

Bulgaria and Its History.

The Long and Oppressive Rule of the Turks and the Efforts to Throw Off an Odious Yoke.

The Ruler of the Principality, Who Now Calls Himself Czar of the Bulgars. Curious Customs.

THE action of the Bulgarians in declaring their independence of Turkey is hailed as hastening the era when not a foot of territory in Europe will be under the domination of a Moslem power. Step by step the Turk has been forced out of Europe, but his going has been retarded by the jealousies of the Christian powers and their reluctance to accept any arrangement by which one might gain at the expense of another, even though such an outcome might be in the interest of justice for some individual state. This was what prevented Bulgaria from gaining entire independence of Turkey thirty years ago. For 500 years the country had

opened into an army which is well equipped and drilled and ready for hostilities should they come. The treaty also gave Bulgaria a Christian prince as its executive, with responsible cabinet ministers. The first of these rulers, Alexander of Battenberg, who was chosen to the post in 1879, was forced to abdicate in 1885 in consequence of his schemes to enlarge his powers and minimize the suzerainty of Turkey. The effort was premature.

Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg, who succeeded Alexander in 1887, lent a willing ear to those Bulgarians who wished to fight on for their country's independence. His ambitions led in the same direction. He coveted much the title of king. In the proclamation in which he recently declared Bulgaria free from vassalage to Turkey he took the title of "czar of the Bulgars," which was the title of the old kings over 500 years ago, when the kingdom was a powerful one, when the monarch dominated the entire Balkan peninsula and the Greek church in Bulgaria, which is the national church today, was a treasury of learning and art. It was at Tirnova, the capital of the ancient kingdom, and in the old church of the Forty Martyrs built by Czar Schischman in 1230 that the proclamation of independence was made, so that the circumstances appealed to the patriotic enthusiasm of the people. There is none of the blood of the old kings in Prince Ferdinand, but he stands for the cause of Bulgarian nationality, and the Bulgarians rally about him on that account.

Bulgaria has a population of only about 4,000,000—less than that of New York city—but it has a standing army nearly as large as that of the United States. On a peace footing its strength is about 52,500, but the military system has been placed on such a basis that it is said that 200,000 trained men could be put in the field and on the opposite side of the Macedonian frontier. In another two weeks two more armies of 100,000 each could be placed on a war footing. Turkey is torn with dissensions owing to the reforms the Young Turk party is endeavoring to institute, and the Bulgarians deemed this an opportune time to make their stand.

Prince Ferdinand, or the czar of the Bulgars, to give him the title he has taken, is a son of a daughter of Louis Philippe, king of the French. He was born in 1818 and has some Hungarian blood. In 1833 he married Marie Louise of Bourbon-Parma. Both he and his wife belonged to the Roman Catholic church; but, the most of his subjects being Greek Catholics, he desired to please them and popularize the house with the nation by having his eldest son and heir, Prince Boris, of the national faith, and the little prince was in 1896 received into the Greek church at the cathedral in Sofia.



THE BULGARIAN RULER AND HIS ROYAL SPOUSE.

suffered from Mohammedan rule. The outrages of the Turks became so unbearable that at last, in 1876, an insurrection broke out. Russia, ever ready to seize the opportunity to increase her power and prestige to the southward, took Bulgaria's part against the Turk, and the result was the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-8.

It was in May, 1876, that the villagers of Batak, in the southwestern part of Bulgaria, were preparing to take part in the insurrection then begun, when the place was attacked by a force of bashi-bazouks under the command of Achmet Agia of Dopat. After a short struggle the villagers surrendered on the assurance of the Turkish commander that "not a hair of their heads should be touched." But immediately thereafter one of the most cruel massacres recorded in history began. All the inhabitants, young and old, women and children, were butchered, and those who took refuge in the village church were burned to death by the Turkish soldiers. An Englishman who visited the place two months later found but one survivor, an old woman. The Turkish government showed its appreciation of this slaughter of "infidels" by rewarding Achmet with a decoration of honor, but the atrocities aroused all Europe and furnished Russia with an excellent pretext for going to war against the sultan and his bloodthirsty champions. The war ended when in March, 1878, the treaty of San Stefano was signed. By it Russia was to get various provinces as well as a war indemnity of 300,000,000 rubles. Bulgaria was to be created a principality extending from the Danube to the Aegean.

