

LETTER FROM LONDON.

WHAT THE FUSS IS ALL ABOUT WITH ROUMELIA AND TURKEY.

Essentials of the Sovereigns Interested in the Question—Turkey Ought to Be Made to Pack Up and Get Out of Europe.

(Special Correspondence.)

LONDON, Oct. 7.—What the map of southeastern Europe is to-day can be made out with some painstaking attention. What it will be a year from now would be a reckless man indeed who should undertake to predict. There is a curious story called Prince Rupert's tears. It is a pretty-looking bit of glass blown into shape with such London upon it that a touch at any part will shiver it into atoms. That expresses the present status of the part of Europe known as the Balkan peninsula. A good many worthy people about this time will glance at the dispatches headed the "Roumelia," and say to themselves: "What in the name of fury is all about? A few words here will probably make it clear to them—that is, as clear as it is to anybody. At the close of the last war between Russia and Turkey the great powers of Europe met at Berlin and settled the question between those two ancient enemies for the time.



THE BALKAN PENINSULA AS IT IS NOW.

They parcelled out the peninsula this way and that. Servia, Roumelia and Bulgaria, all ancient dominions of the Turk, were erected into provinces to them—Bulgaria was tributary to the Turk. Between Bulgaria and Constantinople the little province of Eastern Roumelia was established. It was meant for a safeguard between Turkey and Russia, a sort of neutral ground, as it were. Eastern Roumelia at the same time was a semi-independent province. The sultan appointed the governor, though the little state was supposed to govern itself. Its subject to Turkey consisted chiefly in its paying taxes to the port, tolerably stiff taxes, too. Philippopolis is the capital.

That was in 1878. All went smoothly as far as outside knowledge went, till suddenly, on the 12th of the September, without a word of warning, the inhabitants of Philippolis rose and proclaimed that they no longer belonged to Turkey, but to Bulgaria. They seized the Turkish governor and officers and imprisoned them. Then they put their own man in the place of these, and a provisional government was formed. It and the Roumelian soldiers swore allegiance to Prince Alexander of Bulgaria, on the spot.



PRINCE ALEXANDER OF BULGARIA.

The prince is a fine, manly looking fellow, son of Prince Alexander of Battenberg. He is brother of that Prince Henry of Battenberg, who recently married the queen's daughter, Beatrice. The little Roumelian may yet make a great figure in Europe. The sympathies of Bulgaria are emphatically Russian. The prince himself won his spurs by fighting on the Russian side in the last Russo-Turkish war. He was at the famous siege of Plevna, and crossed the Balkans with Gen. Gourko. He was elected by the Bulgarians themselves, in 1879, hereditary prince of the state. Consequently, unless there are some more revolutions, his son will succeed to his title. But nobody can tell. He is yet a young man, having been born in 1857. The province was captured by the Turks as long ago as the year 1392. The people are Slav in blood and Christians of the Greek church in religion. In the six centuries during which they have been subject to Turkey their history has been one record of oppression at the hands of the Mohammedan ruler. The people of Eastern Roumelia were taxed to death and oppressed frightfully, it is claimed, and they rose in revolt. Now, an endless chain of war and diplomacy hangs on the question of whom Eastern Roumelia is permitted to belong to. The boundary lines of Greece, Roumelia, Servia and several other states were sharply defined by the Berlin treaty. If Bulgaria is permitted to pocket the little province, Servia is an ambitious neighbor that will insist on having another slice of something too. So will Greece, so will Roumelia and the rest.

As a matter of fact, the army of Servia is already in fighting trim. It is against both Bulgaria and Turkey. It is almost safe to predict that by the time this year has you there will be fighting along the borders of Servia and Bulgaria. It will be a three-cornered fight.

Bulgaria is only a principedom. Servia and Roumelia are already kingdoms. Milan

A King of Servia, was born in 1834. In 1858 Milan Obrenovich, a peasant, headed the insurrection of Servians against the Austrians, and was acknowledged by the Sultan Prince of Servia. Milan is the descendant of this brave peasant, and the fourth of the dynasty. He became prince by the assassination of his uncle in 1868. There is considerable excitement than quiet satisfaction in being ruler of one of those bloody little states in the Balkan peninsula. A king or prince never knows what day his head may not come off. Milan was crowned prince at Belgrade in 1868. The map in the beginning of this letter shows the distribution of territory for the Balkan peninsula by the treaty of Berlin. By that treaty Servia became independent of Turkey in 1878. Then Milan became king, and was solemnly proclaimed such by Belgrade the capital. Milan's queen is Natalie, a daughter of Col. Kocichko, of the Russian Imperial guard. So that Servia too is closely in sympathy with Russia. At once the news of the Roumelian revolution reached Servia the army of that little kingdom moved toward the southern frontier. It is 60,000 strong. The protest was that the boundary of Servia must be protected in case the adjoining Turkish provinces of Macedonia and Albania rise in revolt. King Milan said in such a case he would be forced to act with the instruments or be deposed. Certain it is that all Servia is wild for war in some shape.

