

Plain of Esdraelon (The Battleground of Armageddon)

Armageddon

*Recent Developments of the
Eastern Question in the
Light of Prophecy*

By **GEORGE TEASDALE**



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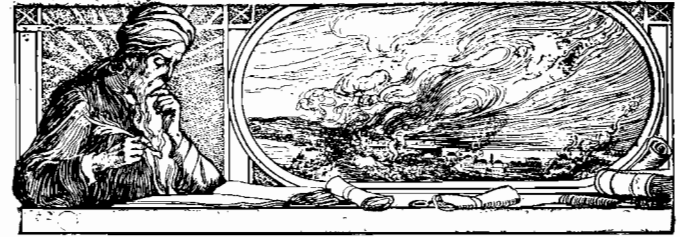
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ARMAGEDDON

Recent Developments in Europe, Turkey, and the Far East, in the Light of Prophecy

CHAPTER I

Introductory

ARMAGEDDON! What does it mean? What is its significance? The daily papers make frequent use of the word. It is heard in the legislative halls of the great nations of the world. And it commands attention from the man in the street. Whence its power?

The word is of Biblical origin; it was applied in ancient times to a locality in Palestine on the southern rim of the spacious plain of Esdraelon, on the frontier line of the territories of Issachar and Manasseh. The plain commands one of those passes from the north into the hill country that were of such critical importance on various occasions in the history of Judea. Armageddon, or Megiddo, is the great battle-field of the Old Testament. There the chief conflicts took place between the Israelites and their enemies. There the "chosen people" obtained

two great victories—Barak over the Canaanites, and Gideon over the Midianites; and two great defeats—Saul in the invasion of the Philistines, and Josiah in the invasion of the Egyptians. There also, in later years, was the battle between Saladin and the Crusaders; and in 1799 the famous battle of Mt. Tabor, between Napoleon's army and the Turks.

Great Grief

When Pharaoh-Necho came from Egypt against the king of Assyria, Josiah the king of Judah joined the latter, and was slain at Megiddo, and his body was carried from there to Jerusalem. This calamity made a deep and permanent impression on the Jews, and the lamentations for this good king became "an ordinance in Israel." "In all Jewry" they mourned for him, and the lamentation was made perpetual "in all the nation of Israel." "Their grief was no land flood of present passion, but a constant channel of continued sorrow, streaming from an annual fountain." Thus in the language of the prophets, the mourning of Haddadrinmon-Armageddon became a poetic expression for the deepest and most despairing grief.—*Smith's Dictionary of the Bible*.

In the Apocalypse (Rev. 16:16), this valley is presented as the scene of a terrible and final conflict which will immediately precede the coming and kingdom of Jesus Christ. The great nations of the earth, including the nations of the East, are described as taking part in this final contest, the location of which, as well as the bitterness of its nature, is comprehended in the phrase, "Battle of Armageddon."

This word, big with import, adopted by the Apostle John in his prophetic declarations made nearly two thousand years ago, has now become a familiar term in the discussion

of the present serious international outlook; and its daily use may well constrain us to examine carefully the prophecies from which it is borrowed, to ascertain their significance, and to learn the lessons they contain.

A Serious Question

Inseparably associated with the present political international outlook is the Eastern Question, which for many decades has disturbed the minds of European rulers, and has taxed to the utmost the diplomatic skill of statesmen who have been entrusted with the difficult task of keeping adjusted the finely balanced equilibrium of power in Europe, and, incidentally, in almost all the other continents. That the seriousness of the difficulties involved in the Eastern Question is increasing, not only in intensity, but also in extent, is evident even to the most casual observer of European political conditions; and these conditions are felt more or less acutely throughout the world.

That man is more than ordinarily unobservant who cannot see that an international crisis of tremendous magnitude is imminent—a crisis which, if judged by the feverish and unparalleled preparations being made for it, will eclipse all others to about the same extent as modern methods of warfare compare with those of bygone ages. Men and nations are being called upon to make absolutely unprecedented sacrifices in order to supply ever-increasing demands for money with which to build ships of gigantic proportions, each one more costly than a whole fleet in the days of our grandfathers; and to manufacture appliances of war of the most extraordinary, and hitherto unknown, capacity for destruction; and to drill, not armies as in former days, but whole nations, whose populations are armed and trained to fight. "Never before were the destructive forces of war-

fare marshalled in such impressive array as we see them to-day; never before did the earth shake under the measured tread of so many men armed, and prepared to be armed; never in history were weapons so lethal, missiles so mighty, and explosives so terrific and powerful, or in hands so carefully drilled and instructed in their employment; never were the preparations for war on land and sea comparable in scale and efficiency to those of the present day."

A Sure Word

Contemplating all these deadly forces, there is no thoughtful man who is not anxiously questioning, What do all these preparations portend? With this question in mind, we can turn with confidence for an answer to the Word of God, which is declared to be a light that shineth in a dark place, illuminating the future until the rising of the morning star and the dawning of the eternal day. We can be assured that if these alarming conditions which now obtain are preliminaries of momentous events fraught with eternal issues for the human race, somewhere in the Scriptures these portentous preparations will be described, and their significance will be made evident. For it is written, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."

The theory that the world is coming to the time when we shall be free from the alarms of war has been long cherished by many peace-loving people. In presenting the claims that the world has grown to such an eminence of civilisation that should preclude war, it has been urged that the equipping of armies and navies should be largely, if not wholly, discontinued. "The money that is being wasted in the building of great navies," it is contended, "should be saved for the development of the occupations of peace."

But despite the commendable efforts of those who are labouring to bring about peace among the nations, the war fever is rising higher and higher. More and more of the revenues of the world is being consumed by the insatiable demands, which seem to come from somewhere, that the armies and navies shall be kept up to the highest standards suggested by the very latest developments and inventions. Much more than half of the revenues of the great nations of the earth is being eaten up by the war-gods.

Hastening to Armageddon

With feverish excitement the nations of earth are vying with one another to-day in the increase of their army and navy equipment. In one year alone Great Britain spent upon her army and navy nearly seventy million pounds, and Germany spent approximately fifty million, and the other European nations in like proportion. Present indications show that this enormous expenditure is more inclined to increase rather than to diminish. All this means an increase of national debt, and greatly increased burdens of taxation, which fall with double weight on the poorer classes. In consequence, a condition



Proposed Palace of Peace.

of unrest and discontent is created, which of itself, even without other predisposing causes, in order to afford relief to the overburdened people, tends to precipitate war. Says the *Washington Post* :—

“Russia is resolved to expend £200,000,000 for the army and navy as fast as the work can be accomplished. Of course that means that Japan must prepare to strengthen her army and navy correspondingly, as must Germany and Austria and also England and France; and thus does every labourer of Europe have a soldier or a sailor on his back.”

The *Post* argues that if these great armies could be disbanded, and the rank and file return to their homes, and engage in commercial and industrial pursuits, the cost of living, the world around, would be decreased one-half. In view of the situation confronting us, the editor suggests: “Maybe Armageddon is just ahead of us.” In this he suggests only that which the prophet of the Bible declares to be true, and which the political situation confronting the world requires us to believe.

A Change of Sentiment

Formerly it was popular to say that we should not prepare for war because the world was surely coming to an era of peace. But the facts of the awful preparations for war are before the world, and men cannot close their eyes to them. And now the line of argument is shifting. The theory is being urged that we ought to make every preparation for war in order to insure peace.

There is a feeling in the world that some great war is inevitable. Men are not able to shake off the convictions that it is coming on with irresistible power, and that it is definitely sure to eventuate. With such a sentiment as this



England's Fleet 100 Years Ago

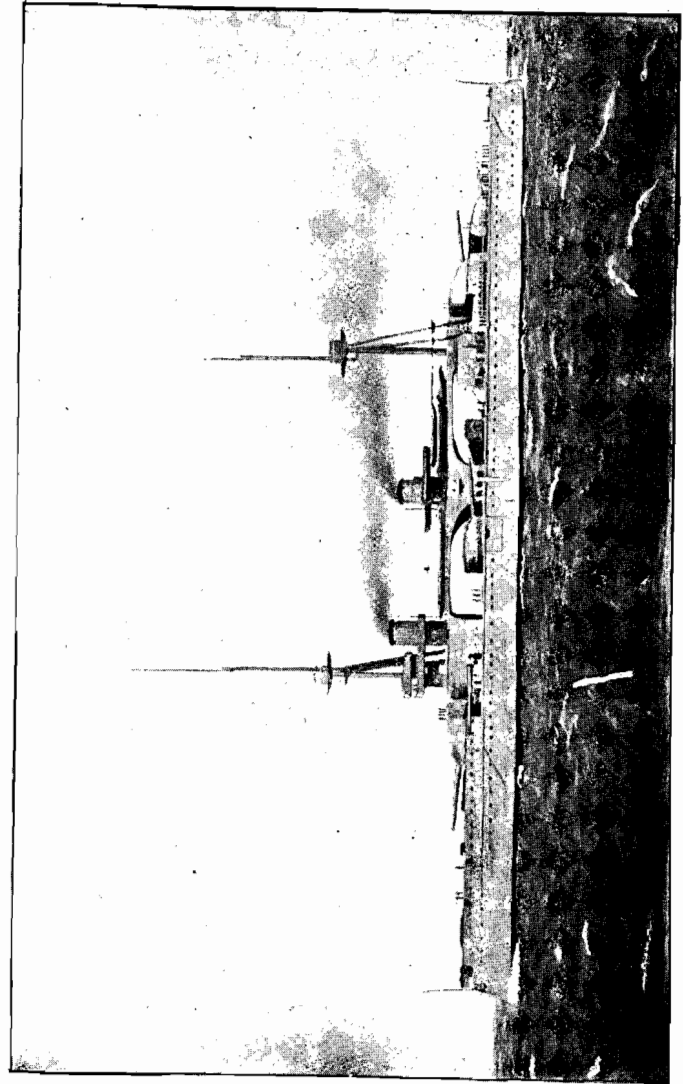
coming in—and the sentiment is growing in every nation in the world—it is perfectly plain that war preparations will continue with greater momentum. And when these mighty navies are built, and these mighty armies are organised by all the nations, a *dispute* will be sure to arise that will lead into some terrible war. Some nation, armed to the teeth with engines of destruction, goaded to desperation by threatened bankruptcy and internal dissension, or confident in its mighty facilities, without declaration will plunge into war with its neighbour; and thus, by means of alliances both offensive and defensive, will precipitate an international conflict unparalleled in history.

No Silver Lining

The disposition of the Turkish domains will furnish that cause for dispute. The Eastern Question is the one international war-cloud of which it can truly be said that it has no silver lining. This is the one dark night on the ever-lowering horizon of international affairs, beyond which no statesman sees a dawning. Concerning most questions men feel that while darkness may enshroud their settlement, yet there is a light beyond. But concerning this few men venture an opinion save of the deepest gloom. Thus the settlement of the Eastern Question, which is the Turkish question, has become one that the statesmen of Europe dread to touch. For it they see only one solution, and that solution is Armageddon.

These are thrilling times in which we are living. From the strifes of men and nations may we turn our minds to God's eternal kingdom of peace.

In the following pages present conditions are considered from the viewpoint of prophecy confirmed by history.



H.M.S. "Neptune." Displacement, 19,900 tons. Speed, 22.7 knots.

Step by step are traced the successive events from the beginning of the downfall of the Roman Empire to the closing scenes of this world as they are associated with preparations for war and—Armageddon.

The appended cablegrams are taken from the daily papers of October 12. They contain the latest information concerning naval expenditure for 1911, and are a significant indication of the intensity of the bitterness and distrust existing among the nations at this time:—

NAVAL EXPENDITURE OF THE POWERS.

LONDON, 11th October.

The Admiralty has issued the following return, showing the naval expenditure of the great Powers during the current year:—

Great Britain, £44,882,047; United States, £26,584,571; Germany, £22,031,788; France, £16,705,382; Russia, £13,270,376; Japan, £8,803,015; Italy, £8,379,940; Austria, £5,152,382. Grand total, £145,809,501.

TOKIO, 10th October.

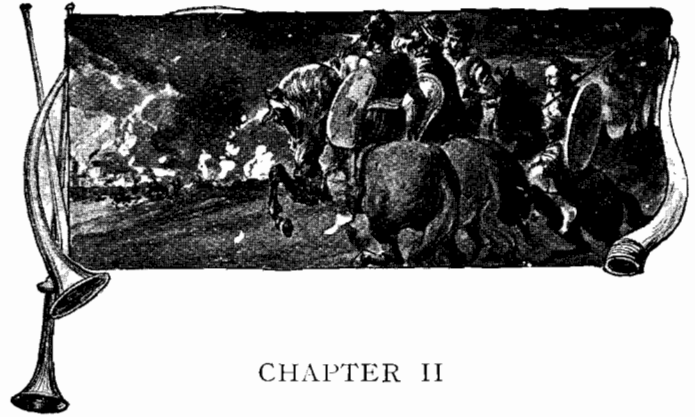
The Japanese Government will next session ask the Diet for an extraordinary credit of £40,000,000 to be expended in augmenting the Japanese fleet. It is intended to spread the expenditure over a period of seven years.

The programme is expected to include two super-Dreadnoughts annually, making twenty-two of these vessels laid down or completed by 1919.

[At present Japan has, of armoured units, two 20,800-ton Dreadnought battleships completing in Japan, and three cruiser battleships of 27,500 tons recently begun, while one was laid down in England last January. Great activity is being shown in the construction of fast small cruisers of about 5,000 tons, and submarines.

NEW YORK, 11th October.

The United States Government, carrying out its policy of creating a large naval reserve on the Pacific coast, has placed an extra cruiser on the station.



CHAPTER II

The Fall of Western Rome

Foretold in Holy Writ

CHAPTERS eight and nine of the book of Revelation contain a prophecy couched under the symbol of seven trumpets. This prophecy traces the outline of events in the downfall of the Roman Empire from early in the Christian era to the establishment of the kingdom of Christ at the end of the world.

When the prophecy was given and the book written (about A.D. 90), Rome was in the height of her power; she bore lordly sway over all the known world. Although man could see no indications of her forthcoming dismemberment, yet predictions were given through the Apostle John by Him in whose hand the nations are as but a drop in the bucket, telling of a time when this mighty empire would be invaded by tribes of barbarians then dwelling on its borders, and that by them it would be disrupted, as the prophet Daniel had foretold before the empire was in existence.

That the prophecy of the seven trumpets is largely of political significance is seen from the words of the sixth

trumpet (Rev. 9:16, 17); by its armies are represented as going forth to battle. The trumpet has ever, and especially in ancient times, been used as a symbol of war. Jer. 4:19.

The first political conquests of note after this revelation was made to John on the Isle of Patmos, were those by the northern barbarians, by whom Western Rome was divided into ten kingdoms. Those parts of Gibbon's history that deal directly upon these invasions need, as one writer says, "but a text prefixed, and a few words blotted out, to form a series of lectures on the eighth and ninth chapters of Revelation. Little or nothing is left for the professed expositor to do but to point to the pages of Gibbon."

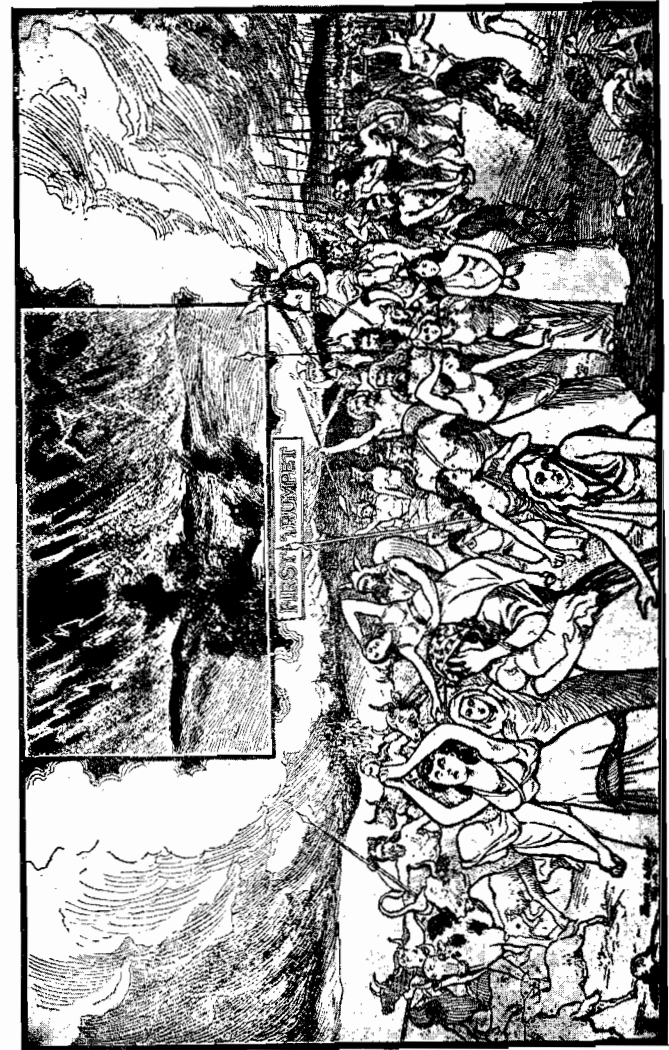
The First Trumpet

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of the trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." Rev. 8:7.

The first sore judgment that befell Western Rome in its downward course was the war with the Goths under Alaric, during the latter part of the fourth century. "Hail and fire, mingled with blood," were cast upon the earth. The terrible effects of this Gothic invasion are represented as "hail," because of the northern origin of the invaders; "fire," from the destruction by flames of both city and country; and "blood," from the terrible slaughter of the citizens of the empire by the bold and intrepid warriors.

The historian, speaking of this invasion, says:--

"The Gothic nation was in arms. They deserted their farms at the first sound of the trumpet, and eagerly resumed the weapons which they had reluctantly laid down. The barriers of the Danube were thrown open; the savage warriors of Scythia issued from their forests; and the uncommon severity of the winter allowed the poet to remark 'that they rolled their ponderous waggons over the broad and icy back of the indignant river.' . . . The unhappy natives of the



Alaric Invading Western Rome

provinces to the south of the Danube submitted to the calamities which, in the course of twenty years, were almost grown familiar to their imagination; and the various troops of the barbarians who gloried in the Gothic name were irregularly spread from the woody shores of Dalmatia to the walls of Constantinople. . . . The fertile fields of Phocis and Bœotia were instantly covered by a

Deluge of Barbarians

who massacred the males of any age to bear arms, and drove away the beautiful females, with the spoil and cattle of the flaming villages. The travellers who visited Greece several years afterwards could easily discover the deep and bloody traces of the march of the Goths. . . . The old man, who had passed his simple and innocent life in the neighbourhood of Verona, was a stranger to the quarrels both of kings and of bishops; his pleasures, his desires, his knowledge, were confined within the little circle of his paternal farm; yet even this humble and rustic felicity was still exposed to the undistinguishing rage of war. His trees, his old contemporary trees, must blaze in the conflagration of the whole country; a detachment of Gothic cavalry might sweep away his cottage and his family; and the power of Alaric could destroy this happiness which he was not able either to taste or to bestow. 'Fame,' says the poet, 'encircling with terror her gloomy wings, proclaimed the march of the barbarian army, and filled Italy with consternation;' the apprehensions of each individual were increased in just proportion to the measure of his fortune. The public distress was aggravated by the fears and reproaches of superstition. Every hour produced some horrid tales of strange and portentous accidents. The pagans deplored the neglect of omens and the interruption of sacrifices; but the Christians still derived some comfort from the powerful intercession of the saints and martyrs."—*Decline and Fall*, chap. 30.

Thus does the historian unconsciously corroborate the prophetic declarations, and in graphic language describe events foretold centuries before by the divine revelator. The concluding sentence of the thirty-third chapter of "Gibbon's History" prepares the reader for the sounding of the next trumpet: "The union of the Roman Empire

was dissolved; its genius was humbled in the dust; and armies of unknown barbarians, issuing from the frozen regions of the north, had established their victorious reign over the fairest provinces of Europe and Africa."