But this treaty did not suit the great British diplomat Bismarck, so the congress of Berlin was summoned, and in the treaty of Berlin of 1878 Bulgaria was hacked, cut down and amputated into a principality, recognized to pay an annual tribute to Turkey. For thirty years the Bulgarians have been waiting and watching for an opportunity to throw off completely the Turkish yoke. It is an ambitious condition that a country which is more than 80 per cent Christian should be under the domination of a power so opposed to all the ideas of this faith as the Moslem ruler whose capital is Constantinople. To be sure, the Turkish rule of Bulgaria has not in late years been absolute. The country has had a Christian government and an elective body, chosen every three years, to carry out in that government the wishes of the people. But as the capacity of the people to govern themselves grew, the vassalage to an empire so hateful to them as Turkey became more and more odious. The Berlin treaty provided that Bulgaria might have a national militia, and this has been devel-



WOMEN BRANDED WITH CROSS IN FOREHEAD.

the ceremony attracting much attention and occasioning considerable theological controversy. Prince Boris is now fourteen years old and is a handsome youth. Marie Louise died in 1899, leaving, besides Boris, three children—Cyril, Eudoxie and Nadejda. The czar married again not long ago.

A curious side light on the conditions existing in Bulgaria under Turkish rule is cast by a custom which has grown up in some of the villages of the country. The unthinking traveler notices that many of the women in these communities wear the mark of the cross branded on their foreheads. It has become customary to mark young girls in this way as soon as they reach maturity and especially if they are at all attractive, the idea being to prevent their being abducted for Turkish harems. The cross naturally excites hatred and disgust in a follower of the doctrines of Islam, and a woman so marked is in no danger of being forcibly carried away from her people and compelled to lead a life of practical slavery among a race alien to her own.

WHEN SILENCE WAS GOLDEN.

Speechmaking by Presidential Candidates No Longer Dangerous.

The modern practice of speechmaking by presidential candidates is in marked contrast to the early practice. In former times it was considered undignified for a candidate for president to make any open effort in his own behalf, and candidates generally observed strict silence. The theory was that if a candidate opened his mouth to say anything or even wrote the most commonplace letter it would be used against him.

General Scott, Whig candidate for president in 1852, owed his defeat in part to two innocent but unfortunate expressions used by him long before his nomination. In 1846, when he expected to be ordered to Mexico, he bespoke the support of the administration for his military plans by saying in a published letter that "soldiers had a far greater dread of a fire upon the rear than of the most formidable enemy in the front." For this expression President Polk declined to order him to Mexico at that time, and when Scott was nominated for president six years later he never heard the last of "the fire upon the rear."

The other expression occurred in a note to the secretary of war. One day the secretary called at General Scott's office and found that he was absent. On returning and learning that the secretary had called the general wrote a note in explanation of his absence, saying that he "had only stepped out for a moment to take a hasty plate of soup." When he was nominated for president the "hasty plate of soup" figured in all sorts of caricatures and brought upon him ridicule that he did not deserve.

Abraham Lincoln, a frequent speaker prior to his nomination, did not utter a word publicly during the campaign. He made no addresses, wrote no public letters and held no conferences. His letter of acceptance contained only 134 words. The practice of speechmaking by candidates after their nomination began with James A. Garfield.—Indianapolis News.

A WOMAN'S INFLUENCE.

Effect It Produced on Her Husband's Business Affairs.

A delegation of young men lately waited on their employer's wife with the oddest request on record. "You see, madam," said the spokesman, "we want to have a half holiday every Saturday. Now, if you will be particularly nice to Mr. Page for a few days we'll go to 'im and ask."

"Gentle," the lady laughingly interrupted, "do you imply that I do not understand what is due to my husband?"

"Oh, I know all about it, madam," the spokesman went on. "I'm married myself. Things go wrong in the house, and you're tired and cross at breakfast. Then we suffer at the office. You stay up late to chaperon your daughter at a ball, and we have more trouble at the office. You're a bit cross three mornings in succession for one reason or another, and we have a—a—terrible time at the office."

"You see how the matter stands and how greatly you will oblige us by being more than usually agreeable to Mr. Page for three or four days. The fourth day give him the best breakfast you can—everything that he likes best—and we'll get what we want in three minutes."

