

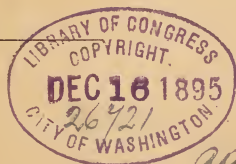




THE
OTTOMAN DYNASTY.

BY

ALEXANDER W. HIDDEN.



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TO THE MEMORY
OF
MY BELOVED MOTHER, MARY W. HIDDEN,
AND OF
MY ELDEST BROTHER, CONSTANTINE,
THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED.

P R E F A C E .

The object of this book is to give a concise history of the Sultans of Turkey, from the foundation of their dynasty to the present day ; with a description of the manners and customs of the Ottomans.

Its perusal will make the reader better acquainted with the Turkish people, and the events which are transpiring among them.

The question may be asked—Why should another history of Turkey be added to those which are already before the public? In reply, it can be said, that, many works of a similar character have already appeared, among the best of which is that of Sir E. S. Creasy ; yet, this one differs in arrangement, in the general survey of the country, which is the result of personal observation and experience. In it I have presented a series of events in succession, from the earliest authentic records, without going too much into detail. The notes in the smaller print, descriptive of the Turkish people, will please the reader.

I acknowledge with great pleasure the assistance afforded by the following Greek and English authors : Scarlato D. Byzantius ; Constantine Paparrigopoulos ; A. D. Mordtmann ; Thomas Gordon ; Sir Edward S. Creasy, M. A. ; with aid from other authentic sources which verifies this work and adds much interest to

its pages. The loyal co-operation of my brother Nicholas W. Hidden, my close companion during our home life in Constantinople, is most gratefully appreciated; as well as that of Mrs. E. S. West, A. M. P'd D., also a native of the far East.

The Mohammedans differ so greatly in every respect from the Christian races, that it is impossible for any one who has not lived among them for years fully to understand their manner of life. My father, a native of New York City, occupied an important official position under the Imperial Ottoman Government for fifty-five successive years; his experience, in connection with my birth, and residence of forty years in Constantinople, and my familiarity with the Oriental languages, have been important factors in this work, and are vouchers for the accuracy of my statements.

It might have seemed natural, under these circumstances, and more courteous to speak highly of the Turks, but the historian must conscientiously adhere to facts and reject all inducements to misrepresent.

I have been led by duty, inclination and by cordial sympathy with the oppressed masses under the Ottoman yoke, to publish this book, and thus to familiarize the English speaking people with the annals of the beautiful Orient, and with the various phases of the rapidly impending crisis in Turkey.

ALEXANDER W. HIDDEN.

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OTTOMAN DYNASTY.

I.

OSMAN I., THE CONQUEROR.

1299-1326.

The Ottoman Turks, or Osmanlis, are so called from Otman or Osman, the founder of the Turkish Empire. They are a very ancient race, sprung from Ishmael, son of Hagar, the slave wife of Abraham, and, therefore, are the lineal descendants of Shem, the eldest son of Noah.

The founder of this race was Oghuz Khan, who, by renouncing his ancestral faith, drew upon himself the anger of his father, Kara Khan, thus causing a long and bloody conflict between the two, in which the son was finally victorious, and with his followers settled in Turkestan.

About the year 1000 A. D., Mahmoud Gazni founded the Empire of Gaznevites, and continued to extend its boundaries by fire and sword. Multitudes of Seljukian Turks had gone into Persia and Mesopotomia, where they formed four Kingdoms—Bagdad, Damascus, Aleppo and Iconium. Jenghis Khan and his followers made large conquests in Asia and in Europe, to the frontiers of Germany. Suleyman Shah, a Turkish lord, in order to avoid their fury, attempted to cross the Euphrates, accompanied by his sons, but fell from his horse and was drowned. Ertoghrul, the youngest, with his three sons, Condos,

Saruhani and Osman, obtained from the Seljukian Sultan of Iconium, a settlement on the western borders of Armenia. It is related of Ertoghrol that he had a weird dream, to the effect that while traveling in a foreign land he was hospitably received by a hermit. On retiring, he found a book in his room, and asked the hermit what it was. "It is the Koran, the word of God," was the reply. After the hermit left him, Ertoghrol took the book and passed the entire night in reading it. Early the next morning, being oppressed by sleep, he closed his eyes and heard a heavenly voice saying to him, "As you have read with such respect my eternal word, your sons and grandsons will be continually honored on earth."

The Koran is the book which contains the doctrines of the Mohammedan faith, the pretended revelation of the famous impostor Mohammed, a crafty Ishmaelite. He was born in Mecca in April, 569 A. D., and in the twelfth year of his age became a camel driver in a caravan belonging to his uncle. When twenty-five years old, he married in Mecca a wealthy widow, forty years of age, named Calijah. Mohammed was a man of no education, unable even to read or write, and had the assistance of a Jew and a treacherous Christian monk in compiling the Koran. Mohammed then abandoned his business, and represented to his followers that he was taught by the Archangel Gabriel, who had appeared to him. His disciples after this increased in such numbers as to form a powerful army, at the head of which he started to propagate this new faith by the sword. His proclamation was that there is but one God, and Mohammed is his prophet. A great tumult was raised against him in Mecca, and he fled in disguise to Medina. This event, called the Hegira, or the Flight, forms the Mohammedan Era, corresponding to 622 A. D. He was received at Medina, formed a powerful army, and captured the City of Mecca about 629 A. D. He fought nine battles, subdued all Arabia, extended his conquests to Syria, and after an eventful career, died at Medina at the age of sixty-three. The Mohammedan religion exists in tradition more than in the Koran, and multitudes know but little of it, except in this way. It has for its standard, treachery, cruelty and inhuman barbarity; all who reject this creed are called Ghiaours, or infidels. A true Mussulman

must make his ablutions and offer his devotions five times a day. The ablution before prayer is called in Turkish "Abdest," and the prayer itself "Namaz," consisting mostly of genuflexions and prostrations. The five daily prayers are styled, viz.: Sabah-Namaz, or morning prayer; Olen-Namaz, or noon prayer; Kendi-Namaz, or afternoon prayer; Axam-Namaz, or evening prayer; Guedjé-Namaz, or night prayer. At the time fixed for each service, the Muezzin, or priest, ascends to the minaret, calling at intervals, in a melancholy piercing voice, the faithful to prayer. The cry of the Muezzin is, "God is great, God is great. There is only one God, and Mohammed is his Prophet. Come to prayer, come to salvation. God is great." The Muezzin's call always summons the Mussulmen to their devotions, and it is promptly obeyed, whether it finds them at home or in the street. They are wholly indifferent to the curious gaze of the passer-by. Their belief is that their prayers will not avail if offered in soiled under linen; they are therefore careful to have on clean nether garments before prayer, which is always preceded by ablutions. The hands, arms, face, ears, mouth, the top of the head, and lastly the feet, are washed. If shoes are worn, which are not easily removed, the exterior of them must be washed; when it is not possible to obtain water for that purpose, as in the desert, they are allowed to use sand instead. The ablutions before prayer are more than custom, they are a religious rite, for they who are washed are cleansed from all sin, and thus rendered worthy to offer prayer to God. The devout Moslems finish their prayers by drawing the palm of the hand over the face. Their belief is that paradise will be for them only, where every luxury will be found, and the few sinners who may be among them will be sent for a short time to hell, until they are cleansed and prepared for heaven, while hell itself is intended only for the Giavours or Christians.

Ertoghrul retired to the rich plains of Sugut, where his tomb still exists. His eldest son Otman, or Osman, was distinguished during the reign of his father for his bravery; many of the Seljukians deserted their own leaders and joined his standard.

The Sheikh Edebali, a man of piety and learning, removed to Ibourouni, a village near Eski-Shehir, and was visited by Osman. One evening he obtained by accident a sight of the Sheikh's beautiful daughter, Malhatoun, a name which signifies "trea-

sure of a woman," and asked her father for her hand in marriage, but the Sheikh thought that the disparity of station was too great, and refused his consent. The prince of Eski-Shehir, while listening to Osman on this theme, likewise fell in love with Malhatoun, without having seen her. The Sheikh refused him also, and fearing the result, removed from



SULTAN OSMAN I. Founder of the Ottoman Empire.

that country. The prince, allying with Michael Oxygenius, or Peak-beard, the Greek lord of Khirenkia, a fortified city at the foot of the Phrygian Olympus, attacked Osman, but was defeated. Michael, being taken prisoner, became Osman's intimate friend, and was afterwards converted. His

descendants, called Michael-Oglus, were distinguished for their wealth and power in different epochs of the Ottoman history. Sheikh Edebali still refused to give his daughter in marriage to



A Turkish Lady.

Osman, who one night dreamed that he and the Sheikh were sitting together on the ground, while the moon, rising from the Sheikh's breast, sank to rest on Osman's bosom, then a tree sprang out of his breast and gradually covered with its foliage the

three continents of Europe, Asia and Africa ; vessels were traversing their rivers and seas ; towers, fortresses, minarets, obelisks, pyramids bearing the crescent, covered the countries ; then a great wind arose in which all the trees turned their leaves towards Constantinople. When Osman arose he related his dream to the Sheikh, who interpreted it to mean that Osman's descendants would be a strong race, and would conquer the world. He then consented to their union. A disciple of the Sheikh, Dervish Touroud, officiated at the marriage of Osman and Malhatoun.

When a young Turk wishes to marry, he engages a matrimonial negotiator—an old woman, who will frequent the baths to find a Turkish lady to answer the requirements and possess the charms desired by the prospective bridegroom. When such an one is found, she is minutely described, and as is often the case, the young man loses his heart over the illusion, and arrangements are made to have him see her, even though closely veiled, for which purpose she walks out in the street accompanied by the negotiator. If the matter comes to a successful termination the old woman is paid for her services ; or, in case he has a mother, she will visit her friends in search of a suitable wife for her son. After she has made a selection, it is reported to her husband, and if he approves it, then the mother of the young man invites the girl with the women of her own family to the Hamam or Turkish bath, for a physical examination. When this is completed they go to the Halvet or tepidarium, and a rich repast follows, which often lasts over two hours ; this ends the ceremony of inspection. Hair, other than on the head of a Turkish lady, is considered a blemish, and a depilatory ointment is applied while at the bath. This ointment is made and supplied by the women who have charge of the baths, and who attend the ladies during their ablutions.

The length of the Nikeah or legal marriage ceremonies and festivities, is governed by the financial condition of the bride. If it is her first marriage and she is wealthy, the festivities last one week ; but otherwise the wedding takes place on Wednesday and ends on Friday ; but if she is a widow the ceremony occurs on Sunday and the feast continues but one day. To ask a Turk concerning the health of his wife is to commit the grossest possible breach of etiquette.

The Turkish law allows every Turk to marry four wives, and to have as many slave wives as his purse will permit; these are called *Odaliks*. He may also dismiss at pleasure any one of his legal wives, four times; and he can again marry either of them legally four times, but after this should he wish to marry her, it is necessary that she should meanwhile have been married to, and divorced from another husband, in order that this fifth marriage may be legal. If a child is born soon after a woman is divorced, the husband is required to maintain both of them for several years. There is no discrimination between the children of a wife or a slave; they have equal rights. Infanticide is never punished in Turkey.

When Osman became an independent prince, he fulfilled his promise to build for the dervish who officiated at his marriage, a convent, richly endowed with villages and lands, and which remained for centuries in the possession of the family of *Touroud*. In 1288 A. D., *Ertoghrul* died of old age. Osman grieved for his father, but his sorrow was mitigated with joy at the birth of his son, *Orchan*. In 1289 Osman subdued the fort *Kara Hissar*, and was honored by Sultan *Allah-ud-din* of *Seljuk's* race, with the title of *Emir*, or descendant of the prophet, and he was distinguished by wearing a turban of deep sea-green, the color peculiar to all the race of *Mohammed*.

The Turkish government is a hereditary monarchy. The Sultan, called also *Padishah*, is an absolute despot, and claims to be a representative of the prophet *Mohammed*. He delegates his spiritual power to the *Skeikh-ul-Islam*, who, next to him, is the highest Mohammedan officer. He is also the head of the clergy, viz.: *Imams*, or chaplains; *Ulemas*, or teachers of law and religion; and *Softas*, or students of divinity, all of whom enjoy many privileges, being the supporters of Mohammedanism, and promoters of bigotry and fanaticism; in this respect they are worse than the rest of the people. These all wear white turbans; the lineal descendants of *Mohammed*, the prophet, alone are allowed to wear green. The Sultan also delegates his power to the grand vizir,

who is the highest officer of the dominion. The governors of the provinces, and the higher officers of the government, are called Pashas; the lives of many of them, however, were formerly ended by the bowstring. The supreme court of Turkey is called the Sublime Porte; the Divan is the greatest council of the nation.

During this period the first coin was struck bearing Sultan Osman's profile. The Sultan having Michael Oglu as an intimate adviser and fellow soldier, had subdued the neighboring Greek provinces, and their governors being indignant formed a plot against Osman, planning to carry it out on the day appointed for the marriage of the governor of Bilejik. They invited Michael-Oglu to join them, but he betrayed their plans to the Sultan. After taking this fort, Osman marched against Nicaea and subdued it. He continued his conquests, made Yenishehir his headquarters, and from thence planned an assault on Brusa; after many victories in Asia Minor he retired to Yenishehir in consequence of the disease of his feet.

In 1326 his son Orchan subdued Brusa with great inhumanity. Sultan Osman hearing of this capture died contented, directing that his burial should take place in that city, which had been made the capital of his dominion. Osman was born in 1258 in the City of Sugut, and his sword is still preserved in Constantinople. He was a brave warrior, an excellent diplomat, and a cruel Sultan, having killed with his arrow his venerable uncle Dunbar. His dress consisted of a braided coat, a white turban with feathers over which was a red pointed cap; his limbs were unusually long, he had a prominent nose, black hair and beard and a swarthy hue, which

color is considered by the Asiatics as an excellent omen, especially for those of royal blood. Osman belonged to the Seljukian dynasty, and in 1300 became an independent sovereign. He died at the age of seventy, having reigned twenty-six years, leaving two sons, Allah-ud-din and Orchan, his successors.

II.

SULTAN ORCHAN, THE CONQUEROR.

1326-1359,

Sultan Orchan succeeded to the throne just after the capture of Brusa. Upon assuming the reins of the government, he determined to share the sovereignty with his brother Allah-ud-din, who being a prudent man refused the offer, saying it would destroy the unity of Orchan's dominion; and that he only desired a village on the plains of Brusa as a residence. Orchan valuing his brother's knowledge, appointed him grand vizir. Allah-ud-din was not an expert in warlike affairs, and turned his attention to the internal improvement of the dominion, introducing a new code of written laws, army regulations and coinage, while Sultan Orchan pursued a career of conquest, capturing, among others, the renowned fortresses of Aidos and Semendria, the latter of which was taken in the following manner: The son of its governor having died, a gate of the castle was opened

for the burial, when the Turks under the command of Aktsa-Hodja rushed in and captured the fortress. The tomb of Aktsa-Hodja is still preserved as a shrine. Aidos was besieged by Conuralp and Ghazi Abdurahman. It resisted strongly, but the governor's daughter saw Abdurahman from the ramparts of the fortress, and wishing to assist him, threw out a letter tied to



SULTAN ORCHAN.

a stone showing him how to enter the fortress during the night. Sultan Orchan being informed of this event, permitted Abdurahman to marry the girl, and their son Kara-Abdurahman, was distinguished in many conflicts. In 1326 Nicodemia was conquered, and this completed the entire conquest of Bithynia by the Ottomans.



1

2

3

JANIZARIFS.

1. Tchouhadar or Footman of the Grand Vizir.
2. Divan Tchaoushi or Usher of the Divan.
3. Yassakdji or Body-guard of the Foreign Ambassadors.

In the reign of Sultan Orchan, the Janizaries or new troops were organized by the advice of Kara-Halil-Tchendereli, then Kadi-ul-Asker or judge of the army. He urged Allah-ud-din and the Sultan to organize regiments of Christian children, who, having been in slavery, would readily submit to their officers, and prove more faithful to their masters than the Turcomans, who could not be easily controlled. This cruel and most inhuman proposition was accepted, and one thousand Greek boys of perfect form and features, from seven years of age and upwards, were torn from their parents, converted to Islamism, drilled, and thus this famous corps was formed. Their emblems, devices, and the titles of their officers were given according to their rank. For instance, their commander was named Tchorbadji or Broth-distributor; the other officers were the Ahtchi-Bassi or chief cook, the Saka-Bassi or water bearer and so forth. The kitchen kettles of Orta belonged to the regiment, which gave the signal to revolt by turning them upside down; the Odjak or fireplace in their barracks was a sacred asylum. This famous corps was exterminated by Sultan Mahmoud II.

It is customary for the Mussulmen to kidnap Christian children and compel them to embrace Islamism, in which they are protected by the authorities.

Besides the Janizaries, the Ottoman army consisted of regular and irregular piadé or infantry, several squadrons of horse guards named Sipahis, a corps of irregular cavalry called Akindji or raiders, none of whom were paid but lived on plunder. Sultan Orchan continued his conquests, and directing

his victorious arms against the Byzantine army, defeated Emperor Andronicus near Pelekan or Maltepe in 1330; he then proceeded to Nicaea which the Byzantine Emperor had previously retaken, laid siege to it; its inhabitants, not receiving assistance from Constantinople, were finally compelled to yield. Suleyman, the son of Orchan, took the command of Nicaea, and Murad that of Brusa. Shortly after the grand vizir Allah-ud-din, the brother of Sultan Orchan, died and was succeeded by Suleyman, the oldest son of the latter, who being more of a warrior than a ruler, engaged in conquests. His father, Sultan Orchan, after many victories in Asia Minor, retired and devoted the remainder of his reign to the improvement and embellishment of Brusa.

The Byzantine Emperors were engaged in constant internal quarrels, and in order to retain the friendship of the Sultan, John Catacuzenus, the reigning sovereign in 1347, gave one of his daughters, the young princess Theodora, in marriage to Sultan Orchan, then sixty years of age. Her son, Halil, was captured in Nicomedia by pirates, and ransomed by John Paleologus I. for a large sum of money. Theodora was as wise as she was beautiful, and by her sagacity and good conduct obtained the esteem and affection of her husband and the Ottoman people.

Sultan Orchan's son, Suleyman, finding an inducement, and intending to assist Catacuzenus against his son-in-law, John Paleologus I., crossed the Hellespont and arrived at the European coast, where he subdued Gallipoli and other Thracian cities in 1357.