Being himself of peasant blood, not many remove, King Milan is very popular among his subjects. You will observe that the kings and princes of these half barbaric little states are well made and handsome fellows, looking to be men of power and presence. They are young, too, in the flower of their age, and cultivated and ambitious to a man. Nobody knows what yet may happen. King Milan is strongly bent on a war. He is a descendant of a free-handed, frank nature. In some respects he resembles the late Victor Emanuel of Italy, being passionately fond of hunting and avers to appearing in public. He likes to play cards and his favorite reading is military works and the "Beautiful Queen." Natalie is now only 35 years old, though she has been ten years married. Her proclivities are English. She speaks that language well, and prefers its literature. She is tall, brunette with faultless features and winning ways. She has many talents, speaking almost equally well French, English, Russian, Rumanian and Servian. But educated Russian always are great linguists.



KING AND QUEEN OF ROUMELIA.

The estimated population of Roumelia is somewhat less than 5,500,000, though the total number of Roumelians is about 8,000,000. They are scattered through the backward and feudal, a shabby built town of 25,000. In time of war, Roumelia can muster an army of 100,000.

In 1861 the two provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia were united. The new state was given the name of Roumania. The present ruler, whose portrait appears in the illustration is King Karl of Carol I. He was born in 1839, elected prince in 1866, and crowned king in 1881. He is of German descent. His wife, the queen, was Princess Elizabeth von Nemec. Roumelia was the present independent province to the friendship with Russia. When the war broke out between that country and Turkey in 1877, Roumelia signed an agreement with the emperor's government, granting free passage to Russian troops through Roumelian territory. The whole Turkey had been laid out, the independence of Roumelia at Bucharest. The Roumelian army went into the war on the side of Russia, and fell upon the Turk to the north and east. They distinguished themselves before Plevna. When in 1878 the Berlin congress met to straighten things out, it agreed to recognize the independence of Roumelia. So that the kingdom of Roumelia too is a creation of the treaty of Berlin.



KING AND QUEEN OF GREECE.

Greece, too, is preparing to reach her paw into the beehive and draw out such chunks of honey as she may. Greece did not get what she considered her just dues at the treaty of Berlin but she did not make much fuss about it at the time, chiefly, because she could not help herself. She acquiesced outwardly, and bided her time. It looks now as though possibly she might get her inn when the other states mentioned, the moment the Roumelian rebellion took place in Greece being to prepare for war. If Macedonia rises in an effort to throw off the Turk yoke, what more natural than that Greece should join in and help her ancient province, in the hope and expectation of getting it back.

George I is the present King of Greece. He is a son of the King of Denmark, consequently brother of the Empress of Russia and the pretty Princess of Wales. Here again Russia and English connections are doubled and twisted. George's wife, more-over Queen Olga, is a cousin of Czar Alexander III. King George is 40 years old; his wife is 34, and they have a large and interesting family.

The one dream of Greece is Hellenic empire. We may be sure she will lose no shadow of a chance to impress her idea on the powers. Finally, the one other party chiefly interested in the Roumelian question is the ruler of the sublime port.



SULTAN ABDULHAMID II.

Consequently they never live to be very old. An accident is apt to shorten their lives. Abdul Hamid II was born in 1842. His brother Murad V was sultan before him, but in 1876 the council of ministers deposed him and put Abdul Hamid in his place. We cannot give a picture of the sultan or empress, from the fact that there are "so many of her," as Artemus Ward would say. Artemus was would be glad to do so. Quite an aside in this question, it is really worth while to perpetuate in civilized Europe such a barbarian and anarchism as Turkey, with its savage cruelties of government and the morals and manners of King Solomon's time. To the prejudicial eye it really seems small business for Christian England and Germany to be bolstering up herens and polygamy, and eunuchs and bastinadoing and other abominations.

The Porte appeals to the powers to see that the provisions of the Berlin treaty, giving it the sovereignty over Eastern Roumelia, are carried out. But the Porte has lived long enough. Better let it go. It is a blot on Christian Europe, anyhow. JOHN STREXOR.

BUILDING THE TAY CANAL.

THE WORK AS IT PROCEEDS—WORKING ALL WINTER.

Along the line of the Tay Canal evident progress is seen. The lower lock at Beveridge's Bay is progressing rapidly, and is expected to be finished in about one month's time. These locks and Downson's is nearly completed; and at the latter point the dredge is at work, above the excavation cleaning out the channel. This rock excavation here runs a length of 3,000 feet, and at the land side a fine wall of rip-rap protects the bank the whole distance from any filling up. At Williams, 1,800 feet of rock requires excavation and about half of this is done. Another three weeks will see this completed. About 45 men, all told, are engaged here. The dredge is preparing to cut its way through the soft bank of land between Downson's and Williams and these locks and Downson's is nearly completed; and at the latter point the dredge is at work, above the excavation cleaning out the channel. 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