"Talk about a woman having no influence in the business! Why, the humor she's in has more effect than a bank failure or a boom in trade."

She thought she ought to be angry, but instead she laughed and agreed to the proposition, and four days later when they waited on the head of the firm he made the closing hour 12 o'clock and said never in the history of the firm had things run as satisfactorily as they had during the last four days.—London Tit-Bits.

The African Elephant.

Shunning man and, as a rule, fleeing at his approach, the African elephant when attacked often shows fight and is dangerous prey. Kongo specimens have very large ears that even stretch back beyond the neck and cover part of the flank. In color the Kongo elephants are of a grayish blue, almost slate-like tint. No one has even reported seeing specimens of the sacred white elephant of India there. In size Kongo elephants have been killed more than fourteen feet high at the withers and reckoned at more than eight tons in weight. Tusks obtained are sometimes more than 200 pounds in weight and six feet and a half in length.

Free Speech in England.

Professor Masterman, lecturing at Cambridge on modern England and the liberty of the subject, said there was enough treason spoken in Hyde park, London, on Sunday afternoons to fill a German fortress. Instead, the orators went home to tea. It is a remarkable fact, however, added the lecturer, that there is no state in Europe where attacks on the sovereign are so rare or so strongly repressed by the people at large.—London Graphic.

A Limit.

Mrs. Henpeck (to her husband)—What would you do if I were to die? Henpeck—It would drive me crazy. Mrs. H.—Would you marry again? Henpeck—I don't think I would be as crazy as that.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The Secret.

Sparks—I wonder why it is a woman lets out everything you tell her. Parks—My dear boy, a woman has only two views of a secret, either it is not worth keeping or it is too good to keep.—Stray Stories.

SLANG OF THE SAILOR

The Lingo That Is Used by Uncle Sam's Bluejackets.

MANY QUAINT EXPRESSIONS.

The Man-of-war's Man May Be a "Snowdigger" or a "Sloper," but He Uses the Language of Every Other Sailor.

There is a language that is neither English nor American, down east nor southern, western nor Yankee. It is just sailors' lingo.

No matter what part of the country may be the birthplace of a bluejacket or what his language at home, sooner or later he uses the language of every other sailor.

To the civilian a conversation between two bluejackets about his life on shipboard is hardly intelligible. The other day on the water front two sailors were overheard talking, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

"Oh, he's nothing but a bench comb. He was run up for breaking it once and got sent to the pie wagon," said one of them.

"I heard he got six months and a bob before he came here," replied the other. A small boy standing near asked what all those things meant. The sailors were in a good humor and explained.

"Bench comb," lad? Why, that's a fellow who hangs around a saloon ashore and never wants to work. "Breaking it" is staying overtime on shore, and "run up" is brought to the mast for offenses. The "pie wagon" is the place where they put prisoners, and "six months and a bob" is sentenced to six months in prison and given a \$6-honorable discharge.

There are many other terms and expressions that do not show their meaning on the surface.

A "rookie" is a recruit. A man who "ships over" enlists again. A man who is on the report for mast call is "down for a chance." Canned beef is known as "canned Willie," and a bottle of liquor is a "dog." All things lost on shipboard are put in a room called the "lucky bag." An honorable discharge is "a big ticket," and desertion by a sailor is "jumped." When the mail arrives on board and is ready for distribution "mail" is the cry which carries the news. A ship's carpenter is called "chips," a coppersmith "coppers," a blacksmith "blacky" and the chief of the engineering department "the chief."

When a ship is traveling at sea it is "seagoing," and if it hurries it is "making knots." A prison on shore is a "stone frigate." When a man is disgraced to a lower rating he is "busted," when he deserts and voluntarily gives himself up within a period of six months he is a straggler; when he is sitting next the dealer in a friendly game of "draw" he is "under the gun" when he is continually quoting the naval regulations he has "swallowed the blue book," and when he thinks he knows more about the blue book than the captain he is a "sea lawyer."

"Pipe down" means in American slang "shut up." "Put in his oar" is "butt in." "Shove off, Jack," is a hint to move on. When a man is dishonorably discharged he gets a "straight kick." A sailor who draws more pay "draws more water." One who talks too much "blows off at a low pressure."

