziz was disposed. The importance of this incident will afterwards appear. At that time he was suffering from a carbuncle under his armpit. Various kinds of ointments had been used without effect. The carbuncle increased in size, and for reasons which will be explained hereafter, the Sultan sent for his doctor. The doctor happened at the moment not to be in the palace. Abdul Aziz said: "Bring me at once the first doctor that can be found." As no doctor could be found in the palace an attendant went to the apothecary's shop adjoining the palace, where he remained until he had procured the services of the imperial household usually employed. Only one doctor happened to be there, a Greek. Brought before the Sultan he examined the carbuncle and took out of his pocket a lancet. This man, whose name will not be mentioned here, because he belongs to a respectable family, and for reasons which will be appreciated further on, did not know that it was forbidden even to touch the Sultan's person with a sharp instrument. Abdul Aziz then interrupted and said: "Let the man do as he pleases." A few moments after the operation the Sultan, relieved from pain, exclaimed: "All my doctors are asses. You have more intelligence than an ass—I make you a Pacha! The Doctor could scarcely believe his senses; but two hours afterward he duly received his firman as Pacha, together with his appointment as physician to his Majesty. This man, who was to play a most despicable role. Notwithstanding the gratitude which he owed to Abdul Aziz he was one of the first who came to congratulate Hussein Avni upon his success. Hussein Avni noted him well and pretended to believe the truth of the man's assurance of devotion. "You are intelligent," said Hussein Avni, "I will be your complements with the belief that you are sincere, and I feel sure that you will be faithful to Murad, for it was only by chance that Abdul Aziz made you a pacha, and you do not owe your advancement to any intrigue."

On the evening of June 6th the two agents of Hussein Avni entered the Palace of Terhagan—one affecting the duties of a physician, the other returning to his accustomed post. As late as two o'clock in the morning Abdul Aziz repelled his mother's caresses, reproached her for having been partly the cause of his fall, denounced her and his young son, and passed violently up and down his chamber. Finally, utterly prostrated and worn out, he removed his coat only and lay down—not on a sofa, as has been reported, but upon a Turkish bed. When the ex-Sultan was asleep the eunuch entered the room, followed by the physician, who, in a low voice, told the eunuch that he had done his duty, and that he would be in the chamber the next day. When the doctor considered that Abdul Aziz was thoroughly under the influence of chloroform he quickly rolled up the ex-Sultan's shirt sleeves and cut the two arteries. He then placed the eunuch on the floor and ordered the eunuch to get up. Abdul Aziz must have afterwards struggled against the influence of

the chloroform and loss of blood, for when his mother entered the room he was in a state of delirium, which, together with his own body, was bathed in blood. The story of Abdul Aziz having in the course of the night asked his mother for a pair of scissors to cut his beard is a pure fabrication. It is a political necessity to at least furnish some plausible grounds for the belief that a man who had been the victim of a crime is true that Abdul Aziz had been in the habit of trimming his beard himself, and usually carried a pair of scissors about his person, and would often play with them while engaged in conversation. This fact doubtless suggested the role which the scissors have played in the matter.

SULTAN MURAD'S SUSPICIONS.

Although the two wounds on the arms were excessively small, accounts scientifically made, and although it is practically impossible for a man to alternately cut so neatly the arteries of both his arms, the certificate was duly drawn up and signed by the doctors and shown to the Sultan Murad. The Sultan Murad is still supposed to be ignorant of the manner of Abdul Aziz's death. When, however, Hussein Avni came to him, and Murad was pale and trembling, and with tears in his eyes he said, "You have dishonored the commencement of my reign by killing my uncle." Hussein Avni exhibited the certificate of the doctors, but Murad never felt satisfied of Hussein Avni's innocence. Murad related this afterward, when traveling for his own life, he resided, and still resides, confined in this same Palace of Terhagan. No one in Pera or Stamboul ever really believed that Abdul Aziz had committed suicide.

JEALOUSY IN POLITICS.

It is an error to attempt to make of Hassan Bey a sort of political hero, devoting himself to avenge his master's death, and killing the Ministers to punish those who should have been the staunch supporters of Abdul Aziz and not his assassin. It is doubtful if even the hope of avenging his sister's death would have induced him to undertake his rash act had he for a moment considered the consequences and realized that henceforward he would be deprived of all protection and have no more money to squander. The day after the death of Abdul Aziz was passed by Hassan Bey notwithstanding his sister's death by poison—in frequenting the public houses of the capital. Various undefined threats and revelations, which often proved true, uttered by Hassan Bey, reached the ears of the Sultan's police. Summoned to the Ministry of War Hassan Bey was placed in arrest for three days. On the fourth day he was to have been sent in exile to Bagdad. "During these three days' confinement he formed his plan. On the morning of the third day he demanded of Hussein Avni—who was then Grand Vizier—that he was also Minister of War—leave for three or four hours to make the arrangements necessary for his long journey. Hussein Avni, not suspecting anything wrong, granted the leave asked for. Hassan Bey left his place of confinement at about four o'clock in the afternoon. He went to his apartment, where he armed himself with three revolvers, a Circassian dagger and his sabre. He put on the sikkilette, which distinguishes aides-de-camp from other officers. Over his uniform he wore the labor, a military cloak—black, with red lining, and put on his military top boots, placed two of his revolvers inside of them, and sallied forth.

BENT ON MURDER.

The evening was rainy. Hassan went to the steps of Sirki'djaleksee, where the government functionaries get on board the caïks to go to the Sublime Porte. These steps are situated near the railway station on the European side. Hassan then crossed the bridge to the Yali, the summer residence of Hussein Avni, situated on the Asiatic side. Arrived at the Yali he learned that Hussein Avni was dining at Midhat's, where he intended to sleep. Hassan was also informed that a council of Ministers was to be held that evening at Sirki'djaleksee, the residence of Hassan returned to Midhat Pacha's residence a horse and rode to the Konak—the winter residence of Midhat Pacha—which is situated at Stamboul, in the quarter of Mosque of Sultan Bajazet and faces on the small street called the "Kiosk of the Sultan." Two small brick walls, surmounted by iron palings and having two small kiosks in the centre, between which is the entrance, separate this mansion from the street. On the right hand, upon entering a large building, the harem, which is joined to the main building by a narrow passage, was reached. It is a fine residence, built in the Italian style.

HASSAN AMONG THE MINISTERS.

When Hassan Bey arrived two sentinels were stationed at the outside gate. They presented arms to him, he rapidly ascended the marble stairway and letting his sikkilette fall, he entered the room of the Grand Vizier, Hassan Avni Pacha. Being told that the latter was in the reception room with the Ministers, he at once proceeded thither. The attendants at the door of this room informed him that no one was to enter. Hassan answered that he came by order of the Sultan, and pushing back the door he entered the room. Hussein Avni Pacha was seated in a room near one of the windows. The positions of the other Ministers and secretaries were as follows:—On the divan, near the waiting room, were seated Djoulet, Halet, Cherif Hussein and Youssef Pachas; on the sofa, directly opposite to the entrance, were seated Hassan Avni Pacha, being told that the latter was in the reception room with the Ministers, he at once proceeded thither. 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