The Second Trumpet

The last word, Africa, is the signal for the sounding of the second trumpet. The scene changes from the frozen regions of the north to the borders of a burning desert; and instead of a storm of hail being cast upon the earth, a burning mountain was cast into the sea.

"And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood." Rev. 8:8.

The sounding of this trumpet evidently relates to the invasion and conquest of Africa, and afterward of Italy, by the terrible Genseric, about the middle of the fifth century. After the Vandals, in conjunction with other tribes, had devastated Gaul and had overrun the whole Spanish Peninsula, they passed over from Spain into Africa. In ten years they subdued all the Mediterranean coast to Carthage.

The Vandals Take Carthage

"On the 19th of October, 439, without any declaration of war, Genseric suddenly attacked Carthage and took it. The Vandal occupation of this great city, the third among the cities of the Roman Empire, lasted for ninety-four years. Genseric seems to have counted the years of his sovereignty from the date of its capture, though most of the remaining years of his life, plunder, rather than territorial conquest, seems to have been the object of his expeditions. He made, in fact, of Carthage a pirates' stronghold, from whence he issued forth to attack, as he himself said, 'the dwellings of the men with whom God is angry,' leaving the question who those men might be to the decision of the elements. Almost alone amongst the Teutonic

invaders of the empire, he set himself to form a powerful fleet, and was probably for thirty years the leading maritime power in the Mediterranean."—*Historians' History of the World*, Vol. VII, p. 599.

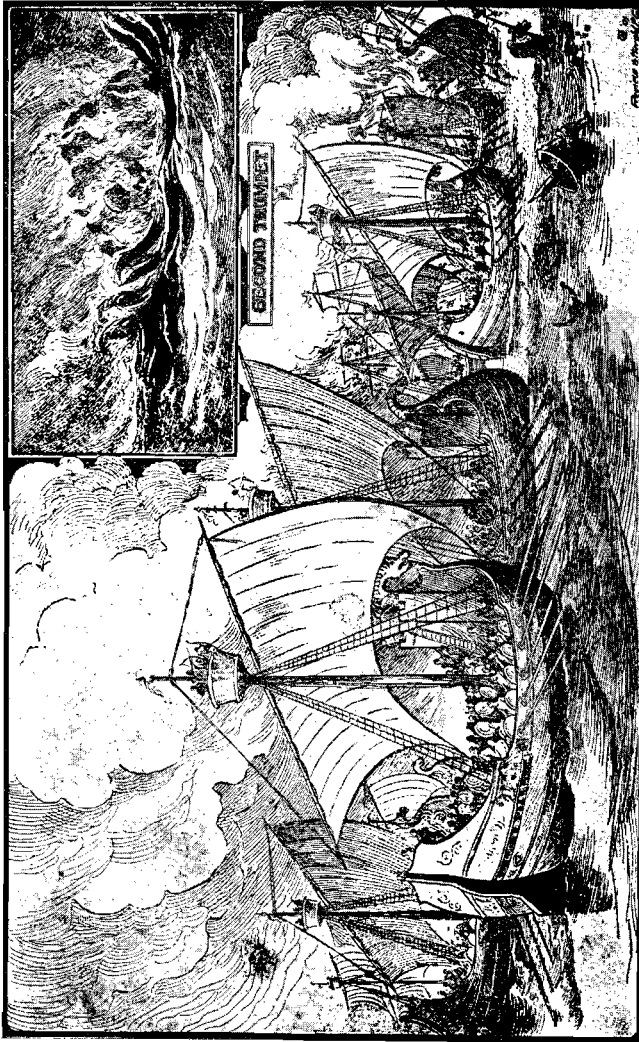
From this capital Genseric became the "tyrant of the sea," and with fire destroyed so much shipping and such great fleets on the Mediterranean that it was as if "a great mountain burning with fire" had been cast into the sea. His enterprises were crowned with success in the conquest of Sicily, and the sack of Palermo, and in frequent descents on the coasts of Lucania. Rome itself was subjected by him to a pillage that lasted fourteen days and nights; and all that remained of public or private wealth, or sacred or profane treasure, was diligently transported to the vessels of Genseric, and many thousands of the foremost citizens of Rome were taken into slavery.

"The terrible Genseric," says Gibbon, is "a name which, in the destruction of the Roman Empire, has deserved an equal rank with the names of Alaric and Attila."

The Third Trumpet

"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter." Rev. 8:10, 11.

This prophecy has obvious reference to the tormenting and harrowing conquests of Attila the Hun (A.D. 441-451). His invasions were conducted by fire and pillage along the Rhine and its tributary streams, closing at the Alps, the fountain or source of the rivers. He styled himself the "Scourge of God," and boasted that grass never grew where his horse's hoofs had trod. His career was short, like a burning lamp suddenly extinguished.



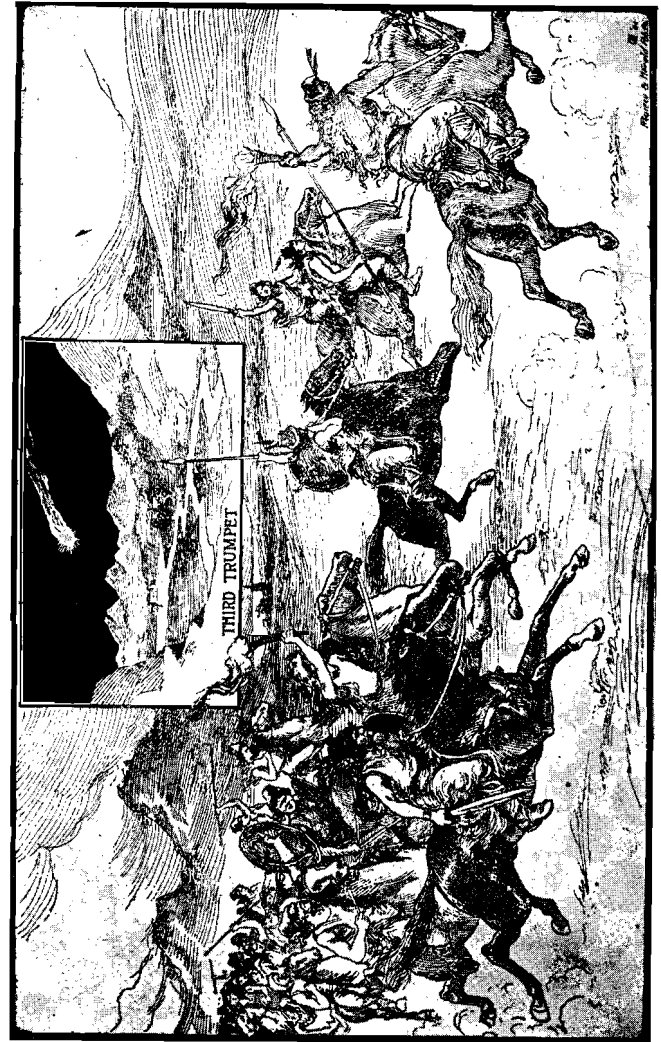
Genseric Destroying a Roman Fleet

“The Huns,” says Gibbon, “in the reign of Attila became the terror of the world; and I shall now describe the character and actions of that formidable barbarian, who alternately insulted and invaded the east and the west, and urged the rapid downfall of the Roman Empire.”—*Decline and Fall*, chap. 34.

Attila the Hun

Dr. Albert Barnes in his notes on Rev. 8 makes the following remarks concerning Attila: “In the manner of his appearance, he strongly resembled a brilliant meteor flashing in the sky. He came from the east gathering his Huns, and poured them down, as we shall see, with the rapidity of a flashing meteor, suddenly on the empire. . . . It is said particularly that the effect would be on ‘the rivers’ and on ‘the fountains of waters.’ If this has a literal application, or if the language used was such as had reference to the portion of the empire that would be particularly affected, by the hostile invasion, then we may suppose that this refers to those portions of the empire that abound in rivers and streams, and more particularly those in which the rivers and streams have their origin; for the effect was permanently in ‘the fountains of waters.’ As a matter of fact, the principal operations of Attila were on the regions of the Alps, and on the portions of the empire whence the rivers flow down into Italy. The invasion of Attila is described in the following language: ‘The whole breadth of Europe, as it extends above five hundred miles from the Euxine to the Adriatic, was at once invaded, and occupied, and desolated by the myriads of barbarians whom Attila led into the field.’”

“The name of the star is called Wormword,” indicating the bitterness of the calamities he inflicted in his career of conquest.



Attila's Campaign

The Fourth Trumpet

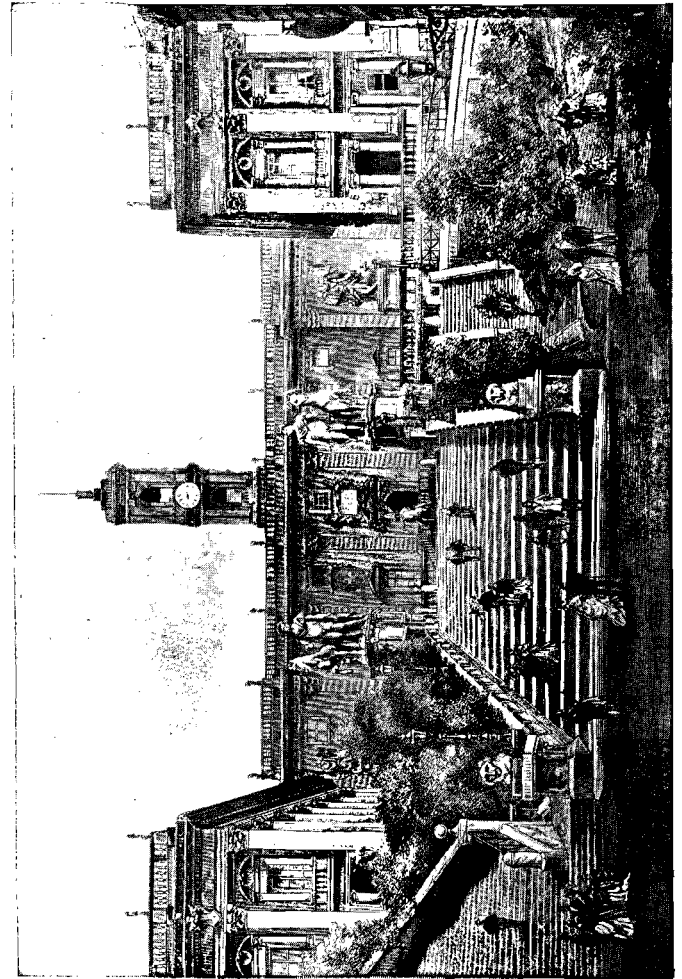
“And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.” Rev. 8:12.

The events of the first, second, and third trumpets brought the Western empire to the verge of extinction. The fourth trumpet illustrates the final dissolution of the Roman Government. Sun, moon, and stars are evidently symbols that denote the ruling powers in the government—its emperors, consuls, and senators. The government of Rome was abolished by the barbarian monarch Odoacer who extinguished the separate line of Western emperors, and established the first German kingdom, A.D. 476.

“Royalty,” says Gibbon, “was familiar to the barbarians, and the submissive people of Italy were prepared to obey, without a murmur, the authority which he should condescend to exercise as the viceroy of the emperor of the West. But Odoacer had resolved to abolish that useless and expensive office.” “Odoacer was the first barbarian who reigned in Italy over a people who had once asserted their just superiority above the rest of mankind.”—*Decline and Fall*, chap. 30.

Her Glory Gone

The power and glory of Rome, as bearing rule over any nation, became extinct. Only the name remained to the queen of nations. Every token of loyalty disappeared from the imperial city. She who had ruled over the nations sat in the dust like a second Babylon, and there was no throne where the Cæsars had reigned. The last act of obedience to a Roman prince which that once august assembly performed was the acceptance of the resignation of the last emperor of the West, and the abolition of the imperial succession in Italy. The sun of Rome was



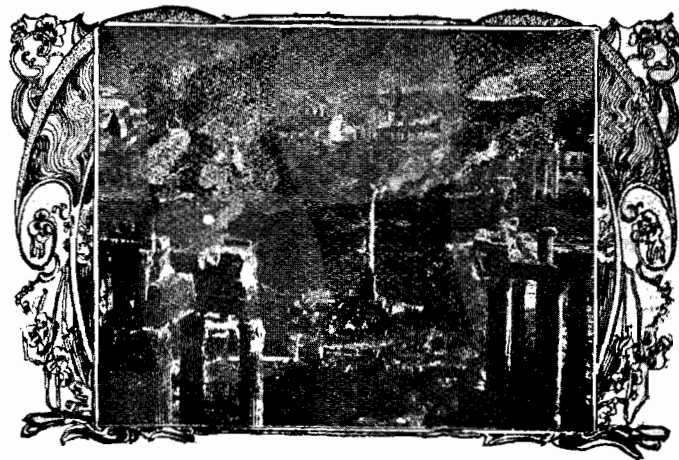
The Capitol, Rome

smitten. In their prophetic order, the consulship also and the senate of Rome met their fate, though not by the hands of the Vandals or the Goths. The next revolution in Italy was in subjection to Belisarius, the general of Justinian emperor of the East. By him the consulship and that illustrious assembly, the Roman senate, were finally extinguished.

Western Rome was conquered and divided, and the empire of the Casars was no more. In its place were established the ten kingdoms of Europe, which now bear the names of England, Germany, Italy, France, etc.

Three Woes

Three more trumpets were yet to sound, and as if to prepare the mind for still greater calamities, an angel proclaims a woe to the inhabitants of the earth in connection with each of them: "And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound." Rev. 8:13.



CHAPTER III

Saracenic Invasion

The Fifth Trumpet

AFTER the extinction of the Western Empire of Rome, and its division into ten parts, there still remained the Eastern Empire to be harassed and finally subjugated. Prophetic declaration left no part of the empire intact. The fate of the eastern division was faithfully foretold:—

"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth." Rev. 9:1-3.

The first invasion of the Eastern or Grecian Empire, after the extinction of the Western, was by the Persians

under their mighty prince Chosroes. All the empire in Asia and Africa was subjugated by him, and siege was laid to Constantinople, the capital of the East. Finally Chosroes was persuaded to withdraw from the city upon the promise of an annual payment of "a thousand talents of gold, a thousand talents of silver, a thousand silk robes, a thousand horses, and a thousand virgins." Heraclius,



Romans and Persians

the emperor of the Eastern Empire, subscribed to these ignominious terms; but the time that he obtained to collect those treasures from the poverty of the East was industriously employed in preparations for a bold and desperate attack.

A Bold Invasion

"In the year 621 Heraclius led an army into camp in Asia Minor, and devoted himself with ardour to the drilling of his inexperienced troops. Every military manœuvre, every useful exercise, and even hardship, was ordered and shared by the emperor. He kindled the enthusiasm of his soldiers by his stirring words, and excited their admiration and affection by his deeds. Next year he led his force against Persia, and within five years, in a series of brilliant campaigns

that place him side by side with the greatest generals of the world, he overthrew the pride of that empire, drove its monarch a fugitive from his throne, and enriched his exulting troops with untold wealth. Siroes, the son of Chosroes, revolted against his unhappy father and made a peace with Heraclius, in accordance with which the Persian Empire retired to its former limits, prisoners were mutually given up, and the true cross, carried from Jerusalem by the Persians, was restored to Christian hands. Heraclius returned in triumph to Constantinople."—*Encyclopædia Britannica*, Vol. XI, p. 682.

A Fallen Star

The fall of Chosroes was the event—the star that fell—which opened the bottomless pit whence came smoke and locusts upon the earth. But Heraclius and the Roman Empire were not strengthened by this victory over the Persians. The exhaustion of the two empires provided a means and prepared a way for the hordes of Saracens from Arabia, like locusts from the same regions, to speedily overspread both the Persian and the Roman Empire. Concerning Heraclius' victorious campaign, Gibbon makes the following remarks:—

"Although a victorious army had been formed under the standard of Heraclius, the unnatural effort seems to have exhausted rather than exercised their strength. While the emperor triumphed at Constantinople or Jerusalem, an obscure town on the confines of Assyria was pillaged by the Saracens, and they cut in pieces some troops who advanced to its relief; an ordinary and trifling occurrence had it not been the prelude of a mighty revolution. These robbers were the apostles of Mohammed; their fanatic valour had emerged from the desert; and in the last eight years of his reign Heraclius lost to the Arabs the same provinces which he had rescued from the Persians."—*Decline and Fall*, chap. 46.

"A mighty power had been steadily growing up in the hot sands of Arabia, and was now coming to measure its strength with that of the Roman Empire. In 632 the Mohammedans invaded Syria; and, overthrowing the armies sent to oppose them, in six years they made themselves masters of the country. Egypt next fell before Islam, and

in 640 that fair province was Mohanuuedan. The people of Asia Minor alone successfully resisted the advancing Saracens."—*Encyclopædia Britannica*, Vol. XI, p. 682.

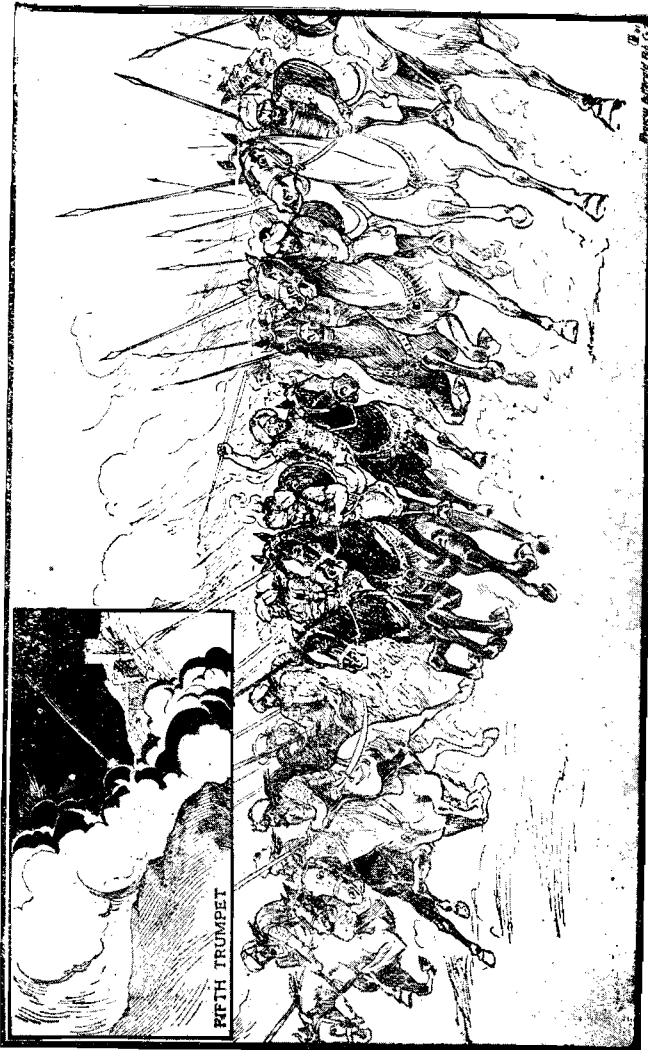
The Bottomless Pit

The term "bottomless pit," from which the smoke issues, is translated from a Greek word defined "deep, bottomless, profound;" it may refer to any waste, desolate, and uncultivated place, and is applied to the earth in its original state of chaos. Gen. 1:2. In this instance it appropriately refers to the unknown wastes of the Arabian desert, from the borders of which issued the hordes of Saracens like swarms of locusts. And the fall of Chosroes, the Persian king, may well be represented as the opening of this "bottomless pit," inasmuch as that event prepared the way for the followers of Mohammed to issue from their obscure country and propagate their delusive doctrines with fire and sword, till their darkness had spread like smoke over all the Eastern Empire, and had well nigh obliterated the fair light of the gospel in the country where its first beams were shed.