Wednesday afternoon, when the crew overhaul their clothing, is "rope yard Sunday." Any part of the United States is called "God's country," and the man from the eastern coast is a "snowdigger," while his brother far from the west is called "sloper." The duty of calling the men in the morning falls to the master at arms, and he says "show a leg" or "rise up and shine." When a man has had no night watch and gets up in the morning with a good appetite it is "all night in and beans for breakfast."

One of the more familiar sea terms is "caught a crab," meaning caught an oar in the water. When a sailor has several enlistments to his credit he is called "a sea dog" or "an old salt."

A gentle hint from one sailor to another that he does not believe something which is being told to him is "tell it to a marine." To re-enlist is to "slip over," and when more than half the enlistment is in a sailor is "going downhill."

His Office Hours.

Pat, a miner, after struggling for years in a western mining district, finally giving up in despair, was about to turn his face eastward when suddenly he struck it rich. Soon afterward he was seen strutting along, dressed in fine clothes. One day an old friend stopped him, saying: "And how are you, Pat? I'd like to talk to you."

Pat stretched himself proudly. "If you want to talk to me I'll see you in me office. I hev an office now, and me hours is from a. m. in the mornin' to p. m. in the afternoon."—Northwestern Christian Advocate.

Crack or Break.

Edwin and his mother went for a walk Sunday afternoon. Coming to a tree of cherries, the mother bent a low limb so that the little fellow could pick some. Seeing some fine ones higher up, he begged to be allowed to climb the tree. "Oh, no," said his mother, "that would be breaking the Sabbath."

"And we are only cracking the Sabbath now, are we, mamma?" inquired Edwin.—Delineator.

A clever man turns great troubles into little ones and little ones into none at all.—Chinese proverb.

ALPINE GUIDES.

Some Are Experts in "Snow and Ice Work," Some in "Rock Work."

Some of the Alpine guides are experts in climbing. There are a number who are noted for their skill in what the Alpinist calls "snow and ice work." That means going up a peak which has so many snow fields and glaciers that its sides and summits may be nearly covered with them. The glacier guide can tell you all about "cornices"—snow masses which project from the edge of precipices and overhang the valley beneath like the roof of a house. Experience has told him whether a cornice can be crossed safely or whether it may break off if one ventures upon it. He is also an expert with the ice ax carried in his belt, cutting footholds in the glittering walls that may rise fifty or a hundred feet above your head. These ice precipices are frequently found at the heads of glaciers, which, as the schoolboy knows, are merely rivers of frozen water slowly moving down the face of a mountain on account of the force of gravity and the great pressure of the ice masses which form their source on the upper part of the slope. Other guides make a specialty of "rock work," conducting persons up peaks which may be only partly covered with snow and ice, but having sides of bare rock so steep that in places the cliffs may be almost straight up and down. Here it would seem that one must be as spry and as sure footed as the chamois—the rare goat that lives up amid the Alps. While the crevasse and other dangers of the snow and ice fields may be absent, the mountain may be so abrupt that the climber must ascend hundreds of feet pulling himself up with arms aiding his legs, while often the guide hauls him to the top of the most difficult slopes by main strength.—St. Nicholas.

A MANSFIELD FAILURE.

When the Famous Actor Fainted of Hunger in London.

Mansfield was taken to the Savage club, where his cleverness was attested by the leading entertainers of London. When Corney Grain was taken sick in the spring of 1877, Mansfield was at once recommended as his substitute in the German Reed entertainments. He was to receive £8 a week. This was a splendid salary for any young man as salaries went then or as they stand now on the London stage. To Mansfield it was a positive windfall.

As a member of this distinguished little coterie of entertainers Mansfield felt that his fortune was made. His whole interest, attention and hope now centered on April 20, the night of his debut. He was assigned the small role of the beadle in the comedieta "Charley Begins at Home," which opened the evening. After that he was to change to evening dress and hold the stage alone for half an hour after the manner established by Corney Grain. Every shilling he could scrape together went for a wardrobe, linen, boots, cravat, a boutonniere and other irreplaceable appurtenances.

His friends crowded St. George's hall for his first appearance. It was observed as he uttered the few lines of the beadle that he was excessively nervous. When later in the evening he sat down at the piano and struck a preliminary chord he fainted dead away.

