

Minister is likely to produce good results. His wide experience of European politics at Berlin and St. Petersburg will probably bring him into close touch with the leading members of the English non-official community. Khalil Rifaat, the new Grand Vizier, is a very strong man. As Governor of Monastir he suppressed brigandage on the Albanian and Greek frontier, and was then transferred to Sivas, where he was again successful. Said Pacha's nomination as President of the Council has been very favourably received; his tact and courtesy will be much missed at the Foreign Office.

I had a long interview this morning with Said Pacha. He said he could not claim that the Turkish Administration was as white as snow, but certainly it was not as black as it had been painted. All felt the personal attack to which the Sultan had been subjected. He and the Ministers were working hard to carry through the scheme of reforms, which presented many difficulties, and they counted on the generosity of England not to increase those difficulties by encouraging the revolutionary feeling among the Armenians, who, so far from showing gratitude for the concessions made to them, were in active revolt throughout Asia. He entertained no doubt that the Hintchak Committee did give the instructions to commence the riots at Trebizond, Bitlis, Erzeroum, Zeitoun, and Diarbekir, and had supplied the malefactors with firearms, ammunition, and bombs. Said Pacha alluded to the reports of cruelty and torture of the men taken prisoners. He mentioned the case of Izzet Effendi, a Mohammedan lawyer, who was arrested seven weeks ago for complicity with treason. A circumstantial report was telegraphed to England that this man was tortured at Yildiz by flogging, and that he was finally hanged at the Palace. Said Pacha assured me that he was still living, and referred me to Nazim Pacha, the Minister of Police, who confirmed the statement, but could not let me see him without a direct order from the Sultan. I drove at once to the Palace, and saw Tashin Bey, the First Secretary, and obtained the Sultan's permission to call at Izzet's place of detention.

I found he had been attended for a pulmonary complaint by Dr. D. G. S. Dobrachian, M.R.C.S. Lond., and, in company with the Doctor, I proceeded to the Central Prison, and had a long interview with Izzet Effendi and his partner, Ahmed Nahif Effendi, who is confined in the same room. The lawyer was naturally pleased to see the Doctor. We found him in good spirits, though suffering from a bronchial attack. On the recommendation of Dr. Dobrachian, the Governor of the gaol, changed his room to one with a south aspect. Izzet emphatically denied the stories of torture. He was in a room furnished with his own bedding, wore his own clothes, including a fur overcoat, and had his food supplied from outside by the Sultan's orders. The Governor had defrayed the cost amounting to six hundred piastres—about five pounds—for the last sixteen days. Dr. Dobrachian is as satisfied as I am that Izzet has never been tortured. This disposes of one of the many rumours proceeding from the same source, with an evident desire to discredit the Sultan.

No doubt, many other stories are equally untrue. To-day, for instance, a circumstantial report has been current that Kiamil Pacha, the late Grand Vizier, had been exiled, the truth being that, some years ago, he suppressed a rising in Zeitoun, and that, at the Sultan's personal request, he now proceeds on a special mission to Aleppo to restore order in Zeitoun and Marash.

A few days ago the Sultan sent for the Fetwa Giver, a specially learned Mollah, and requested him to give a Fetwa, declaring that the grant of a Constitution was opposed to the doctrine of the Sacred Law. The Mollah replied that the Prophet had ordered discussion and consultation, which were the essence of a Parliament, consequently, he could not comply; adding that the Sultan was a civil, as well as a religious, Ruler. This incident is instructive, both as showing the Sultan's disposition towards reforms, and his religious feeling on the same subject.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, THURSDAY NIGHT.

According to the latest reports from Constantinople, the order to mobilise the Reserves and Redifs of the Fourth Army Corps has been extended to the Fifth Army Corps, especially in the Northern districts of Syria. Information has also reached me that a general mobilisation order is shortly to be expected, extending to all the Five Army Corps in Europe and Asia Minor, because additional troops are wanted in Constantinople, and those in Anatolia furnished by the Fourth Corps are not considered sufficient to subdue the threatening Armenian Revolution. The Sultan and the Porte will have done all that was in their power, but the pity is that it was not done in time.

The changes in the offices of Grand Vizier, Foreign Minister, and other high dignitaries are not regarded in Vienna as a demonstration against England, though Kiamil Pacha was considered to be more open to English influence than the other Pachas. The event is deemed to be simply the consequence of the declaration made by the Ambassadors that the military

measures at first contemplated were inadequate, from which the Sultan drew the conclusion that his first Minister must be a more energetic man than Kiamil Pacha. The choice of his successor has been made, according to Constantinople reports, with a view to appeasing the Mohammedan element. Khalil Rifaat Pacha, the new Grand Vizier, besides being an energetic man, who, as Governor of Monastir, stamped out brigandage in a short time, is also popular with the old Turks, who regard him as one of their own Party.