Suleyman Pasha, while engaged one day in the

favorite Turkish sport of falconry, accidentally fell from his horse and was killed in 1359, near a river in Thrace. Sultan Orchan, upon hearing of his son's death, died of excessive grief at the age of 75.

He had three sons, the deceased Suleyman, Halil and Murad who succeeded him. Orchan was a brave man and a promoter of education and religion. He resembled his father only in his prominent nose and black eyebrows. His complexion was beautiful; he had fair hair, bright eyes, a broad forehead, a tall figure, reddish face, thick mustaches and beard, and a robust constitution. During his reign, the title Pasha, which is composed of two Persian words, *Pai* and *Shah*, signifying foot of the Shah, was used for the first time, being given to his brother Allah-uddin and to his son Suleyman.

III.

SULTAN MURAD I.

1359-1389.

Sultan Murad I. was born in 1348, and succeeded his father at the age of twelve. He found a disciplined army, good laws, loyal governors and people. His wish was to extend his dominion over Thrace and Macedonia, but finding that the prince of Caramania and the chief of Angora had united in a revolt against the Ottoman Power, Sultan Murad took the control of his army, defeated them and captured

Angora. He went to Brusa, appointed Kara Halil Tchenderli, a connection of the royal house by marriage, governor of that city; then crossed the Hellespont and captured all the coast cities of Thrace.

In 1361 Sultan Murad obtained possession of Adrianople, the second city of the Byzantine Empire, which became the capital of the Ottomans. Pushing his conquest towards Macedonia and the Hemus, Murad took Sagre and Philippopolis, the governor of which had fled to Servia. In the year 1363 Uropis V., the king of Servia, the king of Hungary, the princes of Bosnia, Wallachia and Bulgaria, were induced by Pope Urban V. to unite in an effort to drive the Ottomans out of Europe. Lalashahin, the Ottoman commander, suspecting the movement of the allied armies, double in number, which had crossed the river Marizza, resolved to attack them suddenly by night. The Christians, assured of victory, neglected all military precautions. The Turks made the assault and pursued them until they plunged into the Marizza and perished in its waters; the plain where the combat took place is called "Sirf Sindughi" or Serb's rout.

In 1365 the Imperial "Tughra" was used for the first time. It was signed on the top of the commercial treaty, which Murad concluded with the City of Ragusa, compelling its inhabitants to make an annual payment of 500 golden ducats to him.

The Tughra is the signature which Sultan Murad made with the palm of his hand smeared with ink from lack of a pen. It is used after the manner of eastern seals; and since then, has appeared on the coins, and at the top of all official documents of the Turkish government.

Sultan Murad remained at Brusa to celebrate the sounet or circumcision of his three sons, Bayezid, Yacoub, and Saoudji, and then removed to Adrianople.

The sounet or circumcision among the Turks, is a religious rite. Every son, if a healthy child, must be circumcised when he is three years old, but if his health does not permit of so severe an operation, it is postponed until his tenth year. In any case, however, the ceremony is always attended by great feasting and merry making.

In 1369 the Sultan appointed Kara Halil Tchendereli grand vizir, who died in 1386 in his 90th year, after 18 years of faithful service.



Tughra or Monogram of Sultan Abdul Hamid II.

In 1381, the Ottomans marching up to Hemos, subdued the Bulgarian principality Kustendje, and the towns Salonica, Vitolia, Cavala, Seres, Drama; also Nissa, a strong city of Servia, taken after a siege of twenty-five days. After these victories, peace was declared between the King of Servia, the Prince of Bulgaria and the Sultan of Turkey, with conditions of taxation. Prince Shisman of Bulgaria, however,

preferred to obtain peace by giving his daughter in marriage to the conqueror, instead of the payment of money.

The Bulgarians are an ancient Slavonic people and settled about 450 A. D. on the Balkan Peninsula. They were converted to Christianity about 840 A. D. by two celebrated Monks, Cyrillus and Methodius of Salonica.

This peace lasted six years; during which period Sultan Murad re-organized his army, dividing it into regiments, and fixing the colors of their flags which were, crimson, green and red. Wishing to extend his Empire, he asked for the daughter of the Prince of Kermian, in Asia Minor, in marriage for his eldest son Bayezid, and sent a large delegation with valuable gifts. The bride in return brought as her dowry much treasure, and the keys of four cities; the wedding was celebrated at Brusa, and was attended by the representatives of different countries, who brought Greek slave girls, as gifts to the Sultan.

Prince Saoudji, a son of Murad, with the son of Emperor John V., formed a plot against the Sultan, aided by a small band of Turks, and of young Greek nobles. Sultan Murad was indignant at this, and with John decided that their sons if taken prisoners, should lose their eyes; Saoudji and Andronicus were defeated and taken prisoners at Didimotico in 1385. Instantly, Sultan Murad put out the eyes of his son and beheaded him, two or three of the young Greek nobles were tied together at a time, and thrown into the river Marizza, while he smiled with grim satisfaction at the rapidity with which they sank be-

neath its waters. He compelled the fathers of some of the youthful revolters, to kill their sons with their own hands, except two who refused to obey the horrible order, for which they were instantly slain. After this, Sultan Murad sent Andronicus in chains to his father, with the message that he should estimate the fidelity of the Greek Emperor by the punishment inflicted upon his son. John V. was cruel and cowardly, and destroyed not only the eyesight of his son Andronicus, but also of his grandson John, a child five years old. The executioners, either in mercy or from incapacity, did not complete their horrible task; and the boiling vinegar destroyed only one eye of Andronicus, and left his little son with a distorted and imperfect vision.

In 1381, Salonica, which had been previously taken by the allied forces of the Venetians and Byzantines, was recaptured by the Turks. The Prince of Carmania was jealous of the increasing power of the Ottomans, and in 1387, he declared war against Sultan Murad, and captured several towns; but seeing the strong army of his enemy near Iconium, he proposed peace. The grand vizir rejected his proposition, attacked and defeated him. Meanwhile, the Sultan besieged Iconium, during which the Prince of Carmania sent his wife Nefizé Hanoum, daughter of Murad, to intercede for him. The Sultan accepted her plea, on condition that her husband should appear in person to ask his pardon and kiss his hand in submission, which was done.

Sultan Murad marched against the Servians and Bulgarians, who had disturbed the Ottoman posses-

sions in Thrace and Macedonia, by frequent incursions, arrived at Yenishehir, and celebrated there the marriages of his two sons, Bayezid and Yacoub, with the Byzantine princesses, and the circumcision of his three grandchildren, sons of Bayezid by another wife.

After this, the grand vizir Ali Pasha, with an army of 30,000, marched against prince Shisman of Bulgaria. On the way thither he captured Shumla and Tirnova, and besieged Nicopolis. Shisman surrendered to Ali Pasha, and was carried prisoner into the presence of Sultan Murad, who pardoned him, on condition that Silistria should be given up. Shisman acceded to these terms, but broke his promise and was defeated again by Ali Pasha, in 1387, and was taken for the second time in fetters to Sultan Murad, who once more pardoned him; thus Bulgaria was annexed to the Ottoman Empire.

Lazarus, King of Servia, fearing the progress of the Ottomans, declared war against them; Sultan Murad summoned his sons Bayezid and Yacoub, from Asia, and with the generals Ali Pasha and Evrinos Bey, marched against Servia; he encamped on the plains of Kossova by the banks of the river Shinitza, where both forces met. A dreadful conflict ensued, in which the Servians were signally defeated. A Servian noble, Milos Kambilovitch, pretending to be a deserter, with important secrets to reveal to the Sultan, was allowed to enter the Imperial tent, and kneeling in homage before Murad, stabbed him; the Sultan as he was dying ordered the execution of King Lazarus. The assassin was



1

2

3

1. Sultan.
2. Minister of the Interior.
3. Grand Visir.—In Ancient Costume.

seized and killed by the Janizaries on the spot. Murad was interred in the mosque built by him in Brusa. In the battle of Kossova, cannons which had recently been invented in Europe, were first used by the Turks. Sultan Murad was assassinated in 1389, at the age of forty-one, after a reign of twenty-nine years, and was succeeded by his son Bayezid, surnamed Yildirim or Thunderbolt, whose rapidity of action justified the title.

IV.

SULTAN BAYEZID I.

1389-1402.

Sultan Bayezid, surnamed Yildirim or Thunderbolt, was born in 1359, and succeeded his father at the age of thirty. Immediately after his accession he ordered his brother, Yacoub, to be put to death.

The murder of all princes of royal blood henceforth became the safeguard of the Ottoman dynasty, for according to Sadeddin, the Turkish historian, the Sultan, "is the shadow of God upon earth, and as the lord of all true believers, must reign in conformity with the divine example and without any possibility of other claimant." On this account all princes are usually kept in strict seclusion in the Palace. The heir of the Sultan, according to the Ottoman law, must be his oldest male relative, whether uncle, brother or nephew, and not his eldest son as in Europe.

In the early part of Bayezid's reign he waged a successful war against Servia, and compelled King Stephen Lazarevitch to sign a treaty, by which Servia became the vassal of the Ottomans. Lazarevitch then gave the Sultan his sister in marriage, and promised to render personal military service in all his campaigns.

In 1390 he marched against Wallachia, Bosnia and Hungary; the Wallachians submitted in 1391; but the Bosnians, assisted by the Hungarians, resisted for a longer time. Sigismund, the King of Hungary, with his French, Italian, German and Croatian allies, crossed the Danube, and a terrible conflict ensued in 1396, at Nicopolis. The French when in sight of the Turks advanced at once, showing great bravery, mowing down the enemy like a machine, but finally they were overpowered by the great number of Ottomans; some were butchered on the spot, others, both of the French and of the allies, were taken slaves, and with a few exceptions were most cruelly executed the next morning in the presence of Sultan Bayezid. Among those who were spared, were several French nobles, who were ransomed after a long time; also a youth from Munich named Schildberger, an attendant to a Bavarian nobleman who had fallen in the battle. He was saved by the intercession of Bayezid's son, returned to his native land after thirty-four years of captivity, and gives a painful description of the massacre of his comrades by the Janizaries, at that time (See history of the Ottoman Turks, by E. S. Creasy, p. 39.) Additional facts in regard to the barbarity of Bayezid can be found also in Creasy's history, p. 42.

Shortly after this Sultan Bayezid subdued, and annexed to his dominions, Tokat, Sivas, Kastamoni, Sinope and Samsoun; and advancing to the Thracian Bosphorus, he marched against Constantinople, with an army of four thousand infantry and six thousand cavalry, rescued the half-blinded prince Andronicus,

who was confined in the palace of Vlacherena, and enthroned him, while the Emperor John Paleologus was deposed, and with his son Emmanuel was imprisoned in a tower on the Thracian coast. The guards of this tower being Bulgarians, allowed the prisoners to escape. They went to Asia and im-



Constantinople.

plored the assistance of Sultan Bayezid who complied on condition that John Paleologus would pay the tax which had been promised by his son Andronicus to the Sultan, and also supply him annually with 12 000 infantry and cavalry. The Emperor accepted these terms, and the Sultan dis-

patched messengers to Constantinople to ascertain which of the two Emperors the inhabitants wished to have on the Byzantine throne, and they selected John Paleologus. Bayezid compelled Andronicus to abdicate, and to relinquish Silivria, Hereglia, Rodosto and Salonica, after which John Paleologus ascended the throne of Constantinople.

After the death of the Emperor John, his son Emmanuel, who had been kept as a hostage at Brusa, fled to Constantinople, where he was proclaimed Emperor; the Sultan was enraged at this, and ordered him to abdicate, but he refused, and the Sultan besieged that city.

Constantinople, the present capital of the Ottoman Empire, was called Byzantium from Byzas, who founded it in 658 B. C. It is shaped like a triangle, and was enlarged by Constantine the Great, who removed the seat of the Empire from Rome to Byzantium in 330 A. D. It has the finest site in Europe, and is situated on a promontory of seven hills, each one of which is crowned by a magnificent mosque. On one side it has the Propontis, or Sea of Marimora, and on the other the harbor of the Golden Horn; it lies at the mouth of the Thracian Bosphorous, and with its suburbs forms a magnificent city, presenting a beautiful view from the sea. The harbor of Constantinople is sufficiently deep to float ships of the largest size, and is safe and commodious. It has a salubrious climate, its location gives it the finest commercial advantages in the world, being connected by railway with every part of Europe. It is thoroughly cosmopolitan in population and religion and is a city of wonderful possibilities. In addition to this, its historic records of horrible cruelty and oppression have been seldom equalled.

It was taken by the Crusaders in 1204 and retained until 1261, when it again came under the power of the Greek Emperors. It was taken by the Turks in 1453, and with its capture ended the Greek or Eastern Empire.

During the long siege of Constantinople, its inhabitants suffered greatly from famine, and finally they bribed the Grand Vizir Ali Pasha, who withdrew

his forces, and compelled Emmanuel to abdicate in favor of his nephew John, the regent of Silivria. An alliance was made, between the Emperor and the Sultan, by which it was agreed that John should allow a Kadi, or Moslem Judge in Constantinople; also erect a mosque within its limits, and pay to the Sultan an annual tribute of ten thousand ducats.

The Byzantine Empire being thus humiliated, General Timourtas continued his conquests as far



CONSTANTINE THE GREAT. (Enlarged from a coin.)

as Bagdad; while the Sultan, with the assistance of his generals Evrinos and Yacoub, led the enemy against Greece in 1397. He conquered Macedonia and Thessaly, crossed the strait of Thermopylae, captured Athens, and finally subdued the whole

Peloponnesus. In 1400, Sultan Bayezid, after a series of successful conquests, retired to Brusa, and abandoned himself for a time to luxury, intoxication and sensual excesses of the foulest description.

Besides Constantinople, no other possessions were left to the Byzantine Emperor. On the Asiatic coast of the Bosphorus, Sultan Bayezid erected a castle, still preserved, called Anadolu Hissar or Anatolia Castle. He then resolved to conquer Constantinople, and sent a message to the Emperor John, ordering him to abandon the capital and select instead a province. The Emperor refused this demand and the Sultan formed the project to attack Constantinople; but he was compelled to defer it in order to defend himself against the encroachments of that great warrior, Tamerlane of Tartary, who invaded his dominions. The two mighty chiefs met on the plains of Angora, in the spring of 1402, where one of the most sanguinary battles recorded in history was fought. The Turkish army consisted of 150,000 men, while that of Tamerlane was greater in number. Sultan Bayezid being defeated, fell into the hands of Tamerlane, who put him into an iron cage and carried him about as a show. He died of grief and despair on March 21, 1403, eight months after his capture, at the age of forty-four.

Tamerlane sacked the Turkish cities of Brusa, Nicaea, Khemlik, Akshehir, Kara Hissar, and others in Asia Minor, and finally took the city of Smyrna, then held by the Christian Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and ordered a general massacre of its inhabitants without mercy to either age or sex. He

was one of the most cruel conquerors of that epoch, having buried alive thousands of Christian warriors in Asia, after fastening their heads under their legs. (See Creasy's History, p. 46.)

V.

INTERREGNUM OF THE ROYAL PRINCES.

1402-1413.

The reign of Sultan Bayezid I. was followed by a period of eleven years, called The Great Interregnum. This consisted of a series of contentions between his six sons, Suleyman, Musa, Ertoghrul, Mohammed, Issa, and Kassim. Ertoghrul was killed by Tamerlane during the siege of Sivas; Kassim was very young; the other three, Suleyman, Mohammed and Issa, escaped from the battlefield of Angora, while Musa was taken prisoner. Suleyman, with the grand vizir, Ali Pasha, and the chieftains of the Janizaries, reached Adrianople by way of Constantinople, at which place he had formed a matrimonial alliance with the daughter of the Emperor. Mohammed being almost eighteen years of age, succeeded in escaping to the castle of Amasia with General Bayezid, where they defended themselves against the troops of Tamerlane. The Ottomans of Asia Minor went to the assistance of Mohammed, who, without loss of time, put himself at the head of a strong army, regained several of his father's provinces which had been captured by

Tamerlane. Issa, who had escaped to Brusa, endeavored to be proclaimed Sultan of the East, and made a treaty with the Emperor of Constantinople; this angered Mohammed, who attacked and defeated him. Issa fled to Europe, but being advised by his brother Suleyman, returned to Asia, and having organized an army, marched against Mohammed, but he was again defeated and escaped to Mount Taurus, where he died. Suleyman, after several contests with his brother Mohammed, proclaimed himself Sultan at Brusa. Subsequent to this, Musa, who had been kept in captivity by Tamerlane, was liberated and took his father's corpse to Brusa, where it was interred in the mausoleum of his predecessors.

On the first day of February, 1405, Tamerlane died at Otrar, at the age of seventy-one, while on the march to China, leaving thirty-six sons and grandsons.

Meanwhile Musa collected an army of Bulgarians and Servians, took the field against his brother Suleyman, but was defeated and fled to the mountains of the Balkan.

Musa, again, with another army besieged Adrianople in 1410. When this intelligence was carried to Suleyman he disbelieved it, and becoming indignant with the chieftain of the Janizaries for not agreeing with his plans, ordered his beard to be shaved off. This rash act, committed in the presence of the Janizaries, excited their indignation and proved fatal to Suleyman, for they opened the gates of Adrianople and delivered the city to Musa. Suleyman endeavored

to escape to Constantinople but was killed by the Janizaries. This prince is known as the first protector of the Ottoman poets, and, according to the historian Franzis, he married the daughter of Theodorus, brother of the Emperor Emmanuel Paleologus, while his brother Kassim received a Greek education in Constantinople and at the end of his life was baptized a Christian, receiving the name Demetrius. Orchan, the son of Suleyman, fearing his uncle Musa, fled with his sister to Constantinople. Subsequent to this, Musa declared war against the Emperor of Constantinople and laid siege to that city. The Emperor Emmanuel then implored the assistance of Mohammed, who was in Asia, and Musa was compelled to return without accomplishing his object. Mohammed made another effort to regain his father's throne, and at the head of an army met his brother near the Balkan and defeated him.