Mr. Reed relieved him of his position at once. In discharging him he said, "You are the most nervous man I have ever seen." It was not all nervousness, however. Mansfield had not eaten for three days. He had fainted from hunger.

It was many a year before he again worked up to the munificence of £8 a week, but this pathetic incident was later made an asset as employed by him in an attractive little comedy of his own writing.—Paul Wiltach in Scribner's.

Iodine and Light.

If it is necessary to use iodine for painting the skin in medical treatment it is worth remembering that the painting should be done in the dark or in a red light such as is used in photography.

If this is done and the painted portion of the skin be covered without being exposed to white light it will not blister nor stain the flesh even if the painting is repeated a good many times.—New York Sun.

Deer.

Deer will eat almost any kind of grain or grass, even preferring the roughest weeds to the choicest hay. They should always have an abundant supply of clean running water. At the greatest heat of summer deer are killed with raising deer is the best of feeding. The fawns are usually born in the spring or early in summer. A doe rarely have but one fawn in a year, but subsequently yields two or three in rare cases triplets.—Kansas City Star.

British Army Intelligence.

An army order gave the following as the occasions on which the main jack is to be worn:

(a) On anniversaries only, or when specially required for saluting purposes. (b) On Sundays and anniversaries. (c) Daily.

Not Like Father.

"Do you think Mr. Skinner's baby will take after its father?" "Not at all. The other day they persuaded it to cough up a nickel it had swallowed."—Washington Star.

No man has ever by complaining of his ill luck induced others to have confidence in him.—Chicago Record-Herald.

DR. R. J. GUNN
DENTIST
Office: Rooms 3 and 5, Walsh Bldg., McCook

GATEWOOD & VAHUE
DENTISTS
Office over McCook's Store Phone 190

Dr. J. A. Colfer,
DENTIST.
Room 4, POSTOFFICE BUILDING.
Phone 378 McCOOK, NEBRASKA.

A. G. BUMP
Real Estate and Insurance
Room Two over McCook's drug store, McCook, Nebraska

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO SEE
J. M. Rupp
FOR ALL KINDS OF Brick Work
P. O. Box 131, McCook, Nebraska

A. Edgar Hawkins H. E. Evans
Phone Red 193 Phone Red 324
HAWKINS & EVANS
Contractors and Builders
Plans drawn and estimates furnished on application.—1-24 2m*
McCook, Nebraska.

AUTOMOBILE LIVERY
DALLAS DIVINE, Prop.
PHONE 166. McCOOK, NEBR.
Night or day trips made anywhere
Prices Reasonable. Good Service Guaranteed

E. F. OSBORN
Drayman
Prompt Service
Courteous Treatment
Reasonable Prices
GIVE ME A TRIAL Office First Door South of DeGroff's Phone 13

Mike Walsh
DEALER IN
POULTRY & EGGS
Old Rubber, Copper and Brass
Highest Market Price Paid in Cash
New location just across street in P. Walsh building, McCook

THE WILLIAMSON HAFFNER CO.
ENGRAVERS OUR PRINTERS
OUR TALK DENVER, COLO.

F. D. BURGESS
Plumber and Steam Fitter
Iron, Lead and Sewer Pipe, Brass Goods, Pumps, a Boiler Trimmings. Estimates Furnished Free. Basement of the Postoffice Building.
McCOOK, NEBRASKA

BULBS!
BUCKEE'S BULBS SUFFER! SPECIAL OFFER!
Make to build New Business. A trial will make you a permanent customer. Send coupon guaranteed or your money refunded.
Souvenir Collection of 100 Color Bulbs for 25 cents. Includes: Tulips, Daisies, Pinks, Peonies, etc. Send for your copy today!
SEND 25 CENTS
To receive postage paid and receive our valuable collection of 100 Color Bulbs, together with my big illustrated catalogue, send 25 cents in postage. Cash will also receive 50 cents worth of Bulbs, Daisies and Pinks.
This is a wonderful opportunity to receive 100 Color Bulbs for 25 cents. The greatest value ever offered. The Bulbs alone are worth a quarter.
H. W. Buckbee 810 BUCKEEL ST. ROCKFORD, ILL.