

# CONSTANTINOPLE, PICTURE CITY of the WORLD

**"I** STAMBOUL," "the place over there," as this modern perversion of the Greek phrase "In the city" is often translated, has been sung by poets and painted by artists and been the theme of almost interperate eulogy since its early days when, as the picturesque little Greek city of Byzantium, it stood for the easternmost settlement of Greek culture in Europe, a tower of light shining over the barbaric Orient that lay within its sight across the way. From these early days of Alexander the Great, of Xerxes, of Darius, the jump of centuries to that most celebrated of all milestones, the inauguration of the city as the capital of the eastern empire by Constantine on the eleventh of May, 330, was not uneventful, though nothing like the story told by the eleven hundred and twenty-three years of imperial splendor before it fell into the hands of Mohammed II, on May 29, 1453, on that most fearful of all days when the cross, under Constantine XI, went down before the crescent and the green flag of Islam desecrated the holy places as the conqueror rode into the city through the gate of St. Romanus. And, as he entered the palace the new ruler was heard to recite, so tradition has it, some lines of Persian poetry running as follows:

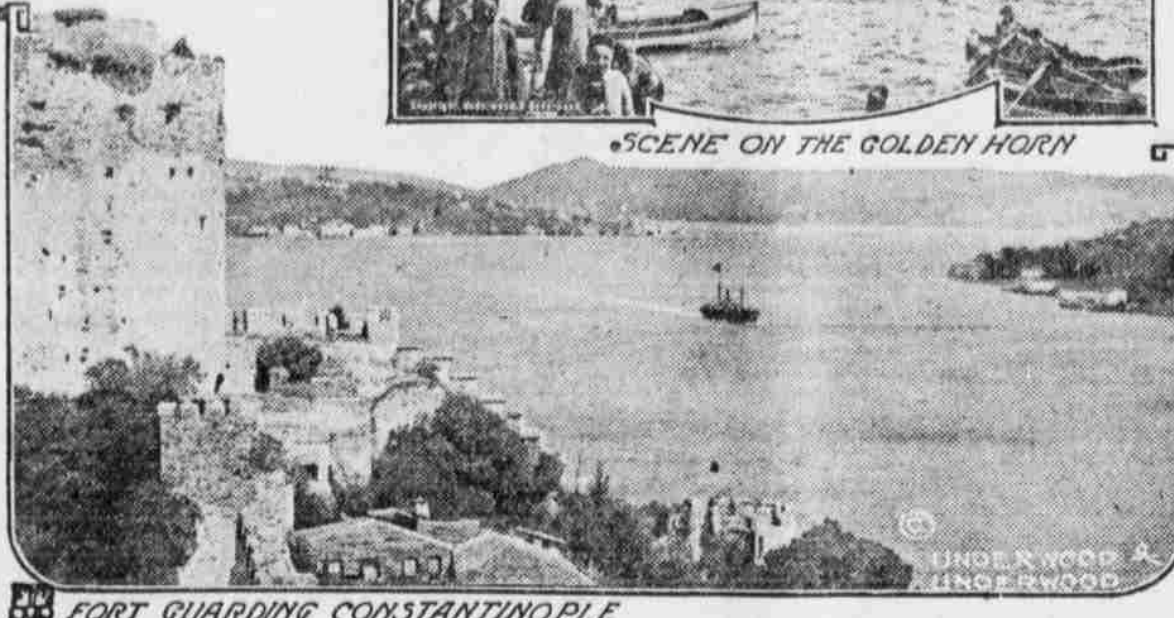
"The spider has spun her web in the palace of the Caesars,  
The owl has sung her watch song on the towers of Afrasiab."

Supersaturate with history as is the city, its present-day aspect, as the long revenge of time hastens to its final satisfaction, and the crosses that will replace the crescent are already in the making, is one that is more redolent and reflective of the immediate down-at-the-heels Orient than of the earlier centuries. It is a medley of mosques and minarets, of magnificence and squalor, of kiosks and cafes. Palaces jostle miserable huts, and enchanting kiosks, in Saracenic style, gay in color of stone, stucco or tile, and with superb metal work, are seen side by side with the cheapest of frame houses and mean cafes. Broad open squares, like unkempt back lots where tin cans and goats most do congregate, however, are contrasted also with the narrowest of ill-smelling alleys doing duty as streets, and yet above all this meanness, all this huddlement of cheap and unpretentious buildings, the use made by the Moslem conquerors of the seven hills, more or less dominated by splendid seraglios and mosques, including the metamorphosed Santa Sophia itself, gives Constantinople today its peculiar character above all other cities, and makes the near or distant view under varying aspects of sun and season one of unrivaled magnificence, so that it is today the chief picture city of the world.