In view of the latest events, the Reform projects appear to have already retreated so much into the background, that a report in the *Pesther Lloyd* reads like stale news. It says that the Powers of the Triple Alliance want to be officially informed by Turkey of the formation of the Control Commission, and that this would be directly and formally demanded on the strength of the 61st Article of the Berlin Treaty, should the Porte refuse the claim of these Powers to be treated on an equal footing with England, Russia, and France. The Porte, having too much to do to find time to pick a quarrel with the Triple Alliance, may certainly be expected to accede to the demand.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY NIGHT.

The news from Constantinople reporting that Achmed Tewfik Pacha, who has been Turkish Ambassador in this capital for nine or ten years, had been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, has made an excellent impression in Berlin, since it is believed that he is the right man in the right place.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, NOV. 6.

In the representations made yesterday to the Porte by the Foreign Ambassadors, their Excellencies alluded in particular to the attacks of the Mussulmans on Christians, and intimated that unless they were stopped the Powers would take the matter into their serious consideration. They recalled the circumstances of the intervention of the Great Powers in Syria in 1860, and gave the Porte to understand that intervention of a similar nature would ensue if efficacious measures were not taken to preserve order.

Said Pacha promised to give a formal reply to the Ambassadors' representations in two days.

Combined action of such grave importance on the part of the Powers has not been taken for many years past, and in political circles it is considered as a direct warning that Europe will undertake the re-establishment of order if the Porte is unable to do so.

Twenty battalions of Redifs out of the 60 called up will be sent to Syria, where the situation causes uneasiness.

Trustworthy reports which have now been received from Erzeroum state that the troops took part in the massacre and pillage of the Armenians.

Private accounts represent the condition of the Asiatic provinces as deplorable, a veritable reign of terror prevailing.

Two servants belonging to English merchants here, who had gone to the English post for letters, were arrested by detectives on leaving the office, and the newspapers which they were carrying were confiscated. A Maltese waiter, who was also a newspaper vendor, was similarly arrested, and his papers seized. On the occurrence being reported at the British Embassy, representations were made to the Porte.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining provisions at Lemnos, the British Squadron has left that port for Salonica.

Nov. 7.

Khalil Rifaat Pacha has been appointed Grand Vizier in the place of Kiamil Pacha.

A new Ministry has been formed. An official communication to the Turkish newspapers gives its composition as follows:—Arifi Pacha, Minister without Portfolio; Abdurrahman Pacha (Vali of Adrianople), Minister of Justice; Riza Pacha, Minister of War; Hassan Pacha, Minister of Marine; Said Pacha (hitherto Minister for Foreign Affairs), President of the Council of State; Tewfik Pacha (Ambassador at Berlin), Minister for Foreign Affairs; Memduh Pacha (Vali of Angora), Minister of the Interior; Gareib Pacha, Minister of Evkafs (Worship); Zudhi Pacha, Minister of Public Instruction; Mahmud Djelaleddin Pacha, Minister of Commerce and Public Works; Sabri Bey (hitherto accountant in the Ministry of Finance), Minister of Finance.

The Sheikh-ul-Islam is not affected by the change of Ministry, and is confirmed in his post. Khalil Rifaat Pacha, the new Grand Vizier, was installed in his office to-day, with the usual ceremony.

According to advices from Aleppo, the Kurds belonging to an Hamidieh Regiment have attacked and plundered a caravan near that town. The Kurds of the Eastern Provinces appear to have joined in the movement against the Christians. The American missionaries have been advised not to expose themselves to the dangers arising from the present over-excited state of the population. At the instance of Mr. Herbert, the British Chargé d'Affaires, guards will be furnished for Consuls in the disturbed districts.

The Porte contradicts the rumour that there

THE CRISIS IN TURKEY.

NEW MINISTRY FORMED.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, WEDNESDAY.

It is difficult to understand the motive of the rumours now in circulation in this capital. This morning a most circumstantial report was current of serious disturbances in Stamboul, in which nine Turks were said to have been killed. I have spent all day trying to locate the riots. I called upon a colonel of gendarmes whom I have known for ten years as a man worthy of every confidence, and also upon Nazim Pacha, the Minister of Police, whose courtesy to the Press is unfailing. Both were perfectly ignorant of the alleged riots. By special permission, I visited the Central Prison, and all the police-stations; there had been no unusual influx of prisoners. Finally, I ran the rumour to ground in the office of a Levantine merchant, who heard it from his Armenian clerk in the morning.

