

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

Preparations of the Turks for War.

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CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 10.

From the late momentous events and the agitation of the public mind on the questions involving the very existence of the Empire, it might be supposed that petitions, public meetings, crowds in the streets gathered round fanatical orators, and even riots, would have followed in the natural course of things; and such would, doubtless, have been the case in any European capital. Hitherto, however, any observer might have traversed the most frequented haunts of the city without seeing any change from the state of things which existed last year at this time. Such, however, is not the case since the issue of the manifesto; still, in the midst of a population aroused to war, no lawless act whatever is heard of. European travelers, with their wives and daughters, walk fearlessly about the bazaars; nor have we to record a single instance of insult to a Christian, either native or foreigner. It is well known that Turkey has required no little to arouse her martial spirit. Aggressions, insults, and actual violation of territory took place ere war was talked of, or anything elicited beyond the deprecatory notes of REDSCHID PASHA. From all appearances, it will now be as difficult to allay the dangerous ardor that has taken hold of the population. A stranger cannot walk through the streets without seeing the most evident signs of war. Troops of the line are marching and countermarching; steamers are daily embarking men, horses, and baggage. The narrow streets and ricketty wooden houses tremble to the roll of heavy ordnance dragged over rugged pavement. But these are the preparations of the Government, the mustering of the organized forces of regular warfare. Besides all this, we see the numerous volunteer corps of citizens arming themselves to resist their northern foe. The firemen of Stamboul—as stout, active, and rough a set of men as any city could furnish—march past, armed with heavy axes and pistols, much like the ancient janissaries. Troops of lazy apprentices, joined with gray-bearded and respectable shopkeepers, who have buckled on their fathers' or grandfathers' swords, and burnished up some ancient firelock, are repairing to the Seraskier to tender their services, while rude Turcoman shepherds, from the mountains of Anatolia, armed to the teeth, are seen gazing with stupid wonder on the strange city life into which they are introduced for the first time. Bodies of irregular horsemen, Kurdish, Turcoman, and Arab freebooters, whose costumes and arms are those of the middle ages, are from time to time observed following some bearded warrior, the barbaric grandeur of whose arms and dress mark him as the chief of a clan. Those who have traveled the length and breadth of the Turkish Empire, and who fancied they could recognize its various tribes and peoples, are now at fault, since the alarm of war has called from unknown solitudes, tribes of whose existence we were ignorant. The other day a troop of strange people from a far country appeared, whose arms were scimitars and bows and arrows; they were clothed in loose white garments and peaked caps, probably from some remote valley of Daghestan or Northern Kurdistan. How far such savages will be of service or otherwise I leave to military men to determine. It would appear that Turkey will have ample means to meet the irregular force of Russia, though the regular cavalry of the latter is vastly superior.

MEHEMED ALI, the Seraskier, has promised an addition of 100,000 disciplined Rediff in Asia, and 60,000 in Roumelia. On the 6th, 1,537 troops arrived from Beyrout by the *Medjidié* steamer, part of the "ordon," or *corps d'armée*, of Syria. About 8,000 more were expected from the same place. On the same day, the steamer *Shaiki-Shadi* brought from Tripoli 1,857 troops of the line.

About 1,700 troops are just embarking for Trebizond. A steamer is now at Varna waiting for the answer of Gen. GORTSCHAKOFF to the summons he has received to quit the Ottoman territory. In the event of the answer being negative, the Captain has instructions to proceed at once to Batoun, to order the commencement of hostilities. Six frigates are sent to defend the latter port. About the 25th of this month, the term given to Gen. GORTSCHAKOFF expires.

The old Admiral, ACHMED PASHA, has gone into the Black Sea with a squadron, composed of four frigates, a corvette, a brig, and a steamer, with a double allowance of captains and lieutenants, in order to practice evolutions and gunnery.

An ancient custom requires the Sultan to march to battle against the infidel at the head of his sacred troops. This custom has degenerated into a fiction. In accordance with it, however, the Padishah is preparing to quit his palace, and during the war he will inhabit the kiosk at Therapia, which his father MAHMOUND occupied during the late Russian war, and which is being prepared for his reception, and is, we may add, vastly more comfortable than the tent of his great ancestor, SULEIMAN the Magnificent.

It is said that the Turks are about to, or have already applied for a loan in London of 500,000 purses, or £2,500,000 sterling, at the enormous interest of 10 per cent. The late affair of the loan has given a bad name to Ottoman credit, and we think undeservedly so, since all claims connected with the late affair have been honestly paid.

Accounts from Bucharest speak of the frightful mortality of the Russian troops from typhus fever. The houses used as hospitals are being constantly changed in order to mitigate the infection, from which about ten per cent. fall victims. This has always been the scourge of an invading Russian army in Turkey and may be traced to the bad clothing and food of these wretched troops, joined to the fatigue they are so ill able to support, with, perhaps, the change of climate.

A new Greek Patriarch has been elected in place of the late one, deceased; his name is ANTHEMOS, and he formerly worthily filled the same post, but being of too liberal and reforming a spirit, he lost his place through Russian intrigue.