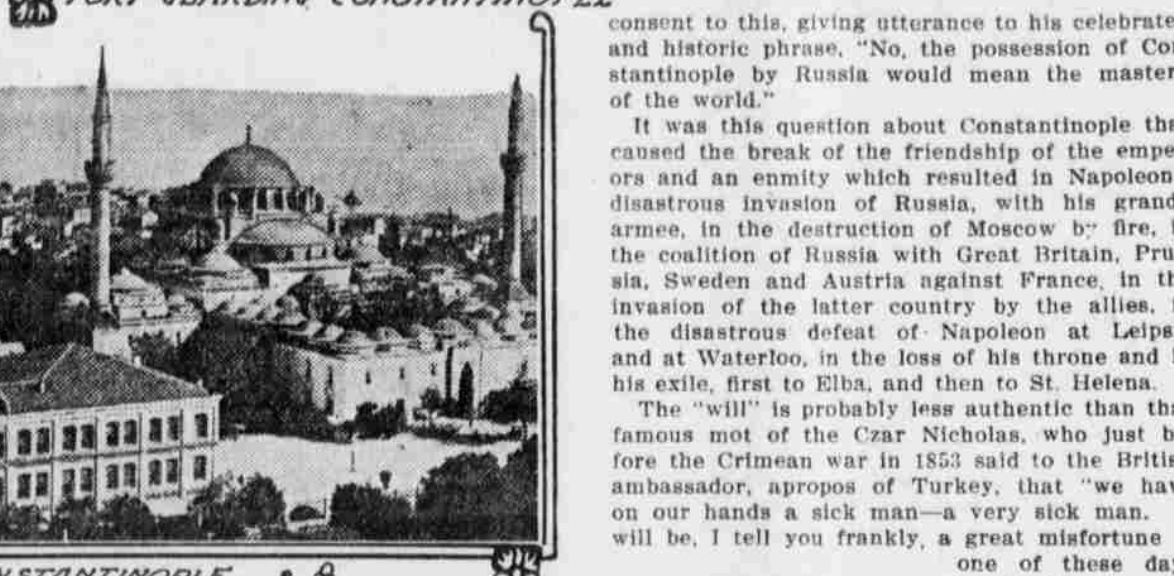
The mosques seem to be part of as well as rising out of a sort of curious mushroom growth developing out of roofed refuse of stone and stucco that spreads all over the two sides of the Golden Horn, that famous arm of the bay on which the city is situated with Stamboul, the old city on the west, and Galata and Pera, where the foreigners live, on the east, stretching along the shores of the Bosphorus toward the Black sea. And the mosques are wonderful. Here they rise, huge masses of clustered rectangular structures with all sorts of subsidiary buildings, as it were, tied up to and plastered against them. And then out of this squat mass appear the soaring, slender minarets, cutting the blue sky in lovely tapering outline, broken only by the balconies, from four to six in number, the latter grouping only allowed in one case, however, while above the central section, fortlike in character, the domes and semi-domes are uplifted, all to be crowned by the great dome which balances the entire mass in a manner that seems pure chance, but makes an indescribable effect of beauty and proportion, as is in evidence in the great mosque Jeni-Jani near the Galata bridge.

Dolce far niente days will soon be over if it again yields to the new invaders, and a new era of enlightenment sets in. Then the street and public life will take on a new aspect and the city will be once more a place of pilgrimage. Moreover, when the capital is once more in Christian hands, what a chance for the antiquarians and archeologists and classical scholars and specialists! Every ruin should yield treasures, and of all the promising places the most promising are the mysterious vaults under the great Agia Sophia mosque, formerly the Church of St. Sophia, originally built by Constantine in 325 opposite his palace and dedicated to the Divine Wisdom (Sophia). The church as it exists today, one of the greatest buildings in the world, was erected in 532-537 by the Emperor Justinian. Anthemios of Tralleis and Isidoros of Miletois were the architects. Fossati, an Italian architect, undertook a thorough restoration of the exterior of the building in 1847, when it was painted yellow with red stripes.

It is in what may be under St. Sophia that the interest of archeologists will center. These vaults have always been jealously guarded by the Turks, and few indeed have been the outsiders allowed a peep at them. One of those who saw the most was the late Moberly Bell, manager



"SCENE ON THE GOLDEN HORN"



FORT GUARDING CONSTANTINOPLE



VIEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE



GALATA BRIDGE CONNECTING EUROPEAN AND ASIATIC TURKEY

of the London Times, who for a period was employed by the Turkish Tobacco Regie. Mr. Bell some years ago described the great piles of material, covered with the accumulated dust of four and a half centuries, which tantalized him with their possibilities. He could not get at what they really were since the gloom made it impossible to distinguish any of the objects, and the Turks would not permit a close examination.

