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(continuing The Northman)

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AT THE CROSS ROADS OLD WORLD REACTIONS AND AMERICAN PROGRESS

"There is the moral of all human tales; 'tis but the same rehearsal of the past, First Freedom, and then Glory—when that fails, Wealth, vice, corruption—barbarism at last, And History, with all her volumes vast, Hath but one page."

THIS QUOTATION from a strophe of Lord Byron's poetic philosophy, written over a century ago when the Greeks were desperately struggling to throw off the yoke of the Turk, contains a brief satire, having a categorical application to the momentous events that are taking place today in the Near East, on the borderland of Europe and Asia, where the powers of Europe are reported to have agreed upon permitting the reestablishment of Turkey in Europe.

When the fate of the world hung in the balance, during the recent World War, America decided the issues when she struck a blow for the Allied cause.

America thereby contributed not alone to the overthrow of the Central powers, setting at naught their plans of world dominion, in other words, world enslavement, meaning the establishment of one super race—the Teutons; but America contributed at the same time to the elimination of Turkey in Europe, a task European diplomacy and military power alone had not been able to accomplish.

When the flag of Liberty took its place alongside the Tricolor and the Union Jack, the tide turned all along the battle line, from the Western front to the Balkans, and possible defeat was changed to victory.

Before the curtain dropped on the last act of the bloody war drama, that began on July thirtieth, 1914, and closed on November eleventh, 1918, the power of Turkey in Europe had been broken, the Crescent had been struck from the mast and the Moslem hordes had crossed the Bosphorus into Asia, while Allied war vessels, assigned to police duty, patroled the narrow waters separating Europe from Asia Minor.

A neutral zone had at last been established between the Cross and the Crescent.

Christian civilization had recorded another friumph. While the echoes of war were still resounding, the forces of Christian progress had gained another base. A new epoch of time was about to be written on the pages of history and into the records of world progress.

In view of the late developments in the Near East, students of history and progressive citizens everywhere are apprehensively asking these questions:

Are these achievements, so recently attained, about to be set at naught?

Are we but to experience the maddening sensation of seeing dreams almost materialized before we, in the words of Britain's madcap poet, are to realize "the same rehearsals of the past?"

Is there something traditional in destiny?

Are vice, corruption — and barbarism at last, unavoidable consequences to the glory of freedom?

Is this, the unalterable cycle, the fate of all nations, whatever the standards attained?

We, of America, who have a well defined ideal and a faith attached to that ideal, do not believe that