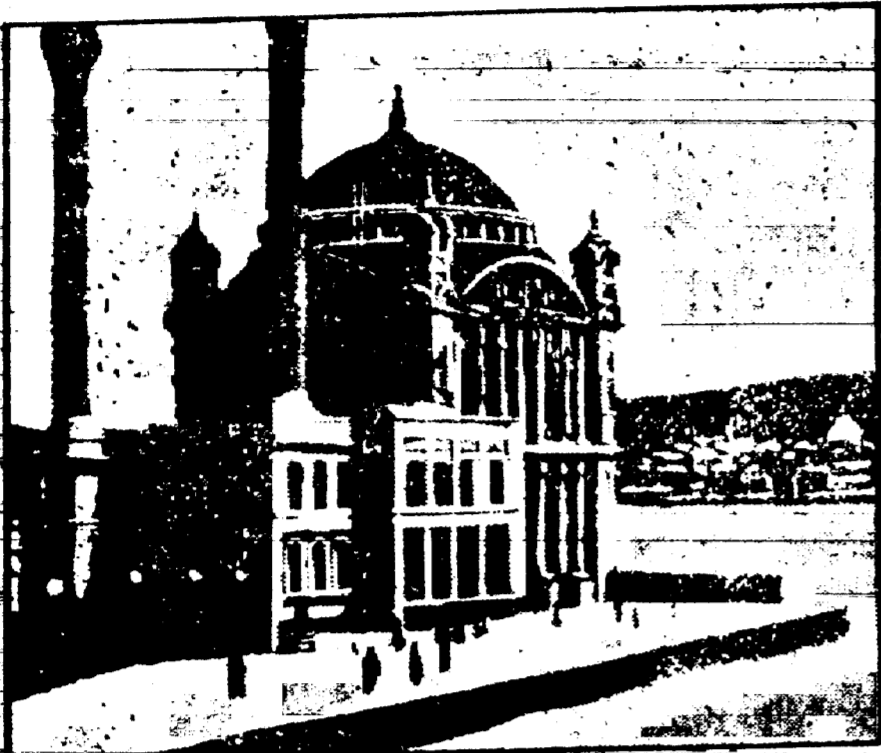


ABDUL HAMID NEAR DEATH

Sultan and His Advisers Seeking an Acceptable Successor to the Turkish Throne.



Mosque of the Sultan at Constantinople.

Constantinople.—His majesty, Sultan Abdul Hamid II, Zil Ullah, the Shadow of God, is near death in Yildiz kiosk, the "Palace of the Star." "The sick man of Europe" at last is serious. It is beyond the shadow of a doubt. His loyal partisans have sought to deny the rumors to this effect which have been current during the last month, but it is now ascertained on reliable authority that the sultan's death may be expected at any time. He has had periods of improvement, but from each of these he has relapsed until he himself at last fully realizes that his days are numbered. His complete understanding of the gravity of his state of health is being made apparent in the most interesting indications that he is bending the last of his failing energies in an effort to secure as his successor one who will follow out his policy. He is said to consider the heir presumptive, his brother, Mohammed Reza, to be too liberal, which view is supported by the adherents of the policies which have made the sultan the most troublesome monarch of Europe.

White grave councils are being held between the sultan and his trusted entourage. It is also said that a plot is being perfected in the palace in which Abdul Hamid's advisers and the religious chiefs of the Mohammedans are conspiring at the disinheritance of Mohammed Reza, who will, if these plans materialize, be declared incapacitated by illness from succeeding to the throne and the sultan.



Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of Turkey.

therefore, will proclaim his seventh son, Mohammed Burhan-Eddine, to be his successor. The latter is said to be in complete accord with his father's policy, which the reformers claim would mean a continuation of the present regime of terror and massacre.

Liberal Policy Scouted.

