

THE SULTAN'S VISIT TO SMYRNA.

THE following amusing account of a recent visit by his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, to Smyrna, appeared in the *Standard* of the 7th May as a communication from the Special Correspondent of that journal:—

On Thursday morning, April 23, the Sultan landed and held a "rikeab" at the provincial palace. On the right of the throne the Mussulman mollahs and functionaries were marshalled by his Excellency Kiamel Bey; on the left the Greek, Armenian, Protestant, and Jewish ecclesiastical and civil heads of the communities, and in front the commissioners and corporations in which the Europeans take part. The place of honour on the right was given to the Imperial Cotton Commission, headed by Mr. Hyde Clarke, vice president; Mr. Paterson, Mr. James Whittall, Mr. James Youl, &c. Then the Imperial Railway Commission, headed by Colonel Rechad Bey, the Provincial Council, the members of the Mixed Criminal Court, those of the Cadastre or Municipal Commission, and those of the Court of Tijaret or Tribunal of Commerce.

The grand dignitaries of the empire, his Highness Fuad Pacha his Highness Mahmoud Pacha, his Excellency the Captain Pacha, &c., stood to the right of the throne, with Kiamil Bey below. On his Imperial Majesty ascending the throne, he took forth a paper from which he read a speech in Turkish to his Highness Fuad Pacha, etiquette forbidding that he should speak aloud, but after the first few moments his voice was without difficulty heard even by the farthest attendants. His Imperial Majesty having handed the speech to Fuad Pacha, his highness read it aloud. The speech published in French is not quite the same as that delivered by the Sultan. He spoke something to the following effect:—He referred to his constant efforts for the advancement of his country and all classes of his people, without distinction, and with that object alone had he visited his subjects. He had at once gone

to Azasolock (Ephesus) to take the first step towards carrying on the new railway works; and with the blessing of Providence, Aidin would be reached, and no effort of his would be wanting to effect that object. The illustrious city (*meshshoon memleket*) of Smyrna was a great centre of the commerce of the empire. He had before visited it with his brother the Sultan Abd-ul-Medjid, and he was gratified with seeing its astonishing progress, but he was no less delighted at the enthusiastic welcome given to him, as well by all classes of his subjects as by the merchants and other foreigners. The communications already opened, and those in progress, would greatly contribute to the promotion of agriculture and trade, and he would give every assistance, not only for the extension of the railway to Aidin, but for the advancement of other undertakings. He spoke of the satisfactory appearance of the scholars of the public schools of all sects. The productions of the province were valuable and abundant, and the cotton cultivation was a great source of wealth for commerce. He expressed his satisfaction with the labours of the Cotton Commission and the co-operation of the inhabitants. He urged on all his officers, and on all the leading inhabitants of the province, to co-operate for their common benefit and that of the empire.

Feelings of gratitude could not be expressed, but no one was unmoved, as when the Sultan looked around to each group with his eye all saluted. The presentation of the authorities was prevented by the Roman Catholic archbishop obtaining by foreign influence an audience of the Sultan on the palace stairs.

After the levee the Sultan proceeded in a carriage, followed by the Imperial Prince and suite, through the city to the railway, passing through the railway triumphal arch at the level crossing, where commands were given to the railway officials for races on the morrow. Passing along the turnpike road constructed for the Bournabat Road Company by Mr. Crampton, his Imperial Majesty noticed that several of the trees planted by that gentleman had been dedicated to him, and he expressed his wish that the road should be completely planted as a public promenade for Smyrna, towards which his Imperial Majesty contributed \$100.

Proceeding at a rapid pace along that line of road, the Sultan reached the town of Bournabat, one of the country residences of the merchants. Here, by the arrangement of Fuad Pacha, two villas had been prepared for him—that of Mr. Whittall, director of the railway, remarkable for its beautiful gardens, and that of Mr. Paterson, of the Cotton Commission, being the finest villa in the country.