Musa fled to Wallachia, but on the following day his corpse was found in a miry place, where he had evidently met with a tragical end. This occurred in 1413. Of the faithful generals of Musa, Azab Bey also fled to Wallachia, Michaloglu was sent prisoner to Asia and Bidridin Simavnaoglu, being a skilful soldier, was pardoned and re-appointed general in the Ottoman army; thus Mohammed, the only living brother, was proclaimed Sultan of the Ottomans.

VI.

SULTAN MOHAMMED I., "THE GENTLEMAN."

1413-1421.

Mohammed I., surnamed Tchelebi, or Gentleman, succeeded to the throne in 1413. He possessed great abilities as a statesman and as a warrior. He was remarkable in appearance, well proportioned, with great physical strength. On his accession to the throne he made an alliance with the Byzantine Emperor, and received the congratulations of the ambassadors of Hungary, Servia, Bulgaria, Venice, Ragusa, Yanina, and others, with promise of universal peace. He then turned his attention to quelling the disturbances in his dominion, caused by the quarrels during the previous reign of his brothers Musa and Mohammed; then crossed to Asia to punish the revolting princes of Caramania and Smyrna. Meanwhile the prince of Caramania had attempted to capture Brusa but did not succeed, and Mohammed not meeting him attacked and captured Pergamus. After this the Sultan besieged Smyrna, and its ruler, Prince Djuneid, sent his mother, wife and children to implore the pardon of Mohammed, which was readily granted. He then entered the city and ordered its walls and towers to be destroyed.

Sultan Mohammed made Alexander Shisman, son of the Servain King Lazarus, ruler of Smyrna, and then subdued the fortresses of Caramania and Konieh, compelling the prince to conclude a treaty of peace in 1414. Soon after this the prince broke the treaty, marched against the Sultan, but the

grand vizir defeated him and captured his son Mustafa. The Sultan liked the young man and promised that he would restore to him the subdued castles, but Mustafa after his departure violated his promise of obedience and captured a flock of horses belonging to the Ottomans. Mohammed hearing of this, marched against him; subdued Konieh, while the prince of Caramania fled to Kilikia, and his son Mustafa was for the second time pardoned by the Sultan, and signed a treaty by which Konieh was annexed to the Ottoman dominion.

On the 29th of May, 1416, a naval battle took place off Gallipoli in which the Ottoman fleet under the admiral Tzali Bey, was completely defeated by the Venetian admiral Pietro Loredano. The Sultan's troops also met with reverses in the expedition against Styria and Hungary, between 1416 and 1420.

About this time, the Sultan erected the Castle of Giurgevo, and afterward crossed to Asia, conquered Izvendiar, the despot of Sinope, taking his son as a hostage, and captured several Tartar cities. In the same epoch, a Tartar tribe emigrated to Europe, settled near Philippopolis, and called the place Tartarpazardjik.

Simavnaoglu, who was at Nicaea, determined to revolt against the Sultan, and to introduce another faith, having as a co-operator, a rude Turcoman of low birth surnamed Boreklidjé-Mustafa, proclaiming him a spiritual father and ordered him to spread this new dogma. Mohammed ordered Shisman to march against the heretics, but he was killed in the engagement, the same fate also followed the new

governor of Saruhan. Murad, the son of the Sultan, was appointed the governor of Amassia, and marched against the heretics, having with him as adviser and commander of the army his faithful grand vizir, Bayezid. Boreklidje Mustafa, surnamed also "Dedé Sultan," with an army of 10,000, met Murad in battle, and after a sanguinary combat he was captured and sent to Ephesus, and on his refusal to abandon his new dogma, he was beheaded with some of his followers. The others escaped and uniting with Simavnaoglu, went to Macedonia to propagate the new sect. Prince Murad with Bayezid Pasha went to Europe, met Bidredin Simavnaoglu near Seres, captured and executed him. This outbreak was scarcely suppressed, when another revolution of a political character broke out. A man appeared pretending to be Mustafa, the son of Sultan Bayezid, while others characterized him as an imposter. This rival to the throne, allying himself with the princes of Wallachia, Smyrna, and the sons of Generals Timourtas and Evrinos, took the field against Sultan Mohammed who defeated them near Salonica; Mohammed demanded the surrender of the fugitives, but Demetrius Leondarius, governor of that city, refused to give them up without the consent of Emmanuel Paleologus, who replied that he could not violate the sacredness of asylum. The Sultan then insisted that the Emperor should sign a decree, condemning them to imprisonment for life, to which he consented through the influence of, Theodorus Korakos, the dragoman of the Emperor and they were sent to the island of Limnos where

they were closely confined in the convent of the Holy Virgin. Sultan Mohammed soon after visited the Emperor Emmanuel and was met by Demetrius Leondarius, Catacuzinus and others, bearing royal gifts; then he crossed to Scutari accompanied by the Emperor Paleologus and his son, thence went to Ismid.

In the spring of 1421, the Sultan passed through Gallipoli to Adrianople. Three days after his arrival he had a stroke of apoplexy, and fell from his horse; foreseeing his end, he ordered the grand vizir to conceal his death until after the arrival of his son. The grand vizir Bayezid, an Albanian by race, sent a messenger to Prince Murad at Amassia inviting him to Adrianople, meanwhile he conducted the affairs of the Empire, until the arrival of Murad at Brusa when he was proclaimed Sultan. The corpse of Mohammed was transported to Brusa, where he was buried in the mausoleum which he had erected near the celebrated Green Mosque.

The reign of Sultan Mohammed was remarkable for many brilliant achievements. He erected fine edifices and completed at Brusa the magnificent mosque which was commenced during the reign of his grandfather Murad; he also finished the mosque which his brothers Suleyman and Musa began to build in Adrianople.

Sultan Mohammed inaugurated the custom of carrying rich presents to Mecca, which exists until the present day and is called *Sourrei Houmayoun* or Imperial Presents.

Sourrei Houmayoun, is an annual expedition bearing Imperial gifts to Mecca, commenced by Mohammed I., in 1420. This *Sourré* is a sacred caravan, consisting of Arabs carrying drums

and sticks, which they use by striking them together, making a horrible noise, then follow the camels covered with richly embroidered green cloth, accompanied by several mules covered with red, carrying the Imperial presents. In addition to these, other rich offerings are made by the Ottomans of the wealthier class, consisting of money, and of valuable articles. This Sourré, proceeds to the palace, is inspected by the Sultan, and a letter from his Majesty, addressed to the Emir of Mecca, is entrusted to the Sourré Emini or leader of the sacred caravan. The procession starts from the palace preceded by a body of gendarmes, police agents, and a squadron of cavalry, accompanied by a number of dervishes and ulemas. Troops are ranged on both sides of the way for military honors, and immense crowds are gathered to witness the passing of the procession. Arriving at the station of Beshiktash, a ulema recites prayers for the preservation of the Sultan, after which the presents are taken on board of an admiralty steamer; and the guns immediately announce its departure for Scutari. On its arrival there, the Sourré Houmayoun is received at the landing place by the governor, the general in command of the Selimieh Barracks, the commander of the gendarmery of Scutari, and by a large number of officers. The procession is formed again at Scutari, and is escorted by infantry and artillery, and by detachments of police to the Mutessarifat, where the sacred caravan remains until the time of its departure for the Holy city. After a few days stay at Scutari (Asiatic side) a Turkish steamer takes the Imperial Sourré, the chief of the sacred caravan and the entire suite to Beyrout, and thence to Mecca, where Sourré Emini distributes the presents to the Sheikhs. This procession takes place a fortnight before Ramazan or Lent. The month of Lent is vigorously kept by the Turks from sunrise to sunset daily, without even smoking; at sunset, cannons announce the hour for the close of the fast, which is called Iftar. The entire night is passed in feasting and in various amusements. During the month Ramazan, the poor are invited to partake of the repasts, and a special table is set for them. Little or no work is done during this month. The government offices are open but business is practically suspended. The life of the Turks is monotonous except during Lent, or Ramazan. The streets with their mosques, theatres, places of amusements are brightly illuminated and crowded with Turks; who at night indulge in the greatest immoralities, some of which occur in the public baths. During the nights of this month the Turks exclude God from their thoughts and apparently are trying more diligently to go to hell than Christians to heaven. In the daytime they use Tesbeh, or strings of beads, to aid in devotional exercises. It enrages them exceedingly to see the Christians eating, drinking or smoking in their presence, and especially the old style Turks, who are intolerant, fanatical and with narrow prejudices hate everything

that is not Turkish. A Turk cannot be the true friend of a Christian, it is utterly foreign to his nature. His apparent friendship has three objects—to corrupt the honesty of a Christian, to deprive him of his property, or to convert him to Islamism; these converts are always called *mourtats*. On the 27th of every Ramazan, a Circassian *Halaik* (slave girl) is presented to the Sultan, by his mother or sister. The month of Ramazan is followed by *Sheker Bairam* or Candy Easter, which lasts three days. On that day His Imperial Majesty goes to the Mosque in a court carriage drawn by four magnificent Arabian horses, accompanied by a brilliant retinue of marshals, generals and superior functionaries in full uniform, emblazoned with gold embroidery and decoration; there he is received by the grand vizir, the *Sheikh-ul-Islam*, and other dignitaries, and is greeted with three cheers of “Long live the Sultan.” The religious service lasts about an hour, and at its close the Sultan rides on a richly caparisoned white charger to the *Dolma-Bagtche* palace with his suite, where he withdraws to his private apartments to rest. Meanwhile the civil, military and religious dignitaries take their places in the throne room preparatory to the ceremony of hand kissing, and when his Imperial Majesty enters and takes his seat on the throne, the ceremony begins, the first in rank being their highnesses the princes Imperial.

Seventy days after *Sheker Bairam*, comes the festival of *Kourben Bairam* or feast of the Sacrifice, which lasts four days. They have the same processions, and every Turk is obliged to buy one or more sheep.

The canines of Constantinople constitute a large part of its population, and their existence there is said to date back to the time of the Greeks. These dogs are all of the same breed, they are very strong, with short thick hair; ears like those of a fox, and their habitat is always in the same quarter of the city in which they were born. This is a matter of inheritance, and insures their safety—for woe to the one who ventures beyond its precincts! He is considered an alien, and is immediately attacked by other dogs, thus meeting an untimely fate. These hungry animals are the principal scavengers of Constantinople and swarm throughout the entire city; homeless and friendless they lie in the streets apparently asleep, waiting for the refuse thrown out from the houses which is often their sole sustenance. The nights are made hideous by the howling and barking of the quadrupeds; and their instincts is remarkable for those who inhabit the Turkish quarters will not attack any one wearing a *fez*.

Sultan Mohammed was born in 1388, succeeded his father in 1413, and died in 1421. He was succeeded by his son, Murad II.

VII.
SULTAN MURAD II.
1421-1451.

Murad II. succeeded to the throne in the eighteenth year of his age. He was girded with the sword of Osman at Brusa by the Sheikh of Buchara, son-in-law of his grandfather, Sultan Bayezid. He sent delegates to Asia and Constantinople, announcing his accession to the throne, and a treaty of peace for five years was concluded with Hungary and Caramania. The Byzantine Emperor, Emmanuel Paleologus, wishing to involve Murad in trouble with his rival, released Mustafa and Djuneid from the prison of Limnos, and obliged Mustafa to sign a treaty on condition that, after a successful engagement against the Sultan, he would restore to him Gallipoli, the towns of Thrace and those on the borders of the Black Sea. Shortly afterward Mustafa and Djuneid joined the Byzantine army, under Demetrius Leondarius; marched against Gallipoli, which yielded with the exception of the castle, to which he laid siege, and the rebels proceeded to Macedonia, raised another army and were successful. Bayezid Pasha, with his brother Hamzi Bey, were made prisoners, the former was beheaded and the latter pardoned. After this Mustafa and Djuneid advanced to Gallipoli: its castle had surrendered to Demetrius Leondarius, but Mustafa, in violation of his promise, held it, and Demetrius departed for Constantinople.

Sultan Murad, with his Genoese allies and Michalogliu, who had been released from Tokat, attacked

Mustafa and Djuneid in Asia and finally defeated them. Mustafa, in his efforts to escape, was fettered by his own followers, who took him to Adrianople, where he was imprisoned and afterward executed.

The Emperor sent a deputy to Sultan Murad asking for a treaty of peace, but he refused the proposition and prepared to punish the duplicity of Emmanuel by besieging Constantinople. On the 22d of June, 1422, Michalogu, with 10,000 horsemen, advanced to the walls of Constantinople, where, after ten days, the rest of the Ottoman army arrived. The general assault was made September 5th; both armies fought with great bravery, but the Turks were finally repulsed by the Greeks. After this Sultan Murad marched against the Governor of Aidin, who had revolted, and took him prisoner. He also defeated Isvendiar, the Prince of Castamoni, who concluded a treaty of peace, giving to the Sultan the copper mines of Castamoni, also his daughter in marriage. The Sultan arriving in Adrianople celebrated his own wedding and those of his three sisters. He then went to Asia, and after a successful campaign in various provinces returned to Europe.

In 1423 Emperor Emmanuel abdicated, and was succeeded by his son, John VIII., Paleologus. Murad made a treaty with the Emperor John on condition that he would give him all the towns on the border of the Black Sea and pay annually a tax of 30,000 ducats. In the meantime another treaty was arranged between the Sultan and the Princes of Wallachia and Servia.

In 1428 Sultan Murad marched against Sigismund, king of Hungary, who had seized a Servian fortress, and defeated him.

Salonica, which had been restored to the Byzantine Emperor by Mohammed I, was sold to the Venetians, but Murad repudiated the sale and claimed the city as hereditary property. He marched to Macedonia in 1430 and ordered General Hamza to attack Salonica. After a fortnight's siege and an obstinate conflict, in which even the women fought desperately, the town was taken by the Ottomans, followed by lawless plunder. Many of the inhabitants were inhumanely put to the sword, thousands were carried into captivity, while churches, monuments, tombs, etc., were basely polluted and many of its antiquities were transported to Adrianople. The Venetians, in revenge for the capture of Salonica, sailed to the Dardanelles and subdued the castle lying on the coast of Asia. Sultan Murad then arrived at Gallipoli with part of his army and renewed his treaty with the Venetians, while the remainder was sent to subdue Yanina. In 1431 Yanina and Northern Albania, with its capital Croia, were subdued by the Ottomans.

In the same year Constantinople was visited with earthquakes, and afterward by the plague; among the victims of which were the Royal Princes Yussuf, Mohammed and Orchan, the two eldest brothers of Sultan Murad, the third son of the Royal Prince Suleyman, three Grand Vizirs, Aouz, Djira, Ibrahim, and the Sheikh of Buchara. In the same year Mohammed the Conquerer, son of Sultan Murad, was born.

In 1433 Shikin Pasha attacked George Brankovitch, the Prince of Servia, and compelled him to sign a treaty relinquishing the castle of Aladja Hisar and giving his youngest daughter in marriage to the Sultan. An insurrection broke out in Carmania, the Sultan immediately crossed to Asia, quelled it, and made the governor an officer in his army. In 1438 the Sultan formed a coalition with Dracoul, Prince of Wallachia, and Brankovitch of Servia, and took the field with them against the Hungarians, defeating them and taking many prisoners.

During the next spring he attacked his father-in-law and subdued the Fort Semendria, capturing the allied Prince Dracoul, who was afterwards released and again appointed governor of Wallachia.

In 1439 the Sultan invaded Transylvania, where he was met by John Hunniades, its military governor, who, by his bravery, defeated the Ottoman army under General Medjid, killing him and twenty thousand of his troops at Hermanstadt in 1442. Another desperate battle was fought between the Ottomans under Shehadeddin Pasha and Hunniades, who attacked the enemy at Vasag and routed them with great slaughter. In the following year, 1443, Hunniades, with an army of Hungarians, Poles, Servians, Wallachians and Germans, undertook a campaign against the Ottomans, which lasted several years, during which he gained brilliant victories on the banks of the Morava, near Nissa, and captured a number of towns. Finally the Turks became demoralized and fled over the Balkan pursued by Hunniades. At the close of the war a ten years' treaty

was signed in the City of Szegedin on condition that Servia should be independent, Wallachia to remain under the protection of Hungary.

Shortly after these events, Allah-ud-din, the eldest son of Murad, died. The Sultan was inconsolable, and resigned in 1444 in favor of his son, Mohammed, thirteen years of age, while the administration of the government was controlled by a regency of his faithful advisers. The Sultan then retired to his palace in Magnesia. Subsequent to this event, Hunniades violated the treaty and subdued Bulgaria. In the meantime the retired Sultan abandoned his residence, led an army of 40,000 across the Strait of Bosphorus, and met the enemy near Varna. As an emblem of the infidelity of his enemy, the Sultan ordered a long spear to be placed before his tent, and to its point was fastened the signed treaty of peace with Hunniades. A dreadful conflict ensued, in which at first victory favored the allies, while the Ottomans wavered, but the King Vladislaus rushed on horseback to the front, fell, and was beheaded by a Janizary, who exposed his head on a spear in view of the Ottomans and Christians. Hunniades, seeing that the King was dead, fled with the Wallachians. After these victories the Sultan returned again to Magnesia. The Janizaries, being displeased on account of their small pay, revolted, burned the market of Adrianople and pitched their camps around the castle, threatening violence to all.

The grand vizir Halil increased their compensation and implored the Sultan to assume again the reins of the government. The Sultan immediately

returned to Adrianople and quelled the disorders which had arisen during his retirement, and then determined to conquer the Peloponnesus. This province was in the possession of the last Emperor of Constantinople, then its regent, who for security had erected a wall across the Isthmus of Corinth. The Sultan, with an army of 60,000, advanced to the Peloponnesus, and arriving at the Isthmus commenced an assault which was unsuccessful. On the 15th of December, 1446, Sultan Murad resolved to march against Albania, the ruler of which was Iskender Bey. He was the youngest of the four sons of John Castrioty, prince of Epirus in Albania, three of whom in boyhood had been taken as hostages in 1410, kept in the seraglio, converted to Islamism, but—as was often the case—died mysteriously with the exception of George the youngest, surnamed Iskender Bey or Alexander Bey, who distinguished himself in the battle of Varna. After the death of John Castrioty, his son Iskender Bey claimed the right to succeed him as hereditary prince of Epirus, but being refused by the Sultan, determined to escape from the Turks and assume forcible possession of his patrimony. During the rout of the Turkish army near Nissa by Hunniades in 1443, the opportunity presented itself to him. He suddenly entered the tent of the Sultan's chief secretary, and forced that functionary, with the poniard at his throat, to write and seal a formal order to the Turkish commander of the strong city of Croia, in Albania, to deliver that place and the adjacent territory to Iskender Bey, as the Sultan's viceroy. He then stabbed the secretary and hastened to Croia, where his strat-

agem gained him instant admittance and submission. (See Creasy's history, p. 72.) He was engaged from time to time, in a number of conflicts with the Sultan and was successful.

