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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## TURKEY'S NEW ERA.

The long campaign waged between Abdul Hamid—representing the remnants of bloody misrule, archaic despotism, and government by backsheesh and bowstring—and the Young Turks—representing the spirit of liberty, constitutional reform, and the emancipation of the Ottoman subject—has been brought to a close by the decisive victory of Saturday and the final overthrow of Abdul. Providence has this time been on the side of the strongest battalions, and incidentally with the purer cause. Defeated, reprobated, and shunned, the deposed monarch has left Constantinople, drummed out by his disgusted subjects. His place is taken by his brother Mohammed Reshad, about whom little is known save that throughout his life he has abstained from the policy of sordid intrigue which directly brought about the ruin of his predecessor. Mohammed the Fifth ascends the throne at a moment charged with uncertainty. It will be his policy to justify by deeds the spontaneous ovation with which the people hailed his proclamation on Tuesday. It is certain that the least false step on his part will bring about a popular reaction. He can afford to take no risks in the present state of affairs, because the people know their strength, and will utilise it to see that they are no longer trodden into the dust at the whim of a tyrant.

It is easy to be wise after the event, and it is not surprising that people are everywhere taking credit to themselves for prophesying the deposition of Abdul Hamid. But has the expected happened? We think not? There was a general belief that he would weather the latest tempest and emerge triumphant in the end. No one who has followed the stormy narrative of Turkish history since the late Sultan's accession can deny that he was a worthy follower of the sanguinary tyrants who exploited the Empire for their own selfish ends. He had the gift of out-manoeuvring the ablest diplomats of his time, of ferociously crushing with one hand his enemies, and with the other calmly placating his subjects by honeyed speech and gracious gesture. The magnificent courtesy of the East was embodied in his personality, and so skilful was his handling of men that a keen-eyed American diplomatist was misled to the extent of publishing his belief that Abdul Hamid's every motive was good! His reign was a long series of crises, any one of which would have been sufficient to unseat a less wily monarch. When all Europe was screaming threats and imprecations at him during the Armenian massacres, he remained placid, denying all responsibility and casting the blame upon his unruly officials. His apparently helpless attitude soon won him many apologists, who were willing to believe him an unfortunate and maligned though well-intentioned monarch. For long years he vigorously fought the spread of liberal ideas among his subjects by every repressive means at his command. But these medieval methods proved in the long run impotent against the spread of reform. The Young Turks borrowed a leaf from the tyrant's book and conducted their campaign by equally devious methods. The end has justified the means. The tyrant has gone for ever, and he will indeed be fortunate if he is allowed to retain his life. A new page is turned in Turkish history, and the new ruler, if he is actuated by lofty motives, will have the sympathetic support of the civilised world behind him in his labours for the rejuvenation of the Ottoman Empire. The ultimate fate of Abdul Hamid is grimly forecasted by a prominent Young Turk, whose opinions we reproduce on page 4.

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## MOHAMMED THE FIFTH.

### THE DEPOSITION OF ABDUL HAMID.

As reported in the *Daily Record* of yesterday, Abdul Hamid was deposed at three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and his brother proclaimed as Sultan of Turkey under the title of Mohammed V. A salute of 101 guns fired from the Tophane Arsenal acquainted the city with the tidings, which were everywhere received with an enthusiasm that was significant of the disrepute into which the deposed monarch has fallen. An hour later the new Sultan, Reshad Effendi, who was born in November 1844 and is thus two years younger than Abdul Hamid, drove along the sea front towards Stambul, accompanied by the triumphant discharge of guns and remarkable exhibitions of joy on the part of the military and the populace.

The proceedings in connection with the change of monarchs is described by Wolff's private correspondent in the following manner:—

Constantinople, April 28.

