

CRETE THE OPPRESSED.

Interesting Facts About an Island that Now Is the Center of the World's Attention--The Grand Old Man of Crete.

A Greek mail steamer plies weekly between Piræus, the port of Athens, and the island of Crete, and travelers who miss it and who do not care to wait a week longer usually take passage on one of the many small Greek freighters. These freighters touch first at the island of Syra, then at the islands of Mytilene and the island of the governor of Cyclades Islands. After a day in port there they proceed to Crete, touching at the islands of Naxos, Paros and Siphnos, the whole trip lasting three and one-half days.

The harbor of Candia, the destination of the vessels, is protected by a well preserved fortress, one side of which extends down to the edge of the water. The eastern side of the fort is about 1,500 feet long, the southern side 2,400 and the western side 1,800. These walls are protected by four ramparts, two of which face the valley and the other two the sea, and the whole is surrounded by a deep and wide ditch. The northern side of the city is built down to the harbor, which is partly protected by a chain of rocks, known as the "Souda" rocks. Upon these rocks is a wall 1,125 feet long, in the middle of which is a strong rampart. At the eastern end of this wall is a tower with a lighthouse, the light being visible twelve miles away. At the western end there is a fortress with a few old-fashioned guns. Although the harbor of Candia is larger than that of Candia or Retimo, it is very shallow and can accommodate only small vessels. Large ships usually anchor in the bay of Souda, which is divided into upper and lower bays.

THE HARBOR OF SOUDA.

The harbor of Souda is, strictly defined, the upper bay, being five miles long and one mile wide. The harbor is wide, with a depth of 450 feet. On a small island at the entrance of the harbor is a fortress with twelve Krupp guns. On the southern shore of the harbor is the Mediterranean navy yard of Turkey. It is in this harbor that most of the European men-of-war sent to Crete find safe and comfortable anchorage.

The city of Candia, being the seat of the governor general, has clean streets, fine houses and some public buildings of considerable pretensions, such as the governor's headquarters, the court house, both of which are of modern construction. The military hospital, two armories and the health office are fine structures. The population of the city is estimated at 14,610, of whom 4,750 are Greeks and 9,860 Turks, 169 Armenians and 200 Jews. Candia is nearly every European government is represented by either a consul of a consular agent. Most of these representatives live in the small town of Halepa, about half an hour's walk from Candia.

Halepa became quite famous on account of the well known treaty of 1878 that was signed there by the Cretan plenipotentiaries and the sultan's envoys. On lofty ground, covered with olive, pomegranate and almond trees, commanding an excellent view of Halepa and the country around it, stands the famous Ottoman tower of Halepa, built by the Janizaries. It is well fortified and has been a refuge for Turkish families in revolutionary times.

TURKISH QUARTERS.

The Turkish quarters of Candia are around the Spanish square. It was under a plane tree in the Turkish committee usually met to discuss matters with the Turkish authorities during the last revolution. It was impossible for a Christian to pass through the square without being attacked by the Mussulmans. It is here also that the Mohammedan families gather in the evening for recreation: they sit on wooden benches and listen to the music of the Arab musicians of Candia.

Until a few days ago the population of the island of Candia was estimated at 279,165. Of these 205,010 were orthodox Greeks, 73,234 Mohammedans, 253 Roman Catholics, 8 Armenians, 67 Israelites, and 15 Protestants. Nearly all the inhabitants speak Greek. Even the Mohammedan priests and teachers use the Greek language in explaining the Koran or the Turkish lessons to their pupils.

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS.

Not far from Retimo is a range of hills, known as the White mountains, with extensive table land at each end, which are places of refuge during revolutions for the Christian families. The mountains are covered with pine, chestnut and cedar trees, and abound in springs of excellent water.

On the southern coast of Crete there are few settlements of any importance. The only noteworthy spot is the harbor of Fair Havens, mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 27, verse 8, in which the vessel carrying St. Paul to Malta found refuge. Vessels today usually seek refuge in the same port in bad weather. There are but a few small houses at Fair Havens, and these are occupied by Turkish officials stationed there to report to the Aga of Irbak, the chief village of the district, the passing of vessels. These officials have little to do. On the east side of the bay there are the ruins of an old Greek chapel dedicated to St. Paul; legend has it that the chapel was built on the spot on which the apostle stood when he preached to the natives of Crete.

A HEALTHY PLACE.

No island has a healthier or more agreeable climate than has Crete. In the hottest days of summer refreshing sea breezes are seldom lacking, and winter, which begins in December, ends about the latter part of January. The rainy season often continues until late in April, but it is very seldom rains in the summer.