Two years previous to Murad's death, the Emperor John of Constantinople died without issue, and Constantine Paleologus succeeded to the throne in 1449.

In 1451, while the Sultan was feasting with his friends at Adrianople, he was attacked by apoplexy and died in the forty-ninth year of his age. His reign of thirty years was an illustrious one. He was conspicuous for his bravery and aggressiveness. He erected the mosque called *Outchseferli* or "Three Steps," in Adrianople. He was succeeded by his ambitious and unmerciful son Mohammed II., who ascended the throne in 1451.

VIII.

SULTAN MOHAMMED II.

Surnamed "Fatih," the Conqueror.

1451-1481.

On the death of Sultan Murad II., the grand vizir Halil Pasha at once despatched from Adrianople, a courier to Mohammed at Magnesia to announce the death of his father. The prince, without loss of time, mounted a swift horse, and with his followers, hurried to the shores of the Dardanelles and thence to Adrianople, ascending the throne on February 5th, 1451, at the age of twenty-one.

Mohammed II., surnamed Fatih or the Conqueror, commenced his reign by an act of unparalleled barbarity. He caused his infant brother, the son of Murad's second wife, a princess of Servia, to be killed, and the merciless command was executed at



Medal of Sultan Mohammed II.

Copied from "Constantinople" by Scarlato Byzantius. Vol. I. page 389.

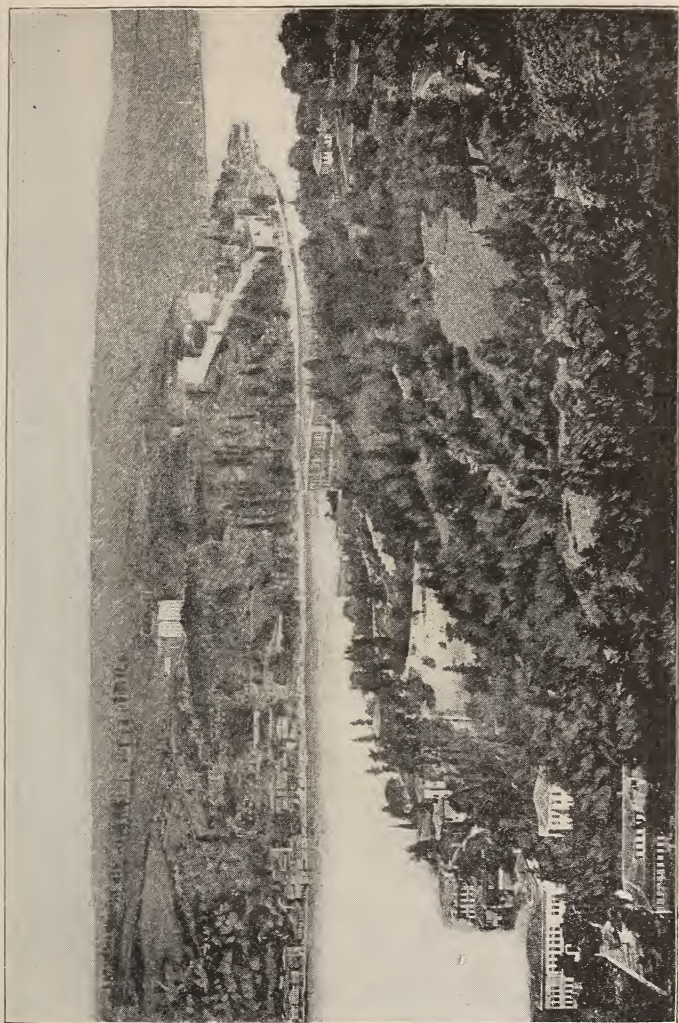
the very moment when the mother, ignorant of her child's doom, was offering her congratulations to the murderer on his accession. The Sultan perceiving that his atrocity would cause the indignation of his subjects, endeavored to avert it by the pretence that

the abominable act was done by an officer without his knowledge, and instantly ordered his execution. (See Creasy, p. 75.)

His dominion was not extensive; it comprised the half of Asia Minor; in Europe, Thrace, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Thessaly; while in Albania, the brave George Castrioty or Iskender Bey continued his successful struggles. The Archipelago was held by the Greeks, Genoese and Venetians; the Eastern part of Asia Minor was occupied by the Caramanoglus and Zoucadris; and the rest by the Seljuks; Comnenus ruled at Trebizond; the Mameluks in Syria and Egypt; and on the Eastern side of the Euphrates were the dynasties of the Black Ram and of the White Ram.

Halil Pasha, though not a favorite of the new Sultan, was re-appointed grand vizir; Isaac Pasha was appointed governor of the regions in Asia Minor, with the order to take with him the corpse of Sultan Murad to Brusa and inter it there. Deputies arrived to congratulate the Sultan on his accession to the throne; to those who came from the Emperor of Constantinople, he promised friendship, with an annual payment for the support of his fugitive nephew Orchan in that city, and with the envoys of Hunniades he concluded a three years truce.

During the reign of Constantine Paleologus, the last of the Greek Emperors, the Byzantine Empire was extended to the wall of Constantinople, the Genoese possessed Galata, and the Bosphorus was partly occupied by the Turks. Constantinople, however, with several islands of the Archipelago



Roumeli and Anadole Hissar.

and the Peloponnesus, were the remnants of the dominion, which for a thousand years had extended from Charchidon and Sicily to the Euphrates and the Tigris, and from the Danube to the falls of the Nile. The Emperor was a regent over Trebizond, Servia, Wallachia, Galata, and Mitylene.

Although a treaty had been promised by the Sultan to Paleologus, yet Mohammed's intentions, under the guise of friendship, were those of conquest and destruction. The Emperor Constantine, however, suspecting the Sultan, did not expect to reign in peace. He sent delegates asking him to sign the treaty as promised, but the only reply vouchsafed to this request, was the order to behead them. In the mean time the prince of Caramania, who had unwillingly submitted, attempted to assert his independence; but after an ineffectual struggle, was defeated and concluded a treaty, giving also his daughter in marriage to the Sultan.

Finally the Sultan undertook to carry out the desire of his predecessors, the capture of Constantinople. With this in view, he ceased to pay the amount promised annually for his nephew and ordered the erection of Roumeli Hissar or the European castle, about five miles above Constantinople, facing the well known Guzeldjé or Anadolu Hissar, on the Asiatic side, built by his grandfather, Bayezid I. He commenced the erection of this castle on the 7th of April, 1452, one year before the capture of Constantinople, the material for which was taken from the ruins of the ancient churches in that locality, and from St. Michael's church of Stenia, a small vil-

lage on the Bosphorus. This castle is reported to have been built in four months, and was called Boghaz-Kessen, or "Cut Throat," on account of its location at the narrowest part of the channel so as to control the passing vessels. Its construction was supervised by the Sultan, grand vizir, and the Pashas Saridjé, Zaganos and Sehavedin, the latter a chief eunuch of the Sultan.

On the heights of Roumeli Hissar, one of the most beautiful spots on the Bosphorus, stands Robert College, an imposing stone edifice, named for its founder, Christopher R. Robert, of New York. It was erected under the supervision of Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, D.D., of Boston, first president of this famous American institution, who went to Constantinople in 1839. Dr. Hamlin is a cousin of Hannibal Hamlin, vice-president during Lincoln's first administration. Near Robert College is a Teké, or Dervish convent of the order of Bektashi, or free thinkers. In addition, there are three other orders of Dervishes, the dancing, the howling, and the wandering dervishes, or monks, the last of whom have no fixed place of abode. They go about bareheaded and barefooted, never combing hair or beard; bearing on their shoulders tiger, stag, or leopard skins, which they use as rugs, upon which to offer their prayers, and living mostly on alms, which are freely bestowed upon them by the faithful.

When the castle was completed Feruz Agha, controlling 400 Janizaries, was appointed its commander. During its construction, Urban, a Hungarian cannon constructor, who was in the employ of the Emperor of Constantinople, resigned on account of his low wages, and offered his services to the Sultan. In accordance with the Sultan's orders, a large cannon was moulded expressly for use in the proposed siege. On the 28th of August, 1452, the Sultan encamped, with 50,000 men, by the walls of Constantinople, and after reconnoitring its towers, walls and ditches, returned to Adrianapole, while his fleet of 150 vessels

sailed through the Sea of Marmora, and arrived at Gallipolei. In October, 1452, the Sultan ordered Tourhan to advance with a powerful army to the Peloponnesus, accompanied by his sons, Ahmed and Omer. A dreadful conflict ensued near the Isthmus, and after a stubborn resistance the Greeks finally yielded. The loss on both sides was great. Tourhan then passed through Corinth to Tegea, Mantinia and Messina, devastated these cities, massacring their inhabitants, and selling the women and children into slavery. In another attack he was repulsed, and while retreating over the mountains between Messina and Arcadia his army, in two divisions, marched in different directions. The one under Ahmed was attacked by Demetrius and Thomas, brothers of the Emperor Constantine Paleologus, and signally defeated, while Ahmed himself was seized and sent to Sparta. The atrocities began to increase. The first attack was made on the 10th of November, 1452, upon two Venetian vessels from Kaffa, on the Black Sea, which were summoned to stop as they passed the strait, by Roumeli Hissar; the order was not obeyed, and they were fired upon. The cunning Venetian captains pretended to approach and furled their sails, but being favored by the wind and current, they were soon out of reach of the cannon, and arrived safely in Constantinople. Another vessel, loaded with barley, under the command of Captain Antonio Rizzo, also from the Black Sea, was not so fortunate. It passed the Roumeli Hissar, and was summoned to surrender, but disobeyed, and was sunk by cannon stone balls from the tower. The captain

and crew, thirty in all, were taken prisoners, sent in fetters to the Sultan, at Didimotico, except a beautiful young sailor (*scrivanello*), *Maestro* by name, who was secluded in the palace. The historian *Duka*, who was sent there as an envoy by the Prince of Lesbos, asserts that the corpses were left unburied. (See *Mordtmann's History*, p. 75.)

When a Christian town is captured by the Turks, they seize as many children of both sexes as they can find, and send the most perfect in form and features to Constantinople for the slave market, and if of great beauty, they were always taken into the palace. (See *The Story of Turkey*, by Stanley Lane Poole, p. 287.)

The Venetian consul at Constantinople, *Jeronimus Minoto*, learning of the capture of the captain and sailors, sent *Fabrotzo Cornero* to the Sultan to intercede for them, but they were beheaded before his arrival. Many other vessels were captured, and met the same fate. In this tower, the Knights of Malta were confined, and since then it has served for a prison for the Christian slave princes; many of the *Janizaries*, at the time of their extinction by *Mohammed II.*, were imprisoned and afterwards beheaded there.

Constantine, conscious of the impending danger, began to prepare with prudence and vigor, for a contest that was to decide the fate of his Empire. He resolved to invoke the assistance of *Pope Nicholas V.*, who consented on condition that the Greek and Latin churches should be united. He sent *Cardinal Isidore*, who sailed with 50 men on a Genoese vessel to *Scio*, where he was joined by 150 more, and then went to Constantinople. His demand was

accepted by the Emperor, but rejected by the people. Two Venetian galleys, under the command of Captain Gabriel Trevisano, were sent to Constantinople, to assist Paleologus. Another large vessel, under the command of James Cok, sailed from Trebizond, and, approaching the tower, was surrounded by several boats. Captain Cok attempted, through bribes, to escape, but the officer from the castle found the "bakshish," or bribe, insufficient. He threw it into the Bosphorus, and returned to the tower to get further orders from the commander of the garrison. Cok pretended to anchor near the castle, but as soon as the officers landed there, the galley sailed at once and reached Constantinople December 4th, 1452. Meanwhile the Emperor had asked the aid of the Genoese, who sent Giovanni Giustiniani, with two galleys and 700 men, arriving at Constantinople in January, 1453, which proved to be the only assistance procured from Europe. The Emperor having been acquainted with Giustiniani, received him with great honor, appointing him commander of the army, and promised him the Island of Limnos, if Constantinople should be saved from the enemy. Constantine, seeing the very inadequate preparation for the defence of the city, requested his most faithful friend, George Franzis, to get from each commander a list of those in his division. This amounted to 7,000, of which 5,000 were Greeks, consisting of monks and others, and 2,000 foreigners. It was with much grief that Franzis handed this list to the Emperor, which was not made public, as it was difficult to collect additional troops in Constanti-

nople, for his brothers, Demerius and Thomas, were engaged in a conflict with Tourhan, in the Peloponnesus, and could not render the Emperor any assistance, while some families had left Constantinople secretly.

Constantine made every effort to preserve the Byzantine Empire, which had already lasted one thousand years, by constantly endeavoring to animate his troops, and the inhabitants of the city by his presence, and to encourage them by his example. On the second of April he ordered Bartolomeo Soligo to secure the entrance of the Golden Horn by a strong chain, stretched from Stamboul Bagtchécapou, to Galata at Coursoumlou-magazé.

The grand vizir, Halil Pasha, informed the Emperor privately of all the preparations against Constantinople, and tried to dissuade Mohammed from destroying the city. According to the record of an Ottoman historian, Mehmed Said, Halil Pasha was bribed by the Emperor with large fishes, the bellies of which were filled with gold and silver coins. Halil Pasha was invited by the Sultan to visit him at night; being suspicious of the invitation for such an unusual hour, he embraced his wife and children, took with him a large sum of gold, went to the palace, and gave it to the Sultan. The Sultan being surprised at this, said to him: "I have more to give you; I only want of you the capture of Constantinople." The grand vizir answered him affirmatively and then left the palace.

Halil Pasha, was called Giavour Ortayi, or partner of the infidels, and was killed by the Sultan twenty days after the capture of Constantinople.

In the beginning of February the large cannon, previously referred to, was transported from Adrianople to the gate of St. Romanus in Constantinople, which is now called Top-capou or the "Gate of the Cannon." Karadza Bey, who with an army of 10,000 men transported the cannon, arrived at St. Stefano, a village in the suburbs of Constantinople, and captured it with great slaughter.

The Turks were encouraged by the Sheikh Aham Sedin who had discovered in a vision by the Golden Horn the tomb of Eyoub, son of Zaid-ul-Koraib of Medina. He is supposed to have been the bearer of the prophet Mohammed's standard, and was killed during the third siege of Constantinople by the Arabs, 668 A. D. On this spot a mosque was built by Sultan Mohammed II., which ever since the fall of Constantinople has been considered the most sacred of all its places of worship. In it is preserved the sword of Sultan Osman I., and as each successive Sultan is proclaimed, he has to come here in person, accompanied by all the dignitaries and officials of the Empire, in royal procession, to have this sword belted on him. This ceremony is equivalent to the coronation of a European sovereign, and by which he attains the dignity of Califf. Beyond this mosque, lies a historic Turkish cemetery, and on account of its sanctity, the most noble and faithful followers of Islam are interred there.

The Sultan then took the command of his troops, the number of which is variously estimated, according to Nicolo Barbaro, who is considered the most accurate; it was 160,000, among which were many dervishes, imams and molas, who during the fight encouraged the army; while the Turkish fleet, consisting of 150 vessels of various sizes, was under the command of Balta-oglu Suleyman Pasha, son of a rich Bulgarian named Balta, captured while young and converted to Mohammedanism.

On Friday, April 6th, 1453, after prayer, the Turkish army and navy were ordered to attack the

city. The Sultan was guarded by 15,000 Janizaries, and a part of his army was encamped near the gate of Top-capou, while the rest were in different places around its walls. Zaganos, brother-in-law of the Sultan, and Karadja Bey with a part of his army were on the hill of Pera, opposite Constantinople. (See Barbaro, p. 18; Franzis, p. 237.)

Constantine Paleologus encamped with a part of his army, opposite to the Sultan, near the gate of St. Romanus or Top-capou. By the Emperor was the general in command, Giovanni Giustiniani, with his relative Don Franscesco, with 500 Genoese who fought to the last. (See Franzis, p. 254; Barbaro, p. 18.) The remainder of the Greek army was placed around the walls of Constantinople; one part at Soulou-coulé, under the command of the expert archer, Theodore Caristris; the second was encamped at Edirné-capou or Adrianople gate, under the three brothers Brockiardi (Paolo, Antonio and Troilo); another under the Venetian consul, Jeromino Minoto, at Eghri-capou, formerly called the Gate of Charsia or Galligaria, at Tekir or Tekfurserai or the Lord's palace.

The remainder of the weak wall was guarded by a German officer, John Grant, an expert miner; and the northern part of the triangle, Aivassary, towards Eyoub, was protected by Cardinal Isidore with Romans and Scians. The towers, from Aivassary gate to Petri-capou, were under the control of two Genoese, Jeronimo and Leonardo; from Petri-capou to Balouk Bazar, on the Golden Horn was guarded by the grand Duke Notaras, having with

him one hundred horsemen and 500 archers; the towers Basilios, Leon and Alexios near Baghtché-capou, were protected by a crew of a Cretian vessel, which place these sailors held until the capture of Constantinople; Seraglio point was protected by Orchan, the fugitive, with a few Turkish followers; he was afterward found near the house of the Grand Duke Luca-Notaras.

The ruin Tekfur-Serai, familiar to many as the palace of Belisarius, sometimes called the palace of Constantine the Great, is a large square building of solid masonry, with delicate ornamental work; it has many windows and stands as a landmark upon a hill.

Between Tchatladi-capou and Ahyr-capou, facing the Propontis, there is a Turkish house, which partially hides the following inscription upon the wall:

✠ΛΟΥΚ
 NOTAPA
 ΛΙΕΡΜΗΝΕΥΤΟΥ

From this we learn not only the location of Notara's house, but also that he was the dragoman of the Emperor.