Fascinating possibilities exist in the thought of what the dust that has been accumulating since the year of the conquest by Mohammed II may conceal. It is doubtful if many treasures in gold and silver and gems will be found, though even this is possible. But the chances that precious manuscripts of the classics may be discovered are greater. Splendid libraries, containing, probably, practically all the lost classics, are undoubtedly hidden in ruins.

There are known to be 3,000 manuscripts in the sultan's library, which have been seen, and that only hastily, by few foreigners. But the chief hope of scholars lies in their trust in one of the least objectionable traits of the Moslem, his dislike of destroying anything with writing on it. Even if he does sacrifice pictures and sculpture, he usually leaves books alone, in case the name of God should be written on them. Had it not been for this superstition the world would be very much poorer in the old learning than it is today.

As for its strategic and political value it must be remembered that Constantinople is to the Russian church and to its adherents what Rome is to the Roman Catholics, and for the last 200 years in particular it has constituted the principal object of all Muscovite religious and political aspirations. Without attaching any credence whatsoever to the purely mythical testament of Peter the Great about Constantinople, a document which was never heard of until the beginning of the nineteenth century, nearly a hundred years after his death, and which is a forgery concocted by the Pole Sokolniki and the Frenchman Lesueur, at the instance of the first Emperor Napoleon, there is no doubt that Czar Peter had set his heart upon the acquisition of Constantinople and had impressed this idea upon his people as a national ideal.

However, whether the will be authentic or genuine or not the fact is it does embody national aspirations, and has had a great effect on Russian imagination.

Catherine the Great was equally bent upon transferring the capital of her empire from Petrograd, and from Moscow, to Stamboul, and when Napoleon I and Alexander I planned together their sharing the dominion of the world, the Muscovite ruler insisted upon the possession of Constantinople on political and religious grounds, declaring it to be "the key to the door of Russia." Napoleon would not and could not

consent to this, giving utterance to his celebrated and historic phrase, "No, the possession of Constantinople by Russia would mean the mastery of the world."

It was this question about Constantinople that caused the break of the friendship of the emperors and an enmity which resulted in Napoleon's disastrous invasion of Russia, with his grand army, in the destruction of Moscow by fire, in the coalition of Russia with Great Britain, Prussia, Sweden and Austria against France, in the invasion of the latter country by the allies, in the disastrous defeat of Napoleon at Leipzig and at Waterloo, in the loss of his throne and in his exile, first to Elba, and then to St. Helena.

The "will" is probably less authentic than that famous mot of the Czar Nicholas, who just before the Crimean war in 1853 said to the British ambassador, apropos of Turkey, that "we have on our hands a sick man—a very sick man. It will be, I tell you frankly, a great misfortune if one of these days he should slip away from us; especially before all the necessary arrangements have been made."

The English ambassador was strictly noncommittal even after the czar had pointed out the horrors of a general European war which might ensue if the great powers were not careful, so the Russian autocrat repeated his remark about the "sick man" to Prince Metternich, the celebrated wit, who was the Austrian ambassador, and it was Metternich who cynically turned the tide against any European co-operation with Russia in handling the Turkish situation, by remarking curtly,

"Ahem, the sick man, the sick man; is your majesty speaking as the doctor in the case or as the heir." With that the other powers turned against Russian pretensions, and on all subsequent occasions in various combinations, both in 1852 and in 1877, backed the "sick man" against any doctoring by which Russia would be the residuary legatee. And so events moved on for 60 years, till the day of reckoning came, and Austria fired the Serbian powder barrel and Armageddon was on!

While it is an exaggeration, at any rate in these modern times, to ascribe the mastery of world to the possession of Constantinople, it cannot be denied that the city occupies from a political, from a strategic and from an economic point of view, one of the most valuable and important sites in the world. It is a natural fortress of great strength, protected as it is in the rear by mountain and swamp, which make it difficult to attack by land, by those wonderful straits, the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, which furnish matchless a defense against any onslaught from the sea.

It lies at the very point where Europe and Asia meet and which connects the Black sea with the Mediterranean, and even with the Indian ocean, by way of the Suez canal and the Red sea. When the railroad now in course of construction from Ismid to the head of the Persian gulf, via Konia and Bagdad, is completed, which will constitute far and away the shortest and quickest route from Europe to India, Constantinople will become perhaps the most important station along the line both as regards freight and passenger traffic.

Even the existing trade route to India via the Suez canal would be endangered by Russia's possession of Constantinople, and it is for this reason that Earl Grey, in admitting in parliament that England had abandoned its traditional policy of centuries and would not oppose its free access to the Mediterranean from the Black sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, was very careful not to say Russia should be given Constantinople at once!

**HARD TIMES.**

"What's become of the old-fashioned joker who used to answer, when asked if he was married: 'No, I'm in business for myself!'"  
"The last time I heard of him he was still at it, but his salary had been reduced."