In the course of a long interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that functionary said the Sultan was much hurt at the evident intention of the Armenians to refuse the scheme of reforms. The Committee of Control comprises one Greek, one Roman Catholic, one Orthodox Armenian; all sects are represented upon it, and yet the Orthodox Party are in full revolt throughout the Empire. They have certainly suffered heavily here and in the provinces, but it appears certain that in all cases they commenced the outrage, as they undoubtedly did at Stamboul. My visit to the prison refutes the rumours that wholesale arrests are taking place, nor can I obtain corroborative evidence of any killed and injured, beyond the fact that ninety men have been handed over by the police to the Armenian Hospital. It is easy to talk of hundreds killed, but I feel convinced that it is a gross exaggeration of the losses here.

In Zeitoun the Armenians are in open revolt. The country is mountainous—it is the Switzerland of Asia Minor—and the suppression of the troubles there will be a long and difficult process.

THURSDAY.

A general change of Ministers has taken place. Khalil Rifaat, late Minister of the Interior, is the new Grand Vizier, succeeded in his late post by Memduh Pacha, the Vali of Angora. Said Pacha, late Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the new President of the Council of State, and is succeeded by Tewfik Pacha, late Ambassador at Berlin. Arifi Pacha, the ex-Grand Vizier, is Minister of Justice; Sabri Bey, Minister of Finance; Mahmud Djelaludin, late Vali of Crete, Minister of Public Works. The Ministers of War, Marine, the Master General of the Ordnance, and the Ministers of Public Instruction and Worship, remain unchanged. Ministers remained at the Palace till a late hour yesterday, and were there again at eight o'clock this morning.

The appointment of Tewfik Pacha as Foreign

have been disturbances at Adana, Tarsus, and Mersina. There has, however, been no news from Adana for several days.

PARIS, Nov. 7.

The Delegates of the Armenian Colonies in the different countries of Europe, at a meeting here to-day, resolved to address a supreme appeal to the Sovereigns and Heads of the six Great Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, requesting their immediate intervention in order to put an end to "the methodic extermination of the Armenians which is being carried out by the Ottoman Government."

Reuter's Agency, upon making inquiries from a gentleman who is intimately acquainted with Turkish affairs, learns that Khalil Rifaat Pacha the new Grand Vizier, has the reputation in Turkey of being an able administrator, though he has hardly the commanding influence of Said Pacha or Kiamil Pacha. In his early days he was an adherent of Midhat Pacha when that Statesman was at the height of his power, but he afterwards fell away from the political following of Midhat, and in the war of 1878 was Governor of Widdin, where he rendered considerable service to the Turkish cause. Subsequently, Khalil Rifaat occupied various high administrative posts, being in succession Governor of Salonica and Smyrna. From the latter place he was called to Constantinople, and has continued to hold office with little interval up to the present time. He may be considered a man of broad views with Liberal tendencies, judged by the Turkish standard. In any case, he has no connection with the old fanatical Turkish Party, and would be likely to exercise a moderating influence as between Mussulmans and Christians. At the same time, his appointment as Grand Vizier at the present juncture is not calculated to produce any remarkable results.

A Correspondent writes that among those who have recently been arrested by the Turkish officials is the Rev. Mgrdich K'nadjian, the pastor of the large Armenian church at Marsovan. Mr. K'nadjian is a native of Armenia, who was educated at Hackney College, and is a member of Dr. Horton's Congregational Church at Hampstead. The authorities at the Foreign Office have been communicated with, and have promised at once to take up the matter. There is reason for immediate activity, as it is believed that Mr. K'nadjian has been placed in chains and is threatened with torture.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION IN TURKEY.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 7.

An official communication issued to-day announces that the Ottoman Bank will suspend for a month the payment of gold for bank notes, in order to give time for the conversion into pounds Turkish of the gold which the Bank is causing to be sent from its various branches. At the same time, all the public offices will accept bank notes instead of gold.

In granting to the Ottoman Bank the prolongation of its concessions for twelve years, the Government has given a decisive answer to the rumours circulated to the detriment of the Bank, and in addition has proved its gratitude for the services rendered by the Bank in the crisis. This action of the Government has produced a salutary effect in tranquillising the public mind, and the run on the Bank has so far abated that it appears most unlikely that the establishment will avail itself of the Decree dispensing it from the necessity of reimbursing its notes until the consignments of gold now on the way, amounting to over a million sterling, have been transformed into Turkish pounds.

There is every reason to hope that the above-mentioned action of the Sultan's Government marks the last chapter in the history of the recent financial panic, which a peculiar combination of unforeseen circumstances and deliberate hostility rendered unprecedentedly acute.
