

## Bulgaria and the Turk

It was the year 1855 that Bulgaria threw off the yoke that bound her as a subject nation and re-established herself as an independent kingdom; for the next two hundred years Bulgarian history shows a succession of struggles with the Greeks, Servians and Hungarians, of internal wars for possession of the throne, and of religious disturbances. During the fourteenth century the Turks, flushed with victory, invaded the Balkan peninsula and under Amurath I. captured Tirnovo, imprisoned Ivan III. the last Bulgarian Tsar and thus destroyed the Bulgarian hegemony. The Bulgarian language was at that time driven out of the schools and churches, their ancient literature was to a large extent destroyed and for almost five centuries the Bulgarian people groaned under the Political yoke of the Turk; yet continuous persecution did not avail to obliterate the memory of the nation's former greatness.

But the nineteenth century was destined to bring liberty to the Bulgar as well as to other christian peoples of the Balkan peninsula. The year 1876 was yet young when the Bulgarians rose in rebellion against their Turkish oppressors, and then it was that the Turk armed those lawless and frantic peoples, the Circassians and Bashî-Bazouks and sent them into Bulgaria not alone to put down rebellion, but if possible to exterminate the whole race.

From the reports of the English consul Reade, the object of the Turk was to authorize wholesale massacres, so as to cut off the Bulgarian nation root and branch, and so well did these peoples succeed in the task allotted to them, that Massulmans were heard boasting in a Cafe "that even the schoolboys had killed their five or six Bulgarians." So inhuman were these reported atrocities that the London Daily News, informed of what was going on, dispatched a special commissioner to investigate the facts on the spot. The gentleman selected was Mr. J. A. MacGahan, who is described as a man of good judgment and unfailing

accuracy; and whose pen while picturesque, never was tempted into the least sacrifice of fact to effect. And what was the story Mr. MacGahan had to tell?

He had to tell that sixty or seventy villages had been burned; that thousands of people had been slaughtered; and that a large number of those dead were women and children; that bodies of men were flung to the dogs; that the women and even the little children were subject to the vilest outrages; and that all these outrages were committed without anything like real provocation on the part of the Bulgarians.

The slaughter inflicted by these savage Circassians was beyond belief; Bulgaria was subjected to horrors which were, if such be possible, worse than the German treatment of Belgium. Such then was the good-fellowship that the Turk as overlord showed towards the Bulgarians, and can you not picture the fate of Bulgaria, had not the nations of Europe stepped in and declared her a free country? Bulgaria, remembering those wrongs perpetrated by the Turk, joined the Balkan league and waged war against him and would have brought Turkish rule in Europe to an end, had not her greed for territory overcome her self-respect.

That hatred towards Turkey still remains in the heart of the Bulgar, but German bribes and Turkish promises have so blinded the Nation's honor, that she enters into this war as an ally of the country that would have wiped out her national existence and left her people without home or country.

Such is the greed and ambitions of some nations that they would sacrifice their people, national security, and above all their honor for the sake of a paltry bribe of gold and a promise of extension of territory.

R. R. S. '16.

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Never let your zeal outrun your charity; the former is but human the latter is divine.