

and they are distinguished by their facings. The Kubauski Circassians nearly all belong to the peculiar sect of the Greek Church known as the Stara Very—which literally means people of the old faith—their distinguishing religious differences from the orthodox Greeks being the manner in which they give the sign of the Cross and partake of the Sacrament. The Osetiny Circassians come from the district between the Caucasus and the Black Sea, while the Terek Circassians have their home further east. Many of the Teroks are Mussulmans. Their handsome dress is very peculiar. The riding trousers and large boots are very similar to those of all other cavalry, but the robes which give them their fine appearance are something like tight-fitting dressing gowns. The under-robe is of fine flannel or silk, and is of different colors, according to the tribe. For instance, the Kubauski Circassians have scarlet under-ropes, the Osetiny blue, and the Terek white. The over-robe, or uniform proper, is of fine black cloth, braided on the breast much like an English Colonel's undress frock coat, but with a row of silver-mounted cartridge cases across the chest. The fur busby cap is scarlet, blue, or white, according to the tribe, while over all they throw an immense fur cape, which is impenetrable to rain. Unlike the Cossacks of the Don, the Circassians never use a lance. Their arms consist of yataghans, daggers, pistols, and long-range rifles—not carbines. The yataghan, the handle of which is usually inlaid with silver, and often further adorned with precious stones, is called a chachka; while the daggers, whose scabbards are invariably chased silver, are called kinjel. Each regiment of Circassians is divided into sotnias, which correspond to British squadrons, and each sotnia is entitled to have its own flag, which is invariably unfurled during war time. On this account, either on the march or in camp, their appearance is highly picturesque. The banners are large, sometimes forked, sometimes square, sometimes triangular, and seldom of one color. The Circassians are commanded by Prince Tutolmim, who is every inch a soldier. As the camp is the most picturesque so it is the neatest on the lines. Every sotnia has a separate line of tents, with the horses between every second row. About thirty feet divide the alternate rows of tents, and this roadway is carefully swept, while the utmost cleanliness characterizes the tents and all the equipments."

#### *THE CIRCASSIAN BRIGADE.*

A correspondent writes from Simnitsa, July 3, as follows: "Previous to their departure across the river to take up an important position in the advanced corps, the Czar made to-day an inspection of the Circassian brigade of cavalry at their camp, a mile and a-half north of Simnitsa. They are, without exception, about the finest body of men I ever saw under arms. Not one is below six feet in height, broad-shouldered, with brawny arms and handsome faces. Their horses are excellent; indeed, quite up to the mounts of the best English cavalry regiments; and, above all other Russian soldiers, they are clean, neat, and orderly. When drawn up in line, their magnificent dress, appearance, and discipline were such as to call forth the highest admiration, and the brigade is certainly one of which any nation and any commander might well be proud. The Circassians are of three classes from three different districts,