A chain of mountains divides the island into what are called the northern and southern slopes. One-third of the island consists of rocky slopes; another third has a fairly good soil, which

remains uncultivated for want of farm hands, and the other third is cultivated only rudely for the same reason. The cultivation of fruit remains as it was centuries ago. The want of progress is owing to the repeated acts of injustice committed against the Christian farmers by the Turkish tax gatherers. Olives and their oil are the staple product of Crete. Valleys from one end

to the other are planted with olive trees, and the soil is rich and fertile.



GENERAL SMOLENTZ, Dashing Greek Military Chieftain.

New York, April 23.—General Smolentz's brilliant victory yesterday over the Turkish forces near Revelli is regarded as the first jewel in the crown of the former Greek minister of war. Smolentz justly missed capturing Edeben Pasha, commander of the Turks on the front, and pushed him in flight toward Damascus. The dashing Greek has been promoted from his late command, and is now a full-blown commander, who has had good experience in battle. When he recently deserted his portfolio for the field he was placed in the command of 14,000 soldiers at Revelli, which is near the strategic city of Larissa. Edeben had moved forward toward that

of the island to the other are covered with olive trees. Next to the olive industry comes that of the vines producing many varieties of grapes, raisins and wine. Orchards of oranges, lemons, citron and almond trees abound in the valleys, while chestnut and fig trees are found at the base of the mountains. A peculiarity of all Cretan products is their explosive flavor, which they retain long after they are gathered and shipped. It is the opinion of the best informed Cretan merchants that, with proper facilities for transportation of products to the seaports and a guarantee against misrule and arbitrary taxation, Crete could provide all Europe with oil and fruits of several kinds.

NUMEROUS REVOLUTIONS.

Like Cuba, Crete has always found her curse in the beauties with which nature has endowed her. Since the island was left by the Venetians to the Turks in 1715 no fewer than nine revolutions have taken place among its people. Each time the revolt was precipitated by Turkish tyranny. The most remarkable feature of all these revolutions is that in no instance have the Cretans been forced by defeat to lay down their arms. Their disarming has been due always to the intervention of some "friendly power" which wished to give an opportunity to the Turkish government to introduce reforms. Whoever has lived in Turkey has his opinion as to the good faith of Turkey in promising reforms, especially when they are exacted by the threat of demolition of the ottoman dynasty in Europe. But for "friendly" foreign intervention Crete would have secured her independence long ago. Russian diplomacy frustrated the hopes and aspirations of the Cretans in last year's revolution, and the role she is now playing with the other European powers, as if to force the sultan to carry out the long promised reforms among the Christians in his dominions, she is the one country directing the sultan's policy in the east. There is no doubt that the sultan's policy toward the island who has the least faith in the professions of the porte as to carrying out any reforms.

OLD COSTA VELOUDAKES.

At present there is not a man more trusted by the Cretans than the grand old man of Crete, old Costa Veloudakes, the permanent president of the revolutionary assembly and a scion of one of the oldest families of the island. He has just celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday. He has taken part in every revolution on the island during his time. In the eight-year revolution of 1821 he was at the head of a strong Cretan force, having distinguished himself by liberating sixty-eight Cretan women held in bondage in a Turkish fortress. He is a man of few words, but whenever he speaks his utterances carry great weight. His courage is proverbial. In the battle of the Fontaines in 1866 he was fighting beside his two sons when a bullet killed one of them. Without flinching he gave orders to carry the dead from the battlefield; he continued fighting until the enemy was repulsed. In 1878 he was proclaimed commander-in-chief of all the revolutionary forces on the island, and was subsequently selected with two other Cretans to proceed to the German capital during the drawing of the Berlin treaty to lay before the representatives of the powers the claims of the Cretans.

To give evidence of his low esteem in which the Turkish government held him, the Cretans it is necessary only to quote the remarks recently made by one of the most conservative members of the Cretan revolutionary committee. "The Turkish firm," he said, "granting reforms reminds me of the story of the schoolboy caught in mischief by his teacher, and then resorting to all sorts of excuses and promises of better conduct so as to escape punishment. So it

is with the sultan and his firmans granting privileges to the Christians of Crete; you may always look for them when ever some high-handed rascality has been committed by his people and the foreign governments look sternly at him. It is needless to say that the excitement once over you need not look for the fulfillment of his promises." Public opinion among the Cretans is adverse to the acceptance of any reforms. The prevailing opinion at the meetings of the Cretans is that they should fight until the union of Crete with Greece is accomplished.

MR. BUSTEED REPLIES.