The Sultan gave the precedence to Mr. Whittall as of right, he being what is called here the "doyen" of the English colony, and having supported its honour by munificent hospitality to every crowned head and prince who has visited Smyrna of late years, with the exception of the Prince of Wales, who by some mismanagement was taken another route. The members of the family had quitted the house to place it at the disposal of the Sultan, leaving only the kitchen servants. His Imperial Majesty shortly after entering requested that Mr. Whittall should remain in his own house, and conversed with him. The Sultan spent several hours in the house, kiosk, and gardens, and consequently did not visit Mr. Paterson. On leaving his Imperial Majesty personally addressed Mr. Whittall, thanking him; Mr. Whittall answered that he felt the visit to him was a compliment to the English community, whose countrymen were his constant allies. The Sultan left £100 for the servants, which Mr. Whittall devoted to the children of the Greek and other schools of the town.

On returning, the contractor's works were brilliantly illuminated, as was the whole city, and as the Sultan passed through the Armenians spread carpets before him in the main streets, and the bands of the French and Italian fleets played. In return the Sultan sent his band the next evening to play before the French and Italian consulates.

In the evening his Excellency Mehemed Pacha, Cap'tain Pacha, gave a dinner on behalf of the Sultan, to the foreign admirals, and captains, and the foreign consuls on board the line-of-battle ship Peiki Zafir, which was attended by the grand dignitaries, the

Ottoman captains, and the political commissioner of the province, Nerhet Bey, and the vice-president of the Cotton Commission, Mr. Hyde Clarke. The banquet was of a magnificent character, the Turkish dishes being supplied by the sultan's cook, some from his own table, and the French dishes being cooked by the chef of Smyrna, M. Mille, of Mille's hotel. The dinner was served in a banquet room made up with flags. The Sultan's band played choice airs during the banquet. After dinner coffee was served in the cups and richly jewelled zarfs of the Sultan.

The guests were arranged, one Ottoman official and one foreign guest alternately. To the right of the Captain Pacha sat the station admiral; to the left the French captain, representing the French Admiral Touchard. Opposite the Captain Pacha sat his Highness Fuad Pacha, the Seraskier having on his right Count Bentivoglio d'Arragon, French consul, and on his left Viscount d'Egremont, Belgian consul. Her Britannic Majesty's consul sat near the French consul.

Count Bentivoglio gave "The Health of the Sultan;" Fuad Pacha, that of "The Sovereigns, Friends and Allies of Turkey;" and the Station Admiral Vacca, "His Highness Fuad Pacha, his Excellency Mehemed Pacha, and the Ottoman Navy."

The party broke up at a late hour. It was remarked that English was the language chiefly spoken at table on account of the many Ottoman and naval officers present.

On Friday morning, the Sultan landed from his

yacht, and went in full Constantinople state to the Hissar Jamisi, to the great satisfaction of his Mussulman subjects; and he gave largess to the learned members of the Meoleh Haneh, commonly called dancing dervishes. The weather being very fine, instead of going by steam yacht to the railway pier, he went through the streets in his carriage to the Caravan Bridge suburban station, which was handsomely decorated, and thence a few minutes brought him by train to the Bondjah station. Here he again entered his carriage, and was received by Count Bentivoglio d'Arragon, president of the Jockey Club, and Mr. E. A. Drew, the honorary secretary, and conducted to the Imperial tent, which was pitched on the race ground near the grand stand.

The Sultan having given \$250 and £60 a year to the race fund, these races were held in his honour, the regular spring meeting being fixed for next week, when Sir H. Bulwer is expected. The club and races were founded by the English, and some thorough English sport was shown, in which his Imperial Majesty took deep interest, this being his first racing experience. His Imperial Majesty is exceedingly anxious to improve the breed of horses.

