

the requisite qualities for turning it to the real and lasting advantage of the Empire.

For thirty-one years Abd-ul-Hamid has been assiduously occupied in poisoning the Turkish race, the ruling element of the Empire, so as to dispose of it at will. The process seemed to make terrific progress. In the opinion of most people, and the writer owns to having been one of the number, the crowned conspirator of Yildiz had succeeded in gangrening the whole mass of his congeners. It looked so. But it was not the case, and, on reflection, it will be found that it could not be. To transform the character of a body of 15,000,000 men having secular traditions to fall back upon is beyond the power of any human being, however great his genius for good or for evil. What Abd-ul-Hamid did accomplish was to increase enormously among the educated classes of his people the tendency to subordinate public to private interest which has been such a marked characteristic of their history for the last two centuries or more. But, in proportion as through this process he reduced them to the condition of servile instruments of his will, he raised their pride and patriotism in regard to the outer world so as to have a complementary national chord to play upon. Now, public corruption can benefit only a limited number of members of a State community—less and less each year with the reduction of revenues brought about by that very corruption. In course of time, when the spies of Abd-ul-Hamid and the other creatures of his policy numbered not hundreds but thousands, the share of each in the imperial munificence and the spoils of the Empire decreased, and finally the vast majority of this army of evil found itself similarly situated to the honourably disposed among the nation, that is to say, badly and irregularly paid and enjoying as little liberty and peace as the others, the suspicions of the master weighing upon all indiscriminately. What had those gained who had sold their souls to Abd-ul-Hamid? With the exception of an infinitesimal minority, which succeeded in accumulating wealth, nothing. On the other hand, Turkish patriotism and pride, purposely exasperated by Abd-ul-Hamid, opened its eyes and realised that he was the prime cause of the humiliations heaped upon the Empire. A reaction set in which considerably purified and chastened Turkish officialdom in thought and intention, if not in action, which was impossible because one must live. This process has been going on for at least ten years, and has developed a tremendous yearning for reform among all ranks. At the same time the admirable qualities of the Turkish masses which Abd-ul-Hamid could not reach have remained untouched, while a true appreciation of what constituted the source of their misfortunes succeeded their former blindness. These circumstances are sufficient guarantees of the depth of feeling which has produced the Revolution. As to the ability of the Turks to utilise it for the real and permanent good of the Empire, I would point out that they are an extremely

intelligent and well-poised race, whose long imperial career further prepares them for the work of reform. They have given a very substantial promise of this in the extremely practical and sound way in which they have started operations. Abd-ul-Hamid, whose very genius has been his undoing as autocrat, realises this better than anybody else. Hence the certainty that he does not entertain plans for the restoration of his power, and the advantage for the country of maintaining him in his new capacity, from which it may expect great benefits.

These are the reasons for my optimism concerning the Turkish Revolution. Of course, time has to prove that I am right before the consequences I have announced, and especially those concerning Egypt, take place.

Long live Turkey !

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(late Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in Washington).