That there is considerable foundation for the belief that Turkey is in reality undergoing a regime of terror cannot be gainsaid. That the sultan himself is responsible for this or even desires it in the furtherance of his own ends is a question about which it is not safe to hazard too positive a statement. The sultan's policy has unquestionably been one of hostility to Christians, but contrary to the general belief he has been too sagacious to urge or even to countenance, except by his powerful weapon of silence, the overt acts which have been committed by the Moslems against those of other religions who have sought to convert his people from their faith, a faith, indeed, wherein rests the power of the sultan and the continuation of his regime.

While undoubtedly the succession of a ruler more liberal in his ideas than Abdul Hamid has been or than his favorite son would be might work out for the good of the outside world, what bearing it might have upon Turkey might be for the opposite. Abdul Hamid has been, despite the general opinion held of him throughout Europe and in America, the real autocrat of Europe. It is not beyond belief that the pursuance of a more liberal policy on his part would have resulted long ago in the loss of his kingdom and the partition of Turkey. Unrest in Islam.

To the watchful observer of affairs in the nearer east it is not at all surprising to find that a certain amount of disturbance should have become manifest of late in the Islamic world. As yet there is no great danger to be apprehended from it, as it is more spasmodic than general, and in existing circumstances each incident may be easily dealt with. Moreover, it is far from the desire of the sagacious ruler of Turkey to see the forces of Islam in array against those of Christianity. Relatively unimportant, however, as may be the unrest in Islam at the present time, it is likely to increase in intensity and possibly occasion great trouble later, on unless some change be brought about in the attitude of the western world toward Turkey and its ruler.

It is while facing this grave crisis that the sultan, who has in a brief time raised himself and his empire to a commanding position in Europe, has been stricken with an illness that will undoubtedly result in his death in the not distant future. Under such circumstances the sultan and his advisers are particularly interested in preparing for the succession by having at hand a man who will carry out the ideas of the present ruler, both as regards the political and religious future of the country. These advisers, prone from experience to distrust the majority of the nations which are supposed to stand for liberty, are averse to having their physical ruler and their spiritual leader a man incapacitated by illness or susceptible through outside influence to that mysterious something called progression, which, exploited as it has been by missionaries backed by warships and guns, they have grown to distrust.

Abdul's Policy Popular.

The religion of the Mohammedan is dearer to him than is the religion of the average Christian. To him the efforts of the missionaries who have come to sell him that he and his fathers have generations ago decidedly objectionable the more so that when he has resented the offensiveness of fanatical Christians he has been menaced by Christian powder and ball. He cannot reconcile the spirit of humility which the Christian missionaries profess to teach with the warlike attitude they provoke when he himself displays his own brand of religious fanaticism.

The attitude of Abdul Hamid was understood by those who recognize him as their ruler and their religious leader—the embodiment of God. They want when Abdul Hamid passes to his reward to be ruled and guided by a man who will respect the traditions of their faith. They want no weakening, and whatever his environment has compelled the present sultan to be at times in the past his activity in the more recent years has convinced his followers that he is a man of power.

THIS DOG CHEWS TOBACCO.

Pet of Railroad Men Lives High and Has Odd Traits.

Mounds, Ill.—At Illinois Junction, a small telegraph office 50 feet in the air on the long Cairo bridge, just south of this city, there lives a little spotted dog, known as "Old Timer." She was brought up to this office a year ago and but once has she been down from the bridge since. She will walk over the Cairo bridge a dozen times a day, and should she hear a train coming across the bridge, she will try and make it to the office. Should this be impossible, she will get out to one side and lay down until the train passes her.

"Old Timer" is a tobacco chewer. She will take a chew of tobacco any time, and, after chewing it awhile, will swallow it, then look wistfully for another chew. This has often been doubted, but it is a fact. "Old Timer" has a good many friends among the railroad men. She is well taken care of by those who know her.

IN MEMORY OF PITT.

Blackfriars-Bridge Intended to Commemorate His Achievements.

