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The Toggery

A. V. Andrews

POLITICS NOT CHURCH, ISSUE

CHRISTENDOM ALONE TO BLAME IF JEHAD COMES.

Underwood Writes Entertainingly and Knowledgeably of Turkish Struggle.

(Br. D. H. L. Underwood, several years resident physician in Turkey) The appended communication of a well known Turk in the Constantinople "Tanin" well shows the intense feeling aroused in the minds of the educated Turks by the aggression of Italy in Tripoli.

It is instructive as well for what is omitted as for what is emphasized. Thus, in referring to measures of retaliation and revenge, appeal is made to patriotism, courage and duty, as guiding principles; and also such practical measures as the boycott in addition to military operations, but there is no threat of a jihad or holy war—no appeal to fanaticism, none of the invective against the "infidel," which we might easily have expected in view of the fact that the great mass of the population would respond more quickly to such inflammatory exhortation than to a patriotism which has been almost non-existent in that heterogeneous conglomeration of races known as the Ottoman empire.

Hasseln Bey writes as a patriot, not as a religious fanatic and his hatred is against Italy and Italians, and not against the "glours" (Christian infidels) of Europe at large. In this he typifies the Young Turks generally for the latter are as a class little interested in religion but are solely elevated to the political unification and strengthening of the empire. It is true that under the new regime these progressives are more careful to observe such public fasts as Ramadan than they were when in the obscurity of private life, or exile, under the old regime. That, however, is merely because political expedience, strongly compels them to a strict observance of religious customs or still further alienate the already obstreperous reactionaries such as some of the Kurds and Arabs.

The oriental is nothing if not astutely politic and in this case the Young Turk needs all of that quality he possesses, and more, in order to nullify the efforts toward disruption by fanatic Moslems and disaffected Greeks and Albanians.

It is therefore, to the credit of the new government that, as yet, no resort has been made to a "jihad" or holy war, which might easily end in arraying against Europeans generally the 220,000,000 Mohammedans all over the world, in the British Empire, Russia, China and Africa. It is well known that an organization for the spread of Islam exists with branches in all these countries known as the "Senussieh."

If Italy persists and especially if she enlarges the scope of her aggression as at present she threatens to do the Young Turk party now fighting for the very existence of the Ottoman Empire, may feel obliged to abandon their present attitude of moderation and at a word by inaugurating a "holy war" (a hideous misnomer!) unite the discordant Moslem factions in a fanatical onslaught upon all that calls itself Christian—and Christendom would have only itself to blame in such an event. The article referred to above follows:

"Husseln Djanid Bey, in the Tanin, after characterizing the Italian attitude in her ultimatum as 'Your money or your life,' goes on to say:

"Were I neither Italian nor Ottoman, and thus impartial, I should regard the position of Turkey as much the loftier, in spite of the apparent superiority of Italy with her armies, her perfect fleet, her munitions and her preparedness, and it is Turkey I should choose. For if generosity, dignity and honor are not empty phrases in the world, we are sure that every Italian heart is oppressed by a remorse that shows him the villainy he has committed. Our clear conscience gives us courage to close in with an enemy apparently stronger than ourselves. For doubtless the ultimatum is only the prelude to the roar of cannon which will thunder tomorrow.

(Continued on Page Three.)

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La Grande, Oregon, Nov. 1, 1911.
Roy W. Logan,
City Treasurer.

11-1-10

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Lv. Deschutes 1:30 p. m.	Lv. Redmond 7:21 a. m.
Ar. Madras 5:45 p. m.	Lv. Opal City 8:00 a. m.
Ar. Metolius 6:00 p. m.	Lv. Mistolius 8:22 a. m.
Ar. Opal City 7:06 p. m.	Lv. Madras 9:00 a. m.
Ar. Redmond 7:45 p. m.	Ar. Deschutes 1:15 p. m.
Ar. Deschutes 8:13 p. m.	Ar. The Dalles 1:55 p. m.
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