TURKISH INTRIGUES.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Times*, writing on the 3d instant, says:—In the midst of military movements and diplomatic negociations on which the future of Europe depends, we are surprised by a palace intrigue which recalls the days of Sultan Mahmoud. You have learned that Mehemet Ali Pacha, brother-in-law of the present Sultan, was three weeks since banished, first to Sinope, and then into the interior. As Englishmen have not got very clear ideas of Ottoman personages, and mix up Mehemets and Mahmouds, Suleimans and Selims, it may be as well once more to state that Mehemet Ali Pacha was 30 years ago a handsome Circassian youth, who attracted the regards of the late Sultan. In the usual course of Turkish advancement, he was at an early age invested with the dignity of a pacha of the first rank, and placed in offices which brought him considerable wealth. Utterly unscrupulous, he increased his fortune by means from which even Turkish officials have abstained, and soon became one of the richest, or, at least, one of the most splendidly living Pachas in the empire. To crown all, Mahmoud gave him a daughter in marriage, and always treated him with distinguished regard. Mehemet Ali has always been a powerful man, both with his sovereign and countrymen; although illiterate and narrow-minded, he possesses a force of character which few of the Europeanized Pachas possess. He has been the representative of old Turkey in all its pride and cruelty. He is the last man who has been known to put a female slave to death by the celebrated means of the sack and the Bosphorus. This act he committed during the reign of the present Sultan. He is also said to have been concerned in the execution of the Armenian who, having embraced Islamism, recanted in the year 1848. He has always been a staunch opponent of diplomatic influence, and particularly of that exercised by the British ambassador during the last few years. On the other hand, he distinguished himself greatly by his haughty rejection of the demands of Mentschikoff, roused the national feeling of the Turks, did much to kindle the enthusiasm with which the war commenced, and urged the council to the momentous step of a struggle against the Czar. In Redschid Pacha he has had, however, for many years a formidable enemy. Personal feelings are at the bottom of the animosity which prevails between the two men, but their political leanings tend still further to separate them. Of course, any comparison between their intellectual attainments would be absurd; but with the Turks Mehemet Ali, with all his faults, is the more popular pacha of the two. Redschid Pacha is in many respects merely the instrument of the British embassy, and is, therefore, considered by the national party as willing to sacrifice his country to his personal aggrandisement. The accusations against him of direct corruption may or may not be true, but there can be no doubt that he has, equally with Mehemet Ali, used his influence with the Sultan to obtain, indirectly, large grants of money out of the revenues of an impoverished state. Since the marriage of his son with the Sultan's daughter, Redschid has become the most powerful subject in the empire, and the envy and animosity of Mehemet Ali have been correspondingly increased; yet the latter has not been wholly neglected. The Sultan is said to have a strong feeling of affection for Mehemet Ali, and for the sister, who is his wife. He has visited him periodically on terms of familiarity which are seldom vouchsafed to a subject. However, Mehemet Ali was lately carried away by his discontent into manifestations which brought him into trouble. As the representative of the Turkish party, he has seen with anger the establishment of the allies in Constantinople. Like the majority of his countrymen, he has transferred his dislike from the Russians to their more successful opponents, who have established their power in the empire without a blow. Whether any scheme for a *coup-d' etat* was really in preparation by Mehemet Ali may be doubted, but he no doubt made use of expressions against the Sultan, his ministers, and allies which, in the present temper of the people might have produced disturbances. Redschid Pacha and his diplomatic supporters took advantage of these excesses, and three weeks ago Mehemet Ali was apprehended, and within 24 hours was on his way to Sinope. Lord Stratford was desirous to visit the Crimea, and a week ago took his departure with his whole household. A youthful attache remained as charge d'affaires. Contemporaneously with the ambassador's absence, and probably encouraged by it, an intrigue began for the recal of Mehemet Ali. His wife implored her brother not to sacrifice his father's friend. Eunuchs and pipebearers exerted themselves to the utmost to bend the weak mind of the monarch, while all the popular influence which could penetrate into the wall of the palace was used on the same side. Redschid Pacha, in the absence of his energetic protector, was too weak to stand the storm. It was ordered that Mehemet Ali should be recalled, and yesterday a steamer was despatched to bring him to the capital. Redschid Pacha then tendered his resignation, and insisted that it should be accepted. As far as anything can now be learned, it appears that the Sultan was sincerely desirous to retain him in power, but the minister was inflexible. Yesterday afternoon Redschid finally resigned the office of Grand Vizier, to which Ali Pacha, now plenipotentiary at Vienna, was at once appointed. Redschid has, however, accepted the mission to Vienna, so that the two statesmen have merely changed places-Fuad Effendi is nominated minister of foreign affairs. He is the same who was expelled from his office by Mentschikoff, and is, or was, a decided opponent of Russia. Chefik Pacha, minister of finance, is temporarily to fill the office of Grand Vizier. Such is the state of things at the present moment, but Lord Stratford may be expected tomorrow, and it is possible that before Mehemet Ali enters the Bosphorus he may receive an order to return to exile, and Redschid Pacha once more assume the reins of power. A stormy interview between the diplomatist and the Sultan is certain. The French charge d'affaires, M. Benedetti, does not seem to have interfered in the matter.