While the Persian monarch was securely seated on his throne, he received an epistle from an obscure citizen of Mecca inviting him to acknowledge Mohammed to be the apostle of God. He rejected the invitation with contempt, and tore the epistle to pieces. "It is thus," exclaimed the Arabian prophet, "that God will tear the kingdom, and reject the supplication of Chosroes."

Mohammedan Invasion

With secret joy the Mohammedans observed the long and desolating war—"a war that wounded the vitals of both monarchies"—between Persia and the Eastern



Empire; and in the second year of his reign Abu-Bekr, the successor to Mohammed, prepared to carry out the enterprise—the conquest of Syria—contemplated by his illustrious predecessor. In the twelfth year of the Hegira* (A.D. 634), the following summons was sent by him to all the chiefs of Arabia:



Mohammedan at Prayer

remind you that to fight for the true faith is to obey God."

All Arabia gladly contributed of its young men for this pious undertaking, and soon a large army was gathered,

* THE HEGIRA.—The Mohammedan era is dated from the migration of Mohammed and his followers from Mecca to Medina. The first year of the Hegira, or flight (A.H. 1), corresponds with half of A.D. 622 and half of 623. Friday, the sacred day of the Mohammedan world, was here first observed in commemoration of the prophet's triumphant entrance into the city of Medina.

impatient to march to the conquest of Syria. Scarce ten years had elapsed since Mohammed had been driven a fugitive from Mecca; now a mighty host assembled at the summons of his successor, and distant empires were threatened by the sword of Islam.

A Remarkable Command

Abu-Bekr accompanied the armies on foot during the first day's march. His parting instruction to Yezed, the chief commander, was:—

"Treat your soldiers with kindness and consideration; be just in all your dealings with them, and consult their feelings and opinions. Fight valiantly, and never turn your back upon a foe. When victorious, harm not the aged, and protect women and children. Destroy not the palm trees, nor fruit trees of any kind; waste not the corn fields with fire, nor kill any cattle excepting for food. Stand faithfully to every covenant and promise; respect all religious persons who live in hermitages, and convents, and spare their edifices. But should you meet with a class of unbelievers of a different kind, who go about with shaven crowns, and belong to the synagogue of Satan, be sure to cleave their skulls unless they embrace the true faith, or render tribute."—*Irving*.

The preceding are the only recorded instructions given by the Caliph to his soldiers as they began their work of rapine and murder. "Like the noxious and even deadly vapour which the winds, particularly from the south-west, diffuse in Arabia, Mohammedanism spread from thence its pestilential influence—arose as suddenly and spread as widely as smoke arising out of a pit, the smoke of a great furnace."

Prophecy foresaw this qualifying distinction between the barbarian invasions from the north, which devastated the face of nature, and the instructions given to the invaders

from the south. It is not said either in prophecy or in history whether the more humane injunctions of Abu-Bekr were as scrupulously obeyed as were his ferocious man-



Crusaders Entering Jerusalem

dates; but the soldiers were so commanded. And to this agrees the following prophetic declaration:—

A Prediction Fulfilled

“And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.” Rev. 9:4.

The invasion was everywhere successful. Irak, Borsa, and Damascus were taken within a year; and an army sent against Persia attained a series of victories against the

whole strength of that empire. The Greeks made desperate efforts to resist the invaders; but the Saracens, like a cloud of locusts, spread over the whole land from the borders of India to the shores of the Mediterranean.

The Roman and Persian armies were encumbered with splendid trappings, and unwieldy with military pomp. The Arabs, on the contrary, were veteran skirmishers of the desert; light and hardy horsemen, dexterous with the bow and the lance, and skilled to wheel and retreat, and return to the attack. The costly arms of the Greeks and Persians, wrought with gold, and their belts or girdles studded with gems, made rich prizes to their Moslem victors; while they, even if victorious, gained nothing from the rudely clad warriors of the desert but honour and hard blows.

Asia and the Saracens

The Saracens continued paramount in Asia and Northern Africa until about the middle of the thirteenth century, when their empire was destroyed by an invasion of the Mongols from Eastern Asia. These wild Tartars were not settlers, and in time they either were killed, or they returned to their native regions; if any remained, they were quickly assimilated by the races among whom they sojourned. Their conquests prepared the way for the Turks, a small tribe from the steppes of Siberia, to possess the fragments of the Saracenic dominion, which by them was reunited under the name of the Ottoman Empire, a name derived from their leader, Othman.

Although the Saracens had taken from the Eastern Empire many of its Asiatic provinces, yet no serious inroads or permanent conquests were made by them in purely Grecian territory. They were not long the masters of the wealth of Asia before they adopted the manners and

customs of their predecessors. The simplicity and frugality of their desert life gave place to voluptuousness and its consequent weakness and effeminacy; honour and courage to deceitfulness and intrigue. Dissensions and bitter



Arab Traders

jealousies and strifes weakened their hold of the empire they had so valiantly gained.

For several centuries longer the Grecian Empire continued to maintain itself, and it even regained Asia Minor and Northern Syria. And for two hundred years the efforts of the Crusaders to dispossess the Mohammedans of Jerusalem, and the conquests in Asia of Zingis Khan and his Mogul princes, delayed the destruction of the empire,

Othman and the Turks

The resuscitation of the Mohammedan power and its consolidation by the able Othman marked the beginning of a period of time specified in the Scriptures in the following



Preparing for a Journey

terms: "And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them." Rev. 9: 5, 6.

The following remarks by Gibbon concerning the establishment of the Turkish Empire by Othman reveal the

event that marks the beginning of the period of time symbolised by the "five months" of the prophecy, during which the eastern division of Rome, the Grecian Empire, was to be "tormented," but not utterly destroyed:—

"Othman possessed, and perhaps surpassed, the ordinary virtues of a soldier; and the circumstances of time and place were propitious to his independence and success. . . . He was situated on the verge of the Greek Empire; the Koran sanctified his *gazi*, or holy war, against the infidel; and their political errors unlocked the passes of Mount Olympus, and invited him to descend into the plains of Bithynia. Till the reign of Palæologus [the Greek emperor], these passes had been vigilantly guarded by the militia of the country, who were repaid by their own safety and an exemption from taxes. The emperor abolished their privilege and assumed their office; but the tribute was rigorously collected, the custody of the passes was neglected, and the hardy mountaineers degenerated into a trembling crowd of peasants without spirit or discipline. It was on the *twenty-seventh of July, in the year twelve hundred and ninety-nine* of the Christian era, that Othman first invaded the territory of Nicomedia; and the singular accuracy of the date seems to disclose some foresight of the rapid and destructive growth of the monster."—*Decline and Fall*, chap. 64.

Symbolic Time

A month according to Bible chronology has thirty days. Proof of this is found in the account of the time the flood was upon the earth. Gen. 7:11 compared with Gen. 8:4 gives the duration of the deluge as exactly five months; and in Gen. 7:24 we read: "The waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days." From this we conclude that the "five months," during which the fifth trumpet was to sound, are equivalent to one hundred and fifty days. In prophetic symbols, a day represents a literal year. Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6. One hundred and fifty years would, therefore, be the period of literal time covered by this trumpet. Gibbon remarks on the singular accuracy of the date (July 27, 1299) on which Othman first

entered Greek territory (the Eastern division of Rome); from which date for one hundred and fifty years the Turks engaged in constant war with that part of the Roman Empire, yet without completely conquering it, although its limits were reduced almost to the wall of Constantinople.

But in 1449 (the end of the one hundred and fifty years) a noteworthy change occurred. In that year the Eastern emperor, John Palæologus, died, and his brother, Constantine XIII, fell heir to the throne. And the fifth angel ceased its woeful blast of one hundred and fifty years, to be followed by the still more woeful trump of the sixth angel.



CHAPTER IV

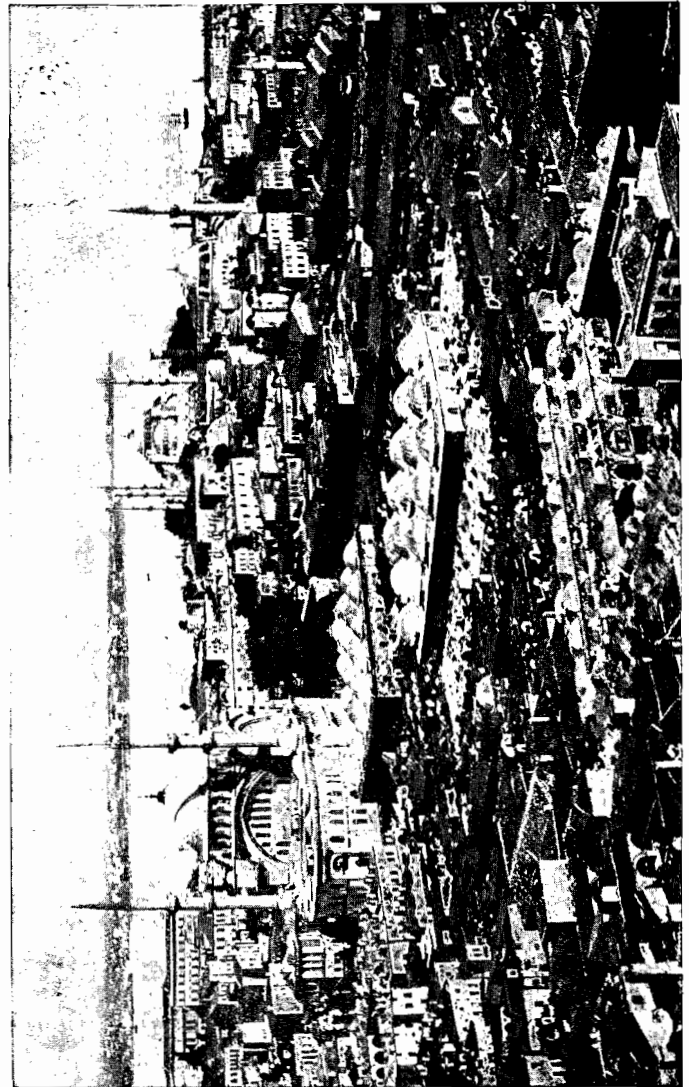
The Turk in Prophecy

The Sixth Trumpet

"AND they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon [margin, a destroyer]. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. And the sixth angel sounded." Rev. 9: 11-13.

Constantine XIII (1449) before daring to assume the crown to which he had fallen heir, humbly sought the permission of the Turkish Sultan, without whose consent he was afraid to exercise his imperial authority.

"In the long career of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, I have," says Gibbon, "reached at length the last reign of the princes of Constantinople, who so feebly sustained the name and majesty of the Cæsars. On the decease of John Palæologus . . . the royal family was reduced to three princes—Constantine, Demetrius, and Thomas. . . . The empress-mother, the senate and soldiers, the clergy and people, were unanimous in the cause of the lawful successor [Constantine]; and the despot Thomas, who, ignorant of the change, accidentally returned to the capital, asserted with becoming zeal the interest of his absent brother. An ambassador, the historian Phranza, was immediately despatched to the [Turkish] court of Adrianople. Amurath received him with honour, and dismissed him with gifts;



A View of the Bosphorus from Constantinople

but the gracious approbation of the Turkish sultan announced his supremacy, and the approaching downfall of the Eastern Empire." —*Decline and Fall*, chap. 67.

Grecian Independence Lost

Thus in the very year marked by prophecy the power was voluntarily surrendered to the Turks, and Grecian independence was gone. And although the Turks did not at that time actually take possession of Constantinople, yet the Grecian Empire itself ceased; the territory and the power were in the hands of the Ottomans, and all that remained was but the fading shadow of an imperial authority, bounded by the walls of the city, and supported by a military force of less than five thousand men. A few years later (1453), Mohammed II, who had succeeded his father Amurath to the Ottoman throne, laid siege to and reduced the city of Constantinople, and the death of the last of the Constantines shortly followed. The eastern city of the Caesars became the seat of the Ottoman Empire; the destroyer was firmly established between the two continents, where he has maintained his reputation as "the great assassin" to the present time.

Prophetic Chronology

Says the prophecy, "And the sixth angel sounded . . . for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men." Rev. 9:13-15.

An ordinary Biblical year of twelve months contains three hundred and sixty days. To these days are added a month of thirty days, one day, and an hour— one twenty-fourth part of a day. Together they aggregate three

1 year	=	360	days
1 month	=	30	"
1 day	=	1	"
1 hour	=	$\frac{1}{24}$	"
		<hr/>	
		Total	$391\frac{1}{24}$ "
		<hr/>	
		$391\frac{1}{24}$ symbolic days =	
		391 years	15 days

hundred and ninety-one and one twenty-fourth days, which, according to the symbolical significance of a day, represent three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days. The fifth trumpet began to sound on July 27, 1299. That was the date on which the Mohammedan tribes, under the command of Othman, first entered Nicomedia; and Gibbon remarks on the singular accuracy of the date as that which marked the beginning of the rapid and destructive growth of the Turkish monster. From that date the five months of symbolic time—one hundred and fifty literal years during which the fifth trumpet was to sound—continued until 1449. In 1449 the *sixth* trumpet began its long blast of three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days, or until the 11th of August, 1840.

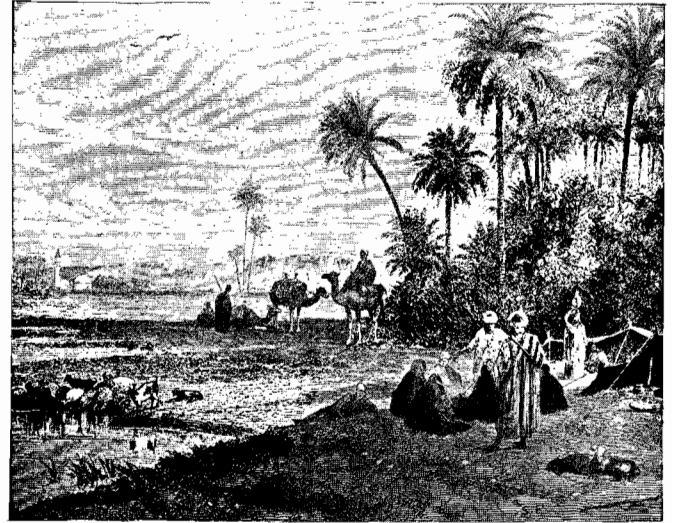
The fifth trumpet began to sound	A. D.	1299	July 27
"	"	continued to sound	150 years
"	"	ended and 6th began	1449
The sixth trumpet continued to sound		391 years and 15 days	
"	"	ended	1840 August 11

What occurred on August 11, 1840, to mark the close of the sounding of the sixth trumpet? It could be nothing less than a voluntary surrender of Turkish independence, similar, in some respects, to the manner in which Greece had surrendered its independence to Turkey nearly four hundred years before.

The Sultan and the Pasha

"For several years prior to 1840, the Sultan of Turkey had been embroiled in war with Mehemet Ali, Pasha of Egypt. In 1838 the trouble between the Sultan and his Egyptian vassal was, for the time being, restrained by the influence of the Sultan's foreign ambassadors. In 1839, however, hostilities were again commenced, and were prosecuted

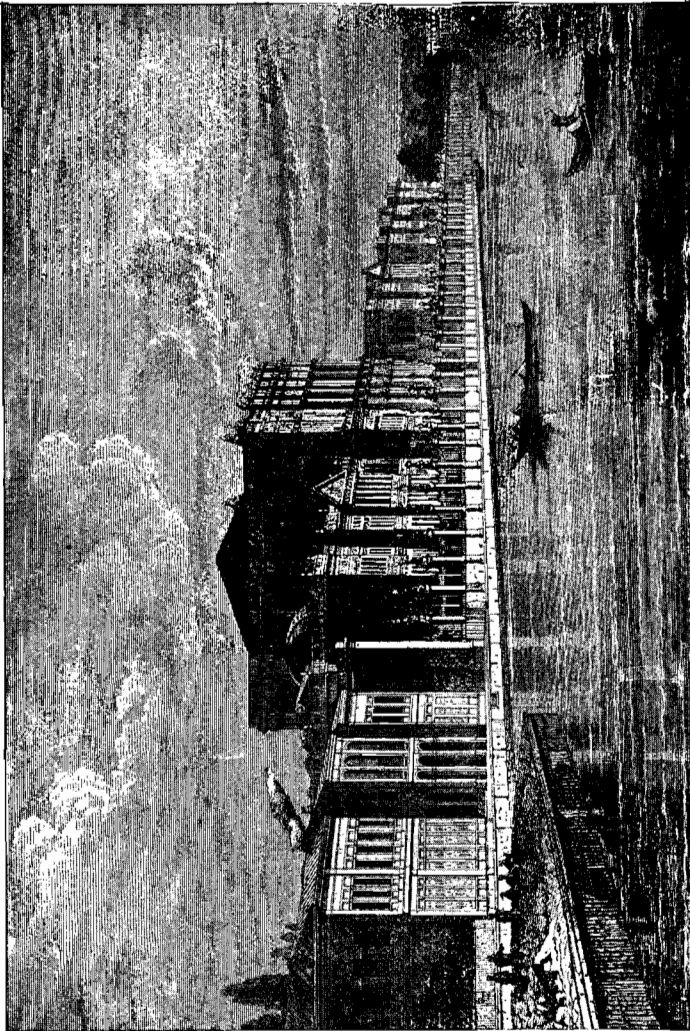
until, in a general battle between the armies of the Sultan and Mehemet, the Turks were entirely cut up and destroyed, and their fleet taken by Mehemet and carried into Egypt. So completely had the Sultan been reduced that, when the war again commenced in August, he had only two first-rates and three frigates as the remains of the once powerful



Mohammedans of the Desert

Turkish fleet. Mehemet positively refused to give up and return to the Sultan the captured vessels, and declared that if the Powers attempted to take them from him, he would burn them. In this condition affairs stood, when, in 1840, England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia interposed and determined on the settlement of the difficulty; for it was evident that, if let alone, Mehemet would soon become master of the Sultan's throne."

4

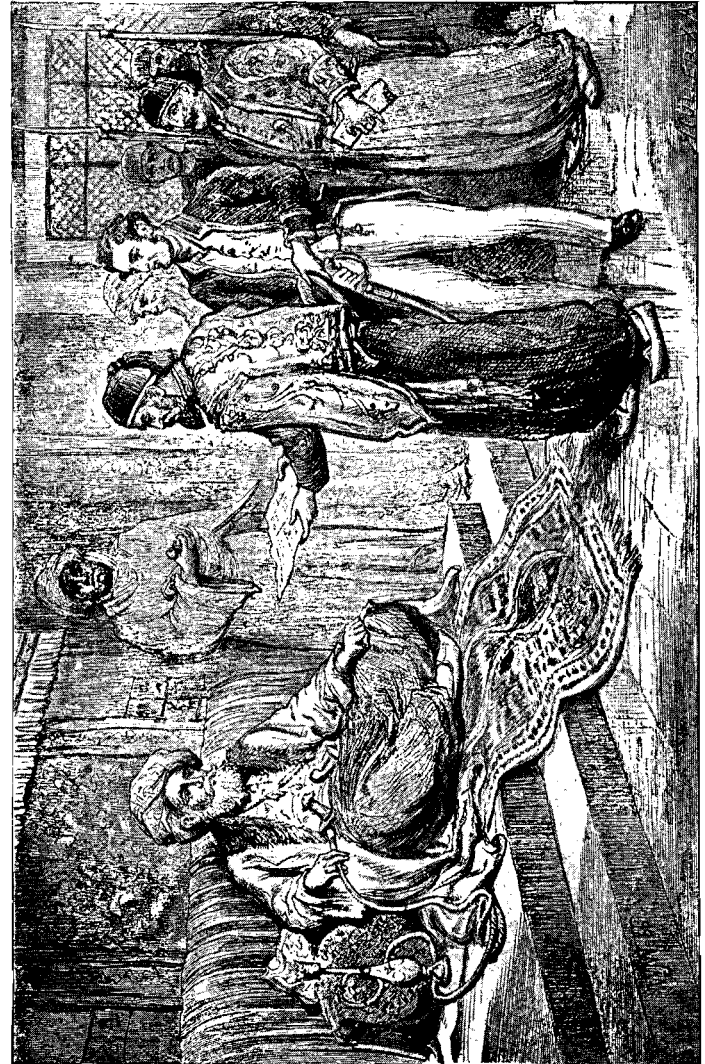


The Sultan's Palaco

The Ottoman ruler accepted this intervention of the great Powers, and thus made a voluntary surrender of the question into their hands. A conference of these Powers was held in London, the Sheik Effendi Bey Likgis being present as Ottoman plenipotentiary. An ultimatum was drawn up to present to the Pasha of Egypt, whereby the Sultan was to offer him the hereditary government of Egypt, and all that part of Syria extending from the Gulf of Suez to the Lake of Tiberias, together with the province of Acre, for life; he on his part was to evacuate all other portions of the Sultan's dominions then occupied by him, and to return the Ottoman fleet. In case he refused this offer from the Sultan, the four Powers were to take the matter into their own hands, and use such other means to bring him to terms as they should see fit.