Offers Some Objections to Our Editorial of Last Saturday.

Editor of the Tribune.

Sir: While I highly appreciate your courtesy in granting me so much space in your valued newspaper last Saturday, and extend to you my thanks therefor, yet I cannot conscientiously permit your very spirited and antagonistic editorial upon it to pass unchallenged and undented upon account

of some inaccuracies as to facts therein contained.

In the first place you fail to remember what is stated in the article, that it was written four years ago, at which time Mr. Stevens was very much alive and most actively employed in his conspiracy with his coadjutors. Again, you comment that I "omit to discuss well authenticated reports of the ex-queen's personal efforts to riden over an intelligent people and yet accept as true all the hearsay gossip to the detriment of Minister Stevens."

If it is a question of the morals of courts, I respectfully refer you to the court of Great Britain, of Austria, and in fact any court in Europe, and it is my firm belief that the court of Queen Lilloukalan will bear very favorable comparison. As to taking hearsay gossip about conspirator Stevens, you overlook that I allege in my article that I refer to state papers on file in Washington.

I fail to appreciate the following sentence: "Our correspondent forgets that higher than the right of accidental inheritance is the right of acquisition, the right of conquest, the inevitable and divinely appointed survival of the fittest." I believe in the survival of the fittest. I believe in the right of honorable acquisition; but it must not be by chicanery, fraud or deceit. I deny that there is any such thing as a right of conquest. Such a proposition, coming from a civilized community, returns you to that savage condition which you say my article would return us to, where might made right.

You refer to "the right of the reasonable inhabitants of Hawaii to establish a government in accordance with their own ideas." Of course you allude to the present usurpers and rebels, some of which were members of Queen Lilloukalan's government at the time they entered into the conspiracy, all known as missionary children. I paid my respects to them in the article itself. What is right and what is wrong is entirely a question of geography, being altered and reversed according to the points of the compass.

Civilization, as we, the puny little minority of the inhabitants of this world, choose to call it, we self-constituted censor who claim that everyone that disagrees with us is wrong—has instituted a social fabric which demands us to not only suppress, but to actually deny possessing every natural disposition that was born in us; and has incited the crime of hypocrisy and untruth.

I think the less said, about the native Indian to which you refer and our treatment of him, the better. You remember the famous answer made in relation to a question of how the aborigines were converted: "Bibles and Bibles." Very respectfully,

Richard Busteed, Jr.
Scranton, April 23.

Spurgeon's Stories.

Where did Spurgeon get all the good stories with which his writings and speeches were illustrated? asks an exchange. The Rev. William Denton tells how many years ago he used to meet a gentleman at the British museum searching diligently for the fables and other ancient books. "May I ask you," said Mr. Denton one day, "what work you are engaged in bringing out?" "It" was the reply: "don't you know who I am? I am Spurgeon's man engaged in looking out stories for him in books not generally read or familiar to the public."

Not Yet.

Caddington—That's a fine job of yours in getting the house built for me, Mr. McManus (the contractor, proudly)—It's not yet.

Caddington—Is the plumbing exposed? McManus (hearing whistlers)—It's not yet; an' 'Ove' hopes 'n' 'investigatin' committee can be shetted off 'n' 'Puck.

TRADE CHANCES IN TURKEY AND GREECE

American Commercial Interests Not Much Affected by the War.

OUR TRADE THERE IN THE PAST

It Has Been Slight, According to Consular Reports, but Can Be Improved If Intelligent Study Be Given to the Markets of the Two Countries Now at Each Other's Throats.

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Washington, April 23.—The effect of the war between Turkey and Greece will probably be felt less in the United States, in a commercial way, than in any other country. Our export trade with both of these countries is comparatively small; but, almost insistently, a report from Consul Short, of Constantinople, dated Oct. 25, 1896, supplies the following data as to industrial and trade conditions in Turkey:

The industries in the Turkish Empire are on the decrease, owing chiefly to the lack of native capital and enterprise, foreign capital being kept away by unsettled political conditions. A few factories exist in Constantinople, viz, factories for cotton cloth, for felt hats and caps, and for boots and shoes, all owned by the government. Factories belonging to private individuals, under limited and privileged concessions, are: ten factory, glass factory, brewery, paper mill, cotton yarn factory, and a tobacco factory, the latter being administered by the Ottoman Tobacco Monopoly company. There are also several flour mills and tanneries.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The rate of duty on imports is 8 per cent. ad valorem, and 1 per cent. ad valorem on exports. The value of the imports and exports and exports at Constantinople are published by the Turkish custom-house and cover the period of the Turkish financial year, ended on March 12. The last statistics published are for the year ended March 12, 1896. It is impossible to show the amount of any general statistics from any unofficial source. A marked decrease both in imports and exports is observed since last year, and this decrease is continuous, owing to the anomalous condition of affairs in Asiatic Turkey and to the recent disturbances in Constantinople.