How many of the guests at the Pitt centenary dinner could have correctly answered the question: Where is Pitt's bridge, and why was it so named? asks the London Chronicle. Blackfriars bridge was intended to commemorate the achievements of the elder Pitt, whose famous son—the theme of the night's oratory—was born in the year of the bridge's inception. On a tin plate on the foundation stone of the bridge the eighteenth century constructors carved their emotions in lofty language. "That there may remain to posterity a monument of this city's affection to the man who, by the strength of his genius, the steadiness of his mind and a kind and happy contagion of his probity and spirit, under the divine favor and fortunate auspices of George III., recovered, augmented, and secured the British empire in Asia, Africa and America, and restored the ancient reputation and influence of his country among the nations of Europe, the citizens of London have unanimously voted this bridge to be inscribed with the name of William Pitt."

HIS DEBUT IN SOCIETY.

Important Announcement Put Forth by Editor.

An Arkansas City editor makes this announcement: "In order to break into society—without being compelled to lay myself liable for using a Jimmy—I beg to announce that I have lately received permission from the College of Heraldry to use my ancestral coat of arms. The device is very beautiful, consisting of a jackrabbit rampant spitting in the face of a bulldog couchant, on a shield quartered green, yellow, red and blue white. The green is emblematic of the color of my forefathers, the yellow of that of my mother, and the blue of that of my father. It is common at times and upon occasions, that I am told I am a little in the eye and what I use to pay 15 cents a drink for, and the white is emblematic of my bankbook at present and my intentions all the time, the whole surmounted by a crown of lambrequets green and three green onions. The motto is, 'In hoc fricasse,' meaning, 'my great grandfather was one of the 3,000 or 4,000 ragged Continentals who crossed the Delaware in the snow-belt with Washington. I might also add that my wife is distantly related to Lord Nelson, whose father was one of the best section bosses on the road from Cork to Dublin. Look out for my coming out function.—New York Tribune.

Where Colors Come From.

The cochineal bug furnishes many of the most brilliant colors, including the bright carmine, crimson, purple lake, and scarlet. The cuttlefish gives the sepia, and Indian yellow comes from the camel. Ivory chips produce ivory black and bone black, and the exquisite Persian blue was discovered accidentally by fusing horses' hoofs and other refuse animal matter with impure potassium carbonate. Crimson lake comes from the roots and barks of certain trees; blue-black from the charcoal of the vine; black from the madder plant found in Hindustan; India ink is made from burned camphor by the Chinese.—The Sunday Magazine.

Sharp But Not Clever.

A London scientist says that life in a metropolis makes young children sharp, but not clever; that it often destroys their chance of ever being clever, for it hastens the development of the brain unnaturally; it makes them superficial, alert, but not observant; excitable, but without one spark of enthusiasm; they are apt to grow blasé, fickle, discontented; they see more things than the country-bred child, but not such interesting things; they do not properly see anything, for they have neither the time nor capacity to get at the root of all the bewildering objects that crowd themselves into their little lives.

Fright Causes Drowning.

If a spectator would shout encouragement to a drowning or frightened bather it would have a good effect, for it will sometimes give him a little backbone, and that's all he needs. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred all the trouble is caused by fright. The swimmer is not even exhausted, and with an encouraging word he will start to swim again if in his fright he has not swallowed too much water. Even if a poor swimmer would only go near to a man in trouble and talk to him without trying to take hold, this would often tide him over his panic.

World's Favorite Fruit.

It is estimated by those who know that the apple is the favorite fruit of the world, but whether favorite or not, it is eaten more than any other fruit. When William the Conqueror went from Normandy to England, among the many good things he did was to have large orchards planted wherever he and his followers settled, and these orchards consisted principally of apples, the fine quality that grew so abundantly in France.

Whiz.

The Chauffeur (examining his watch)—The machine went over a mile the last minute. The Timid Passenger—I went over my whole life.—Smart Set.

TRUTH WAS OUT OF PLACE.

Insane Man Sure It Was Not Wanted in Paris Law Courts.