An Important Ultimatum

It is apparent that just as soon as this ultimatum should be put by the Sultan of Turkey into the hands of Mehemet Ali, the Pasha of Egypt, the matter would be forever beyond the control of the former, and the disposal of his affairs would, from that moment, be in the hands of foreign Powers. The Sultan despatched Rifat Bey on a government steamer to Alexandria to communicate the ultimatum to the Pasha. This ultimatum was put into the Pasha's hands on *the 11th day of August, 1840*. A note had been addressed by the Sultan to the ambassadors of the four Powers, inquiring what plan was to be adopted in case the Pasha should refuse to comply with the terms of the ultimatum, to which they had made answer that the contingency had been provided for, and there was no necessity of his alarming himself about any difficulty that might arise. On this day the period of three hundred and ninety-one

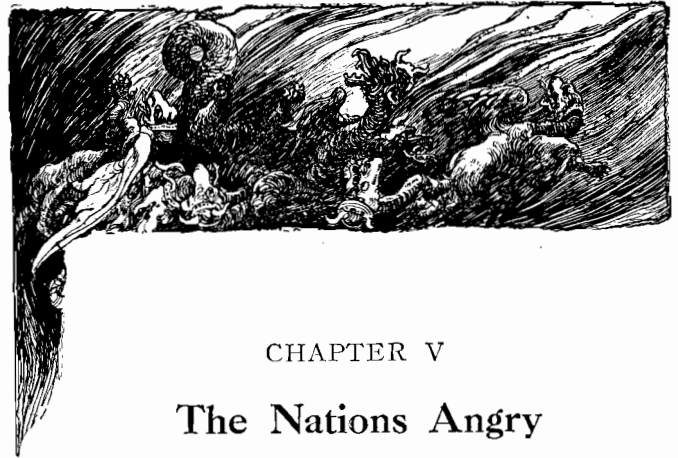


An Important Ultimatum

years and fifteen days allotted to the continuance of the Ottoman government as an independent power ended; and that empire has existed ever since only on the sufferance of the great Christian nations. Thus was the prophecy fulfilled to the very letter.

In the year 1838, two years before this event, public attention was called to the prophecy, and August 11, 1840, was awaited by thousands with intense interest. When the event occurred on that day, the effect was so pronounced that many sceptics openly announced their convictions, and accepted the truth and the inspiration of the Bible.

The accuracy of the predictions contained in the six trumpets establishes beyond the reach of doubt the certainty of the consummation of the events foretold in the next trumpet.



CHAPTER V

The Nations Angry

The Seventh Trumpet

THE last symbol of the series, the seventh trumpet, is recorded in the latter part of the eleventh chapter of Revelation, beginning with the fourteenth verse: "The second woe [sixth trumpet] is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly." The fearful scenes of the second woe are concluded, and we are now under the sounding of the seventh trumpet, which brings the third and last woe.

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. . . . And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Verses 15-18.

The fifteenth verse foretells the final establishment of the kingdom of Christ in this world. Under this seventh trumpet the kingdoms of the earth are transferred to our

Lord, and He shall reign forever and ever. Although the seventh trumpet has been sounding now for many years, yet it may not be a fact that the great voices in heaven have proclaimed that the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord, except it be in anticipation of the speedy accomplishment of this event.

An International Sign

That this event and the time for rewarding the righteous and punishing the wicked are now imminent is very evident, for, in connection with them, the prophecy declares, "And the nations were angry." Never were these words more true of international relationships than they are at this present time. Beginning with that spontaneous outburst of violence among the nations in 1848, jealousy and anger have been continually increasing, until at this present time they have reached a fearful degree of intensity, and scarcely a day passes in which the daily papers do not contain some references to strained relationships among the nations, and descriptions of still greater preparations for war, until the burden and strain have become almost unbearable.

At the inaugural banquet given to the press delegates in England a year ago, Lord Rosebery pictured the situation before six hundred of the empire's editors and pressmen, and the picture certainly was a startling one. The following is part of the speech as reported in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* :—

"Now you will forgive me if I come next, and at once, to what is by far the most vital topic that you have to discuss at this conference, or which concerns our empire as a whole. I mean that of imperial defence. (Cheers.) I do not know that in some ways I have ever seen a condition of things in Europe so remarkable, so peaceful, and, in some respects, so ominous as the condition of things to-day. There is a hush in Europe—a hush in which you may almost hear a leaf fall

to the ground. There is an absolute absence of any questions which ordinarily lead to war. One of the great empires, which is sometimes disposed to menace peace, is entirely engrossed with its own internal affairs. Another great eastern empire, which furnished a perpetual problem to statesmen, has taken a new lease of life and youth in searching for constitutional peace and reform. All forebode peace, yet, at the same time, combined with this total absence of all questions of friction, there never was in the history of the world so threatening and so overpowering a preparation for war. This is a sign which, I confess, I regard as most ominous. For forty years it has been a platitude to say that Europe is—

An Armed Camp

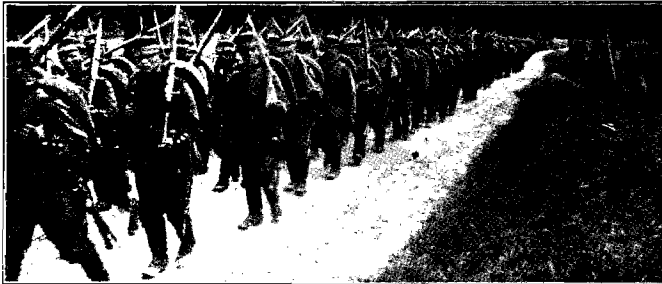
and for forty years it has been true that all nations have been facing each other, armed to the teeth, and that has been in some respects a guarantee of peace.

"Now what do we see? Without any tangible reason, we see nations preparing new armaments. They cannot arm more men on land, so they have to seek new armaments upon the sea, piling up these enormous preparations, as if for some great Armageddon, and that in a time of profoundest peace. . . . I feel myself confident in the resolution and power of this country to meet any reasonable conjunction of forces; but when I see this bursting out of navies everywhere; when I see one country alone asking for twenty-five millions of extra taxation for war preparations; when I see the absolutely unprecedented sacrifices which are asked from us on the same ground, I do begin to feel uneasy at the outcome of it all, and I wonder where it will stop, or if it is nearly going to bring back Europe into a state of barbarism, or whether it will cause a catastrophe in which the working men of the world will say: 'We will have no more of this madness, this foolery, which is grinding us to powder.'"

That some subtle influence is at work in the political world, which is the chief cause of the present universal preparations for war, there can be no question. All the skill and ingenuity of which men are capable seems to be directed towards the invention of diabolical engines of destruction, and no one can tell what dreadful instrument the mind of man will perfect next.

England and Germany

Strange as it may appear, the nations that are leading in this mad race for military and naval supremacy are the very ones which make the greatest professions of Christianity; and in addition to this, the two chief actors in the drama, England and Germany, are closely related by ties of kinship. These two nations, which for these reasons should be most friendly to each other, are most jealous of each other's war strength, and are making most strenuous



German Soldiers

efforts to excel in military and naval power. In England the people are intensely stirred at the prospect of Germany's placing on the North Sea a fleet stronger than that possessed by the British, while in Germany the people and the government appear to be determined to excel England's naval power.

The object of Germany's designs was plainly stated in the *Kreuz Zeitung* (Berlin). The writer said, "It is nothing but the policy of the ostrich to shut our eyes to the fact that we are constructing our fleet against England, and against England alone."

Evidently with a view of fostering a national determination to challenge the sea power of Great Britain, an extraordinary pamphlet is being circulated in Germany which, it is said, "describes the coming *débâcle* of the British Empire, out of whose ashes a universal German sovereignty is to arise." This pamphlet is entitled—

"After the Storm"

the storm being a great European war, the outcome of which, it is predicted, will be the collapse of Britain's world-wide empire. That this great European war is regarded in official circles as no idle fancy, readers of the daily newspapers know full well. According to the pamphlet referred to, Germany is deliberately preparing for a great war in order to erect a universal German monarchy upon the ashes of Great Britain. And she makes no secret of her intentions. In England the chief topic of conversation is the necessity of increasing the naval strength of the empire in order to be prepared to offer an invulnerable defence against any attack by Germany. A writer in *The National Review* (London) says:—

"The nation which in 1864 attacked and despoiled Denmark; which in 1866 attacked and defeated Austria; which in 1870-1 picked a quarrel with France, levied an indemnity of £200,000,000 upon her, and annexed two French provinces; which in 1905 suddenly threatened France with war unless she dismissed her Foreign Minister; and which in 1909 menaced Russia with invasion unless Russia surrendered to Austria, is not likely to spare England if given a chance of effecting that 'settlement' which Treitschke a generation ago foretold would be the 'last and most difficult' for the German people. An indemnity of a thousand millions, an expenditure of five hundred millions on our own army and navy too late to secure success, and the destruction of British credit, trade, and industry, will be the penalties of any weakness on our part. There is only one way in which such a calamity can be averted—by developing our armed strength to the utmost with-

out delay, and by concentrating our whole attention upon survival in the struggle for existence which has been forced upon us."

In face of the possibility of such a disaster it is little wonder that considerable excitement prevails in England over the question of coastal defence, and the protection of the highways of international commerce, which England has guarded with such pride for generations. Imperial statesmen recognise that if Germany succeeds in equalling



British Artillery

Britain in naval power, then not only the commerce of England will be endangered, but the food supplies of the forty millions of people who inhabit the United Kingdom are liable to be cut off, thus imperilling the very existence of the nation.

Britain's Fleet

While Britain's fleet is paramount, England need fear no invasion. But if her sea power is destroyed she will be at the mercy of any nation strong enough to intercept her foreign commerce and cut off her food supplies. The mind reels at the thought of the titanic struggle for the supremacy that must take place before such a condition is reached.

The power of Great Britain stands between Germany and the realisation of her ambition to establish a universal monarchy. While Great Britain is able to maintain a predominant voice on the ocean highways, Germany cannot absorb the Netherlands, nor expand her empire very materially either in Europe or abroad. So, in order to achieve her purpose she must break Britain's sea power, and her determination to do this is so patent to everybody that the coming contest for supremacy is confidently expected by all who are watching the trend of events. In France the preparations for the struggle are, naturally, being observed very keenly, and M. Gaston Dru, in the *Echo de Paris*, charges Germany with designs on England for the purpose of establishing *a universal monarchy*—a purpose which he informs us in the following striking paragraph is doomed to failure:—

"The German attempt after universal monarchy is destined to make shipwreck as did that of Phillip II, Louis XIV, and Napoleon I. Germany is now a prey to the demon of that national character by which her destiny is controlled. It would be impossible for her to avoid, even if she wished it, the struggle toward which she is rushing with such precipitancy. She is inevitably bound by the law of competition to the death, and in the European drama she is playing the rôle exemplified by the fate-driven hero in a Greek drama. Like *Siegfried*, Germany's favourite hero, her fated genius has forged the unbreakable sword, and she rushes headlong to the capture of the golden ring which shall give her all power, and, recklessly blind, is destined to kindle the frightful conflagration of the political Valhalla, amid the twilight and eclipse of independent nationalities. . . . At the present moment, however, the triple *entente*, England, France, and Russia, represents the anti-Germanic sentiment of the entire world, and is quite capable of winning the cause of civilisation against Germanism."

Nations Taking Sides

The great nations are taking sides, some with England, some with Germany, and with them are feverishly preparing for Armageddon. Japan is in full alliance with England; Russia and France are its sworn friends. The vitality of the triple alliance was recently proved; Italy may be lukewarm, but Austria is heart and hand with Germany. And Austria's policies are now inspired by one of the most daring minds that has ever bent its attention upon the map of Europe. That mind, it is affirmed, is constantly travelling the road to Constantinople.

* When Franz Ferdinand comes to the throne, Austria-Hungary will have as ambitious a ruler as ever Germany had; and his ambitions for the Teutonic race will not be confined to his own realm, but they will include all the German people. He is said to be a Jesuit of the Jesuits, and to have remarkable gifts as an organiser, statesman, soldier, and diplomat. He now has as an object, the securing of the Turkish port of Salonica to be Austria-Hungary's outlet to the Mediterranean. The seizing of Bosnia and Herzegovina was a step in that direction. That was accomplished with the connivance of Germany.

Austria's Ambitions

For one thing, it is said, Franz Ferdinand intends to make Vienna the most important capital in Europe, and to restore the ancient glories of the empire over which his ancestors have ruled for seven centuries. He means also, we are told, to be the foremost monarch in the world, the arbiter and dictator of European politics; and it is his firm determination to expel the Turk from Europe, and plant the Austrian flag on the banks of the Bosphorus. He

aims at nothing short of the Eastern and Western Empires ruled over so long by the Cæsars.

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, September 20, 1910, had the following editorial concerning an announcement that, "A treaty has been arranged between Turkey and Roumania." The editorial, which I append, shows what is the trend of affairs in Europe at this present time:—

Turkey and the Triple Alliance

"Very significant is the move, which has now at last been openly announced, by which another great stride has been taken in the direction of bringing Turkey within the ambit of the Triple Alliance. It is stated that a treaty has been signed between Turkey and Roumania by which Roumania undertakes to support Turkey in the event of an attack being made upon her by Bulgaria. And it is added that the new treaty was inspired by Germany and Austria. The significance of the new treaty is due to the fact that Roumania joined the Triple Alliance in 1896 in order to get her territorial integrity and the maintenance of the status quo on the Lower Danube guaranteed. Roumania, as an ally of Turkey, has the powerful backing of the Triple Alliance behind her, and consequently the whole weight of the German-Austrian coalition must be reckoned as being on the side of Turkey in the event of any acute development of the Eastern question. If Turkey is not yet formally admitted as a member of the Triple Alliance, it is evident that the recent prolonged conferences at Marienbad between Hakkı Bey, the Turkish Grand Vizier, and Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian Foreign Minister, have resulted in an arrangement which is tantamount to the inclusion of Turkey in the "triplice," at any rate for Balkan purposes. The *Korenz Zeitung*, a German journal, lately remarked that "during the last few weeks a large step forward has been made, and the attainment of the goal—the achievement of a far-reaching understanding regarding the further treatment of the political questions in the near East between the Powers of the Triple Alliance and Turkey—has been brought within measurable distance." It is a long-winded rigmarole, but the meaning is unmistakable. Turkey has been induced at last to rely for the preservation of her political and territorial interests upon the support of the Triple Alliance rather than upon the assistance of the Powers that undertook

*See Appendix concerning Ferdinand's assassination.

to guarantee her sovereignty over Crete. *The obvious danger for Turkey is that the great military Powers whom she has invoked to assist her may end by dismembering her.* Austria's ambition for south-easterly expansion to an outlet on the Ægean Sea is as universally recognised as Germany's ambition for a north-westerly expansion to fresh outlets on the North Sea. And since nothing for nothing is the rule in international bargaining, it is generally assumed that Germany's support for Austria's expansion to Salonika will be given on the sole condition that Austria's support will be at the disposal of Germany when the time is ripe for Germany to make a move on Antwerp.

"It is evident that the Cretan question is at the bottom of this move by the young Turkish party who control the government of Turkey. For months past the German and Austrian press has not ceased to din into the ears of Turkey that she can expect no solid support from England, France, Italy, and Russia, the four Powers that have guaranteed to keep Crete an autonomous province of the Turkish Empire. It has been represented that Great Britain secretly favours the claim of Greece to annex Crete, on account of dynastic connections, and that the other guaranteeing Powers follow her lead. The unrest among the Cretans continues, and although they passed a resolution, under compulsion, permitting Moslem delegates to be elected to the Cretan Assembly a couple of months ago, they at once adjourned the Assembly as a sign that their obedience was merely formal. The majority of the Cretans, being Greeks, and animated by an intense desire to be re-united with Greece, will never be satisfied to remain under Turkish sovereignty; but, at the same time, the Turkish Government has repeatedly declared that it will throw an army into Greece on the first symptom of an attempt to amputate Crete from the sadly diminished corpus of the Turkish Empire. This is the dilemma which has to be faced, and now that the influence of Germany and Austria has been placed at the disposal of Turkey and accepted by her, the rôle of the guaranteeing Powers must be profoundly modified. Hitherto Germany and Austria have been merely interested spectators of the situation as between Turkey, Greece, Crete, and the guaranteeing Powers. But now if this Turco-Roumanian Alliance is to be regarded as a settled fact, the German-Austrian coalition must be regarded as taking a definite part in the game. The net result can hardly be other than to still more sharply demarcate the lines and accentuate the differences that separate the two

great armed camps of Europe, the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente—with the rôle of Italy, which nominally belongs to the Alliance, but which inclines towards the Entente, undecided.

But just here the designs of Austria and her allies conflict vitally with the ambitions of her powerful neighbour to the north. For centuries Russia has watched for an opportunity to plant her standard in Constantinople; and



Catherine II of Russia

in order that she may become a great nation she must have control of the Bosphorus. To that most famous empress of Russia, Catherine II, must be credited the scheme to make the Black Sea a Russian lake. "She resolved that the possessions of the Sultans should become the heritage of the Czars; and, as an expression of her faith in Russia's destiny she christened a grandchild Constantine, and had a gate at Moscow, that opened towards Turkey, named,

The Way to Constantinople

The scheme of the audacious Catherine is just as much a part of Russian policy to-day as it was at the time of its conception. Russia is now firmly established on the shores of the Black Sea. But the Black Sea, with the exception of one little outlet at its south-western extremity, is a vast land-locked lake. That one small channel is the Bosphorus, on which is the city of Constantinople. Nearly all Russia's great wars have been waged for the possession of this channel and this city, and she is not likely to abandon her aim now when the possession of Constantinople is to her far more important and necessary than it has been at any previous period of her history. To be denied free access to the sea is an extremely humiliating and intolerable position for one of the greatest States in the world, and for this reason the possession of Constantinople has been an integral part of her policy for upwards of ten centuries.

All the *world* feels that in Turkey is to be decided the destiny of Europe, and with the fate of that tottering empire is connected the fate of all nations. During the dark days of the Armenian massacres, fifteen years ago, the late Marquis of Salisbury in a memorable Mansion House speech vividly portrayed the conditions of Europe then as related to the Turkish question; and the same conditions intensified obtain to-day.