The following details are obtained from a trustworthy quarter. At Monday's secret sitting of Parliament it was decided that the assembly was unanimously agreed as to the necessity of deposing Abdul Hamid. The same night a deputation, including Major Enver Bey and several other prominent Young Turk officers, paid a visit to the Yildiz and acquainted the Sultan with the desire of the people, which they exhorted him to conform with. This the Sultan declared himself ready to do, providing that his personal safety was guaranteed. Presumably the guarantee was given, for shortly afterwards he left the palace and, accompanied by several of his suite, embarked on a torpedo-boat and was conveyed to Tchiragan,—not, as reported, to the Beyler Bey palace. He will temporarily take up his residence at Tchiragan. His departure was effected with absolute secrecy, and thus the city knew nothing of it until the following day. On Tuesday morning Parliament held another secret sitting, in the course of which it was decided to request the Sheikh-ul-Islam to undertake the religious formalities inseparable from a change of monarchy. Sheikh-ul-Islam, in conformity with this request, with the aid of Fetwa Emini and several Deputies, at once set about the preparation of a proclamation to the people, couched in the following terms:—

### THE NATION'S INDICTMENT.

"As the Caliph has sent true believers and faithful subjects into exile, as he has countenanced murder and assassination, instigated disturbance and mutiny among the people, and committed perjury, and since the people have earnestly declared their intention of no longer recognising his authority, the representatives of the people have accordingly to decide whether they will dethrone the Sultan, or whether he be recommended to voluntarily abdicate." Meanwhile a Parliamentary deputation waited on Prince Reshad Effendi and begged him to listen to the call of the people. To this he answered that he felt himself happy to fulfil the desire of the populace. During a second secret sitting the proclamation cited above was read, and the assembly unanimously decided upon the dethronement of the Sultan and the proclamation of Reshad Effendi in his stead. Thereupon a Parliamentary deputation, headed by the

Sheikh-ul-Islam, the Grand Vizier, and other high dignitaries, waited on Reshad Effendi and escorted him to the Ministry of War, whither he arrived at three o'clock yesterday afternoon. He was awaited by the assembled Senators, Deputies, the military officers, with Shevket Pasha, the military dictator, at their head, the leading clericals, members of the Cabinet, and other personages. Arrived in the Throne room the Sheikh-ul-Islam offered up a prayer, and the new Sultan was administered the oath of loyalty to the Constitution. This done, orders were given to the gunners at Tophane Arsenal, and the repeated firing of artillery announced the news to the people, who received it with glad enthusiasm. The notabilities filed past the new Sultan and assured him of their loyal devotion and obedience, and subsequently his Majesty returned to the Dolmabahatch palace. A Ministerial Council was immediately held to formulate a proclamation to all the vilayets of the Empire and to the foreign diplomatic representatives. This proclamation was afterwards telegraphed far and wide.

### POPULAR ENTHUSIASM.

Constantinople, April 28.

The change of monarchs is hailed by the army, a majority of the officials, the Young Turks, and the Christians with jubilation, and the people vented their joy by holding innumerable mass meetings to the accompaniment of artillery salutes and fireworks. The National Assembly, which pending the official enthronement of Mohammed V. is the highest administrative authority in the land, has entrusted Achmed Riza with the formation of a new Cabinet. So far as can be ascertained, the new Cabinet will consist of the following:

Hilmi Pasha, Minister of the Interior.  
Deputy Hussein Dschahid, Minister of Education.  
Dchavid Pasha, Minister of Finance.  
Rifaat Pasha, Minister of the Exterior.  
Vitalis (a Christian), Minister of Marine.  
Noradunghian, Minister of Public Works.

All the soldiers of the garrison and the Macedonian army collected before the palace yesterday afternoon and paraded before the new Sultan, marching from the palace to the Porte and thence to the War Ministry, where the commander-in-chief, Mahmoud Shevket, with his entire staff, inspected them. An enormous crowd was present at this ceremony, and at every triumphant discharge of cannon the soldiers brandished their weapons and cheered with vigour, their cries being echoed by the crowd.

### RUMOURED MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS.

Constantinople, April 28.

A despatch has been received here reporting that troops sent from Dedeagatch to Adana have taken part in a general massacre of the Christian population at that place. This report, which is creating great excitement, still lacks confirmation.

Rome, April 28.

The *Agencia Stefani* publishes the following report from Constantinople: "Consular telegrams state that burning and destruction has been going on for the last four days at Cassab. A French cruiser has left for Latakieh. The Guardian of the Holy Land has asked that an Italian ship may be sent to that place, to take on board the Franciscans belonging to the neighbouring Missions. Eight thousand Armenians have taken refuge at Beirut, where refugees continue to arrive, so that the supply of provisions is falling short. The disturbances at Adana and the neighbourhood have not ceased. A hundred Protestant missionaries are said to have been burnt in a church. The Consuls have appealed to the Vali in vain."

(Continued on page 2.)