The gates of the Ahyr-capou, Tchatladi-capou, were guarded by the Spanish consul Pietro Giuliano, who came to Constantinople just after the commencement of the siege. The distance between Coum-capou to Samatia was guarded by the Venetian Jacob Kontarini; Yedi-coulé, or the seven towers, was protected by the German Emmanuel and the Venetian Catarino, having under their command about 200 archers; the distance between Yedi-coulé and Silivri-capou was protected by the Venetian Cornero with the Mathematician Theophilus Paleologus, the Genoese Mavrikio Kataneo and the Venetian Nicolo Mocenigo; in the centre of the

city, near the church of the Holy Apostles (on which place is built the mosque of Sultan Mohammed), was protected by Demetrius Catacuzenus and his brother-in-law, Nikiphorus Paleologus, with 700 men as a reserve, the most being Greek monks. (See Franzis, p. 255.) At the entrance of the harbor lies a rocky islet, Kiz-coulé, or the Maiden's Tower, which was guarded by the Venetian captain Trevisano.

The walls and towers mentioned above had been erected and enlarged in successive years by the Emperors Theodosius II., son of the Emperor Arcadius; Theopilus, son of Michael; Basilius, Justinian, Comnenus and Paleologus. The strongest parts are the land walls, comprising one hundred and twelve towers, *i. e.*, from the sea to Yedi-coulé or Aqueduct tower, fourteen towers; from Soulou-coulé to Edirne-capou or gate of Adrianople, nine towers; from Eghri-capou or Oblique gate, eighteen towers; from Eghri-capou to the Golden Horn, fourteen towers. The land walls are flanked by a double row of mural towers, defended by a moat about eight yards wide. The walls are about fifty feet high and vary in thickness.

The harbor was protected by a strong chain and by four Genoese, three Cretian and two Imperial vessels, under the command of Captain Antonio, while nineteen vessels were moored within the harbor, rendering it inaccessible.

On the 11th of April the Sultan ordered four large cannons to be placed at Top-capou, including the immense one made by Urban; three in Silivri-capou; two in Yedi-coulé and the rest in other locations. At the first discharge, the terrible report of Urban's cannons terrified all the inhabitants of Constantinople, but after a short use it burst, and the body of its maker was blown to atoms over the walls and fell on the plains of At-Meidan, or the Hippodrome.

The Sultan ordered a new cannon to be constructed at once. Immediately after this an envoy, sent by the Hungarian regent, Hunniades, went to the Turkish camp to inform the Sultan that the three years' treaty had terminated and that it would not be maintained any longer. This envoy, observing that each shot of the new cannon was always directed to one spot, advised the Sultan to place it in different positions in order to destroy the walls more quickly; the advice was followed and the result was successful. On the 12th of April the Turkish fleet appeared before Constantinople and anchored at Beshiktash; the Greeks, fearing a sudden assault, put a watchman on the tower of Galata, who, by a private signal, was to inform them of its movements.

The Galata tower was built by the Genoese in the year 1348, and is now used for fire signals.

From the 12th to the 18th of April no action was taken by the Turkish fleet; several skirmishes took place near the walls where many Turks were killed. On the 20th of April an Imperial vessel under the command of Captain Flantenella, laden with wheat, arrived from Sicily, and three Genoese vessels commanded by the Captains Castaneo, Nabara and Valaneri, all carrying the Greek flag, having as an emblem the double headed eagle, and loaded with provisions for the city, appeared on the Sea of Marmora. The Turks had discerned them, and Admiral Suleyman Pasha received orders to seize these vessels, and met them near Vlanga or Samatia. The spectators of this naval combat were the Christians

looking from the walls and the Turks from the sea coast. It was most sanguinary and dreadful; the Greeks and Genoese used the Greek fire, invented before the time of Christ, which brought great destruction to the Turks, and the victory was on the side of the Christians. The Sultan, perceiving from the sea shore that his fleet was defeated, became so excited that he rushed on horseback into the shallow sea of Zeitin-bournou with his followers, thus wetting his clothes; this action caused the fleet to rally, but after a short fight the Turkish vessels gave way in confusion and returned to their station at Beshiktash. That night the four Christian vessels were towed safely into the harbor. The loss of the Turks was great, while that of the Greeks was small. On the 21st day of April, the Sultan, with 10,000 horsemen, went to Beshiktash "stonecradle" and ordered that the Admiral Suleyman Pasha should be deprived of his titles and executed at once. The indignation of the Pashas, however, caused him to recall this atrocious command; but his property was confiscated and divided between the Janizaries, and the unfortunate Admiral received one hundred blows from the Sultan's heavy battle-mace. On the same day one of the towers of Top-capou was destroyed by the enemy's cannonade, and according to the historians, ten thousand Turks could easily have captured the city then, but the Sultan was absent at Beshiktash, where he was holding a council of war. The grand vizir, Halil Pasha, proposed that the siege should be raised and a treaty of peace concluded with the Emperor, compelling him to pay a

haratch or an annual tax, while the Sultan should have the authority to appoint the police officers in Constantinople. But the Sheikh Aksemzedin, who came with twenty thousand Dervishes, Zaganos, and the other Pashas, voted against Halil Pasha and rejected his propositions. In their subsequent arrangements to enter the Golden Horn, a plan was proposed by the Genoese of Galata to Sultan Mohammed, for the conveyance of his galleys over land and their launch into the harbor, for the attack by land was difficult and the chain constituted an impenetrable barrier. The plan was as follows: The distance from Dolma-bagtché up to the valley of Pangalti and Yenishehir, thence to Kassim Pasha, should be paved with planks, smoothed with grease, and the galleys, seventy-two in number, conveyed from Dolma-bagtché to the Golden Horn, while Zaganos Pasha and Karadja Bey guarded Pera with artillery to defend their galleys in case of an attack from the Greeks.

According to the historian Barbaro, an eye witness, the inhabitants of Galata, who were Genoese, assisted in the completion of this work. After the launch of the Turkish galleys into the harbor of the Golden Horn, he asserts that several naval combats took place between the Turkish fleet and the Imperial vessels. The Turks constructed a bridge between Peri Pasha and Aivassary, consisting of a thousand wooden barrels, procured by the Genoese of Galata, which were fastened together and covered with planks; artillery was placed upon it for the general assault; the Christian vessels attempted to destroy

the Turkish fleet and the bridge, but they were betrayed by the people of Galata. On the 7th of May, towards evening, thirty thousand Turks assaulted the city by land, but they were repulsed with great loss; this battle lasted about three hours. On the night of the 12th of May fifty thousand Turks made another assault on the land walls of Tekir-serai, near Eghri-capou, but without success. On the 16th of May, a part of the Turkish fleet of Beshiktash station approached the harbor, but the Christian vessels soon repulsed the enemy. The same day an excavation was discovered near the foundation of the walls. The Emperor being informed of it by the Grand Duke Luca Notaras, ordered him to search for it; it was found by the German officer, John Grant, through whose ingenuity many of the enemy were suffocated. On the 17th of May, five Turkish galleys approached the chain of the harbor but were attacked by the Christians. On the 18th of May the garrison of the city discovered a large movable tower covered with ox-hides, through which the besiegers safely attacked the Christians; but it was destroyed by the Greeks. On the 21st of May a subterranean passage was discovered from which the Turks were driven out by explosives. On the 22d of May, two other excavations of the same kind were discovered. The Sultan, however, sent his son-in-law, Ismael Hamza Bey, son of the Isfendiar Khan, to the Emperor Constantine to propose the surrender of the city voluntarily, and promising safety to all those who wished to leave, but the Emperor called a council of war and a negative answer was given to

the Turkish envoy. Another excavation was discovered on the morning of the 23d of May, which was destroyed; two workmen were captured and their heads were thrown over the land walls. The Sultan in despair ordered a general assault to be made on the 29th of May, and to encourage his troops promised them three days' plunder of the city, excepting public edifices, with such treasures and captives as they could get. The Sultan's promise rejoiced the army, and that night an illumination took place which was thought by the Greeks to be a fire in the Turkish camp; but they soon became aware of its real meaning. Giustiniani encouraged the garrison with all his might, and according to Bishop Leonardo's record, the Sultan was wonderfully surprised by the honesty of Giustiniani, who scornfully rejected all his bribes to betray the Emperor Constantine.

Three days previous to the assault, the walls were bombarded; this partly destroyed them leaving no outlets through which the Greeks could attack the enemy. A few old men knowing that a gate, called the Wooden gate, had existed under the palace near Eghri-capou by the present Greek cemetery, reported it to the Emperor and he ordered it to be opened for an assault against the enemy. After the assault, it was accidentally left open, a number of Turks entered but were killed.

Constantine, who was conspicuous for his piety as well as for his valor, showed himself most worthy of his crown at the time when he was about to lose it forever. The citizens fought bravely in defense of

their homes and their families, members of whom took part in the engagement by pelting the enemy with stones, but it was all in vain. Under the gloomy dome of St. Sophia the brave and unfortunate Emperor Constantine came during the last night of his life and received solemnly and tearfully the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. At dawn on the 29th of May, 1453, he left St. Sophia, on horseback, for the place where the fatal assault was made. The Turks began the attack, using the scaling ladders—two thousand in number—constructed by them, some of which were destroyed, and the assaulters were killed with stones and Greek fire, while those who retreated were cut up by their fellow Turks. The second assault was made against the gate of Top-capou (St. Romanus), where the Emperor stood, but the Greeks repulsed the Turks with considerable loss; the Sultan then ordered the Janizaries to proceed, and the defence of the city was obstinate. The assault continued near the gate of Top-capou but without effect, and the standard bearing the emblem of the double headed eagle of the Emperor continued to wave in its place.

During the morning a large cannon ball destroyed a part of the wall where the Venetians stood, and about three hundred Turks rushed in, but retreated with great loss. The Turkish galleys lying in the harbor, under the command of Zaganos Pasha, directed their attack against Fanar, but the Grand Duke Luca Notaras drove them back. The Sultan encouraged his soldiers, sometimes with kind words, and again threatening them with his iron club, which

still exists in the Imperial armory. Another large cannon ball destroyed a second section of the land walls, through which several thousand Turks rushed in, but the garrison pelted them with stones, using the Greek fire. The dead of the Turks were so numerous that, according to the ocular testimony of the historian, Nicolo Barbaro, a large number of camels were required to carry away the corpses. The garrison of Top-capou began to withdraw, when Theophilus Paleologus, in connection with Demetrius Catacuzenos, repulsed the Turks again. The Emperor seeing this, encouraged his men, and stimulated them to redouble their energy. The Geneose general, Giovanni Gustiniani, while bravely fighting, was seriously wounded in the arm by an arrow, and thinking it hopeless to resist further, he left his post. The Emperor tried all means to retain him, but in vain, and he departed to Galata. (See Franzis, p. 283-284.) His soldiers, being left without a commander, came to confusion, and the Turks perceiving this, made another assault. A Janizary named Hassan, a man of gigantic size and great strength, with thirty others, rushed to assist them, but the Greek garrison killed eighteen of them. Hassan with his followers ascended the land walls, but they were pelted with stones, and he was finally killed. (See Franzis, p. 284-285.) Similar struggles occurred in other places, where the Greeks threw the ascending Turks back over the walls. At last they found that the Turks had entered from the wooden gate, and were attacking the Christians in the rear. A cry was heard that the Turks were in the city, and

the Christians ran towards the gates of the harbor in order to escape into the ships, but unfortunately the guards that were stationed there, in the confusion, locked them, and threw the keys over the walls into the sea.

The Emperor tried once more to oppose the enemy, but it was impossible, for all hope had gone. He then rushed on horseback, sword in hand, accompanied by his followers, towards Top-capou, fighting the Turks. On his right side, Don Francesco, from Toledo, and Theophilus Paleologus, were also fighting bravely; and on the left Catacuzenos and John, the Dalmatian, who after many brilliant achievements, fell dead. The heap of corpses was so high that the entrance to the gate was almost impassable. While Constantine was fighting he received a wound in the face from an Arab, whom he instantly killed, and in a few moments met with the same fate himself from the hands of another one of the enemy. Thus the last Sovereign of the Eastern Empire fell on the 29th of May, 1453, at the early age of forty-nine, in a brave and glorious defence of his country and his throne. The Turks rushed into the city, meeting with no resistance, making dreadful havoc among the Greeks, without the least distinction of rank, age or sex; destroying the Imperial emblems on the public edifices and replacing them with the Ottoman standard. The crew of the Turkish fleet, seeing their standards waving in the city, landed, rushed into it, and into every house which they entered hoisted a Turkish flag as a sign that it had been plundered.

General Giustiniani, who was suffering from the effects of the wound which he had received during the siege, left Constantinople, crossed to Galata on a vessel and sailed to Scio, where shortly afterwards he died from a broken heart. The brave Cretian sailors, who guarded the towers of Bazilios, Leon and Alexios, by the entrance of the harbor, still fought heroically, without paying the least attention to its capture, and the Sultan, seeing their bravery, allowed them to embark on their vessels and depart, taking with them their arms. (See Franzis, p. 286.) The brothers Paolo, Antonio and Troilo, surnamed Brokiardi, who were still fighting by the gate of Adrianople, or Edirné-capou, being surrounded by the enemy, succeeded in effecting their escape and crossed to Galata. Cardinal Isidore, though disguised, was captured and sold at Galata, from whence he afterwards escaped. The historian Franzis and his family were captured and bought by the Sultan's chief groom. His daughters and a son, fourteen years old, named John, remarkable for their beauty, were presented to his master, and were secluded in the Seraglio. The lad John was assassinated soon after by the Sultan himself, with his own scimitar. (See Franzis, p. 309.) Franzis, with his wife, were ransomed by the Christians and sailed to Peloponesus, thence to Italy, and afterwards to Corfu, a Greek island, where he finally became a monk.

George Franzis, descended from a noble Greek family, was born in Constantinople in 1401, and died in 1477. He was a cultured man, an able and loyal diplomatist, and a true patriot. He was the author of a valuable history of the fall of Constantinople, which in-

cludes his ocular testimony, and the narratives of the sufferings of himself and others at that period, the perusal of which, even after the lapse of time, is harrowing to the reader. It was published in Greek in Vienna in 1796.

Some of the Christian vessels were captured, others escaped with fugitives, one of them being Nicolo Barbaro, the Venetian historian. The Venetian merchants of Constantinople, who were hidden in cellars, were captured. The Spanish consul, Jeronimo Minoto; the Venetian consul, Pietro Giuliano, were also taken into slavery. Finally, the Grand Duke Notaras, abandoned by his men, went to the tower where his family lived and finding there a number of Turks who tried to force its entrance, he fought bravely against them but was wounded. The Sultan ordered that Notaras should be confined in his tower. In the same place, Orchan, the grand son of Sultan Bayezid I., was found disguised as a monk after the capture of Constantinople, and was betrayed to the Turks, who beheaded him.

According to the historian Barbaro, the captives numbered about sixty thousand.

Turkish cruelty, with the horrible barbarity of Islamism, in its treatment of the Christians, was shown at St. Sophia. This vast basilica was crowded by old men, women, girls and little children, its subterranean passages, porch, chapel, corridors, immense rostrums, the platforms and domes, could hold many thousands; its ponderous gates were broken open by axes; one long piteous cry, the blending of many voices, arose towards heaven; in an instant the Turks rushed in, making terrible havoc, killing the priests and old men, and commit-

ting barbarous outrages. Youth and beauty attracted their choice; men, women and children, without any distinction, were tied in couples, the men were bound with cords; the women fastened with their girdles and braids of long hair. Some of them were thrown into the ships, others carried to the Ottoman camp, brutally assaulted, sold and treated worse than cattle. Such lamentations were never heard in any part of the world; the women were separated forever from their husbands, the children from their mothers, for the Turks took their living booty from Constantinople to different parts of Asia. The Turks, on this as on all other occasions, treated the vanquished with the most remorseless cruelty and massacred them by thousands in cold blood. The rest of the Greeks soon shared the fate of their capital, except a few who escaped to Italy; and thus Constantinople became subject to the Mohammedans.

The Sultan entered the city by the gate of St. Romanus, accompanied by the grand vizir, pashas, and guards; he alighted from his horse before the front gate of St. Sophia, and entered under the dome; as he did so, he struck with his scimitar, a Turk who was splitting the marble pavement, because he did not wish any public edifice to be injured.

The injury to the marble pavement by the Turk, for which he was struck by the Sultan, illustrates the vandalism which is innate to that race; for the historian Mordtmann states that he often saw Turks in Asia Minor, destroying many beautiful sculptures; on asking them the reason for doing so, they would reply, "Bou tashlar, bizé yaramaz," or "These stones are useless to us."

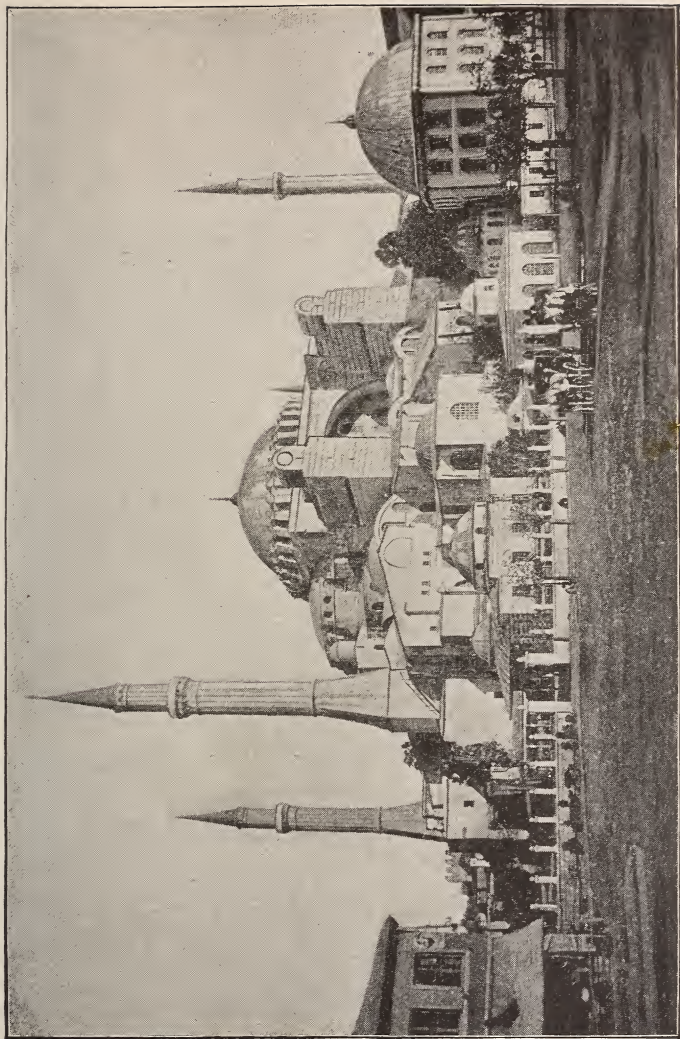
The day of Sultan Mohammed's triumphal entry into the city

and thence to the church of St. Sophia was Djouma or Friday, which has since been observed as the Mohammedan Sabbath, or day of rest. Since then the Selamlık, or the attendance of the Sultan for prayer at any mosque always takes place on that day. At his entrance with his suite, he is met by the green-turbaned Iman or Moslem priest, and commences his prayers; the throng in the hall of the mosque consists only of men, the women who come to gaze and gossip sit in latticed galleries. The pageant is a brilliant one, carriages, horses, men and dogs mingled together in confusion. After his devotions are finished, the bugle gives warning of his intended departure from the mosque, the troops present arms and the shout goes up "Padisha Chok Yasha;" or "Let the Sultan live forever."