"Turkey," said the venerable statesman, "is in that remarkable condition that it has now stood for half a century, mainly because the great Powers of the world have resolved that *for the peace of Christendom it is necessary that the Ottoman Empire should stand.* They came to that conclusion nearly half a century ago. I do not think they have altered it now. The danger, if the Ottoman Empire fell, would not merely be the danger that would threaten the territories of which that empire consists, but that the fire there lighted would

spread to other nations, and should *involve all that is most powerful and civilised in Europe in a dangerous and calamitous contest.* That was a danger that was present to the minds of our fathers when



Mehmed V, successor to Abdul Hamid II

they resolved to make the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire a matter of European treaty, and *that is a danger which has not passed away.*"

A Temporary Remedy

That all the moves which have been made to stay off the evil day are only temporary and artificial, is well known to the principal participants. This was made very clear by Lord Salisbury in a conversation with Chedo Mijatovich, one of Servia's greatest statesmen. On this point he expressed the following opinion:—

"The Berlin treaty is *altogether artificial*. It created *artificial conditions* which probably, as you say, *cannot last very long*. But what human work, and more especially *what diplomatic work is not artificial?* Not only diplomacy, but history also, creates artificial conditions. The Berlin Congress had to deal principally with Turkey in Europe—*not only an artificial, but an unnatural creation in itself*—complicated with the temporary results of the last war, and with the more permanent international jealousies. If you wish to know my personal opinion, I will tell you that *the only natural, logical, and healthy Balkan policy for Great Britain would be that one formulated by Mr. Gladstone: 'THE TURKS OUGHT TO BE DRIVEN OUT OF EUROPE WITH ALL THEIR BAG AND BAGGAGE.'* Unfortunately the Eastern Question is so complicated, and the European system so artificial, that I, as Her Majesty's principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs, cannot apply the policy which I consider the only true and natural one."—*Chedo Mijatovich, in the Fortnightly Review, art., "Salisbury the Peacemaker," December, 1907.*

The Inevitable

The following words by a great soldier and statesman, corroborated by what we ourselves see and hear, should compel every man to seriously consider the prophecies of which the present international relationships are a fulfilment, and prepare for the final act—the close of probation, the punishment of the wicked, and the establishment of the kingdom of God.

"Those who study the map of Europe at the present time and note the condition of things in Europe, must feel

that there is hanging over us a war-cloud greater than any that has hung over Europe before. It means that when it bursts, and burst it surely will, as surely as the sun will rise to-morrow, it means, not as in former days a contest between two highly trained armies, but a war of extinction, of devastation, between great nations, whose populations are armed and trained to fight."

That there may be no room for doubt, nor reason for unbelief, the causes for this international mistrust, jealousy, and anger are plainly foretold in a prophecy found in the eleventh chapter of the book of Daniel, to which we shall refer in the following pages. Immediately connected with these manifestations of anger are events that occur at the close of probation.

"And the time of the dead [is come], that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Rev. 11:18.

The Final Act

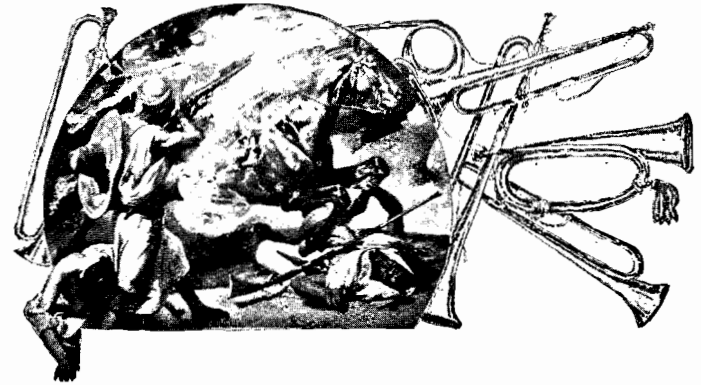
The first four trumpets mark the downfall of the western empire of Rome; and the fifth and sixth trumpets mark the destruction of the eastern division of the same empire. The seventh trumpet encompasses the subversion of all kingdoms and nations, and proclaims the establishment of the kingdom of our Lord, which shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms. Dan. 2:44. The woe of the fifth trumpet was called by Gibbon the "shipwreck of nations;" but the woe of the seventh trumpet will be not only the shipwreck of nations, but of the world itself.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every

freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:14-17.

DIAGRAM OF THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Seven Trumpets	{	1 Goths under Alaric	} Dismemberment of Western Rome, 4th and 5th centuries
		2 Vandals under Genseric	
		3 Huns under Attila	
		4 Hernli under Odoacer	
Voces	{	1-5 Saracens	} Subjugation of Eastern Rome, July 27, 1299, to August 14, 1840
		2-6 Turks	
}	{	Nations angry	} Christ takes to Himself the kingdoms of this world
		3-7 Investigative judgment	
		Righteous rewarded Wicked punished	



CHAPTER VI

The Eastern Question

An Additional Proof

THAT the most sceptical may be convinced in regard to the serious import of the present international conditions, and that the most cautious may be assured, the Lord has graciously given to us a prophecy which not only predicts these great preparations for war, but also foretells their cause.

The eleventh chapter of the book of Daniel contains a prophetic sketch of history from the beginning of the reign of Darius the Mede (538 B.C.) until the time of the setting up of the kingdom of Christ, as is shown by the words of the last verses of the eleventh chapter, and the first few verses of the twelfth. The prophecy begins with the first verse of chapter eleven, by referring to Persian dominion under the first four kings; and then, in the last

part of the second verse, it mentions the invasion by Xerxes of the realm of Grecia. Having introduced Greece, the prophecy continues:—

“And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.” Verses 3, 4.

Alexander the Great

This mighty king who was to arise and do according to his will, can be no other than Alexander the Great. After his death, which occurred in 323 B.C., the realm of Grecia was divided into four parts. One of his generals seized the western provinces—Greece and Macedon. Another took the northern—Thrace and Asia Minor. Another the eastern division, from the Mediterranean Sea to the border of India. The fourth took Egypt, Arabia, and Cyprus, in the south. Thus the kingdom was divided into four parts, toward the four points of the compass.

Not many years passed until those generals fell into dissensions among themselves, and finally the power was merged into the hands of two only—the king of the north and the king of the south. The king of the north occupied all the northern parts, from the Adriatic Sea to the River Indus; and the king of the south had Egypt, Arabia, and some islands in the Mediterranean. From here the prophecy continues to speak about the king of the north and the king of the south until the sixteenth verse, after which they are not again mentioned, with the exception of an allusion in the twenty-fifth verse, until the fortieth verse, where they are spoken of in connection with the “time of the end.”

Another Kingdom Introduced

In the latter part of the prophecy (verse 36) another kingdom is introduced, and it is mentioned in connection with the king of the north and the king of the south. In order that this power may be readily recognised, several things are specified concerning it that enable us to determine to which kingdom the prophecy applies.

“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the god of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.” Dan. 11: 36-39.

According to this description three special and peculiar features will be characteristic of the power that fulfils this prophecy:—

1. It will be atheistical for a certain period of time, and then it will give itself up to the worship of a god hitherto unknown. Dan. 11: 36.

2. In connection with its denial of God, it will in some way trample underfoot the “desire of women,” or wives. This indicates that the marriage institution, as originated at creation, will be set aside, and ideal home life practically prevented. Verse 37.

3. In its mad career it will confiscate the land and sell it for its own gain. Verse 39.

These three specifications fix beyond a doubt the nation that is here introduced into prophecy. It can be no other

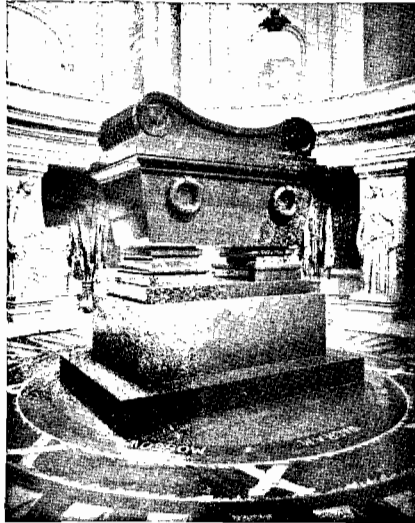
than France. She is the only nation whose history bears record of events that comply with all these points of identification.

An Atheistical Power

The following paragraph taken from *Blackwood's Magazine* identifies plainly the relation of France to the foregoing prophecy:—

“France is the only nation in the world concerning which the authentic record survives, that as a nation she lifted her hand in open rebellion against the Author of the universe. Plenty of blasphemers, plenty of infidels, there have been, and still continue to be in England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere; but France stands apart in the world's history as the single State which by the decree of her legislative assembly, pronounced that there was no God, and of which the entire population of the capital, and a vast majority elsewhere, women as well as men, danced and sang with joy in accepting the announcement.”

Speaking of France in the year 1793, Scott, in his life of Napoleon, says: “The world for the first time heard an assembly of men, born and educated in civilisation, and assuming the right to govern one of the finest of the



Napoleon's Tomb.

European nations, uplift their united voice to deny the most solemn truth which man's soul receives, and renounce unanimously the belief and worship of Deity.”

A Strange God

Before long it was found that the attempt to make France a godless nation produced nothing but anarchy, and the rulers feared the power would pass entirely out of their hands. As a political necessity some sort of religion had to be found, so they originated the insane worship of Liberty, Equality, Virtue, and Morality, and then in 1794 the worship of the Goddess of Reason. In this manner France worshipped “a god whom his fathers knew not.” Verse 38.

“The 20th of December, the day fixed for the installation of the new worship, the commune, the convention, and the authorities of Paris, went in a body to the cathedral. Chaumette, seconded by Lais, an actor at the opera, had arranged for the plan of the *fête*. Mademoiselle Maillard, an actress, in the full bloom of youth and talent, formerly a favourite of the queen's, and high in popular admiration, had been compelled by Chaumette's threats to play the part of the divinity of the people. She entered borne on a palanquin, the seat of which was formed of oak branches. Women dressed in white, and wearing tri-coloured girdles, preceded her. Popular societies, fraternal female societies, revolutionary committees, sections, groups of choristers, singers, and opera dancers encircled the throne. With the theatrical column on her feet, a Phrygian cap on her head, her frame scarcely covered with a white tunic, over which a flowing cloak of sky-blue was thrown, the priestess was borne, at the sound of instruments, to the foot of the altar, and placed on the spot where the adoration of the faithful so lately sought the mystic bread transformed into a divinity. Behind her was a vast torch, emblematical of the light of philosophy, destined henceforth to be the sole flame of the interior of these temples. The actress lighted this flambeau. Chaumette, receiving the encensior, in which the perfume was burning, from the hands of the two acolytes, knelt, and waved it in the air. A mutilated statue of the virgin lay at his feet. Chaumette

apostrophised the marble, and defied it to resume its place in the respect of the people. Dances and hymns attracted the eyes and ears of the spectators. No profanation was wanting in the old temple whose foundations were confounded with the foundations of religion and the monarchy. Forced by terror to be present at this *fête*, Bishop Gobel was there, in the tribune at this parody of the mysteries which three days before he had celebrated at the same altar. A similar worship was imitated in all the churches throughout the departments."—*Historians' History of the World*, Vol. XII, p. 332.

The Marriage Institution

And France is the only civilised nation that answers the second description. For, says the historian,—

"Intimately connected with these laws affecting religion was that which reduced the union of marriage—the most sacred engagements which human beings can form, and the permanence of which leads most strongly to the consolidation of society—to the state of a mere civil contract of a transitory character, which any two persons might engage in, and cast loose at pleasure, when their taste was changed or their appetite gratified. If fiends had set themselves at work to discover a mode of most effectually destroying whatever is venerable, graceful, or permanent in domestic life, and obtaining at the same time an assurance that the mischief which it was their object to create should be perpetuated from one generation to another, they could not have invented a more effectual plan than the degradation of marriage into a state of mere occasional cohabitation or licensed concubinage."—*Scott's Napoleon*.

Divide the Land

The third descriptive statement is true also of France. Prior to the Revolution, the landed property was owned by a few landlords in immense estates, the laws being such that these estates could not be divided or sold. During that frightful period of revolution when no law was recognised, these estates were confiscated, divided up, and sold for the benefit of the public exchequer.

"The confiscation of two-thirds of the landed property of the kingdom, which arose from the decrees of the convention against the emigrants, clergy, and persons convicted at the Revolutionary Tribunals, . . . placed funds worth above £700,000,000 sterling at the disposal of the government."—*Allison*.

A Triangular War

Following the prophetic record in the eleventh chapter of Daniel we read:—

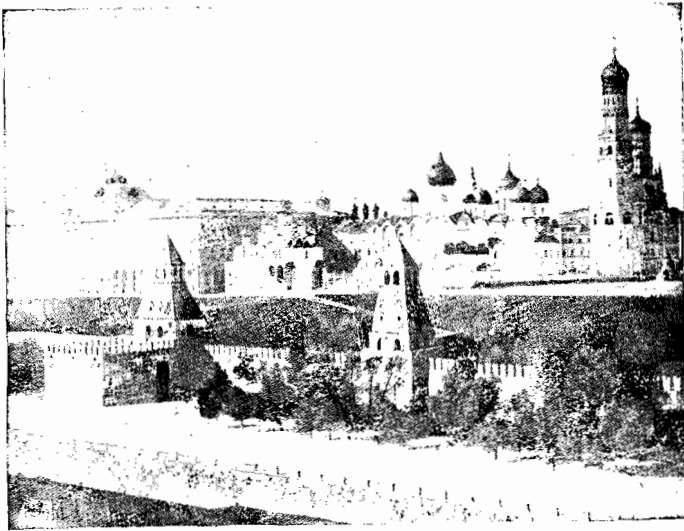
"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him [the power just described—France]: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind." Verse 40.

The application of this prophecy calls for a war "in the time of the end" in which France will be engaged with the governments occupying the territory formerly ruled over by Alexander the Great. For many years the northern division of Alexander's empire has been in the hands of the Turks; and Egypt, with its adjacent countries, still constitutes the southern division. We inquire, Did such a triangular war occur about the time when those conditions described in the prophecy prevailed in France? History answers, Yes. The beginning of the year 1798 found France indulging in immense projects against England. But the season not being propitious, Napoleon determined to occupy his soldiers, and get glory for himself, in the romantic land of the Ptolemies. On the 3rd of May he, in charge of a numerous fleet, sailed for Alexandria, and in a few months lower Egypt was entirely under his control. On September 2 of the same year, the Sultan of Turkey, under feelings of jealousy against France, artfully fostered by England, and exasperated that Egypt, so long a semi-dependency of the Ottoman Empire, should be transferred into a French province, declared war against France. The

king of the north, with the aid of his allies, gained the day in this contest; the French were prevented from extending their conquests, and ultimately (1801) they found it necessary to evacuate Egypt entirely.

The King of the North

Having re-introduced the king of the north (Turkey) as a victorious Power, the prophecy continues to speak of



The Kremlin, Moscow

him, and says: "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." Verse 44.

The Powers north and east of Turkey are Russia and Persia respectively. Here evident allusion is made to the

Crimean war of 1853-56. Russia, being the aggressor, was the object of attack by Turkey. The world looked on in amazement to see a government that had long been called "the sick man of the east," rush with such impetuosity into the conflict. Once again, with the help of her allies—England, France, and Sardinia—Turkey was victorious.

The last verse of this eleventh chapter, still speaking of the king of the north—Turkey—which has its seat in Constantinople, says: "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

Since August 11, 1840, the integrity of the Ottoman Empire has been a matter of European treaty. She retains her position in Europe by means of help received from the great Powers, especially from England.

For many centuries past Russia has made unremitting efforts to obtain Constantinople. Once she practically had it, but was prevented by Great Britain and other European Powers from keeping it. This desire on the part of Russia to obtain Constantinople has been cherished from time immemorial. All Russia's ports, with the exception of those on the Black Sea, lie in the very coldest regions, and some of them lie in the Arctic circle. She can never be a great maritime power until she has open ports in warm water. For this reason she wants Constantinople, the best strategic point in all Europe. As a step toward gaining this, Peter the Great went to Holland to learn the art of shipbuilding. In his celebrated last will and testament he gave his country the following counsel: "Take every possible means of gaining Constantinople and the Indies, for he who rules there will be the true sovereign of the world."

Russia and the Dardanelles

“The Black Sea is the only water that Russia has that is open the year round. There she can build and float her navies always in warm water. But lo! the only door—the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles—from the Black Sea to the ocean, is in the power of the Turk, and in addition, by terms of specific treaties of the concerted powers, this door is absolutely closed to warships. Thus the Black Sea, though free from ice the year round, is rendered as valueless to Russia as though it were continually ice-bound.

“Is it, then, any wonder that Russia should have so long regarded the destruction of the Ottoman Empire, and the possession of Constantinople, with the control of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, ‘as the great object of her existence’? It was in order that he might accomplish the conquest of Turkey that Peter the Great spent time in Holland and England to learn ship-building. He wrote: ‘We labour in order thoroughly to master the art of the sea; so that, having once learned it, we may return to Russia and conquer the enemies of Christ, and free by His grace the Christians who are oppressed. This is what I shall long for, to my latest breath.’”



Peter the Great.

But despite Russia's best efforts, the despised Turk still maintains possession of the key to her only open door, and the “concert” of Europe until now persists in supporting the Turk in that position.

For these reasons Turkey has been a special object of Russian intrigue and attacks, and only that the Turk has received help Russia would have been established in Constantinople many years ago.

Sustained by Help

The expression, *none shall help him* (verse 45), implies that Turkey would be the marked recipient of help for a time, and that the help would be ultimately withdrawn. In the war with France (1798-1801) England and Russia helped the Sultan. In the war between Turkey and Egypt (1838-1840), England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia intervened on behalf of Turkey. In the Crimean war (1853-1856), England, France, and Sardinia supported the Turk. In the Russia-Turkish war of 1877-78, the great Powers of Europe interfered to arrest the progress of Russia.

It has been Great Britain's policy for many years past to help the Turkish Government to retain its European capital, through a fear that if any other Power seized it England's sea route to India by the Suez Canal would be endangered in time of war. Until the present time the Eastern Question has been a term applied to a struggle, primarily between Russia and England—the attempts of the former to possess Constantinople and the balance of power in Europe, and the efforts of the latter to prevent her from doing so. Thus far England has been successful in her policy. Not only has she frustrated Russia's designs in Europe, but she has also confronted Russia in every



Battle of the Alma.

move she has made to reach the sea, from Kamchatka on the Pacific to Norway on the Atlantic.

We invite the reader to glance at a map of the world, and note particularly Britain's points of vantage—the English Channel, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, the mouths of the Nile, the Suez Canal, the Straits of Bab-el-mandeb, within the Straits of Omuz, all India, Thibet, Hong-Kong, the heart of China to Shanghai, and Wei-hai-wei. Then by her alliance with Japan—Formosa and the isles of Japan to the point of Kamchatka; and all Japan's influence in Korea and Manchuria. Let anybody do this, and then say, if he can, that British diplomacy and statesmanship have not magnificently triumphed over Russia in the contest of the Eastern Question. "It has been well said that in all the history of the world there has never been a longer-headed problem, nor one more wisely worked out, than this one so splendidly perfected by the statesmen of Britain."

The following paragraphs from a book by the venerable Duke of Argyle, who was a member of the British ministry when the treaty of Paris was consummated, April 15, 1856, state plainly the relations that, until now, have existed between Great Britain and the Sultan's government. The book bears the significant title of—

"Our Responsibility for Turkey"

"Let us never forget that it was we—the British Government and people—who rescued Turkey from this immediate danger, and this otherwise inevitable fate. I have a vivid recollection of how patiently, and yet how energetically, we strove to rally the other Powers in our support; how, at moments, we feared lest France would fail us; and how at last we succeeded in securing the loyal co-operation of the French Emperor. Without his army we never could have done what was accomplished. But, on the other hand, France would never have undertaken it but for us. In a military point of view she took a leading part; but, publicly speaking, we did the whole. Ours was the

naval base of operation; the direction of attack was chosen which was most accessible to us—most exhausting to Russia. *Above all, ours was the policy which dictated the terms of peace.* The whole aim of that peace was not only to record and confirm the defeat of Russia for the time, *but to put it out of her power to play the same game against Turkey again*—at least for some indefinite time to come.

