

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BATTALION
FOURTH REGT. INF., OHIO NATIONAL GUARD.

An unknown steamer goes through the Bosphorus and on 1st to Yalta.

COLUMBUS, OHIO.

During the day Steamers leave the Galata bridge every half-hour for the villages and palaces along the Bosphorus; there is a large fleet of them, probably thirty, but they are always crowded, like the ferry-boats that ply the waters of New York Bay.

We took our first sail on the Bosphorus one afternoon toward sunset, ascending as far as Bebek, where we had been invited to spend the night by Dr Washburn, the President of Roberts College.

I shall not soon forget the animation of the harbor, crowded with shipping, amid which the steamers were darting about like shuttles, the first impression made by the palaces and lovely shores of this winding artery between two seas.

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On the shores is an almost unbroken line of buildings, many of them palaces of marble; the heights are crowned with cottages and luxurious villas, and abodes of taste and wealth peep out along the slopes.

COLUMBUS, OHIO.

If you say that we seem to be sailing in the street of a city, I can only answer that it is not so; nature is still supreme here, and the visible doweress of the scene.

These lovely hills rising on both sides, these gracious curves are here, as are these groves and gardens of fruit and flowers, these vines and the abundant green that sometimes conceals and always softens the work of man.

Before we reached the Sultan's palace our steamer turned to the east bank, outside of the grim iron-clad that lie before the imperial residence

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COLUMBUS, OHIO.

No Steamers are permitted to approach nearer, lest the smoke should soil the sparkling white marble of the palace, or their clamor or dangerous freight of men should disturb the serenity of the ~~head~~ palace which is a beautiful building, stretches for some distance along the waters. With its gardens and Conservatories, and seems to be a very comfortable home for a man who has no more money than the Sultan.

Robert's college occupies the most commanding situation on the strait, and I do not know any view that surpasses in varied beauty that to be enjoyed from it. I shall make myself comprehended by many when I say that it reminds me of the Hudson at West Point.

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If nature could be suspected of copying
herself, I should say she had the one in
mind when she made the other. At
that point the Hudson resembles
the Bosphorus, but it wants the palaces,
the vale of the Heavenly Water into which
we looked from the height, and some
charming mediæval towers, walls and
castles

So far as I know, there is no other stream
in the world upon which the wealth
of palaces and the beauty of gardens
may be so advantageously displayed.
Here nature and art have combined to
produce an enchanting picture.

The two famous fortresses
about half way up the Bosphorus, where the
channel is unusually narrow, have been
used for prisons and were the scene of many
executions in by-gone days

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On the shores of the Black Sea we find beautifully situated townlets at the edge of the water, in a climate which is sublime. But the Queen of them all is Yalta.

Yalta, with its wondrous situation, nestling in a hemicycle of the Caucasus Mountains, which keeps off every wind except that from the Yalta, with its air of prosperity, its hundreds upon hundreds of little snow white houses, with roofs painted green or red, according to Russian custom, and giving such cheery notes of color; Yalta, with her white mosque standing out the center of all, its dome surmounted with a polished cupola of shining gold and supported by four minarets, each with its mirror cupola of gold;

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all reflecting a thousand times the rays
of a bright existing sun which rarely neg-
lects to shine in Jalta.

Every where the click click of the stone masons
mallet upon the steel chisel is heard,
for Jalta is building fast - very fast!
A few years ago there was no place to land
from the sea ~~at Jalta~~. Now yachts, and
steam ships float along side of a solid
stone wharf. Hundreds of Tartars Armenians
Turks and Greeks are hewing and
chiselling stone and carrying cement to
make huge blocks which are to ex-
tend the size of the present dock to
twice its length. There are two bathing
places built out into the sea and may
enjoy the refreshing ^{in Jalta} bath as the bathing
is ideal. ^{you can see a mile out to the bathing is ideal.}

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COLUMBUS, OHIO.

Yalta has a splendid ^{the} quay almost a mile long built out of solid stone. Stone is plentiful and is ~~made~~ ^{used} extensively. The hills at the back of the town are one mass of quarries, which are worked by the Tartars, and they can turn out any amount of good dry building stone. Tartar Caachmen drive with furious gesture and small results. But they are picturesque and look well. Officers in their best uniform pass to and fro, and everything blends to make a delightful display.

There is one thing exceedingly pleasant about Yalta. The temperature is rather on the warm side than not. There is a total absence of those many pests which make life a misery in similar climates. There are neither mosquitoes nor flies to annoy you by day or spoil your sleep by night.