The *Daily News* correspondent, under date of the 13th, gives the following additional particulars:—

Redschid Pacha's departure on his mission to Vienna was fixed for to-day, but it has been further postponed, it appears, and some usually well-informed persons surmise, that his distinguished services may be still secured in the formation of a new ministry. His retirement from office at this portentous juncture is a subject of general regret and amazement and has given rise in most circles to some very severe comments.

"L'homme est un abime," said the philosopher of Ferney; and never, perhaps, was this apothegm more forcibly illustrated than in the series of incidents which, if report says true, led to the downfall of this able and enlightened minister. Will it be believed, that the man whose comprehensive mind had seized at a glance the insiduous purport of the Vienna note, and who mainly contributed, at the very outset of this struggle, to place his country's cause on the broad basis of a European question, and enlist in her favour the sympathies, if not the active support of all civilised nations, should have deserted at the eleventh hour the counsels of his sovereign, and that, too, it is stated, for motives petty, paltry, miserable, unworthy alike of a patriot and a great statesman? And such, alas! is the report in circulation, and such the measure and extent of human frailty.

Redschid, as well by his own distinguished merit as by a rare concurrence of fortunate events, had reached the zenith of worldly prosperity and political power. His influence was unbounded in every department of the state; his friends and adherents countless; his personal and political relations most intimate with Lord Redcliffe, as well as some other members of the diplomatic corps; his late connexion, above all, with the Imperial family, by his son Ali Gholaub Pacha's marriage, had ensured, in a word, advantages never before united in the person of any Turkish dignitary. The bounty and munificence of his young sovereign, besides, were manifested on every occasion; and I may mention, among other instances which have come to my knowledge, the grant of a life-pension amounting to 50,000 piastres per month; the purchase of his palace, at a moment of great financial difficulties, for about twenty millions; and, again, very lately, the cession at a mere nominal value of crown property comprising an immense tract of land in the highest state of cultivation, with the finest country residence on the Bosphorus.

Reschid, moreover, had amassed vast wealth, and acquired landed possessions in various parts of the country, and was thus placed, come what might, beyond the reach of accidents. His family, likewise, was amply provided for: one son, Master of the Mint; another, Mazar Pacha, high in the army; Mehemet Bey, as you are aware, appointed ambassador at the French court; and two others employed in the department of Foreign Affairs, who are now destined to accompany his excellency as secretaries of embassy, in case he should go to Vienna.

Such, then, was the splendid position of Redschid Pacha, when an incredible chapter of paltry accidents led to his resignation, and injured him considerably in public estimation. Among other matters connected with this deplorable event, I may mention that Redschid, although connected by family ties with the Sultan's brother-in-law, Mehemet Ali Pacha, the reputed leader of the popular party, was, it is well known, one of his most inveterate personal and political enemies. The latter, since his expulsion from the office of Grand Vizier, had been living in retirement at the palace of his wife, the Sultana Adili. His transactions with the Armenian banker Jesaerhi had given rise to a most complicated and interminable judicial investigation and Mehemet Ali, although frequently summoned to appear and "show cause" before the Council of the Tanzimat, had, I believe, constantly refused to attend in person, proposing, however, to send a substitute or advocate of his own choice to defend his rights. This proposition, however, if I am rightly informed, was objected to, on what grounds I know not—and that there being thus no chance of coming to an understanding on this point, the Council proceeded to the trial of the matter at issue, and finally pronounced judgment, condemning the Pacha to restore to the Treasury an immense sum. To this, again, I believe, Mehemet Ali demurred, and matters were thus pending when a rekiab, or cabinet council was held at the imperial palace of Tcheraghan.