The great church of St. Sophia was immediately transformed into a mosque, and the Turkish crescent was placed upon the dome, where the cross had stood for ages; the muezzin or crier ascended its loftiest turret, and gave the Azan or public invitation to pray in the name of God and His prophet, while Sultan Mohammed II. ascended the altar and offered the Namaz or prayer, where but a few days previous, the brave but ill-fated Constantine, the last of his Imperial race, had received the Sacrament. In accordance with their law, they simplified the interior, and all the brilliant mosaic figures were whitewashed.

The national ensign of the Turks is the crescent or half moon. It can always be found on the domes and minarets of the mosques, just as the cross is the emblem of the Greek and Roman Catholic churches. Tradition gives as the origin of it, that the Hegira, or flight of their prophet Mohammed from Mecca to Medina was at the time of the new moon; therefore the use of the crescent is a memorial of that event.

The mosque of St. Sophia, formerly a Christian Cathedral, was originally founded by Constantine the Great in 325 A. D., and was dedicated to the "Divine wisdom of God," which its name, St. Sophia (wisdom) signifies. This church was rebuilt by Constantius, the son and successor of Constantine the Great; it stood until the reign of the Emperor Arcadius and was one of the



St. Sophia.

most prominent of all the Oriental churches. After the exile of the Patriarch Chrisostomus by Eudoxia, wife of the Emperor Arcadius, St. Sophia was deprived of the eloquence of that ecclesiastical orator, and the people being indignant at this, burned it. In 415 A. D., it was rebuilt by the Emperor Theodosius II., but in 532 A. D., during the revolt of Nicaea, it was destroyed by fire for the second time, and rebuilt entirely by the Emperor Justinian on the same foundation. No pains or expense have been spared in its construction; from all parts of the country the finest marbles were selected, and the sculptured pillars which support the large central dome, were taken from such ruins as the temple of Diana at Ephesus, the temple of Baalbec, as well as from Jerusalem and Thebes. In the year 1204 Crusaders ransacked this sacred edifice, and carried away the greater part of the treasures, which had given it the name of being the richest and most beautiful cathedral in the world.

Besides St. Sophia there are other churches in Constantinople which have been transformed into mosques; Zeirek Mosque or Convent of the Omnipotent, outside of which there is a tomb of green stone with sculptured crosses; Tchertchi Mosque, formerly the church of the Holy Virgin; Emirahor Mosque, or Convent of St. John the Baptist at Samatia; Kiutchuk Aghia Sophia Mosque of Tchatladi-capou; Mudrum Mosque, or Convent of Nuns, at Vlanga; Kahrié Mosque, or Country Hermitage, at Edirné-capou; Mefa Mosque, at Mefa; Eski-Imaret Mosque, between Oun-capou and Djubali; Mahmoud Pasha Mosque; Kodja Mustafa Pasha Mosque, or church of Andrew the Disciple, near Silivri-capou; Kefeli Mosque, at Salma Toumbrouk; Giul Mosque, or St. Theodosia, at Aya-capou; Atik Mustafa Pasha, or Church of the disciples Peter and Paul, at Aivassary. In the last mentioned there was a Baptismal font with steps descending into it, cut from one piece of marble, which now stands directly opposite, but it has been badly cracked by the ruthless hands of the Turks.

When his prayer was finished he went to the deserted palace of the Emperor Constantine. He then sent for Grand Duke Notaras, and asked him if the Emperor had fled; the Grand Duke replied that he was absolutely ignorant of what had become of him, for the Emperor was in the Imperial gate when the Turks entered the gate Soulou-coulé, or Aqueduct tower, and met him there. In the meantime two young Turks approached Sultan Mohammed boast-

ing that they had killed the Emperor, but neither one was sure of it; therefore it was necessary to examine many bodies in order to identify that of Constantine. Finally it was found under the heaps



Constantine Paleologus X. Last Emperor of Constantinople.

From a seal in "Doctrina numorum veterum conscripta a Josepho Eckhel, Vol. VIII. p. 273." existing in the Museum of Vienna.

of the dead, and was recognized from the Imperial eagles which were embroidered upon his buskins. His head was conveyed to Mohammed, who asked

the Grand Duke Notaras if it was that of the Emperor. Notaras replied in the affirmative. Mohammed ordered it to be exposed on a stake in the Hippodrome, in order that the vanquished people would not doubt his death, or hope for his re-appearance; he then directed the Emperor's body to be buried.

Constantine Paleologus X., fourth son of Emperor Emmanuel and Empress Helen, the daughter of Constantine Dragassi, prince of Macedonia, was born on the 21st of Feb., 1404. He was educated in Constantinople by the famous teacher Catacuzenus, and was married twice, but his wives died leaving no issue. He was proclaimed Emperor of Constantinople on the 24th of March, 1449, and in the fourth year of his reign fell fighting gloriously to the last, and was buried, according to the historian Mordtmann, at a corner of a Khan, near Mefa-meidani or Mefa plain, which is now occupied by shoemakers.

Mohammed by deceit and treachery drew from Notaras, during his intercourse with him, the names, of all the Greek nobles, and sending for them, tried to conciliate them.

On the next day, May 30, Mohammed visited the house of the Grand Duke Notaras and was cordially received; then approaching the bed of his sick wife, he encouraged her with false promises; as well as their three sons, who offered their submission, and after a short stay the Sultan left. During this time the plunder and cruel outrages of the Turks still continued.

Sultan Mohammed gave a banquet at the Imperial palace, and being intoxicated ordered the Kizlar Agha or chief of his eunuchs to go to the Grand Duke Notara's house, and bring to him his youngest son, a boy fourteen years of age. The grand duke

refused to deliver his son to the Sultan. (See "Fall of Constantinople" by A. D. Mordtmann, p. 164; Scarlato, Vol. I, p. 290; Creasy, p. 85; Paparrigopoulos, Vol. V, p. 432).

The eunuchs were divided into the black and the white; the black eunuchs were Africans and formed the guards of the Imperial Harem. Their chief was called Kizlar Aghassi or "Master of the girls," his robe was white with a cylindrical head dress of the same color. The white eunuchs had charge of the pages; their chief was called Kapou Aghassi or "Master of the gate." There were also mutes and dwarfs, who served as buffoons to amuse the Sultan and his household. A large number of the black eunuchs and a few dwarfs still exist in the palace.

Sultan Mohammed in a rage ordered Notaras and his family to be put to death, except the youngest son. The Grand Duke Notaras saw the heads of his two eldest sons fall, and after a few moments in prayer, he also met the same fate, and they died as Christians. Their bloody heads were placed in a row before the Sultan on the banqueting table, and their bodies were left unburied. (See Mordtmann, p. 166; Paparrigopoulos, p. 432.) This, in connection with the fiendish instigation of a renegade Frenchman, whose daughter, then in the harem, was a special favorite of the Sultan; with his constant intoxication, served to excite the dormant ferocity of his nature, and he ordered the nobles whom he had bribed only the day before, to be executed, and the most beautiful of their children to be confined in the harem. Then the Venetian consul Jeronimo Minoto, his son George, the Spanish consul Pietro Giuliano, with his two sons, were all executed; other Venetians were liberated by paying heavy ransoms. The pillage of the city lasted for three days after its



1. Kizlar Aghassi or Chief Eunuch.
2. Djudgé or Dwarf.
3. Agha or White Eunuch.

capture. The fleet and the army carried away immense treasures and many captives. The condition of the Christians was pitiable in the extreme; the meanest Turks insulted the most honorable Christians with impunity; their properties, the honor of their wives and children and their own lives depended on the caprice of these ferocious barbarians, who did not hesitate to commit the vilest outrages, in mere wantonness. On the fourth day Mohammed commenced to regulate the affairs of the new capital of the Ottoman dominion. He was anxious to appease the fears and stop the further exit of the panic-stricken citizens, who sought safety in every direction, and wisely turning his attention to the church, decided to fill the vacant patriarchal throne at once, and ordered the election of a new patriarch, which resulted in the choice of the erudite Gennadius II., Scholarius, a native of Constantinople, who retained the office for more than five years, then resigned and went to the convent of St. John the Baptist, near Seres in Macedonia.

The reception of the Patriarch at the palace was a royal one. When he left the Sultan presented him a golden staff. According to the Byzantine custom, he mounted a richly caparisoned steed, and was escorted by the court officials and a body guard to his residence at the patriarchal church of the Holy Apostles, where the mosque of Mohammed II., now stands. After a few years the Patriarchate was removed to the church of the Holy Virgin, which in 1608 was taken by the Turks and turned into a Mohammedan mosque, now called Fetié Djamessi, then to the church of St. Demetrius at Xyloporta, a village on the Golden Horn, and afterwards to the church of St. George at Fanar, where it remained until the present time. This custom of the reception at the election of the Patriarch was observed in the same form until the year 1657. From that period to the present time, it has been in a different manner; an aid-de-camp of the Sultan attends upon the Patriarch-

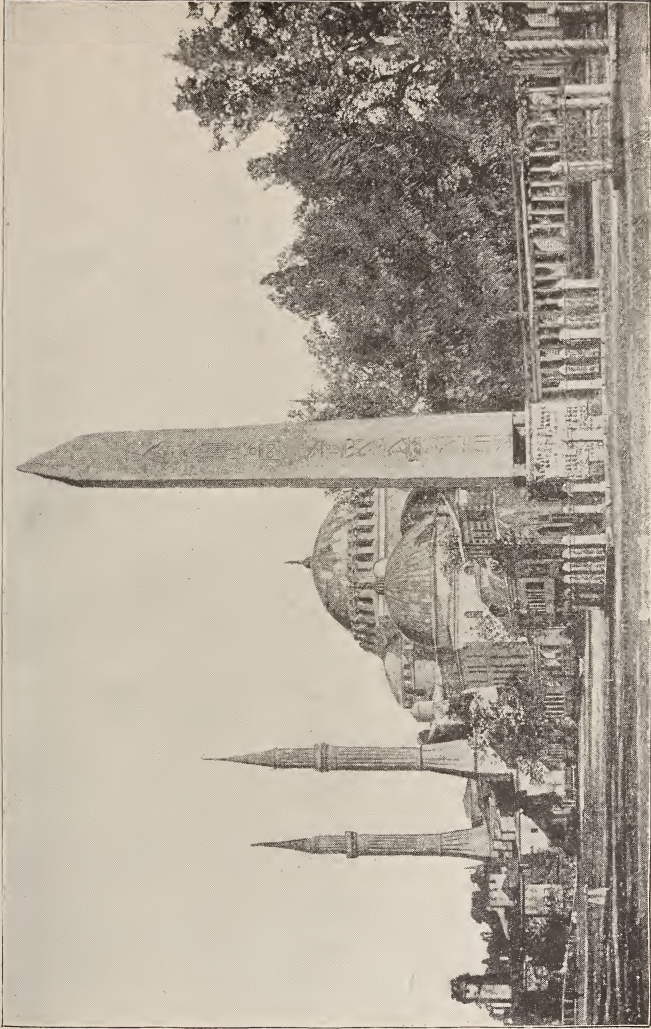
elect, escorts him with his suite in court carriages to the palace. There he is received in solemn audience by the Sultan; instead of the Golden staff, he is invested with the decoration of the Grand Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Medjidié. On leaving the palace, the Patriarch and his suite proceed in state to the Sublime Porte, from thence to the Patriarchal church at the Fanar, where the enthronement takes place. Mohammed II., conferred upon the first Patriarch, by letters patent, the dignity of Ethnarch or head of the Orthodox community under the Turkish rule, with judicial powers, in all matters coming under ecclesiastical control. The Patriarch, the archbishops and bishops were exempted from the payment of all tribute and taxes.

The Sultan having quieted the Christians of Constantinople, visited Galata on the 2d of June, and ordered a list of the inhabitants and houses to be made, and to confiscate the property of those who had fled. The walls of Galata were destroyed, while those of Constantinople were repaired. Shortly after, the Sultan advised the Shah of Persia, the Sultan of Egypt and the Sherif of Mecca, of the capture of Constantinople and received congratulations from the envoys of various rulers.

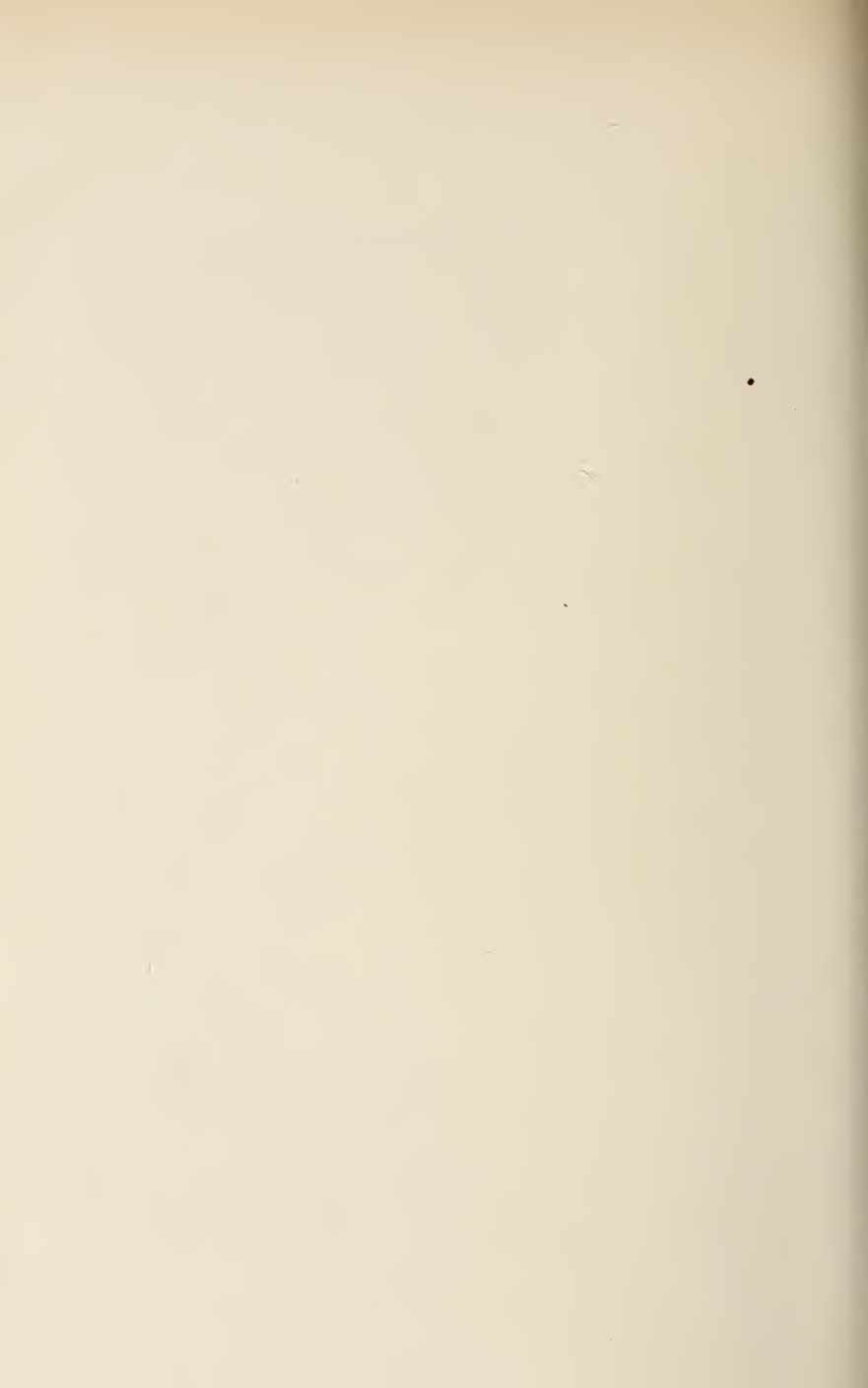
Near the far famed cathedral St. Sophia, is At-Meidam or the Hippodrome, the most historic square of ancient and modern Constantinople. The Hippodrome was embellished by Constantine the Great, and by his imperial predecessors. Here, the Emperors in their splendor witnessed the horse and chariot races; here political manifestations were held; manifestations which frequently led to bloody combats, and to changes in throne and state. On the capture of Constantinople by the Latins the Hippodrome, which contained many antiques in metal and in marble brought from all parts of the world, was ransacked by these hordes, who, under the guise of Christianity, committed as many outrages as their Mohammedan enemies; the rest were destroyed by the vandalism of bigoted Musulmen.

All that remain of the monuments, statues and splendid works of art that adorned the Hippodrome are:

1. The Colossus stands now, as it has for many years past, momentarily threatening to fall. It was formerly adorned with brass plates in bas relief, and was restored by the Emperor Constantine. The brazen plates which were upon it were carried away by the fourth Crusade, being mistaken for ingots of gold.



Mosque of Sultan Ahmed I, and the Egyptian Obelisk.



2. The Serpentine column, a headless memory of the past, was cast in Greece in the year 478 B. C., and erected at Delphi in commemoration of the victory of Platea. It was about 15 feet high, formed of three serpents turned spirally, and upon their heads was placed the famous golden tripod consecrated to Apollo. Nothing remains of this famous work of art after its mutilation by the Turks, but the trunk. There is an inscription upon the pillars, said to have been written by Pausanius of Sparta.