There are no changes in currency nor in the United States gold value of the monetary unit. The rate of exchange has increased about 2 per cent. The actual amount of currency in circulation is not known. The principal changes in the price of commodities, the rates continuing almost the same. The only marked rise has been in the grain market, the price of wheat having gone up 50 per cent. The price of bread has gone up 25 per cent.

TAXES.

There are no new municipal taxes, octroi duties, etc., which bear upon American trade. The only octroi duties which affect American goods are those levied for storage, which petroleum is obliged to pay. The stores were built several years ago on the banks of the upper Bosphorus, and all petroleum merchants are required to keep their petroleum there and bring it to town in iron boats or tanks constructed for that purpose. Only a small quantity is allowed to be stored in the stores in the capital. The duty paid for storage is 9 cents per case for the first month and an additional charge of one-half cent for every other month; also a charge of 4 cents per case for transportation to town.

SPECULATION.

The cause of the financial prostration which has pervaded business circles in Constantinople, says Consul-General Short, is the incalculable and unwise speculation in government securities, bonds, and private shares of all kinds. The large extent of territory devoted to this crop is cause of higher ad valorem duty than 10 per cent. on Greek products, except on silk, alcohol, cattle, and grain, on which a 15 per cent. duty is permissible. By commercial convention with Sweden and Norway, those countries agree to reduce the import duty on currants from 25 to 15 per cent.

TOBACCO.

The main object of the commercial treaty with Egypt is to obtain in that country a market for Greek tobacco. On condition of Greek subjects in Egypt submitting to all the requirements of the customs, the importation of Greek tobacco has been permitted. Egypt agrees not to levy a higher ad valorem duty than 10 per cent. on Greek products, except on silk, alcohol, cattle, and grain, on which a 15 per cent. duty is permissible. By commercial convention with Sweden and Norway, those countries agree to reduce the import duty on currants from 25 to 15 per cent.

OUR CHANCE.

Among the articles for which American manufacturers might find a market in Greece may be mentioned diving and sponge apparatus, agricultural and industrial implements and machinery, bicycles and bicycle supplies, drugs,

persuade them to adopt American inventions and trade methods.

IN GREECE.

Consul Horton, of Athens, in a report of the commerce and industries of Greece, dated September 19, 1896, gives a number of tables of imports and exports.

Table No. 1 gives a list of the principal articles imported by Greece and of the countries which supplied them during the year 1894, later statistics covering this point being unobtainable. England heads the list, with a total of \$6,501,241.31, followed by Russia, with \$5,589,045.46, over \$5,000,000 of which represents wheat and other cereals. The importations from the United States amounted to only \$629,727.35.

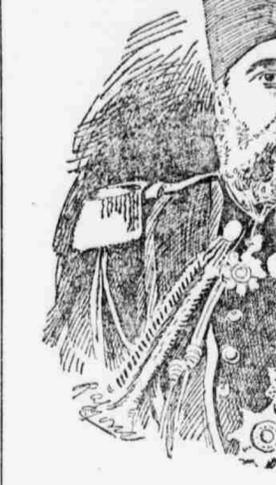
Table No. 2 shows that the principal articles of export from Greece are olive currants, minerals, sponges, and olive oil. England is Greece's best customer, buying products during the year 1894 to the extent of \$4,275,826.60, while for the same year, the exports to the United States amounted to only \$106,170.04.

Next to the sultan himself Osman Pasha is the most important personage in the Ottoman Empire. It is he on whom will largely depend the outcome of the present war, for Osman Pasha is the highest military power under Abdul Hamid. As commander-in-chief of the Turkish army he will be given an opportunity to show once more his fine ability as a director of the Fifth army corps, which he led in the Balkans, and which he has since distinguished in all of Europe. He is now in his sixty-sixth year and as keen a general as ever. He has not always been victorious, but his career has been brilliant. He came out of that ancient country, Asia Minor. His native town is Tokat, and he was trained for the army from his boyhood. He entered the military school at Constantinople and distinguished himself there by his

great aptness and his easy mastery of tactics. He was a prominent figure in the Crimean war, and during the last Cretan campaign the sultan made him commander of the Turkish forces on the island. He was likewise head of the army during the Serbo-Turkish war, and acquitted himself bravely. When the big war with Russia came Osman was placed in charge of the Fifth army corps, which he led in the battle of Scutari. The Russians beat him back in that engagement, and he was placed at the head of the army. He entrenched himself. For four months he held his position unmoved, and on Dec. 19, 1877, he surrendered with his army of 40,000 men. Since his fighting days he has served his emperor in many useful capacities. He had the portfolio of war several times, and in 1881 he was made grand marshal of the imperial palace, and of late was placed at the head of the army. He is devoted to his master's interests, and the Greeks will undoubtedly find no easy and submissive opponent.