The Paris law courts witnessed a strange spectacle yesterday evening. One of the officials, after the day's business was over, was astounded to see approaching him in a corridor a man who was quite naked, and who carried his clothes under his arm. "I am Truth," explained the apparition, "as you see by my costume. I understand that truth is sought in the Dreyfus case. Will you take me to the Court of Cassation?" The official was about to lead him to the chief of police office, when the man exclaimed, "You cannot deceive Truth. The name of the police office is written over the door. Ah! Truth is not wanted here," he cried, and was in the act of flinging himself through a window, when the official caught him by the left leg, as somebody once caught Old Harry Longlegs, who would not say his prayers. Then the official gave himself up to the spirit of his visitant's madness, offered to show him the court, but took him instead down a staircase to the stores department, where he was cared for till the police arrived.—London Globe.

TRIUMPHED EVEN OVER DEATH.

Remarkable Deed Ascribed to Austrian Bandit of 1680.

Dr. Loye tells the following strange story, taken from the archives of an Austrian police officer, and relating to an execution said to have taken place in Vienna in 1680: A well-known bandit named Schavenburg was caught, together with four of his associates, and they were all condemned to death. They were already on their knees, ready to submit to their fate, when Schavenburg addressed the judge, asking that his four companions might be ranged in single file in front of him at a distance of eight feet from each other. "If," he said, "after I am beheaded, I get up and walk to the first of my comrades, will you pardon him?" The judge thought he was pretty safe in complying with the request. "But if I walk up to the second, the third, and the fourth, will you pardon those also?" The judge replied that he would obtain their pardon from the emperor. The bandit was satisfied, bent his head, received the mortal blow, and his head rolled down; but to the great surprise of the judge and the spectators, the body got up, walked alone, passed the first, second, third and fourth of the condemned men, and fell down. The occurrence was told to the emperor, who, according to promise, pardoned the four criminals.

California Recovering.

California bank deposits amount to \$30,000,000 and the banks in which they are held are credited with assets of \$693,000,000. The loss suffered by San Francisco, by the earthquake and fire, was unequalled by any similar catastrophe in the history of the world, but despite its magnitude, some of its appalling force is lost in the contemplation of the financial showing made by the entire state. There is great promise of large crops of grain and fruits, the mines and oil wells are turning out new wealth more rapidly than ever before, and if the insurance companies would pay up their losses and the straggling soldiers return to work at the highest wages ever paid for similar employment, the Bay City would blossom into its old-time splendor at a rate that would astound the world.

"Boys Will Be Boys."

"There were a couple of old forty-niners down in Tombstone, Ariz.," said a tourist the other day, "who were great friends. One of them was 80 years old and the other 81. They were taking their morning toddy one day and fell into a disagreement over the date of some pioneer occurrence. Each was insistent upon his own recollection of it, and finally they got into a regular quarrel. Backing away from the bar, they drew their guns and blazed away at each other, but their sight was so dim and their hands went wide. When their guns were emptied the barkeep emerged from beneath the counter and made them shake hands and make up. The local paper, in describing the occurrence, treated it in an indulgent vein and closed by saying: 'Well, boys will be boys.'"

South Africa's Great Men.

Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Beit were equally unromantic. A great scheme of Rhodes was once collapsing when Werner and Beit came to the rescue and saved it. Beit for his firm—Werner & Beit—took up the obligations. Rhodes said simply: "That's all right," but the following day, as Beit and he stood together at the bar in the Kimberley club, he abruptly asked the steward for half a dozen promissory note forms, signed them in blank and stuffed them into Beit's pocket, saying: "You backed me. If things go wrong, you'll want mine, too." In the success the notes were forgotten by both and were handed back some six months later.

The Best Hamlet.

In his first success at Drury Lane, Edmund Kean overheard a knot of old stage carpenters discussing vigorously the various players of Hamlet; they had seen in their day. "Well," said one, "you may talk of Henderson and Kemble and all this new man, but give me Bannister's Hamlet—he was always done 20 minutes sooner than any of 'em."

QUIPS FROM THE PROFESSOR.