3. The Egyptian Obelisk, or the Obelisk of Theodosius, is a monolith of red granite, covered with hieroglyphics; it was brought from Heliopolis and erected again by the Emperor Theodosius. It stands on four small blocks of bronze, resting on a sculptured marble pedestal.

4. Constantine's column, now called Tchemberlitashi, is composed of eight pieces, and according to the historian Zonara, it was brought from Rome; other historians state it came from Philadelphia or from Magnavra. On the top was placed the bronze statue, of Constantine the Great, which faced the East; it was totally destroyed by a hurricane in April 1105, and was replaced by a cross. Under the foundation of this column have been placed many valuable and sacred relics. It was burned by the Turks after the capture of Constantinople and has been supported ever since by hoops of irons.

Near this place is the cistern Bin-bir-derek, or the Thousand and one column; it is supposed to have been built by Philoxenus in the reign of Constantine the Great, 306-307 A. D. It is situated near the Hippodrome. It measures 60 by 51 metres and the roof is supported by 212 columns, and not by the number that its name would indicate. There are several other cisterns of much larger dimensions than this one; one near Yedi-coulé; one under the mosque of Selim, and another called the "Basilica" near the Seraglio, supported by 366 granite columns.

In the same year Tourhan Bey marched to the assistance of Demetrius and Thomas, brothers of the Emperor Paleologus (who had been compelled to taxation by Sultan Mohammed II.), against the revolting Albanians, and crushed the rebellion there.

In the spring of 1454 the Sultan marched against Servia, subdued several forts and thence returned to Constantinople to superintend the embellishment of his new capital. He appointed as grand vizir,

Mahmoud Pasha Michaloglu, who was beloved by his master and had received his education at the palace.

Sultan Mohammed built his Seraglio on the same spot where the famous equestrian statue of the Emperor Justinian formerly stood, which was destroyed by him. Since Mohammed II., twenty-five Sultans have lived in the Seraglio, and each one in succession has made additions to it. Sultan Medjid, the father of the present ruler, transferred his residence to the Palace of Dolma-Baghtché, and since then the old Seraglio has been used as the secluded home only for the wives of the deceased Sultans.

In the same year, the Ottoman fleet under Admiral Giuniz Pasha, conquered the islands of Lemnos, Thassos, Samothraki and Imvros, and made peace with the inhabitants of Scio. The Sultan marched against Belgrade with 150,000 men and 300 cannons, in the meantime the Ottoman fleet of 200 galleys went up the Danube and anchored near that city. Hunniades having under him a combined army of 60,000 with a fleet of 200 galleys, attacked the Ottomans by land and sea, and defeated them with a great loss, wounding Sultan Mohammed. Three weeks after this the famous hero Hunniades died at Belgrade.

Sultan Mohammed returned to Adrianople, celebrated there with great pomp the circumcision of his sons Bayezid and Mustafa, and then marched against Servia, whose despotic ruler, George Isfendiar-oglu, had just died and was succeeded by his son, Lazarus, who soon followed his father. His widow, Helen, implored the assistance of the European powers, promising Servia to the Pope as a pledge; but Maro, a widow of Murad II. and daughter of George Isfendiar, as the rightful heir, demanded the

throne of Servia from Mohammed. He assigned Semendria to Maro, allowed Helen to leave the castle in safety, but carried its inhabitants into slavery, and thus Servia, in 1459, was annexed to the Ottoman Empire

Iskender Bey, prince of Albania, fought successfully against the Ottomans, and the Sultan, intending to conquer Greece, concluded a treaty of peace with him. Mohammed marched against Corinth and subdued it; after which he concluded a treaty with Demetrius and Thomas; and while advancing to Athens an insurrection broke out in the Peloponnesus, compelling his return. He reduced that entire region to subjection. Demetrius was sent to Adrianople, became a monk, and died in 1471. His wife and only daughter, twenty-two years of age, according to the historian Franzis (See Scarlato, p. 300), had been taken by Sultan Mohammed and placed in his Seraglio in June, 1460. Thomas fled to Rome, where he was kindly treated by Pope Pius II., who offered him a yearly sum for the support of his family. His daughter, Sophia, a princess of rare beauty and high culture, was married to Ivan III., Emperor of Russia. In the same year the greater part of Greece was conquered. Meanwhile the Sultan made preparations to take Trebizond on the Black Sea, which was under the authority of David Comnenus, a descendant of one of the Byzantine Emperors. A powerful fleet, under Grand Vizer Mahmoud Pasha, sailed to Sinope, while the army was under the command of the Sultan. Amassia, occupied by the Genoese, yielded at once, and many

of its inhabitants were sent to Constantinople. Sinope, held by the Turkomen, was also taken. Thence the Sultan proceeded to Trebizond King David Comnenus surrendered and was treacherously executed with his seven sons, his nephew and his brother Alexis. They were left unburied by order of the Sultan, but Queen Elene, the Katakouzene, during the night, took a pick axe, dug a grave and buried the bodies of her dead with her own hands. After a short time she also died of grief. Many inhabitants were tortured with all the cruelty that savage cunning could invent, and one-third of their number was conveyed to Constantinople. The Wallachian Dracoul Brad, hearing that Mohammed intended to declare war against him, proposed peace; but afterwards, by alliance with the Hungarians, transgressed the treaty. Sultan Mohammed despatched delegates requesting him to desist from his hostile designs, but Dracoul beheaded them. Immediately the Ottoman fleet went up the Danube, arrived at Vidin, disembarked the army of 150,000 men, spreading devastation over Braila and Kilia.

Dracoul attacked the Ottomans during the night, and rushing forward endeavored to enter the Sultan's tent, but was repulsed by the Janizaries and fled to Hungary, where he was imprisoned by Matheas Corvinus, son of Hunniades.

The Sultan subdued Wallachia and appointed as governor his beloved Cadul, brother of Dracoul, who in 1462 was assassinated by a servant. In 1463 the Sultan was engaged in three wars—the first with the Venetians, the second against the Princes of Caramania and the third with Bosna.

The Ottoman fleet, under Mahmoud Pasha, sailed against Mitylene. This island was presented by the Paleologus to a Genoese family called the Cataluzzo. Its ruler at that time was Nicolo Cataluzzo. The Sultan arrived at Adramiti, opposite Mitylene, to which he could easily cross. The bombardment against the fort of Mitylene lasted 27 days, the walls were destroyed and then the governor proposed to surrender, on condition that the Sultan would spare his life. The proposition was accepted, and Prince Nicolo, with his brother, was sent to Constantinople; but its inhabitants were treated with great inhumanity. The Sultan then turned his attention towards the Hellespont, where he erected two castles, one on the European the other on the Asiatic side. He also built on one of the seven hills of Constantinople the mosque bearing his name—Sultan Méhmed, or Fatih Djamessi. After this he marched against Prince Stephen, of Bosna, the ally of the Venetians, who, with his son, were taken prisoners; and thus Bosnia became a Turkish province. The Venetians, fearing the loss of their Eastern possessions, incited the Greeks of the Peloponnesus to revolt against the Ottoman power, and the hostilities which followed lasted sixteen years. In 1465 the Venetians laid siege to Mitylene, but without success, except to rescue some of the inhabitants and convey them to Euboea. In 1466 Caramania was annexed to the Ottoman Empire, and those among its inhabitants who were ingenious workmen were sent by the Sultan to Constantinople. Iskender Bey, however, at the termination of his three years'

treaty, began to disturb the Ottomans. Three different expeditions were sent against him, and once the Sultan took the field himself, with an army of 100,000 men, but without success. He was anxious to see the sword of Iskender Bey, sent for it, and perceiving that it was not remarkable either in appearance or workmanship, he returned it, saying, that he himself owned better swords. Iskenber Bey replied that the sword only had been sent, not the hand which wielded it. He was born in 1403 and died at Lisso in 1467, having been distinguished in seventeen successive battles. The Turks, believing him to be more than mortal, divided his bones among themselves and wore them as amulets.

Among superstitions of the Turks are the following: When one suffers from headache or erysipelas he consults an Emir (a descendant of Mohammed), who places his hand on the head of the patient and with his thumb rubs his forehead, reads a few verses of the Koran, and, in order to expel the evil spirit, blows three times on his forehead. Then a text of the Koran is written on a piece of paper, which is burned, and the sufferer inhales the smoke; or it is soaked in water, which he drinks; or it may be folded in a triangular shape and carried by him for several days. This is called Muska, or wrapped up paper.

A physician cannot enter the harem except in cases of serious illness; then he is called and accompanied to the bedside of the patient by an elderly woman or one of the eunuchs belonging to the palace. Whenever the women of the harem are vaccinated he is not allowed to see their faces, but a thin wooden partition is put up for that purpose and a hole cut in it, through which each one in turn passes her arm for treatment. The Turks also fear the "evil eye." Jugs placed around the edge of the roof, or an old shoe filled with garlic and blue beads are considered a guard against it.

Whenever a pretty child is met upon the street the passer will say: "Oh, what an ugly child," or will spit toward it three times for fear of inciting the evil spirit against it.

After the death of Iskender Bey the Sultan subdued Herzegovina and returned to Constantinople,

where he built Tchini-Kiosk, which is now used as a museum.

The Sultan, being continually troubled by the Venetians, resolved to conquer the island of Euboea, the center of the enemy's possessions in the Aegean Sea. The Admiral Mahmoud Pasha, with 300 vessels and 70,000 troops, proceeded to attack Euboea, while the Sultan, with his army encamped on the coast of Attica, opposite to the island. The Venetian Admiral Nicolo Kanali, fearing to enter the canal of Euboea with his 35 vessels, anchored at the Gulf of Saronicus, near Salamis; in the meantime the Ottomans bridged the strait with their vessels and landed on the island. Paolo Erizzo, its governor, and Louis Calvo, commander of the Venetian army, were men of great ability, but could do nothing as it was impossible to get any assistance by sea. Five fearful assaults were made by the Ottomans, with great loss on both sides, but they were successful in the sixth attack, and not one of its defenders survived. In 1470, its governor surrendered the Citadel on the condition of safety for the garrison, and for his own head. He discovered, however, that in the grant of immunity the savage spirit of the conqueror differed widely from its letter. His head was not touched, but his body was placed beneath the saw and he expired in torture. Mohammed threatened every soldier who spared a single person over twenty years of age, and the consequent slaughter was horrible; the governor's daughter, the fair young Anne Erizzo, was taken as a prisoner to the Sultan's tent; she refused dishonor and was killed by the slaves of

the angry tyrant. (See Creasy, p. 90.) Thus Euboea, the most important island of the Aegean Sea, submitted to the sceptre of Mohammed, and through this he conquered all the other islands, their inhabitants meeting with the same fate.

Soon after the Sultan marched against Ouzoun Hassan, subdued several ports, as well as Akserai, carrying its inhabitants to a quarter of Constantinople which has since been called Akserai. Ouzoun Hassan had been reared in the court of Tamerlane, trained from childhood in the art of war, and was proclaimed prince of the Turcoman race of the White Ram. In 1466 he destroyed the rival dominion of the Black Ram, subduing the province of Korassan, and followed this with a challenge to Sultan Mohammed.

The Turkomans are divided into the two races of the White Ram and the Black Ram, so-called from the symbols upon their flags.

Ouzoun Hassan attacked Tokat and captured it with great slaughter. In 1473, Sultan Mohammed and Ouzoun Hassan, with their respective armies, met in bloody combat near Sevastia; the Ottomans were defeated, and many of them were taken prisoners. Five months after this, the Sultan, at the head of a powerful army, defeated Ouzoun Hassan, who fled from the battle field with the loss of his son.

In 1475, the island Limnos, which was occupied by the Venetians, was attacked by Suleyman Pasha. It was saved by a heroic Greek maid, named Marula, who, seeing her father fall dead while fighting, and being animated by a spirit of revenge and the love of

liberty, took his sword and shield, rallied her countrymen around her and encouraged them to fight. They were successful in repelling the Ottomans, and Suleyman Pasha was obliged to raise the siege and to leave. The commander of the island, hearing of this, in gratitude for Marula's services, gave her in marriage to a Venetian officer of noble birth, and she was richly endowed from the public treasury.

In the same year the Roumelian governor, Suleyman Pasha, invaded Moldavia with 100,000 men, but was defeated. Meanwhile, the grand vizir, Ahmed Kedik Pasha, with a powerful fleet, sailed to the Black Sea and attacked Theodosia or Kaffa, a fortified town which surrendered in three days. The booty was of great value; of its inhabitants, 40,000 were transported to Constantinople, the most prominent being barbarously tortured and killed, and 1,500 selected Genoese youths were compelled to enter the corps of Janizaries. (See Creasy, p. 90.)

The Venetians endeavored to make a treaty with the Sultan, but he demanded that they should restore Croia, with other towns, and pay an annual tax of 10,000 ducats, but the delegate not having the authority to conclude it, departed without result; soon after, he returned and reported to the Sultan that the republic accepted his conditions. Mohammed replied that it was too late, and he demanded also the surrender of Scodra. Failing in this, the Sultan marched against Albania, subdued Croia, Lisso, and other forts, but did not succeed in capturing Scodra. On his return to Constantinople he found a Venetian delegate, awaiting him to complete a treaty, promis-

ing that Scodra with the other towns should be restored.

In 1479 the Ottoman army invaded Transylvania, with little result; in the meantime the Sultan captured Zante and Santa Maura; but their prince, Leonardo, had fled to the north of Italy, Ahmed Kedik Pasha sailed thither and subdued Otranto near Brindisi, after fourteen days' struggle. Its governor was sawed in two, many of the inhabitants were inhumanly massacred, and a great number of the youth of both sexes were taken to Constantinople.

An Ottoman fleet, consisting of over 100 vessels, under Messih Pasha, a Greek by birth, went in 1480, to besiege Rhodes, which was under the control of the Knights of John's regiment of Jerusalem, and after two months desperate resistance returned to the Hellespont.

It is a remarkable fact that the Sultans, who were so successful in extending the Ottoman power in all directions, were in almost every case the sons of Christian mothers.

In the spring of 1481, the Sultan prepared for an expedition against Egypt, but at Nicomedia, death put an end to his career of conquest and cruelty. He conquered, beside Constantinople and Trebizond, twelve kingdoms and two hundred towns. He swore that he would trample with his horse all the altars of Christ, and destroy the Christian religion. According to the Ottoman historians, Sultan Mohammed II., after the capture of Constantinople, turned twelve Christian churches into Mohammedan mosques.

The floors of the Mohammedan mosques are covered with Egyptian straw mattings and Turkish rugs, and the worshipper on entering is obliged to take off his shoes, but if he is of the better class, slippers are given to him by the papoutchis or shoe keepers.

He had three sons, Mustafa of Caramania, who died before his father; Bayezid, his successor, and Jem, who attempted to take the throne by force of arms. He spoke the Turkish, Slavonian and Greek languages fluently. According to the Ottoman historians, Sultan Mohammed was called a parrot on account of his hooked nose. He had the Tartar complexion, hollow eyes with a piercing expression, and masked his deceit with a polite manner. He was a man with no redeeming virtue, a vicious and sensual tyrant, possessing the perfidy which inflicted cruelty upon suffering humanity without the least remorse.

IX.

SULTAN BAYEZID II.

1481-1512.

Bayezid was at Amassia, when he was officially informed of his father's death. The Janizaries hearing of Mohammed's decease, revolted and killed the grand vizir, who wished to conceal it until the arrival of Bayezid.

Dispatches had also been sent to Prince Jem, of Caramania, but the messenger was slain on the way and Bayezid reached Constantinople first. On his arrival the chieftains of the Janizaries presented themselves to him, asked his pardon for their con-

duct, and for the customary distribution of the Bakshish ; both requests were granted.

The distribution of these Imperial gifts, on each accession to the throne, which had become burdensome to the treasury, was abolished by Abdul-Hamid I.

On his arrival, the corpse of his father, Mohammed II., was interred in the mosque built by him. Bayezid ascended the throne at the age of thirty-four. Isaac Pasha, a converted Albanian, was appointed grand vizir and at once took vigorous measures against Prince Jem, who had already collected an army, defeated Ayaz Pasha, captured Brusa and proclaimed himself Sultan. Soon after this proclamation he sent to his brother, Bayezid, demanding that the Empire should be divided into two parts, the Asiatic to be given to him. This was answered in the negative. The two brothers met on the battlefield, Jem was defeated and fled to Egypt, where he was kindly received ; from thence he visited the holy cities of Medina and Mecca.

Mecca is visited annually by Hadjis, or Pilgrims from all parts of Asia, for the Koran enjoins every Mussulman, if possible, to make this pilgrimage at least once in his life time. Women are not excluded from doing so but the law prescribes that they must be accompanied by their husbands, or a male relative.

Jem returned to Cairo, and in 1482, assisted by the Egyptian ruler, made another attempt to seize his ancestral throne, but was defeated and again sought safety in flight to Europe. He applied to Fra Pietro D'Aubusson, grand master of Rhodes, who received him with his suite, and transferred him to Charles VIII., of France ; thence he was sent to Italy, where he was afterwards poisoned by

Alexander Borgia, successor of Pope Innocent VIII. It was rumored that he received a bribe of 300,000 ducats from the Sultan for this infamous deed. A formal embassy was sent by Bayezid to ask for his remains, which were buried at Brusa. In 1481, Sultan Bayezid proclaimed war against Italy and Hungary with success. In 1483, the Sultan concluded a treaty of peace for five years with Mathias Corvinus, of Hungary, then crossed the Danube, entered Wallachia, where he was offered an annual tax and 20,000 soldiers. In 1485 Bayezid proceeded to carry out the wish of his father, Mohammed II., which was to conquer Egypt, but was unsuccessful and peace was concluded.

In 1492 the Czar Ivan III. sent a letter to Bayezid, and proposed diplomatic relations between the two empires; in 1495, the first Russian Envoy, Michael Pletschieff, came to Constantinople, asking the Sultan to give commercial privileges to the Russian merchants in the Ottoman Empire, but as Michael did not conform with the court usages of the Turks, he returned without result, and was succeeded by Alexios Golokvastov, who came to Constantinople, was received cordially by the Sultan and his request was granted. This is recorded as the first diplomatic relations between the Ottomans and the Russians.

The Imperial Ottoman Divan or Council assembled four times a week, on Monday, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, under the presidency of the Sultan; Friday was observed as a day of prayer, Wednesday and Thursday were days of rest. The army consisted at this time of 63,000 men, while the fleet of 260 galleys was ready to sail at any moment.