On the evening of that day, about 9 p.m., the Sultan despatched a chamberlain to the neighbouring mansion of his sister, the Princess Adili, summoning her husband to appear at the Imperial palace. In compliance with this order the Pacha was conducted thither forthwith, and having been introduced into the ante-room of the Mabein, he there found the Seraskier and the Lord High Admiral, who, after having invited him to a seat on the Divan, and presented him coffee and the "calumet of peace," announced the orders of the Sultan, producing at the same time the firman of exile to Kastamoune. Mehemet Ali was thunderstruck, but placed his hand on his forehead, in token of entire submission to the imperial decree; all he requested was permission to return for one instant to his palace and inform the Princess of his doom. This, however, was refused; but a messenger (rejoined the Seraskier) should be despatched immediately for that object, and also to take wearing apparel and other effects, as well as the "artist" and kitchen utensils—a *viaticum* which Eastern usage indispensably provides for all condemned to punishment. On this the Pacha entered the Seraskier's barge, with the High Admiral and one or two on board a steamer in readiness at the Arsenal. Next morning, at sunrise, the boat started for the Black Sea, and having reached Ineboli, there the pacha landed, and set out without a moment's delay for his destination—Kastamoune. This town is a sort of Ultima Thule, and in all probability beyond the limits of your geographical science; I may therefore be permited to remark, parenthetically, that it is situate in the Pachalic of Sivas, and distant about 30 hours from the memorable city of Sinope. As regards its antiquities and monuments of art, I am, I must confess, about as wise as yourself; but there is one venerable relic of the highest interest to your civic *virtuosos*, and to all who delight in "creature comforts." This I should denominate a "self-acting spit,"—in appearance, at least—inasmuch as it turns on a pivot, and the meat is admirably roasted by the mere agency of caloric. It is the simplest of all appliances, and I have been often surprised that it is not in general use. It is placed vertically before the fire, and it is only in this, and a miniature windmill apparatus at the top, that it differs from the common spit. It moves beautifully and perpetually on, and the velocity is in the exact ratio of the heat. Under these circumstances, it is to be hoped, that Mehemet Ali was invariably kept in good case, and did not want at least for an excellent *kébob* to console him in his exile.

But to my tale. The messenger having arrived at the palace of the Princess, the news spread at once like an electric shock, and the harem resounded with wailing and lamentations. The young Sultana rushed out quite distracted, and ordering her carriage proceeded, with a train of attendants, during the night, to the imperial palace. On her arrival, the great portal of the harem was instantly thrown open, and the chief of the eunuchs conducted the Princess to the apartments of the Hasnada Usta. Her desolate appearance, disordered toilet, dishevelled hair, and loud lamentings, excited the pity and compassion of all. "My brother! my brother!" she sobbed aloud; "I want for one instant to see my brother." Her tears and entreaties were all in vain, and she watched, sleepless and in anguish, the whole night, in hopes of obtaining an interview. The sun, however, arose without her having attained her object, and she was thus under the necessity of returning home, when another heart-rending spectacle awaited her. The steamer containing her brother shot up the narrow straits, immediately under the opened window of her palace. Shortly after the departure of the exiled Pacha, Lord Redcliff, with his family started for the Crimea, and the very day after, if I am rightly informed, the Sultan summoned to his presence Redschid Pacha, the then grand vizier, and notified his intention of recalling his brother-in law from exile. The ministers in reply respectfully observed to his Majesty the necessity of submitting this matter to the deliberation of the council, and promised to communicate without delay, the result. This was accordingly done; and the decision, I am told, sanctioned the recall of Mehemet Ali, but on condition, it is said, of his being never again entrusted with any important post in the administration of the empire.

I cannot precisely state the effect produced, when this was notified to his Imperial Majesty, but the immediate result was, that orders were issued for the despatch of a steamer to convey the Sultan's pardon to the Pacha, and bring him back without delay to the capital; with the addition, moreover, that if no government boat were in readiness, one must be hired at any price from the foreign steam company.

This latter expedient was adopted, and Mehemet Ali, after a fortnight's stay at the place of exile, returned to Constantinople. On his arrival the Sultan sent a page to welcome him, besides a substantial mark of favor in a gift of 15,000 purses (about £7,000). Thus far, since his return, he has been living in entire seclusion, and has seen no one with the exception of his medical adviser. Redschid Pacha, shortly after the departure of the steamer destined to bring back Mehemet Ali to Constantinople, sent in his resignation, and has thus produced the greatest confusion at this trying moment, sacrificing to petty jealousies and animosities the true interests of his country.