Two Points Scored in Humorous but Effective Manner.

"You don't seem to understand," blustered the man who was trying to make his point with a university professor. "I tell you, sir, I ought to know, I'm an alumnus of this institution myself." "Are you?" That's nothing singular," was the witty rejoinder, uttered so quietly that the blustering man never knew what had happened, says the Youth's Companion. On another occasion the same professor, having ordered from a music publishing house a copy of a "Valse Impromptu" by a certain French composer, received an "Impromptu Waltz" by another man. The publishers, when called to account for their mistake, replied rather insolently that they had been in the music publishing business a long time, and had yet to discover the difference between a "Valse Impromptu" and an "Impromptu Waltz." Would Dr. Smith kindly state to them that difference? "Gentlemen," wrote the genial professor in answer. "I have not, like yourselves, been in the music publishing business, and am therefore not fully qualified to inform you; but since, in your extremity, you have appealed to me, I would venture to suggest that the difference between a 'Valse Impromptu' and an 'Impromptu Waltz' may be similar to the difference between a blind Venetian and a Venetian blind."

England Has Largest Eggs.

"Egg cups are bigger in New York than anywhere else in the world except England," said a globe trotter. "I can't say the same for the eggs, although the hens in this part of the country perform their duty of helping to feed the human race pretty creditably. Still, they cannot come up to the English hens. Their contribution to the food products are extraordinary in size, hence the corresponding capacity of the egg cups. The further south you go on the continent, the smaller the egg cups grow. In Egypt they dwindle away to the size of the average Humbug. The relative proportions are commensurate with the size of the eggs, however, which are the smallest laid by self-respecting hens any place on earth. Place an ordinary Egyptian egg in the British cup and it is absolutely lost. In order that eggs may be decapitated gracefully the authorities at Alexandria have given orders for the importation of special and extra cups to fit the native eggs."

Skeptical.

There was elected to the city council of Chicago a year or two ago a politician of local note by reason of his frank and absolute cynicism frequently expressed, with reference to reform in politics. For reformers, as a class, the cynical Chicagoan had only a contemptuous, but good-natured, jest.

It is said that on the occasion of the retirement of a federal office holder, an Illinois man who had long fed at the public crib, some one had observed to the councilman that the office holder in question was reported to have resigned for the reason that he had tired of politics and of office. "After all," said the friend, "Blank's a pretty fine sort. Great church member. He says that he will devote the remainder of his life to doing good." "That so?" lazily asked the councilman. "Who's this fine Good?"

He Had Them All Picked.

A prominent Mississippi man was having the old man's coat made, and while the best old man was left behind to level it off in the bins. The lady noticed his worn and heated condition, and, calling him, gave him a nice large cool drink and something to eat with it. When the old man had finished with this, he said to the lady: "Thank you kindly, ma'am. If I was treated like this at every place, it's another house I would have."

As she was judging from outside appearance, the good woman was a little surprised. "Why," said she, "do you own a house now?" "I do, ma'am," he answered; "I own four," and, with the characteristic frankness of his race, added: "And I've a daughter in college and a son in jail."—Boston Herald.

A Valuable Witness.

A southern lawyer tells of a case that came to him at the outset of his career, wherein his principal witness was a ducky named Jackson, supposed to have knowledge of certain transactions not at all to the credit of his employer, the defendant. "Now, Jackson," said the lawyer, "I want you to understand the importance of telling the truth when you are put on the stand. You know what will happen, don't you, if you don't tell the truth?" "Yassir," was Jackson's reply, "if dat case I expects our side will win de case."—Harper's Magazine.

Both of Them.

"Ah! my pretty pippin," said the impudent traveler, approaching the inn door, while his companion tied their horse to the hitching post. "I suppose you furnish accommodations here for man and beast?" "Certainly," replied the inn keeper's pretty daughter, "come in and tell the man to come in, too."

An Ounce of Prevention.

Harry—Whisky is said to be a good antidote for snake bites, isn't it? Jack—Don't know. I find it an excellent preventive.—Somerville Journal.

