

**Admiral P. H. Colomb (1892) *The War of 189-*.**  
London, William Heinemann.



*Such fears found powerful expression in a new and very popular genre of fictional writing: elaborate narratives predicting the outbreak and course of future wars. Seeking to entertain, to frighten, and to highlight the weaknesses of existing policy-making and strategic thought, literary, journalistic, and military expertise combined to construct evocative stories of conflicts yet to come. These stories proved an instant success with the public; the most popular sold ins of thousands of copies, raced through multiple editions, and were translated into numerous foreign languages. As was intended, they acted as a powerful form of political advocacy. Starting with Lt.-Colonel George Chesney's short story "The Battle of Dorking" (1871), which foresaw a weak and complacent Britain defeated by an aggressive German state, and which prompted Gladstone to publicly denounce the alarmism that it catalyzed, the genre reached its most sophisticated form in a collaborative narrative detailing the "The War of 189-" (1892), where Britain ended up fighting Russia and France. The editor of the illustrated weekly Black and White introduced the latter story as an important political intervention at a time of heightened alert. The air is full of rumours of war. The European nations stand fully armed and prepared for instant mobilization. Authorities are agreed that a GREAT WAR must break out in the immediate future, and that this War will be fought under novel and surprising condition. The story explored those very conditions and, in so doing, made a case for stronger national and imperial defense. Among the leading contributors to this proliferating literature were a number of prominent advocates of Greater Britain, including the imperial federalist Admiral P. H. Colomb, who coordinated the team writing "The War of 189-," a team that also included Dilke. [ Duncan Bell (2007) The Idea of Greater Britain: Empire and the Future of World Order, 1860-1900 Princeton University Press. pp.38-39*

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## ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE FERDINAND OF BULGARIA.

FULL ACCOUNT OF THE MURDEROUS ASSAULT; CRITICAL CONDITION  
OF THE WOUNDED PRINCE.

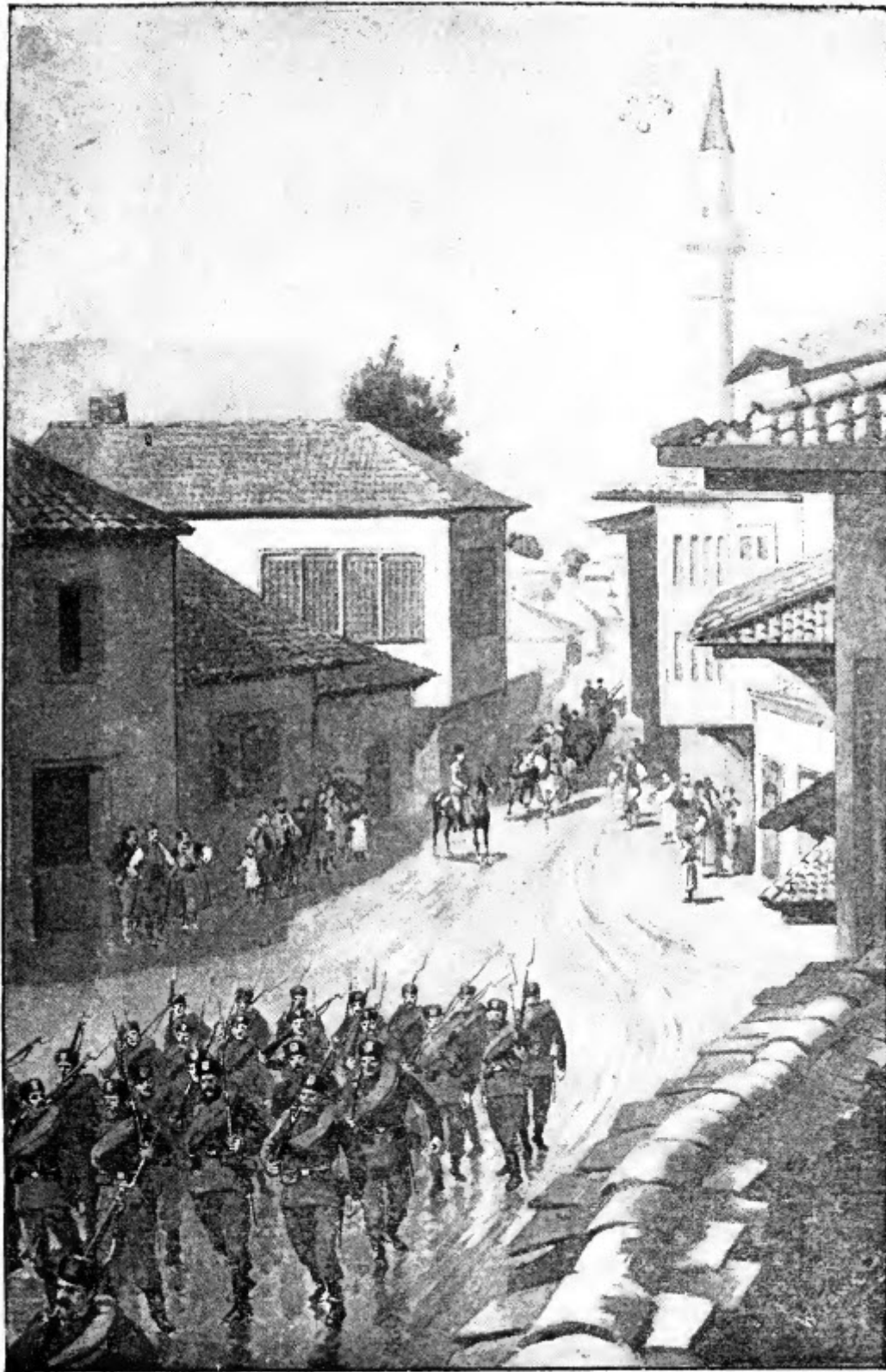
*(By Telegraph from our Own Correspondent, Mr. Francis Scudamore.)*

CONSTANTINOPLE, *Sunday, April 3 (via VARNA).*  
*Noon.*

A REPORT has been current here since a late hour last evening, to the effect that an attempt has been made to assassinate Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, at a mining town named Samakoff, about forty miles south of Sofia. It is said that the Prince, who had been shooting in the Balabancha Balkans, was driving into Samakoff towards evening yesterday, when his carriage was stopped, and he was attacked by a number of men armed with knives and pistols. The Prince's attendants succeeded in saving their master's life and in beating off some and capturing others



THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE FERDINAND OF BULGARIA.



THE BULGARIAN MOBILISATION—TROOPS MARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS OF PHILIPPOLIS.



THE OCCUPATION OF BELGRADE—'HERE AT LAST!'



RUSSIAN INFANTRY LANDING AT VARNA.

**Other posts of possible interest:**

[Wodehouse, P. G. \(1909\), The Swoop! or How Clarence Saved England](#)

Colomb, Admiral P. H. (1892) The War of 189-

Tracy, L. (1896) The Final War

Le Queux, W. (1894) The Great War in England in 1897

Cole, R. W. (1907) The Death Trap

Gleig, C. (1897) When All Men Starve