

THE TURKISH QUESTION. At a meeting of the Ottoman Council, held at Constantinople, on the 23d of September, and which was attended by upwards of a hundred persons, it was unanimously decided that, as Turkey could make no further concession to the demands of Russia, and as the Emperor declined to accept the Vienna note in its modified form, war was the only alternative; and the Ministers of the Sultan were entrusted with the duty of adopting the measures necessary for giving effect to that decision. Such a resolution, however fraught with momentous consequences to Europe, is not more surprising than the final consummation of any fatal disorder. It certainly has not been formed hastily or without deliberation; for five instances will be found in the annals of history, of protraction so great on one side, or forbearance so exemplary on the other. Those who question the title of Turkey to vindicate her independence by arms would refuse her the right to use those weapons which wrong may wield with triumph; but those who with more generous instincts, espouse the cause of justice and weakness, against oppression and power, will applaud the manly determination of her government and people.

As such a moment as the present, it is desirable to bear in mind the exact position placed on the 23d of September, and to review calmly the steps which have led to the present crisis. It is now nearly six months since Russia first put forth pretensions to an interference in the internal affairs of Turkey, under the pretext of a religious protectorate, over the Greek communities within the Ottoman dominions. Such a demand was wholly inconsistent with the independence of the Turkish sovereignty. The clear demand, in the first place, a treaty of amity, which would have assured to him the right of an unlimited intervention in the Turkish empire. The claim was neither new in its character, nor ambiguous in its object. Ever since the treaty of Kainardji, in 1774, Russian Diplomacy has sought to undermine the autonomy of institutions, under the mask of solicitude for the well-being of the Greek Christian subjects of the Porte. The proposition for a syncretic union was, however, so promptly rejected, that it was not further pressed; but a note was demanded of the Porte by Prince Menschikoff, containing a declaratory admission, on the part of the Sultan, of all the claims which Russia had previously required to be recognized by treaty. On the merits of those claims it is not necessary to enter, for they have been examined and rejected by Europe. The well reasoned despatches of M. Douvres de Flans and Lord Clarendon were hardly needed to expose pretensions which were supported by no other argument than force. It is sufficient to remark that the diplomatic basis, from which the four powers set out, in entering to the Vienna conference, was a recognition of the inadmissibility of the demands of Russia as conveyed in the Menschikoff ultimatum. The deliberations of England, France, Austria and Prussia, for the purpose of devising a substitute for the Russian note implicitly involved a declaration of the injustice of the claims which that document embraced. But, although they were thus condemned by the great Powers of Europe, Russia did not hesitate to invade the territories of her neighbor for the purpose of compelling the Porte to concede all that she had required. The Danubian provinces were occupied by the armies of the Emperor, the stipulated tribute to the Ottoman Porte was diverted into the Russian chest, and the sovereignty of the Sultan over the Holy Places was asserted by the mandates of a Russian General.

Such has been the situation of things ever since July. An independent country has, without provocation, been invaded by a foreign power, who still holds possession of her provinces, in an order to enforce pretensions alike fanciful and impious. An unprovoked person might well ask, under such circumstances, but why war was declared in September, but why it was not declared several months ago. The answer is, a questionably commenced on the day when the first Russian soldier crossed the Pruth—and such was the view taken by the western powers, as is manifest, not only from the notes of their ministers, but from the movements of their fleets. England and France, by the passage of the Dardanelles, recognized the fact that Turkey was at war, and they will now have neither the disposition nor the right to dispute the title of Turkey to show that vigor, as well as moderation, announces her avowal. For two months the Porte suspended that declaration of hostilities which, by the law of nations she was entitled to make, and she cannot now be justly charged with precipitancy or want of moderation. The forbearance and self-restraint which this barbarous and unprovoked invasion has shown, stand in striking contrast to the insolent and overbearing demeanor of the "civilized and Christian power," which has brought Europe to the brink of the greatest of human wars. Russia, in an unjust quarrel, out of all proportion to an armed champion—Turkey, through unprovoked assault and wrong, has exhibited a spirit as firm as that of a pacific stranger would permit. She has shown the relative positions of a sovereign who professes the faith of the Gospel, and of the Infidel whose religion is the work of the devil.