**CLOSE QUARTERS.**

"Yes, for the last two months I've been positively living within my income."  
"Don't you feel rather cramped?"  
"Cramped? Say, lend me \$10, will you? I want to stretch myself."

## IN THE LIMELIGHT

### NEW HEAD OF ROTHSCHILDS



Lord Rothschild, just dead in London, Baron Edouard's mother being Lord Rothschild's sister, and his father a cousin.

With the death of Lord Rothschild in England, the leadership of the famous family of financiers has shifted from London to Paris, for the new head of the clan is Baron Edouard de Rothschild of the latter city.

Baron Edouard, whose title is Austrian, as are those of all the French Rothschilds, is a man of forty-seven. He was admitted to the firm in 1905 when his father, Baron Alphonse, then head of the house, died being an only son. The same year he married Germaine Halpen, the daughter of Emil Halpen, a million aire sugar merchant, and the grand daughter of the financier Fould, the Rothschilds' great rival, who managed the affairs of Napoleon III. The marriage, in uniting the two banking families of France, was acceptable to the bridegroom's family, although their policy had been to intermarry among themselves. Baron Edouard was a nephew as well as a cousin of

He was largely responsible for the huge loans made to Russia after the Japanese war, which he arranged with Count Witte, who consulted with him in Paris before sailing for the Portsmouth peace conference.

### ROSE FROM THE RANKS

When Count Berchtold resigned as minister of foreign affairs for Austria-Hungary and it was announced that Baron Stephen Burian de Rajecz had been appointed to the position, there was a hurried search through books of reference for facts concerning this man who was to guide the destinies of a great empire at a most critical time. The search was almost in vain, for he had been practically unknown to the world at large. He is an example of the possibility of rising from the ranks to the highest position in the state merely by doing his full duty wherever he was placed.

Baron Burian was born in Stomfa, Ponsony county, Hungary, in 1851. He did not inherit the title of a baron at his birth. His father was a member of the nobility, but did not belong to the aristocracy.

Stephen Burian selected a career in the consular service and received his education in the Oriental academy of Vienna, the training school for that service. He held his first official positions in Alexandria, Egypt, and served then as vice-consul in Bucharest, Roumania and Belgrade, Serbia. His next post was in Sofia, Bulgaria, and by this time he was promoted consul general. It was then that he was transferred from the consular to the diplomatic service and appointed minister to Athens, Greece.

Burian's diplomatic career ended when he was appointed minister of finance for the joint affairs of Austria and Hungary, which department had supreme control of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the two Turkish provinces which had been intrusted by the congress of Berlin of 1878 to Austro-Hungarian administration. Burian played a very important role in the marvelous industrial and commercial development of the two provinces.



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### CLIMBER A SIMPLE LIVER



Miss Annie S. Peck gathers strength to climb some of the highest mountains in the world on a menu costing 25 cents a day. While resting in New York preparatory to going to South America to ascend Mount Sorata, Huascaran and other peaks for the second time, she told how she did it.

"I cook my own meals over an electric stove in my room, and do my marketing," she said. "For breakfast I have coffee, using a heaping teaspoonful of pulverized South American coffee at 18 cents a pound, and putting evaporated milk in it. With this I have rye bread and peanut butter. For lunch I eat a cake of milk chocolate, and for dinner an omelet made with two eggs, which cost five cents. I have also spinach, of which for ten cents I buy enough to last for three meals."

Miss Peck said she thought the extravagance of the Americans in food was simply awful. "New Yorkers think nothing of going into a hotel and paying several dollars for a meal. Women order their groceries and meats by telephone, instead of going, as I do, to the open markets. And then we complain of the cost of living."

### INDIAN SUCCEEDS INDIAN

Houston B. Teehee, who has succeeded Gabe Parker as register of the treasury, is, like his predecessor, an Indian, being five-eighths Cherokee. He was born in 1874 in what is now Sequoyah county, Oklahoma, was reared on a farm and educated in the tribal schools and at Forth Worth university. He served as an alderman in Tahlequah and was mayor of that city for two terms. Mr. Teehee is married, but has no children.

Mr. Teehee's father was assistant chief of the Cherokees. He served as a delegate to Washington during the period of negotiations leading up to tribal dissolution. He had been connected with tribal politics during his entire life until the tribal entity was abolished in 1898.

How the name of "Teehee" became attached as the surname of his family is a story repeated at the treasury department. A grandfather of the present register, as the tale goes, applied to enlist as a soldier during the Civil war. His Indian name was Dehinnnee, translated from the Cherokee into the English as meaning "a killer." The nearest recruiting sergeant could come to it was "Teehee," and so it went into the record and became affixed as a family name.



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