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The Daily Record

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CONSTANTINOPLE ABLAZE.

TERRIBLE BATTLE IN THE STREETS.

The following telegrams indicate that Sultan Abdul Hamit is still in imminent peril, and any hour may see him deprived of his throne, if not of his life. The calm of the past week now proves to have been a portent of the coming storm. The Young Turk Committee are complete masters of the situation, and upon them depends the decision as to whether the Sultan shall be dethroned or not.

Constantinople, Saturday morning.

The troops forming the Sultan's bodyguard at the Yildiz Kiosk have surrendered to the besieging army, and the Sultan is thus left without any armed defenders. The Macedonian army is marching into the capital. Although gun and rifle fire has been heard since early this morning, it is not believed that the Constantinople garrison is offering serious resistance, as they know that drastic punishment will follow if many of the Committee's men are killed. Major Enver Bey, former Military Attaché in Berlin, has detailed a company of infantry to guard each Embassy and Ministry. Panic prevails in Constantinople.

Salonika, April 24.

Mahmud Shewket Pasha and the members of Parliament, after a conference with Prince Reschad Effendi and the Ulemas, have decided to forward a demand to Sheik ul Islam that Prince Reschad be proclaimed Sultan. The crisis is expected to reach a head at midnight in the Yildiz. The secret session at San Stefano yesterday resulted in a unanimous decision to forcibly occupy the Imperial palace and dethrone Abdul Hamid. Since daybreak there has been an incessant fusillade of big guns and rifles from the direction of the Yildiz Kiosk, where it is possible that the Palace guard is making a stand against the Committee's troops.

Constantinople, Saturday afternoon.

The Young Turk army entered the city this morning, and since then fierce fighting has been going on near the German Embassy. Major Enver Bey is leading the attackers. The roar of big guns and heavy rifle fire is incessant, and the Macedonian troops are appearing to encounter stubborn resistance. The large artillery barracks at Pera have surrendered. Absolute panic reigns among the people. Some soldiers who attempted to escape into the French hospital were shot down in dozens at the door by the Macedonians. Every shop is closed and traffic is at a standstill. Many non-combatants have been wounded, including the correspondent of the New York Sun, who was struck by a bullet while in the act of taking a photograph.—(Later.) The battle is still raging, but one section of the besieging army has reached the Yildiz, and the commander has entered the palace. The Taxim barracks are the scene of the hottest fighting, as the occupants refuse to submit. The great Pera road is crowded with troops, and the fighting is of the most sanguinary description. Many civilians have been killed and wounded. Both sides are freely

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using machine guns. The ironclads of the fleet are lying with their big guns trained on the Sultan's palace. At the present stage it is impossible to know what is taking place in the Yildiz, and whether the Sultan is in danger.

DIPLOMACY AND THE NEWSPAPERS.

New York, April 23.

The German Ambassador, Count Bernstorff, was among the distinguished guests and speakers at the annual dinner of the Associated Press and the American Newspaper Publishers Association which took place yesterday evening at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In the course of his speech, Count Bernstorff dwelt on the relations of the Press to diplomacy. The Press, he remarked, had generally freed diplomacy from the duty of reporting facts, so that diplomatists could confine themselves to expressing opinions on events that had occurred. In publishing their views on matters of international interest, diplomatists, like the Press, assumed a heavy responsibility, as the nations had very little exact knowledge of each other in spite of modern facilities of communication. Most people were accustomed to form their opinions on international questions from the telegrams of the foreign correspondents of their newspapers; for that reason he held the reporting of the representatives of the Associated Press abroad in high esteem, inasmuch as those gentlemen showed themselves to be impartial and well-informed.

Going on to speak of German-American relations, His Excellency said he had no occasion to be anxious about the foreign correspondents' reports, since the President of the United States had only a few weeks ago declared, in a letter to the editor of a German newspaper in New York, that it was a gratifying fact that the relations between Germany and America had never been more cordial than they are now. Referring in some detail to the history of those relations, and in particular to the highly beneficial efforts of Mr. Bancroft, the famous American historian and former Ambassador in Berlin, who was a friend of Prince Bismarck, Count Bernstorff quoted a letter written by that American statesman reporting a passage in a speech made by the Prince at a banquet held in Mr. Bancroft's house, in which the great Chancellor pointed out that the cordial agreement between the two countries so happily inaugurated by George Washington and Frederick the Great had never been marred by the slightest discord. Mr. Bancroft's example, said the Ambassador in conclusion, was one which the statesmen charged with the conduct of the relations between Germany and the United States would do well to follow.

THE KING OF ENGLAND.

Malta, April 24.

King Edward, Queen Alexandra, and the Dowager Empress of Russia, who have been staying at Malta for the last few days, will leave tomorrow (Sunday) on board the Royal yacht for an Italian harbour, which has not yet been definitely named pending notification from the King of Italy. The exact date and place of the meeting between King Edward and King Victor Emanuel will probably be announced today.

At the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, London, on Thursday afternoon, a service was held for the baptism of the infant son of the Hon. John Ward (Equerry to the King) and Mrs. Ward, the daughter of the American Ambassador in London. The sponsors were the King, who was represented by Lieut.-Colonel G. Holford, Sir Edward Grey, and Miss Kate Bryce, who was represented by Lady Mary Ward. The service was conducted by Canon Edgar Sheppard, Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal, and the names given to the infant were Edward John Sutton.

Among the congregation were the American Ambassador (Mr. Whitelaw Reid), the Countess of Granard, Lady Wolverton, Lady Herbert, and Georgina Countess of Dudley.

KING EDWARD'S GREETING TO MR. ROOSEVELT.

Mombasa, April 23.

The following message from King Edward was read at a dinner given at the club in honour of ex-President Roosevelt by Mr. F. J. Jackson, Acting Governor of the East Africa Protectorate:—"I bid you a hearty welcome to British East Africa, and trust you will have a pleasant time and meet with every success."

Mr. Jackson said that Mr. Roosevelt had left his big stick at home, and had come to use the rifle after seven strenuous years. He promised him an immense variety of game and good sport.

Mr. Roosevelt, on rising to reply, was enthusiastically received. He paid a high tribute to the British people for their energy and genius in civilising the uncivilised places of the earth. He was surprised at what he had heard of the progress of East Africa, but he warned the British that they could not expect to do in a short time what took America twenty generations. He emphasised the necessity of leaving local questions to the powers on the spot. How little the people at home knew of affairs abroad was instanced by the little that the people of the United States knew of the conditions in the Philippines. Mr. Roosevelt expressed great pleasure at being welcomed by a British warship. He believed in peace, but considered strength meant peace, and hoped that all great, straight nations would provide themselves therewith.

Before Mr. Jackson and Mr. Roosevelt and his party left for Kapiti the ex-President sent a telegram of thanks to King Edward for his Majesty's greetings.

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