The first race was chiefly by a large field of Arabs and half bloods, ridden by English amateurs in jockey costume, thrice round the course, ending in a sharp contest between M. C. Van Lannep's horse Shannon, ridden by Mr. Charlton Whittall, nephew, and Mr. Cramp'on's Slesher, ridden by Mr. Hutchinson, won by Mr. Whittall. A hurdle race followed, in which the two were again competitors, but Shannon got the benefit of a hurdle knocked down by a Turkish jockey Ishmael, and won by a neck. On the winner being paraded the Sultan sent to him a bag containing £260—Turkish pounds.

His Imperial Majesty likewise sent a donation to Jem Smith, an English jockey, who had a heavy fall in taking a hurdle. The last race was a Bashibazook race.

The Sultan and suite rode off to Bondjah, another town (or villegiatura), and full of beautiful villas, where the fine villa built by Mr. J. T. Wood, the architect, and the large garden planted with exotics

belonging to Mr. D. Ballazzi were prepared for his Imperial Majesty's dinner. His Imperial Majesty sent out to Mr. Ballazzi the decoration of the *Majidieh*. The races having been numerously attended by ladies, and by the officers of the English, French, Italian, and Austrian men-of-war, and foreign visitors, the hospitality of the English residents was largely and freely drawn upon.

His Imperial Majesty took into consideration the means of carrying out the Boojah Branch Railway.

His Imperial Majesty returned to the Boojah station on horseback, and thence by train to the great station, which was fresh decorated and the works illuminated.

On passing into the throne-room of the station his Imperial Majesty stopped some time to receive the Imperial spade, delivered to him by his Highness Fued Pacha, and in reading the Turkish inscription in silver commemorating its use in beginning the new works at Ayasolook.

Another ovation awaited the Sultan in Frank-street and in passing through the picturesquely lighted bazaars. His Imperial Majesty, by his frank and noble bearing, his energy and courtesy of manner, has won the hearts of man, woman, and child in Smyrna, with many almost to adoration. Led away by the enthusiasm around, every now and then etiquette was thrown aside, and the hearty salutations returned.

This (Saturday) morning the Imperial yacht was got under way. The last measure of his Imperial Majesty was to direct the plantation at Constantinople and Smyrna of tree cotton seed, received yesterday by the United States mail, and give directions about various measures for promoting existing institutions in Smyrna and forming new ones. The Imperial yacht, Captain Kaxim Bey, was followed out

of the harbour by the Ottoman, French, and Italian squadrons with the usual salutes, and has just passed the Castle.

The enthusiasm excited by the Sultan has prevented that attention being devoted to his Highness Faad Pacha which, under other circumstances, the claims of that great statesman on the gratitude of all in the Turkish empire demand; but whenever he was seen alone loud cheers greeted him. His courteous and kindly offices have tended even to promote the enthusiastic loyalty of all classes towards the Sultan.

Through some bungling, either on the part of the local or home authorities, the English admiral was not informed, and there was no other English vessel than her Majesty's ship *Wanderer*, three guns, commanded by her popular captain Seymour, but who, per force, could do nothing. Captain Seymour was specially noticed by the Sultan. The general remark of all classes, however, is, that England has carried the day, and beat all hollow. The Sultan has first repeatedly visited the English railway, complimented the cotton commission formed under English auspices, has visited an English gentleman as representing his countrymen, has attended the English races, rewarded their English winner. We may add he has rewarded by a decoration the ingenious invention of an English mechanic—Mr. Pappe. The English, it is acknowledged, have done the most for the entertainment of his Imperial Majesty, and in the way of decoration and have led him to prolong his stay at Smyrna for a week, after having telegraphed home that he should return the next day.

It is but justice to add to a very liberal gentleman, Count Benisevoglio, the French consul-general, that he has done all he could with public spirit, on account of his own countrymen, and in co-operation with the English. Every one feels grateful for the personal attentions paid to him by the Sultan, and rejoiced at the present he yesterday received at the races of a valuable Arab horse.
