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CONSTANTINOPLE FEARS A BOMBARDMENT.

As reported in our last issue, Constantinople was the scene of a terrible battle on Saturday morning, in which thousands of people were killed and wounded. The fighting lasted till a late hour in the evening, and dusk found the city completely in the hands of the Young Turk army. The Sultan is a prisoner in the Yildiz Kiosk, and between him and the gleaming bayonets of the victorious soldiers stands a minority of the Young Turks who are not in favour of encompassing his destruction. His Majesty's life is hanging by a thread, and any hour may bring news of his murder, or "removal" is perhaps the most diplomatic word. From our despatches it will be seen that the entire populace is against him. After more than thirty years of despotic rule Abdul Hamid today stands alone in his defeat. No friendly voice is raised in his behalf; on the other hand, the soldiers and the people are crying out for vengeance on the man whose latest unsuccessful coup has made the streets of Constantinople run red with blood.

DETAILS OF THE FIGHTING.

(FROM WOLFF'S PRIVATE CORRESPONDENT)

Constantinop'e, April 26. From the chaos of report and rumour brought about by the exciting occurrences of the weekend it is possible to gain few distinct impressions, but the following may be taken as an accurate survey of the fighting on Saturday: At 4.30 a.m. the Macedonian troops advanced in force against the arsenal situated on the eastern shore of the Golden Horn, captured this and then pressed on in the direction of the Yildiz and the War Academy at Pankaldi, which was occupied. The artillery barracks in the Taxim gardens then opened a furious fire on the Macedonian troops, and simultaneously the conflict spread to the Tashkishla and Matshka barracks, all of which places defended themselves vigorously. At 11 o'clock the Taxim and Matshka barracks surrendered, after being subjected to a deadly fire for several hours. The assault against the Tashkishla raged f.ercely, but the five battalions of infantry quartered there fought with equal fury, and repulsed attack after attack with a hail of bullets from their rifles and machine guns. When, finally, the barracks fell, more than half the garrison had been killed and wounded, while the attackers had suffered with equal severity. In Stamboul the Sublime Porte and the War Ministry were taken after a sharp fight; the Navy Arsenal at Tershane, whose garrison had so strongly protested their allegiance to the Sultan, was occupied with-out striking a blow, and the two barracks lying nearest the Yildiz were occupied with equal case, 17 guns falling into the hands of the besiegers. When evening fell all the barracks and military establishments, with the exception of the palace guard-house, had surrendered. The number of dead and wounded is estimated at over two thousand. The Macedonian troops lost particularly heavily owing to the treachery of the garrison. In many cases the white flag was hoisted over a building, and the Macedonians stopped firing and advanced to take possession, whereupon the garrison suddenly opened fire again point-blank into the approaching mass of men. All the doctors, chemists, and hospitals in Pera have placed themselves at the disposal of the victors.

THE SULTAN'S PALACE TO BE SHELLED?

Constantinople, April 26. The several thousand men comprising the garrison of the Selimieh barracks at Skutari are reported

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to have threatened an immediate bombardment of Pera should the Macedonians turn their guns on the Sultan's palace (Yildiz). This threat explains why the Yildiz has not yet been shelled by the victorious Young Turk troops.-(Later). The bombardment of the Vildiz was expected to commence at daybreak from the land side. There are still more than four thousand men in the palace, and these are determined to offer a strong resistance. Rumour says that the Sultan is ready to abdicate if his succession is secured to his favourite son, Prince Burhan-Eddin; otherwise he is determined to fight to the last. Firing was again heard last night, when a number of clericals were shot down by the soldiers for trying to spread sedition in the ranks. It is now known that a number of men from the Yildiz have succeeded in escaping with their weapons. In consequence, the city and environs have been declared in a state of siege, and everybody attempting to leave without a passport will be shot on sight. The various consulates have sent warnings to the foreign guests in the hotels not to promenade the streets after 8 p.m. The Sultan is still at the Yildiz, but there are no definite reports as to his condition. The Government is utterly disorganised. A military dictatorship has been set up by Mahmoud Pasha. The members of the National Assembly met yesterday and decided that the abdication of Sultan Abdul Hamid is absolutely imperative.