THE VICE OF GENERALIZING.

Habit All Too General and Influential, Says Writer.

"According to Rupert Hughes, writing in Harper's Weekly, the habit of generalizing from single sentences is far too general and influential. One would think, from some of the generalizations, he says, that the monopolists of money, for example, had also monopolized wickedness. "Yet the news of the day will tell of preachers caught in plagiarism or adultery, of druggists selling poisoned soda water, of bakers vending unclean bread, of theological students cheating." Each trade, he says, has its graft. The fact is that "drawing indictments against classes is as insane and illogical as drawing indictments against nations." There are burglars who are chaste, and persons who are sots; there are rich women who are nuns of asceticism, and poor women who are so viliy extravagant as to bankrupt their ditch-digging keepers; there are poets who are domestic models, and plumbers who are overworked; there are rich men who volunteer, and poor men lazy enough to beg; there are millionaires' sons who are normal and athletic, and soft-made men who are degenerate, there are robust athletes who are abnormal, and cigarette fiends who are leaders of progress; there are Sicilians who never saw a dagger and Puritans who seek vendetta with a knife or with poison; there are policemen who would reject a bribe, and senators who are devoted to their country; there are chorus girls of unimpeached repute, and Sunday school teachers who commit infanticide.—Exchange.

ONE MOMENT OF DELIGHT.

When American Woman Got Even with Nagging Britishers.

"I don't remember," said the woman, who has traveled a little, "will agree with Bishop Potter that there is very little good will exhibited toward Americans in England. I don't remember, with any truth, that I got even with them once for eight months of nagging at our nation and customs. It was on a Fourth of July. We were on our balcony in Times square, watching some Americans start off in a coach with great cracking of whips and fire of crackers and flourish of flags. "Aw, don't you know" asked an Englishman who stood by me. "What are they making all that noise for? What is it—or that they are celebrating, I should like to ask?" "They are celebrating the day we kicked you, said I."

No More Sevres Graft in France.

The British commission has decided to abolish the famous "bons de Sevres" M. Caillaux, president of the commission, states that this decision has been arrived at owing to the frequent abuse of these tickets. The famous china has, in fact, come to be regarded as a convenient form of currency in transactions to which it would not always be convenient to give a name. An article to be compiled by a politician to be placed for services in the past or for possible in the future, received orders on the great national porcelain factory. In late years the practice has reached the dimensions of a scandal, so marked that the management of the factory has at last taken heart of grace to stop it. Henceforward the establishment will not in any circumstances pass with goods except against cash.—Paris Edition of London Mail.

Polonius' Advice a Hoax.

A certain Chicago manufacturer has issued a terrible warning to the gay and festive clerks who pass the majority of their spare time in devising ways and means whereby they may the more gorgeously adorn their manly figures. This manufacturer entered his office the other day just as one of his clerks was coming out. In the clerk's hand was a small case and on his finger glittered a diamond ring, and his raiment was such as to make Solomon turn in his grave with envy. The employer noted the dazzling creature and then made his way to the cashier's office and inquired what salary the young man was getting. "Twelve dollars a week," replied the cashier. "Cut it down to \$10, the fellow dresses better than I do," was the terse response.

Cold Storage for Hay Fever.

Here is a cure for hay fever that may not come too late for the susceptible victim of that fell malady. The Hospital relates that a gentleman who was suffering from hay fever happened one summer to spend two hours in the refrigerating hold of a steamer. This cured him and he had no further attack that summer. As a remedy, "cold storage" has objections, but there are victims who would even be cured at the expense of a frozen foot or fingers, and at any rate the idea is refreshing. Three of us who enjoy novelty, and always the "last thing," might rub for the refrigerator the instant we begin to feel that hay sneezing coming on.

Faint.

"I understand you've got a call to a distant church?" "Yes, you might call it a call." "What's the salary?" "One thousand a year." "That's no call. That's just a white per."—Houston Post.