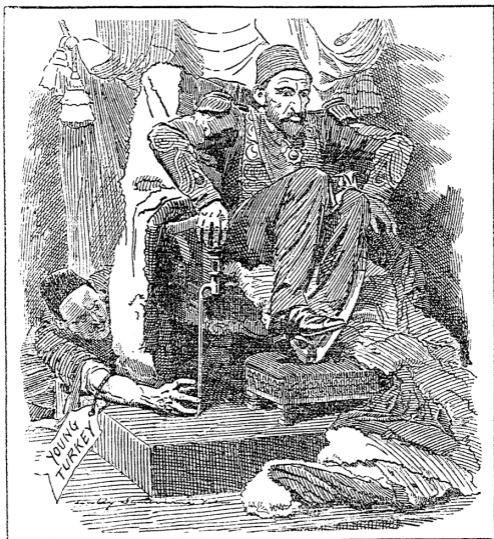


## MEANING OF THE "YOUNG-TURK" MOVEMENT

**T**HE new political party in the Ottoman Empire, which has shaken the throne of the sultans and brought about a revolution, is little understood, or rather, is quite misunderstood, by the European press, says Dr. Bah Eddin in the *Pester Lloyd*. This writer is the real leader of the movement, which originated among the students of the Medical College at Constantinople, where he was then a professor. He tells us that he was also medical adviser to the heir apparent, over whom Abdul Hamid wished him to exercise a strict espionage. On his declining to do this he was thrown into prison and eventually banished from Asia Minor. Taking up his abode in Paris he makes that city the headquarters of the Turkish revolutionaries. He begins his statement by declaring that the Young-Turk party is a popular party and not to be confounded with the aristocratic modernizers who preceded them. To quote his words:

"We have sometimes been identified with the aristocratic Young-Turk party, who for three decades under the leadership of Midhat



THE THRONE PERILOUS.

—Punch.

Pasha aimed at the modernization of Turkey. Altho on many points our movement is in harmony with that of the modernizers, it is in the main fundamentally different. In the time of Midhat Pasha many high government officials, without the least feeling for the people, struggled for the modernization of their country. But the nation in general had no sympathy with their plans, and they were soon suppressed."

The Young-Turk party had a totally different origin, as he thus relates:

"The Young-Turk party originated in 1893, and the students in the Military School of Medicine at Constantinople, to which I then belonged, appointed the first committee of the movement. From this beginning the democratic propaganda of the Young

Turks has spread among the people. Our nation has suffered so sorely under the régime of Abdul Hamid that we were compelled, from motives of patriotism, to strain every nerve for the rescue of Turkey from the gulf of ruin into which she was settling. . . . Our first endeavor was to win over the people to our views. By our organized efforts we have succeeded in doing this, and now we can say without fear of contradiction that we have the whole nation with us. In Macedonia alone, where our domestic committee has its headquarters, we have more than twenty thousand men who are ready to sacrifice their lives for their fatherland. . . . From this time the Turkish nation have their history in their own hands, and the ever victorious and progressive Young Turks will take care that this state of things is made permanent."



SAID PASHA,

Whose recent elevation to the Governorship of Constantinople raises the hopes of the "Young Turks," whom he is said to favor.

The program of the Young Turks includes individual liberty to all Ottomans; this liberty is to be inviolable excepting by process of law; the press is to be free; Ottomans may form commercial, industrial, or agricultural associations, so long as no law is infringed. All are to be equal before the law. All are to be eligible to public office in accordance with their fitness and aptitude. Arbitrary confiscation of goods by the Government will be prohibited. Ministers are to be held responsible for the acts of their subordinates or representatives. The Sultan's powers are to be limited to such acts as are generally performed by a constitutional monarch. He will have the right to appoint and dismiss ministers, to declare war and make peace. He will have the power of pardon, and he alone can coin money.

Such is the gist of the Young-Turk program, the cause of which is espoused, we are told, throughout the Ottoman Empire. It is even said that the Sultan himself admits the reasonableness of this program and he professes a wish to try a new régime in accordance with the wishes of his people. The sluggishness of the Turk has a good side and on this slow, steady, and practical revolution the *Rassegna Nazionale* (Florence) remarks, apropos of the rise of Said Pasha to be Governor of Constantinople:

"It must be confest that if there is a man capable of facing the situation and of carrying out this system of reform, it is certainly the new Governor of Constantinople, who in court circles is credited with a profound sympathy with the Young Turks. It is only in this way that the blot of barbarism which has hitherto stained the so-called civilization of Europe, and has only been tolerated through the rivalry of the leading governments, and through the dread of disturbing the balance of European power, will at length be obliterated."—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*