"The Treaty of Paris, which terminated the war of 1856, *was a concentrated expression of the whole policy on which the war had been undertaken.* It made us foremost as a nation in a joint responsibility—by irrevocable deeds and by definite transactions—for the very existence of the Turkish Government as a Power even pretending to independence. Not only did we save Turkey for the moment from entangling engagements with Russia which would have left her in the position of vassalage and practical subjection, but we determined largely and effectually to disarm her hereditary foe in the whole region of Turkish territory most open to Russian attack. We had exhausted the resources of Russia by a long and bloody campaign carried on at one extremity of her empire. We had destroyed her fleet. We had ruined her one great arsenal in the Euxine. But not content with this, *we imposed on her a treaty stipulating that this arsenal should not be restored, and that no Russian Black-Sea fleet was to be formed again, so that Turkey might dwell in peace.*

"This, however, was not all we did for Turkey. We did a great deal more. As Russia was deprived of these means of aggression, so also was she to be deprived of her old and long-standing excuses and opportunities for attack. *All the treaties which were the record of her dearly bought victories for more than a hundred years, were to be absolutely given up and abandoned.* Turkey was to be freed from all of them, so that she might live and rule without embarrassing engagements of any kind to Russia in respect to her Christian subjects, such as had been imposed upon her. But even this does not exhaust all of our work for Turkey. She had not been admitted, in 1815, within the circle of European States, whose rights and territories were settled and acknowledged by the treaties of that memorable epoch. In her last great assault on Turkey, in 1828, Russia had warned Turkey of this fact, and had boasted of her own freedom, so far as European engagements were concerned, to deal with the Ottoman dominions as the fortune of war might determine. In the treaty of 1856, we thought it necessary to remedy this defect. The very first

important article in our new treaty was to declare Turkey to be a Power 'admitted to participate in the advantages of the public law of Europe.' That is to say, *that Turkey was now, for the first time, to be brought within the European system in the meaning of the treaties of 1814-15;* or, in other words, that she was to be regarded as having a recognised place in the balance of power; and, consequently, that her fate was to be acknowledged as a matter of common interest and concern.

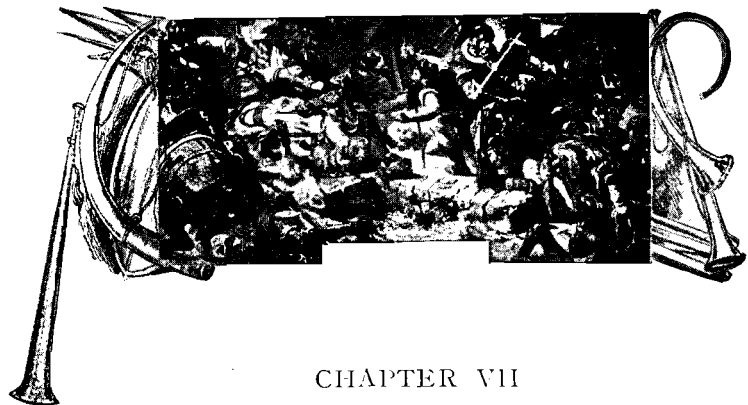
"Such were the immense advantages which we conferred upon Turkey forty years ago by our active intervention, both in war and in diplomacy. *They were advantages which not only gave her a new lease of life, but which conferred on that life a charter of independence,* of which, by reason of her weakness, she had been long deprived. In return for these great services, all that we asked from Turkey was an engagement that she would afford to her own people some tolerable government corresponding to her new position—some administrative system recognising the fundamental principles of European civilisation, and extending to all classes of her subjects some security for life, religion, property, and honour. And even this obligation it was our aim—and our only too great care—to impose on Turkey in the form most consistent with respect for that independence which we were for the first time establishing. We therefore made the obligation take the form least obnoxious to the pride, and least offensive to the dignity, of the Porte. Accordingly, it was provided that the edict securing such privileges to all classes of her subject populations was to emanate from the Sultan. It was, however, to be recorded in, and annexed to, the treaty. Moreover, Turkey was entrusted with the fulfilment of her own promises. They were not to be, and, indeed, could hardly be, fulfilled by any direct action of the guaranteeing powers on Turkish administration."—*Argyle, "Our Responsibilities for Turkey,"* pp. 12-17.

A Recapitulation

And now, after reading this magnificent and lucid summing up of England's case in behalf of the Turk, has there ever been in the history of the world such another example of one nation's receiving help from others? But, as previously stated, the Scripture has foretold that the Turk "shall

come to his end, *and none shall help him.*" And the very word of Sacred Writ clearly indicates that help received from someone is the only thing which prevents him from coming to his end before he does.

England, seconded by France and other nations, has provided that help. British blood and treasure have been squandered in almost superhuman efforts to preserve the integrity of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. For over a century this "help" has comprised England's part of the Eastern Question, and to-day the contemplated withdrawal of the "help" threatens to plunge Europe into a cataclysm of war unprecedented in the annals of history. The Scriptures say that when the help is withdrawn the Turk shall come to his end.



CHAPTER VII

The Fall of Turkey

Predicted Departure from Europe

"THE present century," says Stanley Lane-Poole, "has witnessed many stirring events in and around the Ottoman Empire, but they have nearly all been marked by a novel characteristic. In former ages Turkey fought for herself, to win lands or to repel invaders. In the present day other nations fight for Turkey, not for her sake, but for their own. The city on the Bosphorus has become a bone of contention to the Powers of Europe: one of them is determined to possess it, and the others, afraid to claim it for themselves, have resolved that no one shall touch it. All fears of the ancient military prestige of the Ottomans have passed away, and what anxiety there is depends, not upon their strength, but their weakness. Turkey is a weight in the European equilibrium, and the danger is that she may slip off the scale and overturn the balance."

But that fell day, so long dreaded by the great Powers, and postponed by their diplomacy, must come; for the

prophecy, continuing to speak of the Turk, says: "He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain." Dan. 11:45.

In other words, Turkey shall remove her capital from Constantinople to Jerusalem, which is situated on Mount Zion, between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean. What are the prospects for such a move? Despite Britain's efforts and her success in frustrating the designs of Russia, the Turkish dominion in Europe has been greatly reduced until its present extent is but a fraction of its former dimensions. Some of its States and dependencies have been granted their freedom, or partial freedom, and others have been absorbed by the Powers to the north and to the west. This gradual and hitherto comparatively peaceful contraction of territory makes the fulfilment of the prophecy concerning the final withdrawal of Turkey from Europe more simple and easy of accomplishment.

If anything should occur that should lead England to change her mind concerning the danger of permitting Russia to occupy Constantinople, and she should withdraw her objection to the Muscovites possessing that historic and highly strategic position, then but a little time would elapse before the Turk would be compelled to return to his Asiatic dominions, of which Jerusalem is the chief city; and the way would be opened for the final act in the world's drama that is predicted in the first verse of the last chapter of Daniel.

Britain's Change of Policy

Are there any prospects of such a change in Britain's policy? Ever since the atrocious Armenian massacres of 1895, British public sentiment and opinion have been undergoing a revolution such as usually foreshadows just such a change of policy as is here required.

The following paragraphs from the *Spectator* (London) present the case plainly, and subsequent developments show that the suggestions have been followed in the main by the British Government.

"In our opinion," says the *Spectator*, "we should tell the Russians plainly that we have ceased to consider the maintenance of the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire an essential



British interest, and that, though we could not view with indifference the destruction of the independent kingdoms in the Balkan Peninsula, we should not regard the presence of Russia on the Bosphorus as injurious to us, nor resent the absorption of those portions of Asia Minor which naturally go with the possession of Constantinople. Russia would, of course, have to make her own terms with France, Austria, Italy, and Germany in regard to Asia Minor and Syria; but we, at any rate, should make it clear to her that we have ceased to look upon Constantinople as a portion of the earth's surface which could not be occupied by Russia without involving war with Britain. . . .

"Though what we have written may seem to read something like a scheme for partitioning the Turkish Empire, we by no means suggest that we should invite Russia to enter immediately upon any sensational or adventurous line of action. All that it would be right or wise for us to do would be to point out to her that she need no longer regard us as the power which holds her in check on the south and stands in the way of Russian aspirations in respect to Constantinople. We must give her assurance that the Sultan is no longer our ally, and that, provided France, Austria, and Italy receive proper consideration, and integrity of the existing Balkan States is respected, we shall make no objections to the secular aspirations of Russia in regard to Turkey being fulfilled."—*Quoted in the Literary Digest*, October 7, 1905, p. 496.

To these propositions of the *Spectator*, the *Novoye Vremya* (St. Petersburg) made the following response: "Since England's occupation of Egypt, Constantinople and the Bosphorus have lost their importance to the former country. In Asia Minor we shall encounter the Germans before the English. In any case an agreement with England is inevitable for the future settlement of the unavoidable difficulties which shall accompany the break-up of the Ottoman Empire."

The "Entente Cordiale"

The events of the last few years show how clearly British policy was forecast. When the treaty between France and Great Britain was signed, and all the old causes of friction between the two countries were eliminated, a way was opened for a readjustment of English opinion regarding Russia, the close ally of France. The tendency of things in this direction was accelerated rather than checked by the offensive and defensive alliance concluded between Britain and Japan a few years ago, which ensures British possessions in the Far East, and which is now

further strengthened by an Australasian army and navy subsidised by the British Government. For the present, Russia's aspirations have received a check in the Far East, and she will naturally turn her attention nearer home, to the near East. Nor is it any longer a matter of vital concern to England, now that her possession of Egypt and



Russian Troops.

the Suez Canal is assured, to shut Russia out of the Bosphorus. For these reasons, British public opinion with reference to Russian expansion in south-eastern Europe is rapidly undergoing a remarkable change. The Porte can rely on British protection no longer, and the way is plainly opening for his compulsory removal to Asia.

Perhaps another reason for this startling change in England's near Eastern policy is the fear of a strong

alliance between Russia and Germany. Teutonic ambitions and aspirations are causing as much anxiety to British statesmen at this present time as was ever caused by similar tendencies in the Slav. German influence is predominant in Constantinople, and much German money is invested in Asia Minor. The Kaiser has come to regard that country as the place for his next colonial venture, and he much desires to control it in the same way as England controls Egypt. If England withdraws her objection to the Russian flag flying over Constantinople, the only obstacle to Russia's slow march on Turkey will be German ambition. To check that ambition is now the great object of Britain's efforts. Seeing that Russia must have access to warm-water ports within the next few years, and that recent developments have made England's dependencies in the far East fairly secure, it is thought by many that England can now afford, to good advantage to herself, to permit Russia to obtain the "object of her existence"—Constantinople—and by that means retard Germany's expansion.

Turkish Presentiments

Turkey herself expects to be compelled to move. "The Russians were always dreaded in Constantinople. An inscription hidden in the boot of one of the equestrian statues of Byzantium announced that the day would come when the capital of the empire would fall a prey to the men of the north." In anticipation of that event it is said that devout Mohammedans for many years have not buried their dead in Europe, where their graves might sometime be defiled by the unhallowed feet of the infidel, but have taken them across the Hellespont into Asia. At the commencement of the late Russia-Japanese war, when it was

thought that Russia was sure to obtain an easy victory, the Sultan, under the impression that Russia's anticipated success in the far East would be but the prelude to a bold stroke in the near East by the same Power, took the precaution to remove his treasures from Constantinople to Bursa, in Asia; and when the Russians made a peremptory demand for large sums of money, which the Sultan's government still owes to Russia, the Sultan concluded that his days in Europe were surely numbered, and he prepared to go. A tradition that their capital will sometime be established in Jerusalem is firmly believed by Mohammedans, and that the Christians will still come to fight against them there; and that when they do, then—

Messiah and Mohammed

will come. Certainly the prophecy says he shall remove to Jerusalem, after which "he shall come to his end;" and when this event does occur, the prophet continues,—

"At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book." Dan. 12:1.

That the standing up of Michael is imminent, there is no room for reasonable doubt. Signs which are to immediately precede the event are now engaging the attention of all the world. Preparations are being made by Turkey to remove into Asia. He is gradually being dispossessed of his European domain; and that Power which has for many years been instrumental in retaining him in Europe, is quickly changing her mind in regard to the necessity of keeping him there any longer; and the same Power is forming a fast friendship with Turkey's inveterate enemy.

Other political conditions which are rapidly developing in Europe indicate that, before long, the fatal move will be made—that move which will be followed in a short time by the complete dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. Immediately connected with that event will be the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. It will be nothing less than an international catastrophe—a catastrophe for which the nations are even now preparing.

Bosnia and Herzegovina have been annexed by Austria. Bulgaria has declared its independence. Recent political reforms in Turkey cannot stay the hand of destiny. Reforms of government are only superficial and deceptive, unless they come as the result of reforms in the individual character of those who exercise the governing powers. That Turkey was corrupt there can be no doubt, and that she still remains so is just as true. "Marvellous as the turnabout of young Turkey has been, one must still ask himself if it is not like a beautiful flower, blooming suddenly upon a heap of corruption, but destined to lose its brilliant colours in a few days. Indeed, the most sober-minded observers consider the enterprise of the Ottoman revolutionists not only as an extraordinary one, but also, from a human standpoint, as an impossible one. How can a bond of unity sufficiently strong and elastic be established between nationalities—Turks, Bulgarians, Rumanians, Servians, Albanians—who until recently hated each other with a hatred which could be satisfied with nothing less than murder, incendiarism, and torture?" No form of government more faithfully reflects the character of its people than does representative government. There can be no hope for a permanent reform in Turkey.

The Process of Decay

The word of prophecy declares that he shall be "dried up," and in fulfilment of this declaration made nearly two thousand years ago the historian says:—

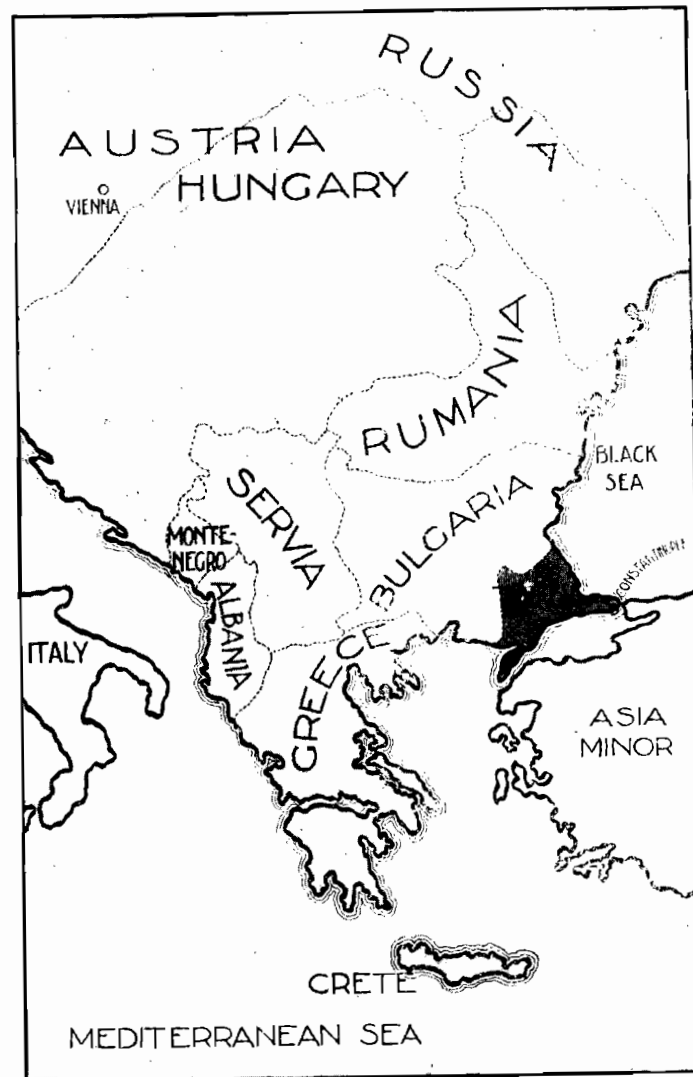
"Thus was Turkey reduced to its present restricted dimensions. In its old extent, when the Porte ruled not merely the narrow territory now called Turkey in Europe, but Greece, Bulgaria, and Eastern Rumelia, Rumania, Servia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, with the Crimea and a portion of Southern Russia; Asia Minor to the borders of Persia; Egypt, Syria, Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers, and numerous islands in the Mediterranean—not counting the vast but mainly desert tract of Arabia—the total population (at the present time) would be over fifty millions, and the square mileage over two millions, or nearly twice Europe without Russia. One by one her provinces have been taken away. Algiers and Tunis have been incorporated with France, and thus 175,000 square miles and five millions of inhabitants have transferred their allegiance. Egypt is practically independent, and this means a loss of 500,000 miles and over six millions of inhabitants. Asiatic Turkey alone has suffered comparatively little diminution. This forms the bulk of her present dominions, and comprises about 680,000 square miles, and over sixteen millions of population. In Europe her losses have been almost as severe as in Africa, where Tripoli alone remains to her. Servia and Bosnia are "administered" by Austria, and thereby nearly 40,000 miles and three and a half millions of people have become Austrian subjects. Wallachia and Moldavia are united in the independent kingdom of Rumania, diminishing the extent of Turkey by 46,000 miles and over five millions of inhabitants. Bulgaria is a dependent State, over which the Porte has no real control, and Eastern Rumelia has lately *de facto* become part of Bulgaria, and the two contain nearly 40,000 square miles, and three millions of inhabitants. The kingdom of Greece with its 25,000 miles and two millions of population has long been separated from its parent. In Europe where the Turkish territory once extended to 230,000 square miles, with a population of nearly twenty millions, it now reaches only the total of 66,000 miles and four and a half millions: it has lost three-fourths of its land, and about the same proportion of its people."—*Turkey, by S. Lane-Poole.*

A Tale of Lost Provinces

It is difficult to tell which is the more wonderful story—how Turkey once grew, or how Turkey is now shrinking. The Ottomans were once a tiny clan—a clan of nomads—with their camping-ground in Khorasan. In the thirteenth century they were squeezed out by the Mongol wave, and drifted to Armenia. The secret of their strength lay partly in a certain fighting genius, but chiefly in the fact that the race is the channel through which the strong wine of Mohammedanism has flowed. History—or, rather, tradition—reports that thirty-five sultans followed the original founder of the Ottoman Empire—a male line without a break; and it is certain that after six centuries the political heirs of the chief of that tiny clan stand lord over wide territories and diverse races.

But the Ottoman Empire to-day is a fast dwindling thing. Its boundaries once stretched from the Danube to the cataracts of the Nile, from the Euphrates to the borders of Morocco; but there has been a long, tragical, and ever quickening ebb in the tide of Turkish history. Its disintegration, as recent history testifies, is a quickening process. The map is purely European; it does not show how Turkey has lost Egypt owing to English policy, or Algiers and Tunis by French policy, or Tripoli by Italian force of arms. The Berlin Congress of 1878, which in one sense saved Turkey for the moment from utter overthrow, yet threw her Balkan provinces into the melting pot.

Turkey in Europe to-day consists merely of a small strip of land stretching from the Black Sea to the Ægean Sea. Its wide territories in Europe have been reduced to a small province.



His Demise, What Then?

The departure of the Turk from Europe, followed by his demise in Asia, cannot be much longer delayed. The great nations are preparing for the event. The Turkish people themselves expect to have to go; and the Bible says that they shall go, and shall ultimately come to an end as a nation. When these events do occur, "then," the Bible says, "shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time shall thy people be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Dan. 12:1. This prophecy is in perfect agreement with the prophecy of the seventh trumpet, explained in chapter five. "And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Rev. 11:18.

Now is the time, while probation continues, to make such preparations for the "standing up of Michael," "the time of trouble," as shall guarantee to us a welcome into God's eternal kingdom, where war and strife can never enter. The invitation to become a citizen of that kingdom is free and is extended to everyone.



CHAPTER VIII

The East Awakening

Portentous Signs

THE signs that immediately precede the great event of the ages, the second coming of Christ, are most conclusive in their evidence. Not only does the Bible say in one prophecy, "that the nations will be angry," and then in another prophecy tell exactly what will be the cause of that anger; but it also, in still another prophecy, particularises the extent of that anger as it shall be manifest in preparations for war amongst the nations. Also it calls attention to an anomaly that will exist during these stirring and portentous times; a conflict, as it were, between the actions of men and nations, and their most solemn promises, or their most sincere beliefs.

