Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., February 2, 1912.

The Awaking of the

A Land of Strange Contrasts Is Turkey in Its State of Transition-Western Styles Crowding Out Old Customs, Creating Incongruities.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS. Constantinople .-- Standing on the top of one of the ruined towers of the Bosphorus, which Mohammed the Conqueror, built in 1453, when he laid siege to Constantinople, I studied the strange city which lay extended before me as a magnificent panorama. Viewed from a distance, Constantinople is a city of wonderful contrasts. it links the present with the past. Before these stones were piled, forming by the walls of the castle the name of the Prophet, this was the capital of a Christian empire, and it still bears the name of the first Christian Roman Emperor. Many traces of its ancient splendor abide. The Byzantine glories may still be seen in part by the tourist, who will also find evidences of the Crusaders' activities here where the two continents impinge

Up these blue waters have sailed throughout the centuries all kinds of craft. Now in sight of one are a few Turkish warships, a small American gun-boat, the darting caiques of the turbaned boatmen and freighters of many nations, together with cumbersome large native crafts with the hinged masts. This gateway is so important to the world's pears that by international agreement no warships may pass through it. European politics are more concerned with Turkish affairs than with any other single subject. So the marvelous rejuvenation of the Ottoman empire is of deep interest to civilization.

Paradoxes of Progress.

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The present stage in Turkey's rapid awaking is that of contrast. The palaces along the Bosphorus, practically all of them owned, until the Revolution, by Abdul Hamid, are rather tawdry creations at best, but they are in contrast with the miserable hovels of the people, whose dwellings are meager beyond the western comprehension. The word "home" as a synonym for house can scarcely be used here in Turkey.

Along the water front is a palace which was used by the Parliament, until fire gutted it. Not far away is the present palace of the reigning Sultan, who is a mere shadow of the absolutism of his deposed brother. Interspersed between palaces are the residences of Pashas, and more or less prosperous citizens, with the latticed windows of the harems turned toward the water. There is the romance of the mysterious about these dirty lattices-a western woman would surely keep them clean-and about the iron-barred tunnels that lead under the houses to the water. One cannot help speculating as to the tragedies that have been enacted along these shores. The system of seclusion for women that Islam ordains has many disadvantages, one being that it requires a man to build a high wall alongside of his house, to keep his neighbor from overlooking his harem.

er. The incredible burdens which these Koordish coolies or hamais bear would seem like fiction to the westman carrying a dozen chairs on his back: another bore at one time thirtysix of the big square oil-cans which Older Nations. the Standard Oil Company has made a not uncommon load. I saw a man with a Grand Rapids roll top desk and

the office chair fastened to it, on his back. A packing case is one of the commonest of loads. I saw a coolie crossing the Galata bridge with a coffin on his back. Now if the awaking of Turkey means anything, it must mean the emancipation of the com-

stantinople has had the latter for

centuries, it is now getting the form-

mon people from these ancient burdens.

Big Hats and Moslem Veils. The advent of the western styles involves unforeseen difficulties for an Oriental people. It is easy for the Turk in baggy trousers and shoes that slip off, to sit cross-legged on the floor; when he dons tie, trousers and patent leathers he must abandon this fashion. The new furniture of modern style to which Turkey has become so devoted postulates home somewhat after the idea of Europe or America. The new food and the new ways, all are insidiously undercutting the old order.

The dress of the women offers perhaps the best illustration of this. Most Moslem women w .dle along the streets like water birds on land, draped from head to hell in hideous black ezars. Whether they are old or young, homely or handsome, nobody can tell. This custom involves mysteries which no mere man can solve How two heavily veiled women can recognize each other on the street is beyond comprehension. Sometimes the veils are getting perilously thin, in the case of the younger women and their wearers do not hesitate to stare at their pleasure on foreign men.

Because she is robed so outlandishly on the street is no reason why the Moslem woman has not the eternal

phorus a new classification of war-Young Turks were afraid to trust ern world. Frequently I have seen a themseives to bring the ships from Germany, so they had German officers man them until just outside the Dardanelles, where they ran up the Turkish flag. The German officers demanded two hundred ar fifty thousand marks for their services and re-fused to haul down the Turkish flag stamps in cloth. Address Doctor R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y. until the sum was paid. Rumor has it that one of the ships broke down en route. At any rate, the Turkish government paid the money and the ships sailed up the Bosphorus, streaming bright new crescent flags behind them. That New Turkey has something to learn in the way of naval administration was evident from a little expe-

ter. say that there is now on the Bos-

rience of my own. Late one night 1 had need to cross the Bosphorus in a small boat and the boatman ran close to one of the new warships. Instead of turning a searchlight on to us a dozen men began to yell to warn us off. For two or three minutes there seemed to be a small riot on the ship, but not once was there a light flashed on us though the crew's fear was that we might be Greeks bearing torpedos. Of a piece with this bit of administration was the naive remark of an admiral the other day, that he was obliged to surrender his place on a naval board in order to go to the interior to take charge of a military

barracks. Cholera, Rat-Traps and Religion. The cholera is raging in Constantinople at present and it affords an opportunity of observing the difference between the old and the new. Lime is sprinkled in the gutters by the city but, for the most part, the people who, so far as the Moslem population are concerned, are arrant fatalists, say "Kismet," and do not amend their unsanitary ways. That modern scien-tific knowledge is beginning to percolate is shown by the lively sale of rat traps which street venders display as a sort of cholera cure, explaining that the cholera germs are carried by rats

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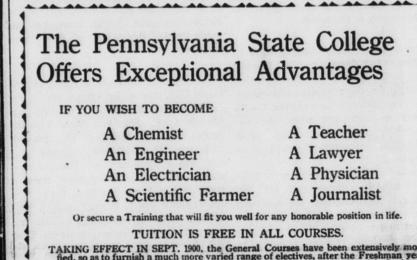
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SANITARY PLUMBING

Schools are beginning to come to their own in Turkey, but the minaret still dominates the landscape, and the wailing cry of the muezzin five times a day is a familiar sound to all parts of the city.