THE WAR.

THE NIGHT CONFLICT OF THE 1ST MAY.—GENERAL CANROBERT'S REPORT.

The *Moniteur* contains the following report from General Canrobert, addressed to the minister of war, and dated May 4:—

Monsieur le Marechal,—My telegraphic despatch of the 2d gave you the account of the taking by main force, and the occupation by our troops, of a work of counter-approach which the enemy had raised in front of our left attack. This work, which was of very considerable extent, was composed of two broken lines, separated by an interval of 40 metres, and the extremities of which were supported by some natural obstacles of the ground. It was in communication with the lunette of the Central Bastion by a deep trench, and had been mounted with nine-hand mortars, the fire from which seriously annoyed our works. This advanced position was of very great importance to the enemy, as from it they could, perhaps, have destroyed one of our recently completed batteries, as well as the works around it, and it would have had a cross-fire on our attacks on the Flagstaff Bastion.

It was, therefore, necessary for us to prevent the Russians from establishing themselves definitively in this *place d'armes*, and an attack on it was resolved on, as soon as the works should have reached a height sufficient to protect us from the fire of the place, or at least should do so partially.

According to orders received from me, General Pelissier prepared the general arrangements for the attack, the execution of which was confided to General de Salles, seconded by Generals Bazaine, de la Motterouge, and Rivet, and Lieutenant Colonel Raoult, major of the trenches.

At ten o'clock on the night of the 1st, at the moment when a very bright moonlight enabled a movement to be made in order, the troops, formed in two columns, left our parallels. The left columns, composed of six companies of the foreign legion (1st regiment, Colonel Vienot), eight companies of the 43d, under Commandant Bacquet de Sonnay, and ten companies of the 79th, under Colonel Grenier, were ordered to turn the work by the right, which was defended by several battalions. These troops, which were led on by General Bazaine with much skill and vigour, rushed on the enemy with an irresistible impetuosity. Colonel Vienot also led on the foreign legion with remarkable gallantry. A ball has deprived the Emperor of this brave officer, who fell, sword in hand, at the head of his men.

The centre column, under General de la Motterouge, whose name has already figured in the most honourable manner in the operations of the siege, was composed of two battalions of the 46th, under Colonel Gault. One of these battalions, once led on by the colonel himself, advanced without firing a shot on the front of the work, and resolutely rushed on the enemy at the point of the bayonet. The other battalion, following close, immediately crossed over the first inclosure, and the whole regiment then advanced on the second, which it carried with a courage of which its colonel set the highest example.

The 98th, marching in support of the 46th, rushed in its turn on the enemy, and gave brilliant proofs of valour under the orders of its colonel, de Bregeot. The right column, formed of one company of the 9th battalion of foot chasseurs, under Captain de Villermain, an officer of tried bravery, and two companies of the 42d, under Captain Ragon, carried the work on the left.

Scarcely had the Russians re-entered the place when the violent cannonade which I have above alluded to commenced from every point of the fortifications. The workmen, the troops, and the trenches in the rear received a complete storm of projectiles of every kind; but our artillery, skilfully directed by General Leboeuf, opened a fire from such batteries as could be brought to bear on the spot. The works were thus continued until daylight, when the enemy's work was definitely in our possession.

The enemy, driven from every part, and pursued at the point of the bayonet, abandoned the work and retired in disorder, strewing the ground with their slain, and leaving a number of prisoners and a quantity of arms in our possession. The loss of the Russians was very considerable. We took possession of the nine hand-mortars, which had been placed in position.

As soon as the work was occupied, the engineers commenced operations to turn the parapets, in order to secure the position from the fire of the town, and to unite it by a communication with our parallel in the rear. These works were executed in the manner agreed on beforehand, but under such a fire of artillery as certainly never before proceeded from any place. The officers of engineers, and particularly Lieut. Colonel Guerin, displayed a coolness, an energy, and a skill which were the admiration of all; they were seconded with the greatest devotedness by the sub-officers, the sappers, and the workmen of the different corps, among whom those of the 14th regiment of infantry were specially pointed out to me.

At about three o'clock in the afternoon of