There is in the first epistle to the Thessalonians and the fifth chapter, a statement to the effect that the coming of Christ will occur at a time when people shall be saying, "Peace and safety." To say such when those conditions exist would not be remarkable; but to persist in saying it

when conditions are obviously otherwise would indeed be significant.

In fulfilment of this prediction there is at the present time a large class of professed Christian people who, despite innumerable evidences to the contrary, will persist in declaring that the world is gradually improving, that war will soon cease, and that even now we are entering the millennium—a period of time in which it shall be easier to do good than to do evil. Their hopes are centred in peace congresses and courts of arbitration, with the expectation that sometime, not far in the future, the nations “shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” Micah 4:3. But those people are unmindful of the fact that the Lord does not say the nations will actually do that. He does say, however, that “many nations” (verse 2) will make loud boasts of religion, and peaceful intentions, and magnanimity (verse 5)—predictions which the nations are even now fulfilling by their *professions*, while, at the same time, by their *conduct* they are fulfilling another prophecy that describes the actions of the nations in the last days in terms of exactly opposite import:—

“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your ploughshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.” Joel 3:9, 10.

The Heathen Nations

The Gentile nations here mentioned are, undoubtedly, the nations of Western Europe. No word is required to convince the unprejudiced reader that this prediction is now being fulfilled to an extent never before contemplated

in the history of the world. But the next two verses introduce another phase that is still more significant. It is a call to the heathen to awaken and assemble, and prepare to participate in the final struggle of the nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat, that ancient battle-ground of empires.

“Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither the Lord shall bring down thy mighty ones [margin]. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat.” Joel 3:11, 12.

No sooner are the heathen mentioned than the mind immediately reverts to the great nations of the East, and that those are the nations to which the prophecy refers is clearly stated in the sixteenth chapter of the book of Revelation. Describing the events to occur under the sixth plague, which immediately precedes the coming of Christ, the prophet says, “And the sixth angel poured out his vial on the great River Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared.” Verse 12.

The Euphrates is an historic river flowing through the Asiatic portion of the Ottoman Empire. The “drying up” of the river, which is to prepare the way of the kings of the East, cannot be taken in a literal sense; mighty armies, from the days of Chedorlaomer until the present time, have crossed and re-crossed it at all seasons of the year. It certainly must be read figuratively as a symbol of the empire through which it flows. In favour of this interpretation we have a Bible precedent (Isa. 8:7), where the Euphrates is used as a symbol of Assyria when that empire occupied the territory now held by Turkey.

The drying up of Turkey in Asia, which is the same event as that spoken of in Dan. 11:45, where it says, “He shall come to his end,” will prepare the way, or afford the

pretext for a mighty invasion from the East (Rev. 16:12), and will precipitate a war in which "the kings of the earth, and of the whole world," will participate. Verse 14. It will be the time of international trouble spoken of in Dan. 12:1; the battle of Armageddon of Rev. 16:16. Europe and Asia have suffered from several invasions from the East in ages past; and now, according to this prophecy, once more, after the Turk is driven out of Europe and finally despoiled of his Asiatic possessions, the civilised nations are to be called upon to fight for their existence, in Palestine, that historic cross-roads between three continents. The climax of this great battle will be the standing up of Michael, the establishing of the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

A Terrible Prospect

The possibility of a Pan-Islamic rising is not altogether chimerical. When the successor to the Prophet of Arabia—the Sultan—shall be deprived of his Asiatic domains, a cause for war will then be provided that will bitterly goad the fanatical zeal of every Mohammedan throughout the world. The great hordes of Moslems, scarcely removed from heathen, who overrun the continents of Asia and Africa, in conjunction with the heathen, with whom they are in perfect accord in their hatred for the professed Christian nations, by whom they have been exploited and oppressed for ages—these great hordes will readily respond once again, as in ages past they did to the call of Abu-Bekr, to deliver their country and the world from the infidels.

Religious hatred, the prospect of plunder, their great numbers and contempt for death, make them terrible foes. The following report by a correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, reveals the intense feeling that already prevails in parts of the Mohammedan world:—

"No, the real danger is that it may be the spark to set all Islam afire. You Christians do not realise this danger, because you have no conception of the sentiments and ambitions of the vast majority of Mohammedans. It is a bitter thought to us that so many millions of our co-religionists should live under the domination of Christian rulers. The Emperor of India rules far more Mohammedans than any other monarch. They are well treated and their faith is respected,



Yokohama, Japan

but it is a condition of affairs that was certainly never contemplated by the Prophet, and is utterly opposed to Moslem constitutional theory. We hold that there are—or should be—only two divisions of the world; namely, Dar-al-Islam (the abode of Islam) and Dar-al-harb (the abode of war). But since so many Moslems have come under the rule of Christian Powers, expediency has dictated a new doctrine—that countries such as India, where our faith is protected and respected, shall be counted as part of Dar-al-Islam. This doctrine,

however, is only a makeshift for the time being. The vast majority of Mohammedans would gladly join in a holy war against the Christians if they thought there was anything like a chance of success. Most of the credit for the marvellous growth of Pan-Islamism is due to the missionary zeal and splendid organisation of that most powerful body, the Senussi. Of all Moslem fraternities, this is by far the greatest, numbering many millions of members all over the world. It aims to combine Islam against Christendom—to conquer by the sword of Allah. In Morocco, Tunis, Tripoli, Algeria, and Egypt, this fraternity reigns supreme among Mohammedans. It is certain that if it proclaimed a jihad in North Africa, European armies would have a tremendous task before them, and a spirit of fierce unrest would shake the whole world of Islam."

Unrest in Asia

The unrest of Asia is arousing the gravest apprehension in the minds of the responsible statesmen of Europe. No day passes without bringing renewed evidences of it among all the older races from the Bosphorus to Peking. It is a most alarming problem that faces the British Government in its own dominions, but it is by no means confined to India. The *Spectator* succinctly summarises the situation in an ominous article, in which it says:—

"The Western people will soon be compelled to revise their ideas of the Eastern world. For centuries past they have thought of Asia as a continent whose inhabitants are lost in apathetic quietude. Now, however, one rarely sees a telegram from any country in Asia which does not record a disturbance, sometimes of the most dangerous kind.

The Rise of Japan

which within the last century was supposed to be voluntarily isolated from mankind, has shattered the old conception of Asia, and has restarted the idea of the yellow peril, which was thought to have been extinguished with the extinction of the Tartar ascendancy in Russia. There is supposed to be a revolution pending in Far Cathay, which Pushkin once described as lying in its dotage.

"The dispatches every day record some new symptom of the unrest which is prevailing in India affecting not her soldiery, as in the mutiny, but the whole population in their uncountable millions. In Indo-China the French officials are haunted by the possibility of a vast popular insurrection. Afghanistan's warlike clans are evidently pondering upon the possibility of a new descent into the southern peninsula, and may yet compel their nominal sovereign either to let them loose or to take their lead in a war to which the discontented in India are said, on good authority, to be perpetually inciting him.

"The fact is often disputed, but there undoubtedly is a comity of Asia which is at least as operative as the comity of Europe, or it is possible that there is an emotion akin to the one which produced the crusades, and that, though not so directly connected with any religious impulse, still is fatal to quiescence, and is sweeping through Asia from Nagasaki to the Bos-

phorus, stirring up races which for ages have slept the sleep of content, but are now determined to advance upon some path, mental or physical, which they think open."



11-inch shell on its flight from Japanese battery

Preparations for the Struggle

But what, we may reasonably ask, are the Eastern nations doing to prepare for the part they will act in the coming struggle? Our minds, when contemplating serious national affairs, have been so long accustomed to omitting the Eastern governments that it is with a degree of strangeness we tardily consent to acknowledge that they are destined to

participate in the forthcoming universal struggles with which the history of this world will close.

"The awakening of the East" is a phrase already made familiar to us by the frequency of its occurrence in the daily papers when they discuss the unprecedented revolutions now taking place in the great heathen nation of China, and which have already been accomplished in her little



Japanese Soldiers at Drill

neighbour across the Yellow Sea. The fact that a small hermit nation like Japan—not so long ago classed as semi-civilised—has suddenly sprung to political manhood; has revolutionised her methods of government; has firmly established her finance, trade, and commerce, and has collected a fleet of modern war-vessels; has disciplined an army of scientific fighting men; has defeated the strongest military power in Europe, under no specially favourable conditions—that she has been able to do all this within three or four decades shows that the West has entirely underrated the potentialities of the East and the terrible power which the yellow races possess. In Japan, with its forty millions of inhabitants,

neighbour across the Yellow Sea. The fact that a small hermit nation like Japan—not so long ago classed as semi-civilised—has suddenly sprung to political manhood; has revolutionised her methods of government; has firmly established her finance, trade, and commerce, and has collected a fleet of modern war-vessels; has disciplined an army of scientific fighting men; has de-

we see what an awakening means. What will it mean when China, with its four hundred millions of inhabitants, awakens to her possibilities and determines to become a world-power, and to compete on equal terms with other nations for the world's wealth, and to maintain her dignity and that of her citizens in countries where they are now despised?

For many centuries China has been asleep. But that she is now awakening is plainly evident. Every phase of her national and social life bears indisputable evidence to the fact. The oldest and most conservative nation in the world is slowly realising that she must bestir herself if she would escape from the rapacity of the Western nations, all of which have their covetous eyes turned towards her vast stores of wealth and her unlimited population, amongst which there is an ever-increasing demand for the manufactured goods of Europe.

The following quotation from the pen of a writer on Eastern affairs expresses in language none too forceful, the seriousness of—

The Yellow Peril

"When it comes to China, with her four hundred millions of people, one is tempted to abandon any attempt to convey even the most superficial impression of the seriousness of her present crisis. China's awakening is portentous. It is marvellous. It is indescribable. It is incredible. It is limitless in its influence. For the sake of the world to-day, for the sake of the next generation, for the sake of China herself, some new prophet watchman should ascend the housetops of civilisation and cry aloud with a megaphonic voice: 'China is awake! *China is awake!!* CHINA IS AWAKE!!!' The biggest of all nations—the heirs of to-morrow—have started to school to learn all the ways and weapons and wisdom of the West. This is the news of the day that most deserves 'scare heads' in the papers. Here is the subject upon which every wise man will inform himself and instruct his children. Let a man wear his last year's

coat, if need be, so that he may buy the latest and best books about China."

The venerable Sir Robert Hart, who has not only spent his life in China, but who has also spent it for the Chinese, sounds the following note of warning:—

"The words 'imperil the world's future' will doubtless provoke a laugh, well, let them do so, but let them stand! Twenty millions or more of Boxers armed, drilled, and disciplined, and animated by patriotic if mistaken motives, will make residence in China impossible for foreigners; will take back from foreigners everything foreigners have taken from China; will pay off old grudges with interest; and will carry the Chinese flag and Chinese arms into many a place that even fancy will not suggest to-day, thus preparing for future upheavals and disasters never even dreamed of. In fifty years' time there will be millions of Boxers in serried ranks and war's panoply at the call of the Chinese Government; there is not the slightest doubt of that! And if the Chinese Government continues to exist it will encourage, and it will be quite right to encourage, uphold, and develop this national movement which bodes no good for the rest of the world."

Another writer on the subject of the Far East says:—

"China and her swarming millions, who now number nearly ten times the population of Japan, is, and will be, to the continent of Asia what Russia is and will be to the continent of Europe. Russia has temporarily failed because her imagination—that immense and wonderful imagination—has been too big for her. China has failed often, too, for other reasons. But, failures or no failures, considered in its broadest aspect, the Chinese are destined to be one of the three great nationalities of the world. . . . At the bottom of the ladder, therefore, with his foot still on the last round, stands the immense Chinese giant, now with rifle slung clumsily across his back. As he looks blinkingly skyward, does it mean that he aspires to make the stars his tent? Who can say? For subject to strange movements of passion his character is too complex to be analysed.

"Any extension of the Anglo-Japanese alliance will increase mutual responsibilities enormously, will create new risks, add to already existing enmities, and be fraught with many perils of the gravest kind. Instead of the flames of war lighting Manchuria's hills and plains as

they do now, they may, soon after they have died down, leap skyward once again along an immense land-frontier extending from Asia Minor to the Seas of Okhotsk, involving the whole world in the bloodiest conflict ever known. For the fighting spirit is still as strong to-day as it has ever been before, although it is slightly masked by a veneer of civilisation."—*Weale on Far Eastern Affairs.*

China Awake

When the vastness of the Asiatic population is considered, it will readily be conceded that there is room for apprehension, provided, of course, Asia wakes up and becomes imbued with an inspiration to come into her own. One may well ask, How is this awakening manifesting itself among the Chinese? Improvements in the facilities for travelling are amongst the chief civilising factors of the age. Thirty years ago the prejudice of the Chinese people against railways was so great that the government bought a little road running out of Shanghai from its foreign builders and owners, sold the rolling-stock, and tore up the rails. Now government placards may be seen in the towns and villages of the interior calling attention to projected railways, setting forth their advantages to the people, and asking for subscriptions to the stock. Railways from the coast to the great coal-fields of China, the largest and richest in the world, are among the avowed designs of the government, and they will probably be built in the near future.

But this is not all. In Japan, India, and to some extent in China, mills and factories, equipped with the best modern machinery, have been established within a few years; and there is little doubt that in the near future there will be a large increase in these industries, especially in the manufacture of cotton and silk goods.

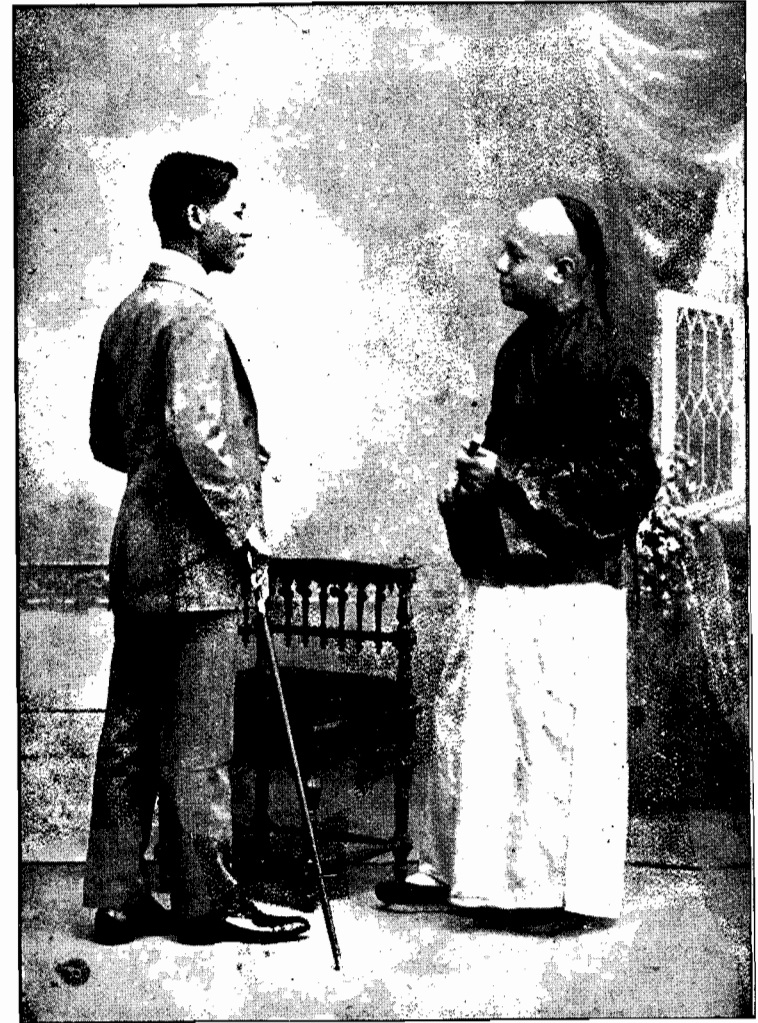
Western Education

Important as are the indications of advance in material production, the mental awakening seems likely to exert an influence of far greater moment to the world. Most people have too low an estimate of the present conditions of the Asiatic mind. The principal sign of this mental awakening is the educational movement. In Japan, education on Western lines is compulsory, and steps have been taken in China in the same direction. An imperial decree has been issued directing the opening of preparatory schools in every city, town, and village, which every boy over eight years of age must attend on pain of punishment to his parents. The system of higher education has been revolutionised by the introduction of Western learning and methods. Many text-books on leading subjects by French, German, and English scholars are being translated into Chinese.

Another significant indication is seen in the activity of the printing press, and the introduction of the newspaper and magazine. In Shanghai alone there are twelve Chinese newspapers, and the translations of Western books on all subjects are numerous and widely read.

The most evident signs, however, of the awakening are the political agitations. These are partly owing to the extraordinary advance of Japan, which within a few years has risen from comparative insignificance to an equal rank with the great Powers in all matters concerning the far East. The popular demand for governmental reform in China has been answered by the promise of a constitution in 1916.

The following cable announcement in the daily papers shows that the steps in the process of reform are proceeding rapidly, and that soon China will be abreast with the great



China, Ancient and Modern

nations in all things that pertain to national stability and effective government.

Parliament at Peking

LONDON, Oct. 4, 1910.

"China now has her Imperial Parliament. The first Imperial Assembly was declared open at Peking on Monday by Prince Chun, the Regent of the Empire.

"Prince Chun said that the Assembly represented the verdict of the people. Although it was only the initial step towards that constitution which they had been promised, it stood as an emblem of hope, and showed that China was in harmony with the progress of the world.

"[Early in 1906 five Imperial commissioners were sent to visit the principal foreign countries with a view to reporting on their forms of government. On September 1 the Emperor issued an edict promising a constitution 'as soon as the people are ripe for it.' At the same time the Emperor urged the necessity of developing the scope of public instruction, improvement of the financial system, reorganisation of the army, and the establishment of a regular police force. On December 3, 1908, a decree was issued announcing the convocation of a Parliament, and the proclamation of a constitution in the ninth year from the decree. On October 31, 1909, a decree was issued fixing the classes from which the Imperial Assembly was to be elected. The Upper and Lower Houses will comprise Imperial princes, Tartar generals, Imperial clansmen, nobles, literati, members of the Provincial Assemblies, and Mongolian and Tibetan princes. Last year local government was inaugurated in China, but it was made clear that the functions of the Provincial Assemblies, of which there are twenty-two, were to be purely consultative, the functions of government to still rest with the officials.]"

Another indication of what is being accomplished is the gradual change in the position of the woman and in the establishment of the Christian home. This is to be seen in the decree abolishing foot-binding, and in several women's newspapers edited and published by women only.

China Arming

The change of sentiment in China in regard to warfare is another feature of great import and of especial significance in the light of prophecy. From time immemorial the profession of a soldier has been considered most dishonourable, and one in which the educated and the noble would not engage. Now, by decree of the Emperor, every high official has not only to encourage the art of war, but also he is called upon to devote at least one of his own sons to it; or, if he have none, some other near relative. A recent traveller in China, who has spent several years in studying the most primitive races upon earth, states that in China he found in two thousand cities, and in nearly one thousand two hundred towns, that the natives are being instructed in the use of modern military arms; and he also heard while in that country that China would before many years be able to muster an army of between two and three millions of men.

The Chinese possess many qualities necessary to military success. They are stolidly indifferent to death, and are capable of inexhaustible endurance. Ten of them can live on what it costs to maintain one European soldier. And the vast population will provide an unlimited supply. Recent years have proved that they are capable of being drilled and instructed in all the branches of modern warfare, and that their ability to manoeuvre compares favourably with that of the best drilled corps of the West. A prominent English missionary, who has been labouring in China, writing on the subject of the Yellow Peril, says:—

"There is, undoubtedly, growing up amongst the leading men of China one purpose—China for the Chinese. China is arming. Her arsenals are full of modern machinery, and she has not paid Germans

and Japanese for nothing. Smokeless powder, up-to-date rifles and big guns are made in her own workshops.