An Inadequate Fire Alarm System. On yonder hill a cannon booms whenever there is a fire in one of the villages along the Bosphorus. The plan in the city proper is for a watchman on one of the great fire towers to report to others who patrol the streets, and these others go crying, in jackal tones that make one think of the souls of the lost, the general vicinity of the fire. Whosoever will may then run to the scene of excitement and share in the possible loot. A few modern fire engines have been introduced into the city, but it has been my fortune chiefly to see the inadequate box carried on the shoulders of runners, who are accustomed to get to the fire sometime before the whole city has been burned down, and hire themselves out to the property owners. I have witnessed several conflagrations, one of them devastating hope for the unveiling of the women fifty houses.

There are no telephones in the city, except between government offices, no public lighting system and no electric cars. The streets are incredibly bad, yet at one corner of the foreign quarter of Pera I saw these three wonders: a Constantinople street being widened, a steam roller at work, and the cypress trees of the Moslem graveyard being cut down! The god of change has certainly come to Turkey!

The Coolle and the Automobile. That the old order is passing is patent to everybody who knows how to look at things in the large. People cannot have even a form of constitutional government, and yet treat one section of the community as mere beasts of burden. The newspaper, a moving picture show, the automobile and the school book are forerunners of the inevitable new day. Now that Constantinople has reckless red autos driven through its narrow overcrowded streets, it is bound to have also a chariot of progress of which this is a symbol.

There is not room on the same highway of civilization for a twenty horse-power automobile and a man strug. by the foreign community. The lat-out of his patrons' acres." gling under the load of an ox. Coa-



Constantinople and Its Beautiful Harbor.

-confusing the bubonic plague with feminine interest in dress. One of

their sisters came along the other day wearing a "Merry Widow" hat and a hobble skirt and as I passed I noticed these queer veiled figures stop and turn and look as long as the new fashions were in sight. What will happen to the economic system in' shown, contains more germs than the Turkey with its low scale of income when husbands have to pay for Paris is carried over the empire and dumpmillinery and their wives have a right to wear them, is more than I can project.

Immediately after the revolution many Moslem women took off their veils as they appeared in public places. Such is the state of the Turkish mind, however, to be described by no other words better than by the English phrase "absolutely rotten"that this could not endure.

A Turkish official himself explained to me the reason why he could not for a generation or two. The men of today are utterly devoid of western ideals concerning womanhood. What western women, who understand the language, have to endure as they travel and live in Turkey, has never yet been written. It needs a new mind in the people before some of the conditions that are the salt of civilization can fully obtain in Turkey.

New Warships and Some Stories. Almost bumping into the ancient na-

tive crafts of the Bosphorus are a number of new warships of which Turkey is very proud. The Turk loves weapons, big and little. While the order for disarmament has gone out. it yet remains true that in the cities as well as in the rural parts men "tote a gun" as they say in Texas, and carry a knife stuck into the voluminous girdle. I never traveled with a pistol in my belt in plain sight un-til I went out into the interior of Turkey where every man has to be his own policeman.

With this warlike disposition it is natural that the Turks should be in-terested in their fleet. Their pride in the two warships recently purchased business."

cholera As is well known, there is a direct relationship between cholera and Islam, for Mecca is the seat of the plague. All pilgrims bathe in a holy well at Mecca which analysis has sewage of London. That holy water ed into the village wells. A more diabolical scheme for inoculating a nation with disease can scarcely be contrived, yet the faithful will not permit the government to touch this

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sacred well. Of course there is modern medicine in Turkey and by a new law nobody is allowed to practice without a diploma. None the less the faith in charms abides and I have seen graves and specially sacred trees, covered with rags from the bodies of diseased

persons, who hope thereby to obtain a cure in exactly the same fashion as that prevailing in Japan and Corea. Probably the most satisfactory archaeological museum in the world is that at Constantinople, with many priceless treasures. Yet this collec-tion has been made by taking toll of the enterprise and learning of western nations and educational institutions. All archaeologists at work in the Turkish empire are obliged to give the government first choice of all their finds. In sharp contrast with this wonderful museum is the fact that all over Asia Minor priceless archaelogical relics in the way of inscriptions and statues, are to this day being broken up and burned to make lime for the villagers.

New Turkey must go a long way before she finds herself standing in the equality of fellowship with the wide awake and enlightened nations of the world.

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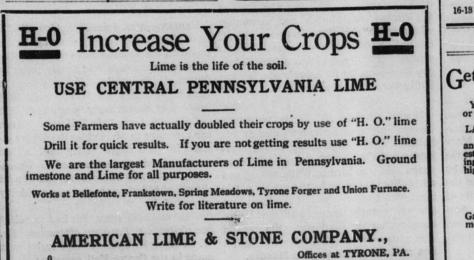
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