

munications in the Central Caucasus, and even come into connection with the revolting Abkhasians and the returned Western Circassians, but this is not probable. The Russians are well prepared for this outbreak, and will, no doubt, meet the bands of the young Prince in their first movements. Military roads connect every part of the territory, and well-garrisoned fortresses protect weak points. Still, the power of religious bigotry is one beyond measurement, and not even to be controlled by forts and garrisons. The proclamation of a "holy war" may arouse every Mohammedan in those mountains. The Kurds of the plains may bear the call, and even the Tartars of Southern Russia be stirred by it to troublesome outbreaks. Mohammedanism has fire in it yet; and its last struggle for existence, made in those grand mountains by simple and devout believers, may be worthy of its heroic age, and illumine its fall and the destruction of the Turkish Empire with a transient gleam of courage and devotion, recalling the most glorious periods of Moslem success and victory. The Circassians are the last followers of the Prophet with the fanaticism and heroism of the early conquerors who carried the crescent over so much of Asia and Europe. We may yet hear of remarkable exploits by them in the present war.

THE LAST DEFENDERS OF THE PROPHET.

The telegraph informs us of the extension of the Circassian insurrection to the eastern provinces of the Caucasus, near the Caspian. This is the really formidable place for an uprising, so far as the communications and the influence of the Russians are concerned. Our readers are to bear in mind that the tribes of the Caucasus are in one respect, toward Russia, somewhat as the Indian tribes are toward our Government. They have no unity, or common political object. A number of them are in harmony in their common hatred of the Muscovites, but they quarrel in regard to everything else. They differ in religion, in character, in race, and political institutions. Some are lazy, almost cowardly, and nominally Christians; others are intensely active and brave, Mohammedan or heathenish in belief. Some are distinguished for a superb physique, while others look like degraded and poorly fed mountaineers. The bravest and wildest of these tribes were the Circassians and other tribes of Daghestan near the Caspian. These are the most fiery and bigoted Mussulmans in Asia, and unsurpassed as mountain warriors. They inhabit a district which might apparently be defended against a world in arms. Indeed, so rugged and inaccessible are the mountain fastnesses of Daghestan that, had the other branches of the Circassians near the Black Sea and in Kabarda united with these mountaineers, the whole Russian power would never have conquered them. SCHAMYL, who led this resistance for twenty years, made many efforts to draw in the Abkhasians and Western Circassians to a union with his party, but never succeeded. And yet so bitter was the hatred of the Circassians near the Black Sea to the Muscovites that they never submitted to the final conquest, but withdrew, men, women, and children, to the number of 400,000, to the territory of Turkey. It is this tribe which the Turks are said now to be landing on the coast of the Black Sea near Batoum, in order to break the enemy's communications, and rouse an insurrection in his rear.

The Circassians of Daghestan, where the present outbreak has occurred, are the best soldiers of these mountains. SCHAMYL's youngest son—the older being held as hostage, we believe, in Russia—has been commissioned by the Head of the Faithful to preach a holy war among these mountains. It is true that Russia won her final victory there by very skillful and permanent military works. Each height gained was fortified; and the last refuge of SCHAMYL, Mount Gumri, a most difficult and well-defended plateau, has been made the strongest Russian position in the Caucasus, almost controlling Daghestan. Still, mountaineers like these, roused up to the highest pitch of bigotry and fury, and fighting for their own homes and mountain fastnesses, could give the Muscovites much trouble. They would undoubtedly break up the great military road to the north, running near the Caspian; and they might succeed in getting possession of the few ports on that sea, and prevent the supplies which come by the way of the Volga and Caspian from being landed. This would be a great temporary annoyance and hindrance to the Russian movements on Erzeroum and toward Trebizond.

They may also be able to break com-