"Can we contemplate unmoved the spectacle of a vast heathen nation—frugal, hard-working, clever artisans, capable men of business, and able to live on little—trained in all the science of modern warfare, and armed with modern weapons, intoxicated with the possibilities of its high developing resources, and prepared, as the nations of the West have been, to contest the commercial supremacy of the world?"

Every competent observer testifies that the spirit and conception of an Asiatic league are growing. It is not merely a Sino-Japanese movement, but it is a movement that is spreading from Manchuria to India. There is not an Oriental nation that does not feel a new day has dawned, that the injustice and oppression of ages are about to be destroyed at last. The triumph of Japan over Russia has marked the beginning of a new era in world affairs.*

The Kings of the East

The Scriptures tell us that the destruction of the Turkish Empire is the signal for the gathering of the "kings of the East." And now we see great nationalist movements revolutionising these eastern countries. They are engaged in stupendous preparations to oust from their

*Since the foregoing was written, and just as this book is going to press, news comes to hand of a revolution in China which promises to be partially, if not wholly, successful. In the southern provinces a republic has been proclaimed by the revolutionists, and it seems probable that the reigning Manchu dynasty will be either completely overthrown, or compelled to adopt a more progressive and Western policy in its methods of government.

Says the Melbourne *Argus*, "As a living force in the modern world an awakened China would be an unknown quantity. It took the nations some time to 'place' the New Japan and realise its significance for world politics. Even now perhaps that significance is scarcely understood, yet the birth of a like New China would be a world-disturbing event of far greater significance than that of a New Japan. Though Japan has won for itself recognition as a modern State which even the greatest of modern States must treat with respect, it is yet a comparatively small and poor country. In comparison with it China is a mammoth empire, incalculably rich in natural resources that have as yet been but superficially developed. It has slept so long and been so persistently regarded as the prey of the enlightened, strenuous peoples of the West, that few persons have clearly grasped its magnitude or the vastness of its latent wealth and strength."

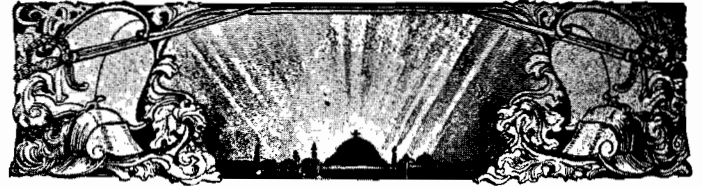
borders the nations of the West—the "kings of the earth," and of "the whole world."

Long has the Turkish Empire acted as a buffer State between the West and the East. Neither Christian nor pagan, she dwells between the two, her sympathies, however, being entirely with the East. To-day the great heathen nations of the Orient that enjoy independence realise the Powers are determined to dispossess the Turk and to steal his territory. They know that when this is done it will be their turn next, and they are preparing for the struggle. And that struggle, according to the Scriptures, will end in the battle of Armageddon and the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to judge all nations.

The Downfall of Turkey

There will be a rush of nations when the Turkish Empire falls.
 There will be a roar of cannon, and an avalanche of balls.
 There will be such human slaughter as the world has never known
 Since the charger ran to battle, or the trumpet has been blown.
 There will be a breach in Europe when Turkey meets its doom,
 And the guns will rattle louder than the thunder's mighty boom;
 While the flashing rays of sulphur ignited in its wrath,
 Will send each deadly bullet on its devastating path.
 The charger of the Teuton and his army will be there.
 The Cossack with his legions will surround the Russian Bear.
 The serried might of Austria, of Germany, and France,
 Will cover Palestine with the helmet and the lance.
 The plumes of every nation will like a forest wave,
 Adorning every chieftain to the bravest of the brave.
 No operatic music will be heard upon that day.
 No responsive love song will beguile the time away;
 But the clash of many bugles in a Marseillaise of din
 Will be a fitting prelude to the carnage coming in.
 Both Meshech and Tubal, with the legions of Dedan,

Will be at Armageddon to a unit and a man ;
 While, like the rush of waters, with their banners on the breeze
 Will come the hordes of China and the fighting Japanese.
 The turbans, too, of India, of Persia, and Afghau,
 Will be seen with many camels in their Asiatic clan.
 They'll come like human tigers from the jungles of Bengal,
 To dance at Armageddon to the music of its ball.
 The mighty men in scarlet, in silver, and in gold,
 Who have stood the brunt of battle in the tragic days of old,
 Will come into the crisis like veterans to the fight,
 And their helmets will out-number the stars amid the night.
 Great Britain, too, and Canada ; Australia will be there, —
 The downfall of Turkey will bring them to the Fair.
 Every nation will assemble to fight beneath its flag,
 Like locusts will they gather beneath each battle rag.
 Ah ! the vulture, he will scent them : the eagle, too, afar,
 Armageddon is no comparison to the marriage of Navarre ;
 St. Bartholomew was crimson, and Waterloo was red ;
 But the coming Armageddon will leave the nations—DEAD.—J. B



CHAPTER IX

Conclusion

The Coming of Christ

THERE is no subject mentioned in the Bible more frequently than that of the second coming of Christ, and, than it, there is no event of greater moment to the human race. The Christian can look forward to the advent of his Saviour with glad hopes, and in its anticipation he can obtain comfort in all his sorrows. At that time the righteous dead will be raised, and they, with the righteous living, "shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air : and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4 : 16, 17.

The coming of Christ will be personal and visible. While the disciples were watching their Lord ascend, the inspired writer says,—

"Two men stood by them in white apparel ; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven ? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1 : 9-11.

At the time of His coming Christ will fulfil the promises made to His disciples in the fourteenth chapter of John,

while they were sorrowing because of His expressed intention to soon leave them:—

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:1-3.

The event that brings to the righteous their reward will also bring to the wicked their retribution:—

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; when He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe . . . in that day.” 2 Thess. 1:7-10.

The Earth Desolate

When Christ comes the earth will, for a time, be reduced to its former chaotic condition, as foreseen by the prophet Jeremiah. To him was given a foreview of the mighty preparations for war in the last days, preparations that we see now in actual process; and what he saw found expression in the following forceful words:—

“My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment. How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?” Jer. 4:19-21.

In the next verse the prophet laments the foolishness of the professed people of God, so-called Christian nations, who betray more earnestness in deeds of evil than in ways



The City of God Descends.

that are good. "For My people is foolish, they have not known Me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." Verse 22. If half the energy exercised by the great nations of Europe in producing engines and instruments of death were devoted to things of eternal life, how different would their example be to the heathen nations, and what untold good would be accomplished. But humanity is selfish and blind and determined to rush headlong to destruction. Hatred is dominant where love should reign supreme. The war fever intensifies until the day that Christ appears, and all the wicked fall under the hand of divine vengeance.

"Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He shall mightily roar upon His habitation; He shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." Jer. 25:30-33.

A description of the condition of the earth ruined and depopulated, as it will be after Christ has slain the wicked and taken the righteous away, is given in Jer. 4:23-27:—

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities

thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end." Jer. 4:23-27.

A Future Hope

The latter part of the twenty-seventh verse indirectly contains a promise that the Lord will even yet restore the earth to its pristine condition; and with this agree also the words of the Apostle Peter, to whom was revealed the temporary destruction of this present world, and its final restoration; also God's designs that it should ultimately be the blest abode of a holy and happy people.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:9, 10, 13.

The righteous are to spend a thousand years in the courts of heaven with their Saviour (Rev. 20:4), after which they will descend to the earth in the New Jerusalem:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." Rev. 21:1-3.

At that time the Lord will fulfil His promises to Abraham and his spiritual seed through Jesus Christ. Then the meek shall inherit the earth, and the righteous

shall dwell in the land, and the saints shall possess the kingdom forever.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God." Isa. 35 : 1, 2.

A Final Appeal

There have been times when the world was subjected to visitations of divine wrath, and also occasions when other special events of vital interest to the human race occurred.

That these things should overtake unawares the people then living was not God's intention or desire. Nothing of eternal import to the inhabitants of this world has ever happened but that the Lord has caused a warning to be given, which, if it had been heeded, would have enabled the people to escape the calamities, or to prepare for the events.

For over one hundred years the antediluvians were warned by Noah; but they disregarded his words and perished in the flood. The wicked inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah scoffed at the preaching of Lot, and were consumed in the fires that devoured their cities. The Ninevites escaped their impending doom by diligently confessing their sins and repenting when warned by Jonah. The Jews rejected their Messiah because they failed to recognise the evidences concerning Him, evidences that were contained in the law and the prophets, the Scriptures in which they trusted.

Are we going to make a similar mistake and be unprepared for the great event of the ages because we do not

discern the signs of the times so faithfully foretold in the Bible? Marvellous things are occurring on every hand, things that in themselves are big with gloomy import; but when they are seen in the light of prophetic predictions they assume a seriousness that may well cause the most careless to consider whither his feet are tending.

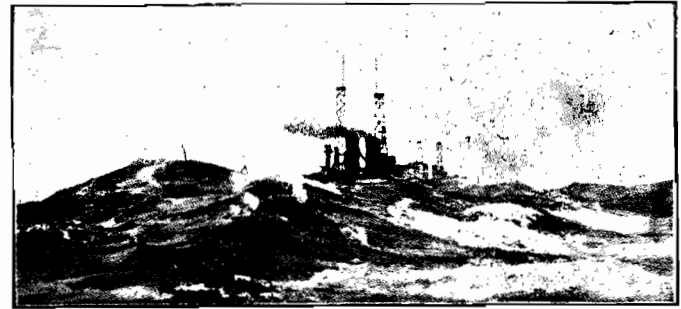
The intense earnestness of the nations in their titanic efforts to excel in preparations for the immolation of each other, is an evidence that they have almost run their race. The sketch history contained in the prophecy of the seven trumpets accurately traces events down to our own day; and then, in a few short words, describes the present state of the nations, and announces the establishment of the kingdom of Christ.

That no mistake need be made respecting the particular time to which these conditions apply, a special prophecy concerning them is given in the book of Daniel. This prophecy also accurately traces history down to our own day, and then describes conditions and events as we now see them; and we recognise them to be the cause of the present international mistrust with its attendant evils.

Still other predictions speak of these international troubles and tell of nations taking part in them, that, until recent years, were thought to be, and indeed were, utterly unable to operate offensively in any serious international troubles. Then we are told that while all these preparations are being made and the madness of the nations is intensifying, there will be a class of people who shall trust in theories of their own invention, and who shall, despite every evidence to the contrary, persist in lulling the inhabit-

ants of the world to sleep by proclaiming, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace.

This day are these things being fulfilled before our eyes. The kingdom of God is at hand. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless."



APPENDIX

THE PRESENT OUTLOOK

By A. W. ANDERSON

TWENTY-FIVE centuries ago the Jewish people were face to face with a great crisis in their history. A mighty conqueror was arising in Assyria who was overthrowing kingdom after kingdom. Under divine inspiration the prophet Jeremiah counselled the rulers of Judah and the surrounding countries to submit themselves to the powerful Babylonian monarch. He promised them that if they accepted the message of God they would be permitted to "remain still in their own land, to till it, and dwell therein." Jer. 27: 11. To Zedekiah, the king of Judah, he said:—

Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the Lord hath spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you. Jer. 27: 12-14.

Notwithstanding this injunction of the man of God, the people preferred to listen to the false prophecies of Hanaiah and Shemaiah; and as a result, national disaster came upon them. This might have been avoided had they listened to the word of the Lord.

Past human experience shows that it is more palatable



Thirty-five-pound, air-cooled machine gun, capable of firing 200 to 500 shots per minute

to hearken to the predictions of peace than of war. For ages the world has been anticipating a time of peace. Even when war is raging and the hearts of men are filled with wrath, hatred, and malice toward other nations, they will claim to be fighting in order to secure peace.

In modern times, the civilised nations of the world have constructed the most deadly weapons which science and art

can produce in order to slay one another. For instance, an entire regiment can now be wiped out in three minutes with a new French machine gun which weighs only thirty-nine pounds, and is capable of shooting five hundred steel bullets per minute, and the most powerful battle-ship afloat may be destroyed by a torpedo or a mine.

There is no safety anywhere from the deadly machines which the human mind has invented for wholesale slaughter. On sea, and under the sea, on the land, and even under the surface of the land, or in the highest regions of the atmosphere, man has discovered means by which he is capable of using the most destructive explosives. No expense is considered too great by the nations of to-day for the purchase of the latest inventions for destroying their enemies; and the reason given for this is that peace is less costly than war. So these deadly weapons are purchased, so it has been claimed, "in order to preserve peace."

Talking Peace

In his speech to the Chamber of Commerce in Bordeaux in 1852, Louis Napoleon said: "The Empire means peace." The Kaiser, notwithstanding his notable utterances about "the mailed fist," has professed also to be a lover and preserver of peace, and declared that he "will not sheath his sword until he can dictate peace to his enemies." The Czar, too, has posed as a peacemaker. The late King Edward, who above all monarchs merited the title of "peacemaker," undoubtedly delayed the outbreak of hostilities in Europe through his diplomacy in arranging for the entente with France. But the flood of international animosities, inflamed by human ambition for national supremacy, was only held in check for a short time, and much sooner than the world expected,

that flood swept over Europe with a besom of destruction when the nations engaged in a war of a magnitude unparalleled in the history of the world.

History Repeating Itself

A further glance at the scripture already alluded to reveals the fact that Jeremiah faced conditions similar to those we are now facing. He and his confreres proclaimed aloud in the ears of the people that war was to be their heritage. These predictions were ridiculed as impossible by the people of that age; and instead of heeding the warning, the popular cry of peace was accepted. While Jeremiah devoutly wished that peace might reign in the land, yet he knew of a certainty that a disastrous war, which would overturn his people and carry them into captivity, was inevitable. To the peace prognosticators of his day he said: "The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him." Jer. 28:9.

We have had sufficient confidence in the Word of God to make the same declaration concerning the prognostications of the modern peace promoters. On the authority of the Bible, the author of this book declared that we were rapidly approaching universal war; and just as this third edition is going to press, the greatest war of history burst upon the world with appalling suddenness. So far-reaching will be the effects of this war that no one can foresee what will be the ultimate result of this unprecedented struggle. This world-wide war resulted from the causes previously set forth in the pages of this book,—causes which clearly showed that affairs in Europe were tending towards a mighty international struggle. The reader will perhaps remember the

stirring words of Lord Rosebery which were quoted on page 55:—

For forty years it has been a platitude to say that Europe is an armed camp, and for forty years it has been true that all nations have been facing each other, armed to the teeth, and that has been in some respects a guarantee of peace.

Now what do we see? Without any tangible reason, we see nations preparing new armaments. They cannot arm more men on land, so they have to seek new armaments upon the sea, piling up those enormous preparations, as if for some great Armageddon, and that in a time of profoundest peace. . . . I feel myself confident in the resolution and power of this country to meet any reasonable conjunction of forces; but when I see this bursting out of navies everywhere; when I see one country alone asking for twenty-five millions of extra taxation for war preparations; when I see the absolutely unprecedented sacrifices which are asked from us on the same ground, I do begin to feel uneasy at the outcome of it all, and I wonder where it will stop, or if it is nearly going to bring back Europe into a state of barbarism, or whether it will cause a catastrophe in which the working men of the world will say: "We will have no more of this madness, this foolery, which is grinding us to powder."

In the light of recent events, these words possess additional force, and show that some of our leading statesmen were not blind to the situation. Lord Rosebery expressed these thoughts because he could see that the trend of events was leading in the direction of a titanic struggle on the part of Germany for national supremacy. How accurate was his forecast is witnessed to by recent occurrences. But his opinion was based upon events actually proceeding before his eyes. The sacred writers who have sketched so graphically the outline of the world's history for the past twenty-five centuries, up to and even beyond our day,—yes, even beyond the bounds of time into eternity itself,—could not have based their conclusions on events actually proceeding in their day. How could they see the rise and fall of successive empires and the subsequent sub

division of Europe amongst the nations of to-day, and even declaring the futility of attempting to re-unite these nations into one empire? There is only one answer to be found for this question—*their revelations were of divine origin*. Shall we not be wise and give heed to these wonderful prophecies of the Bible which were given to warn us to prepare for the second coming of the Saviour?

The Failure of Austrian Ambitions

Viewing the outlook of international affairs in Europe as they appeared when the first edition was published, the author pointed to the danger which threatened the peace of Europe when the Archduke Franz Ferdinand should come to the throne. (See page 60.) That ambitious prince was not permitted to carry out his plans. He intended, said the author, "to be the foremost monarch in the world, the arbiter and dictator of European politics, . . . to expel the Turk from Europe, and plant the Austrian flag on the banks of the Bosphorus."

His efforts to resuscitate the empire of the Cæsars came to a sudden termination; for by the hand of an assassin he and his consort met an untimely death in the streets of Serajevo. This gruesome tragedy, which shocked the whole world, was the match that lit the conflagration in Europe. This tragic circumstance, however, was not the actual cause of the war. It was simply an excuse for Austria and Germany to engage in a war for which preparations had been in the making for more than a quarter of a century.

The Real Cause of the European War

Human ambition to be supreme is the real cause of the present war. Monarchical ambition has been a cause of international friction for ages. Throughout human history,

and even before human history began, the sin of self-exaltation—this ambition for supremacy—found a place in God's universe. In heaven itself, Lucifer permitted his determination to be supreme to ruin his career. Not content with the exalted place he occupied, he said in his heart, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." Isa. 14:12-14. Proceeding to carry his purpose into effect, he initiated the first war in the universe, even in heaven itself; and his rebellion against the government of God resulted in the exile of himself and his followers from the presence of the Lord. Rev. 12:7, 8. Lucifer and his angels were cast out into the earth; and they have used their influence upon the hearts of men to induce them to rebel against the kingdom of love, and have indoctrinated humanity with the war spirit and the desire to be supreme.

Attempts at Universal Empire Building

In olden times God permitted certain kingdoms to rule the world; but never again will there be such a thing as a universal empire until "the God of heaven sets up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." Dan. 2:44. Rome, the last universal empire, gave place to the antecedent kingdoms of the present European Powers, and these national divisions of Europe, which, with certain modifications, have been standing for fourteen centuries, will remain until the end of time.

Numerous efforts have been made to fuse together the kingdoms of Europe into one vast empire. Napoleon bathed Europe in blood to accomplish this purpose, but he ended his days in exile. Archduke Ferdinand was fired with the same ambition, but he came to an untimely and

tragic end. The Kaiser has indulged pan-Germanic dreams, and spent his energies in organising a military force of a magnitude hitherto unheard of in order to grasp the sceptre of universal dominion at the first favourable opportunity. We wonder whether he will end his days in exile, as did Napoleon, whose ambition he has evidently imbibed, though he did not inherit his military genius. Russia, too, has dreamed of a pan-Slavic empire which she will raise on the ashes of Eastern Rome. That is why she covets Constantinople, which for more than eleven centuries was the capital of the Cæsars. For more than four hundred years the Turk has been in possession of this ancient city which has been coveted both by Austria and Russia. Ferdinand, with the power of Germany behind him, thought he would surely capture this seat of the Cæsars, and there build up a vast realm on the ruins of the empire of Rome. His ambitious plan failed. Prophecy makes it plain that Russia and not Austria will play the principal part in bringing about the downfall of the Turk. And the scripture tells us that when "he [the Turk] shall come to his end and none shall help him," the crisis of the world will be upon us; for "at that time shall Michael [Christ] stand up [reign]; the great Prince which standeth for thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time [the time when the Turk shall come to his end] thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book [of life]." Dan. 11:14; 12:1. Surely the end is very near. It is time to prepare to meet God; for we may rest assured that the Word of God, which never fails, will be fulfilled to the letter. "Heaven and earth shall pass away," said the Saviour, "but My words shall not pass away."