In judging of the decision of the Turkish Council, it must be remembered that the declaration of hostilities, which the invasion of the Principalities would have justified, was suspended at the instance of France and England, in the hope that a diplomatic communication might be effected. The history of the Vienna Conference is well known. It opened the case with an opportunity of coming to an honorable arrangement, but she only availed herself of it to renew his pretensions without statement and in the most insulting spirit. After two months of abortive negotiations, he obstinately flung back the Vienna ultimatum into the hands of the Turkish government. But the Porte, after the several rejections of the ultimatum, which the powers of Europe had declared to be reasonable, could arrive at no other conclusion than that all attempts to induce the Emperor by negotiation to abandon his insupportable claims had failed. It was then, when Turkey if she opposes an armed resistance to an armed invasion. Certainly not the Powers who have hitherto proclaimed sympathy with her wrongs. But it is, nevertheless, impossible to contemplate without dismay the consequences which may be entailed upon Europe by the reckless ambition of one unscrupulous man. Let us hope that in the Providence of God, we may yet be saved from them, and that as the last hour, even the uttermost of the Russian year, shall be the last of the Russian year, shall be the last of the Russian year.

in the field the reality of pretensions which have no other foundation than the right of the strongest, the issue may be calmly accepted in the form. War is, unquestionably, an evil; but there is a still greater evil even than the necessity of warring for force, and that is, a base and cowardly submission to the menaces of violence and wrong. The calamities which may ensue may fall heavily on helpless populations, but the responsibility will rest upon the head of him who has professed the aggrandizement of his Empire, not only the welfare of his own subjects, but to the peace of Europe.



North Carolina Whig.

CHARLOTTE: Tuesday Afternoon, November 1, 1853.

WILLIAM THOMPSON Esq., is our authorized agent to receive advertisements and notices in this office in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

A Fire Company wanted. The charter incorporating the town of Charlotte provides for the formation of a Fire Company, and we have been requested to bring the subject to the notice of our citizens, in order that they may take such steps in this regard as may be deemed proper to provide against future contingencies in the way of fire. It is true that Charlotte has been blessed in a remarkable degree in her exemption from the ravages of this destructive element, but this may not always be the case, and it is the duty of every citizen to provide for the safety of his property, and to secure to his neighbor the same.

Who shall be our next Candidate? We see the question now mooted in our columns. Who shall be the man whom the Whigs of North Carolina will support for Governor of the State in the next campaign? In answer to this question, the names of James W. Caldwell, Esq., the Hon. D. M. Barringer, and Henry W. Merritt, Esq., have been mentioned as candidates, and a positive will be made up of the names of the candidates, and it is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration.

The State Fair. It is a pleasure to learn that the State Fair, which is to be held at Raleigh, on the 10th inst., will be a very successful one. The fair is to be held at Raleigh, on the 10th inst., and it is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration.

England and Cuba. The Washington Union publishes a report to the effect that England has recently concluded a treaty with Spain for the cession of the island of Cuba. The report is to the effect that England has recently concluded a treaty with Spain for the cession of the island of Cuba. The report is to the effect that England has recently concluded a treaty with Spain for the cession of the island of Cuba.

The Eastern Question. The Eastern Question is a subject of great importance, and it is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration.

A Tri-Weekly Paper in Salisbury. The Editors of the Banner and Whig, Salisbury, propose to issue a Tri-Weekly paper, and we are glad to hear of it. It is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration. It is our duty to require for our consideration.

Judge Bronson to Mr. Guthrie. The recent letter of Judge Bronson to the collector of the port of New York, in reply to the official communication of Mr. Guthrie, Secretary of the Treasury, has been read with the public mind on almost universal response of applause. Such a noble and patriotic spirit, such a noble and patriotic spirit, such a noble and patriotic spirit.

THE GREAT STATE FAIR. Never, within our editorial experience, have we chronicled any event with more heartfelt gratification, than that which we now feel, in recording the complete success of the FIRST NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR! We take complete satisfaction, for, whether we say into consideration the immense number and the high respectability of the persons present—the character of the exhibition itself—the demonstrations which met the eye at every gaze, of the available and inexhaustible resources of the State—or the indications of State pride and State patriotism, which everywhere found vent, it was, in each and every respect, a triumph for North Carolina—a triumph of which all her sons should be justly proud and justly boastful.

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