OSMAN PASHA,

Famous General-in-Chief of the Turkish Armies.



Tables III and IV are with reference to the exports from Greece. These two tables show a general shrinking in business, due in great part, no doubt, to the unsettled financial condition of the country.

Tables V, VI and VII have reference to the three nations specially favored by the Greek customs duties, i. e., Germany, England and France. These favorable conditions have been secured by special commercial treaties. No such treaty exists between Greece and the United States. The commercial treaty between Greece and Belgium, signed May 28, 1895, makes the following provisions:

Belgium repeals the duty on currants imported for the purpose of distilling wine and reduces the duty on currants used for other purposes from 25 francs to 20 francs per 100 kilos (200 pounds). In return, Greece reduces her duty on certain articles of Belgian manufacture, such as ironwork, etc.

in favor. Generally, these goods are brought from London.

Most of the cereals consumed in Greece are brought from Russia. The value of this import during the year 1895 was \$5,358,212.99. The average price paid for wheat was 3.9 to 4.3 cents per oke of 24.5 pounds.

There are 14 steam flour mills at Piræus, employing 350 men. The flour in use, if judged by American standards, is of poor quality.

Products of Greece most suitable for exportation to the United States are currants, sponges, cognac, olive oil, onions, citrons, lemons, soap, emery, manganese and other iron ores, calcined magnesite, and fire bricks.

CHEAP SUMMER CHARITIES.

Wise Methods of Helping the Poor in Large Cities.

From the Sun.

Boston has instituted a charity that shows how much good can be done by the expenditure of little money. In the congested portions of the city open spaces have been converted into playgrounds for the children. At a small cost loads of clean white sand were dumped in these spaces; the children of the neighborhood were invited to come, and all sorts of implements and toys given them. Here the children spend many a happy hour, while under the care and direction of one or more teachers, who are always in attendance.

From this Boston sand garden idea has sprung up in New York a similar enterprise. The stones were removed from the empty lots, a shed with a roof built all the way across, and under it placed tables and benches, while swings were hung for the smallest children and toys and washings furnished. Outside the shelter are big swings for the big boys and girls and seesaws, as well as simple gymnastic apparatus.

One of the most practical and ingenious modes for giving pleasure and health to the poor of the city was originated a few years ago by Nathan Straus, of New York. Over one position of an East river pier a permanent high wooden covering is built, while a large space is covered with an awning, with sides to let down to shut out the sun. Here the women and children hold high carnival. Mothers wheel their baby carriages and youngsters frolic about the long pier, where, no matter how hot the day, a salt breeze always blows fresh off the river.

chemicals, patent medicines, clocks, watches, firearms, hides, paper, prepared fish, whiskey, sugar and wheat. During the year 1894 and 1895, \$25,045.50 worth of sponges were exported from Greece. The headquarters of this industry are the islands of Aegina and Hydra, and sponge fishing is carried on extensively in the Aegean. Greek fleets venturing as far from home as the coasts of Africa. The fitting out of these boats with apparatus must be a profitable item of trade.

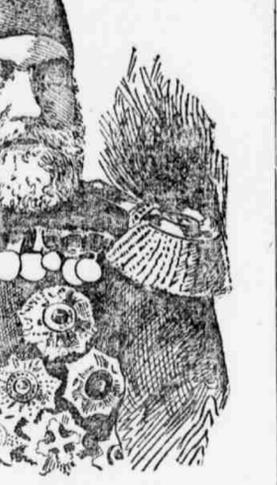
During the year of 1895, Greece bought \$208,856 worth of prepared fish. There are over one hundred and thirty fast days in the Greek religious calendar, on the most of which fish is eaten, particularly dried cod. The greater part of the cod that reaches Greece is of an inferior quality—thin and poor. Better codfish would find a ready market, even at a higher price.

In 1894, over \$1,000,000 worth of drugs and chemicals were imported into Greece, none of which came from the United States of America.

American firearms, checks and watches are beginning to make their appearance in Greece, and are very much

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