THE TRIUMPH OF THE YOUNG TURKS.

Constantinople, April 26. Yesterday afternoon the disembarkation of the Salonika troops commenced at Scutari, and proceeded in an orderly manner. A few people, inspired by the reactionaries, opened fire on the troops, who replied, killing and wounding several. Every store and office in Constantinople is shut. The greater part of the Sultan's soldiery has fled, while the rest are surrendering and giving up their weapons to the victors. Strong military patrols are seen everywhere in the city, and every disorderly outbreak is sternly repressed. Admiration is expressed on all hands at the marvellous organisation of the Macedonian troops. Immediately the first shot was fired on Saturday, guards were stationed at every Embassy and Ministry, commanded by French-speaking officers who assured the diplomatic representatives of their safety. These evidences of responsible control have had a calming effect, and the populace is much quieter than it has been for a long time. The Yildiz Kiosk is surrounded by artillery, and hundreds of frowning muzzles are pointed at the building. One word of command would cause the historic palace of the Sultan to crumble away into dust beneath the projectiles of the assembled batteries. Among the wounded non-combatants in Saturday's fighting is the Dragoman of the American Embassy and a sailor from one of the Italian war-

THE FRIENDLESS SULTAN.

Constantinople, April 26. It is now certain that most of the garrison of the Yildiz have given themselves up to the Macedonians. They emerged in small groups, and were at once seized, disarmed, examined, and conveyed

(Continued on page 4.)

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC BY AIRSHIP?

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, April 18. If the hopes of a few enterprising capitalists on this side of the water are realised, the near future will witness the inauguration of a regular airship service between the United States and Europe. Far from this being a vision conjured up by the fantastic brain of a Jules Verne or H. G. Wells, it is a practical proposition duly set forth and embodied in the prospectus of the Europe-America Aëro Navigation Company, a company which has already been incorporated under the laws of New York State. Apart from the general outline of the proposal contained in the official prospectus, complete secrecy prevails, and this fact lends colour to the popular belief that its promoters have in their possession plans and models of an airship whose capability, measured by existing flying machines and dirigibles, is unlimited. An airship service between seaports on the East Coast, such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, will shortly be opened under the auspices of the same company. Why then, ask the men who are financing this initial project, can we not extend the service across the Atlantic and compete with the steamship companies for a share of the golden harvest which

is every year garnered by them? A head office of the Europe-America Aero Navigation Company has already been established in New York, and agencies are now in process of creation in all parts of the world. It is proposed to erect stations for the Transatlantic airships at New York and a point on the Spanish coast. The company states that the aërial navigation of the Atlantic falls well within the range of probabilities, and a route will be taken that will ensure the utilisation of the trade winds to and fro. The idea is being rapidly extended, and the great demand for shares in the company proves that it is viewed with extreme favour by a large number of level-headed business men who are convinced of the enormous possibilities contained in the aërial era. It is, however, doubtful whether the service will be actually instituted before the coastwise airship service has been tried at some length, as useful experience is anticipated as a result of the less ambitious enterprise. There is reason to believe that the service between New York and Boston will be opened this summer. So far it is impossible to learn whether

there is any great demand for berths in the first airship de luxe.

BASTINADOED TO DEATH.

Paris, April 26. News arrives here from Fez that the Shereef Kittani, who was recently ordered to undergo 150 blows of the bastinado by Sultan Mulai Hafid, has succumbed as a result of the terrible punishment.

(The punishment of the bastinado is justly regarded throughout the East as lone of the most terrible tortures which the malevolent ingenuity of man has devised. The victim is forced into a recumbent position with his knees bent back, and his feet, soles upwards, are then strapped between two blocks of wood. The bastinado, usually two sticks of thin bamboo, is then applied to the soles of the feet, and the pain is so intense that the sufferer usually becomes mad. A dozen strokes are a terrible punishment, but the above sentence inflicted upon the unfortunate chief was tantamount to a sentence of death, as the result has proved:)

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