The peace between the Venetians and the Sultan was of short duration, on account of the many intrigues of other ambassadors to the Sublime Porte. In June, 1499, the Sultan, with Mustafa Beylerbey, of Roumeli, a Greek by birth, and an army of 150,000 left Constantinople to attack Lepanto, while the Admiral Daoud Pasha, proceeded with the fleet in the same direction. After a strong resistance Lepanto was taken. The Sultan returned to Constantinople, while the fleet wintered at Corinth.

The Venetians soon after subdued Cephalonia and Preveza, which belonged to the Ottomans. The European rulers were alarmed at the progress of the Ottoman power, and coalition was formed between Rome, Venice, France, Hungary and Spain for an attack. They besieged Mitylene for twenty days. The Sultan being enraged set Ersek Ahmed Pasha and Kemal Reis to defend the island; the admirals of the combined fleet not receiving the assistance of the knights of Rhodes in proper time raised the siege and left; on their way a fearful storm destroyed a greater part of the French vessels. Another French fleet, with the Venetian, subdued the island Maura.

In the same year a disastrous fire broke out at Galata, opposite Constantinople, during which the Sheikh-ul-Islam and the grand vizir were killed by the explosion of a gun-powder magazine; and Ali Pasha was appointed his successor. The Sultan wished to end the European wars, therefore concluded a treaty with the Venetians. Meanwhile an insurrection broke out in Caramania, which was

quelled by the ex-grand vizir, Messih Pasha. In 1509, Korkud, eldest son of the Sultan, under the pretext of visiting the cities of Mecca and Medina, went to Egypt, and although he was received courteously by its ruler, he was refused any assistance in revolting against his father, the Sultan. The prince having failed in his unfilial venture, implored the grand vizir to intercede with his father to restore him again to the throne of Kilikia, which was granted by Bayezid.

In September of the same year fearful earthquakes occurred in and about Constantinople, which did much damage to the city. Thousands of people were buried under the ruins. Earthquakes as destructive as this occurred in Constantinople in 416, 446, 477, 558, 741, 791, 869, 1011, 1286, 1344, 1509, 1766, 1802, 1855 and 1894. The Sultan renewed his treaties with Venice, Hungary and Poland; he distributed the provinces Caramania, Teké, Amassia and Trebizond respectively to his sons, Shahinshah, Korkud, Almed and Selim. After much intrigue the Sultan was compelled by his son Selim to abdicate, and on the 7th of May, 1512, the deposed monarch retired to Didimotico, to pass the rest of his life in quiet. He was succeeded by his unnatural son Selim, who, in June of the same year, caused his father to be poisoned. He had eight sons, five of whom died in their father's lifetime. Shahinshah, who left a son named Osman, who left three, Musa, Orchan and Emin, Mahommed and Abdullah. The three living sons were Selim, the eldest, and his successor, who had but one son named Suleyman; Prince Korkud,

who was childless, and Prince Ahmed, who had four sons, named Allahuddin, Murad, Suleyman and Osman, and seven daughters, several of whom were married.

Sultan Bayezid was mild and gentle in disposition, stout and of a robust constitution, with a hooked nose like that of his father, Mahommed II. He was called by some historians "Sofu," or wise, and was justly regarded as one of the wisest and most illustrious sovereigns of Turkey, being a patron of education and the sciences. He erected a mosque in Constantinople bearing his name, "Sultan Bayezid Djamessi," also a mosque in Adrianople, and other edifices. In addition to these, ten other Christian churches were changed by him into Mohammedan mosques. He was the son of Validé Giul-bahar-kadin, a French lady who was captured by pirates on the borders of Palestine, and, for her rare beauty, sent as a gift to Sultan Mohammed II. According to the historians, she was of the royal family of Bourbon. During her lifetime the French ambassadors were received with special favor at the Ottoman court. (Scarlato Byzantius, Vol. I, p. 133.)

X.

SULTAN SELIM I., YAVOUZ.

1512-1520.

Selim I., surnamed Yavouz, or the cruel, so called in consequence of his cruelties, was born in 1467. On his accession to the throne he tried to abolish the

custom of Bakshish to the Janizaries, but finally, in order to avoid disturbances, gave the presents on a larger scale. In consequence of this the inhabitants of the Empire, without any distinction, were heavily taxed. The Sultan appointed his brothers Ahmed and Korkud, governors of Amassia and Saruhan.



SULTAN SELIM I. YAVOUZ.

The Island of Mitylene was also assigned to the former. Subsequently Allah-ud-din, the son of Ahmed, was incited by his father to seize Brusa. This rash action angered the Sultan, who at once gave orders to his son Suleyman, that the Asiatic

coast should be closely guarded, so that none of the royal princes could escape. He crossed to Asia, and after quelling the revolt returned to Constantinople, where he deposed and strangled the grand vizir Mustafa Pasha, and in his stead appointed Ersek Ahmed Pasha. The next instance of the Sultan's barbarity was the execution of his brothers and nephews in a most atrocious manner, which occurred in November, 1512. These five unfortunate princes had been left in the care of some of the chiefs of Brusa. The eldest, Osman, son of Prince Allemshah, was twenty years old, and the youngest, Mahommed, son of Prince Shahinshah, was only seven. Janizaries was sent by the Sultan to take them to the palace and seclude them. The next day a fearful tragedy was enacted there, of which their uncle, Sultan Selim, from an adjoining apartment, was a cool and unmerciful spectator. He ordered his mutes to strangle them, and as they proceeded to carry out his infamous commands, the youngest of the captives, a mere child, fell upon his knees and piteously begged for his life. But his pleadings were of no avail with this monster of cruelty. The eldest of the victims, Prince Osman, who well knew that there was no hope for them, rushed upon the assassins and fought bravely. One of the mutes was killed by him, another had his arm broken. Selim then entered the room, to assist in this bloody deed. Finally they were overpowered, and bowed quietly to the fate which they were unable to avoid. They were strangled and their bodies were interred near the sepulchre of Murad II., in Brusa. (See Creasy, p.

130.) Prince Korkud, who at first had led a peaceful life, revolted against the Sultan, was compelled to flee with his faithful attendant, Piali, and took shelter in an obscure cave for twenty days. From thence he fled in disguise to a Teké or convent, where he prepared to escape to Europe; but some Turcomans, recognizing the harness of his horse, informed the governor, Kassim Bey, who sent him to the Sultan, in Brusa, where he was executed. Previous to his execution Prince Korkud begged for a short reprieve, during which he wrote a touching poem, which caused the impetuous Sultan to shed tears, but it was in vain. Selim also put to death the Turcomans who had guided the pursuers of Korkud to his hiding place, and who afterward came to Brusa to ask a reward for their services. After this event Prince Ahmed took up arms against the Sultan, but he was defeated near Yeni-Shehir, fell from his horse, was taken prisoner and executed.

The Sultan then visited the forts of the Hellespont, and proceeded as far as Athos, or Hagios Oros, so called for its number of Greek and Russian convents; thence went to Constantinople, where he received the envoys of Moldavia, Wallachia, Hungary, Venice, and of Egypt.

After this, the Emperor of Russia, Vasili, sent to the Sultan, desiring to renew their commercial treaties, requesting also the punishment of the Poles and Tartars, who were annoying the Russian frontiers. Selim consented to the former request, but refused to punish the invaders.

The Shah Ishmael, the Sefevi of Persia, who had protected the three sons of Ahmed, had not sent an envoy to Constantinople with congratulations to the new Sultan. For this reason Selim was angry, and decided to march against him. His son, Suleyman, governor of Magnesia, was called to take charge of the Empire. Then, after prayer at the mosque of Eyoub, he crossed to Scutari on the 7th of May, 1514, and arrived at Sivas with an army of 140,000. From thence the Ottoman army entered the valley of Chaldiran and met the Persian troops. The latter were totally defeated, after a brave resistance. The Shah was wounded, fell from his horse, and was only saved from instant death by the devotion of his follower, Mirza Ali, who exclaimed, "I am the Shah." Instantly the Shah was placed upon the horse of his attendant, Khizel, and fled to Daghestan, leaving his favorite harem an unwilling gift to the Sultan.

In September, 1514, the Sultan entered Tauris and massacred many of its inhabitants, selecting about 1,000 of the most skilful artisans to send to Constantinople; thence he marched northwards towards Carabagh, to winter on the plains of Azerbaijan, but the Janizaries revolted and compelled him to return. The grand vizir Mustafa, a Greek, sympathized with them. He was removed, and Teftedar Piri Pasha was appointed instead. On his return, the Sultan subdued Ezirguan, wintered at Amassia, and in the following August he returned to Constantinople, leaving in Asia the historian Idriz, and Beikli Mehmed to complete the conquest of Mesopotamia and Kurdistan. He gave orders to all the pashas to

collect a fleet of 500 vessels and to build an arsenal at their own expense. This order was instantly obeyed by them, under the supervision of Piri Pasha. This arsenal still exists on the same spot; it has since been enlarged, and contains all the modern improvements.

An anecdote is told of Piri Pasha after his appointment as grand vizir. Realizing that the Sultan at any moment might condemn him to death, he said to his sovereign, "I know that your Majesty, earlier or later, may put me to death, therefore I pray you to notify me a few hours before the execution, so that I can arrange my personal matters and prepare myself for the next world." The Sultan laughingly replied, "It is true that I thought of it long ago, but I cannot find a better man for the position you now hold, otherwise it would not be difficult to comply with your request." (Scarlotto, p. 397, Vol. II.)

The Ottoman generals, Beikli Mehmed and Idriz, the historian, had subdued many strong forts, also the city of Bagdad, with the greater part of Mesopotamia and Kurdistan.

The Kurds, the Turcomans and the Bedouins lead a nomadic life. They move their herds from place to place, attacking and robbing any unfortunate traveler or caravan whom they chance to meet. They pride themselves upon their fine horses and their fire-arms. The attire of a Kurdish chief in the field is a steel corselet for his breast, inlaid with gold and silver; a small wooden shield, studded with brass nails, hangs over his shoulder. His page, who is also mounted, carries his lance; a carabine is slung across his back; in his girdle he carries pistols and a dagger, a light scimitar hangs by his side. On the right side of the saddle is a small case, holding three darts; on the left of the saddle bow there is a mace, the most deadly of all his weapons.

Selim hearing of the alliance of the Sultan of Egypt and the Shah of Persia, resolved to declare war against them, and in September, 1516, they met on the field of Marj Dabik; after a short engagement, the Egyptians fled and their Sultan, Kansu-El-Ghuri, an old man, eighty years old died in his

flight. The Ottomans found many treasures on the deserted battlefield. Soon after the Sultan captured Aleppo, Damascus and Jerusalem. The last mentioned city was taken by the Romans 70 A. D.; by the Arabs in 637 A. D.; by the Crusaders, 1099; by the Turks, 1517, and they still possess it. The Mamelukes of Egypt assembled in Cairo, and elected a new Sultan, Tuman Bey, to whom Selim sent delegates proposing peace, on condition that he should acknowledge the Ottoman authority. The ruler of Egypt received the envoys cordially but rejected the proposition; afterwards his general, Alan Bey, beheaded them without the knowledge of his master, and thus war became inevitable. The grand vizir, Sinan Pasha, defeated the Egyptians near Gaza. In another engagement the Egyptians were totally defeated, and Cairo was captured after a stubborn resistance; nearly 50,000 of its inhabitants perished in the atrocious butchery which took place in the presence of Sultan Selim. After this the Egyptian army was dispersed, Tuman Bey was betrayed into the hands of Selim, and executed; thus Egypt was annexed to the Ottoman empire. Sultan Selim remained in Egypt for some time, where he received the title of Caliph, or vicar of the prophet of God, which was conferred upon him by Mohammed, the twelfth Caliph, and the last descendant of Abbas, uncle of Mohammed. He returned to Constantinople, organized a fleet for an expedition against Rhodes; but in September, 1520, on his way to Adrianople he died at Tchorlu from the effect of a pestilential boil on the spine. His death was

kept secret until the arrival of his son and successor, Prince Suleyman, from Magnesia.

Sultan Selim had only one son, but many daughters, nearly all of whom were married. He was tall in stature, and contrary to the custom of his predecessors, his chin was closely shaved, but he wore a long black mustache, which, with his heavy dark eyebrows, contributed to give him a very fierce aspect, impressing with awe all who saw him. His complexion was red, his eyes large and piercing, and instead of a cylindrical turban he wore a round one, called *Selimié*, imitating, as he said, the crown of the Persian King Hozroy. He was active and warlike, irritable and severe in disposition. His reign was one of almost ceaseless carnage, and according to the Turkish tradition, any one wishing the death of another, would say, "May you ever be the grand vizir of Sultan Selim." This was occasioned by the fact that almost every grand vizir in succession was beheaded a short time after his appointment. He was interred in the mosque bearing his name, *Selimiéh*, which was unfinished at the time of his death, and afterwards completed by his son Suleyman.

He threatened to kill all of his Christian subjects unless they embraced Islamism, which would have been carried into effect had it not been for the Greek Patriarch, assisted and advised by his friends the grand vizir Peri Pasha and the Sheikh-ul-Islam Djemali, who with great difficulty persuaded the Sultan not to do so. In return the Sultan took the church edifices which remained and turned them into mosques.

The Turks are addicted to heinous and brutal assaults and other outrages at any time the opportunity is presented. Their ideas of politics and of law are framed to suit the occasion, often with the greatest injustice. Whenever there are cases in court to be tried, witnesses can be readily hired in the coffee shops under the Ministry of Justice. These hired witnesses who make a business of their testimony, are well known in court, but for some reason that never destroys the character of their testimony. They have no patriotism and are easily bribed. Pride, self conceit, treachery and hostility to Christianity are the distinctive characteristics of all Turks. They are charitable to the poor, but they are false to their friends and ungrateful to their benefactors. A Turk cannot be found who will keep his word, when it will be to his interest to break it. Equality, either social or political, is unknown between the Turks and the Christians, for it is utterly at variance with all the teachings of Mohammedanism.

XI.

SULTAN SULEYMAN I., THE MAGNIFICENT.

1520-1566.

Suleyman I., surnamed by the Ottomans, Kanouni, or Law Giver; and by the Europeans the Magnificent, ascended the throne at the age of twenty-three. The funeral of his father, Sultan Selim, took place on his arrival, the coffin being carried by the Pashas on their shoulders.

The Turks hurry themselves only in the presence of death. After the corpse has received the necessary ablutions, it is quickly sent to the cemetery preceded by Mollahs who intone verses from the Koran, and followed by a number of people who crowd around to alternate in bearing the coffin on their shoulders, even for a moment. The corpse is always placed upon its side in the grave, so as to face Mecca and the East, and is hastily covered. Scutari and Eyoub are the two cemeteries where wealthy and pious Mussulmen are buried.

After his accession to the throne, he distributed the customary bakshish to the Janizaries, reducing it to one-third of the usual amount, and increased



Janizaries carrying a kettle of soup.

the compensation of his army. He returned the confiscated goods of the Persian merchants, and allowed them to remain for commercial purposes.

In 1521 hostilities commenced between Turkey and Hungary. The Sultan captured Szarvas, and also Belgrade, turning its cathedral into a mosque, and carrying a part of its inhabitants to a suburb of Constantinople which has since been named Belgrade. The Sultan returned in triumph to Constantinople, where three of his children, Mahmoud, Murad, and a daughter, died of small pox. After this, Suleyman resolved to capture Rhodes, which had belonged to the Knights of St. John for over two centuries.

In July, 1522, the Ottoman fleet went to attack Rhodes, the Sultan with an army of 100,000 troops went to the opposite coast. Previous to the expedition, however, he had sent a letter to the grand master of the order, Villiers-de-l'Isle-Adam, a venerable French knight, proposing to him to surrender the island, promising also security of life and property, but it was not accepted.

The Sultan landed there and the siege began on the 9th of August and lasted until January 2, 1523, with great loss on both sides. The brave knights, inspired by religious enthusiasm and assisted by the native Greeks, fought bravely, but finally being reduced to great extremity surrendered on condition that they should be allowed to leave in safety within twelve days, which was readily granted.

The Sultan returned to Constantinople in February, 1523, when he heard of the death of his son Abdullah and the birth of another called Mahmoud. In the same year the grand vizir, Piri Pasha, resigned, and Ibrahim Pasha, an intimate friend of the Sultan, was appointed his successor.

Ibrahim Pasha was the son of a Christian sailor at Parga, in Epirus. He was taken prisoner by the pirates in the sixteenth year of his age and sold to an Ottoman lady in Magnesia, who educated him; he was afterwards taken into the family of the young prince Suleyman, the governor, but through the intrigues of Mahpeiker, one of the Sultan's wives, he was beheaded in March, 1536, after fourteen years' service. Besides the Ottoman language he spoke the Greek, Persian and Italian fluently.

The appointment of Ibrahim Pasha to the office of grand vizir displeased Ahmed Pasha, who, having obtained the governorship of Egypt, caused himself, in January, 1524, to be proclaimed Sultan of that country. Suleyman being angered by the conduct of Ahmed Pasha marched against him, captured and executed him; Giuzeldjé Kassim Pasha was then appointed the governor of Egypt, for whom a village near the arsenal of Constantinople was named.

In June, 1524, the Sultan celebrated with great pomp the marriage of his sister to his beloved Grand Vizir Ibrahim. Another son, Selim, was born to the Sultan about this time. He went to spend the winter in Adrianople, but was compelled to return to Constantinople because of a revolt among the Janizaries, which was quelled. He marched against Persia, and sent a letter to the Shah Tamasp, son of the deceased Shah Ismael, insisting upon his submission. The Shah did not reply but implored the assistance of Hungary and Germany; this induced the Sultan to march first against these countries. With a powerful army he met the Hungarians on the 28th of August, 1526, near the valley Mohacz; the struggle was sanguinary and ruinous to the latter; the loss was great, over 20,000 were killed, among whom was their King, Louis II.

In September the Sultan entered the cities of Buda and Pesth without any resistance, where 100,000 Christians, men, women and little children were taken to Constantinople and sold in the Avrat-Bazaar, or the Turkish slave market, and after a life of tyranny and suffering they passed into the grave, far from home and kindred. (See Creasy, 165-166.) The treasures of the palace of Mathias Corvinus and its famous library were conveyed to the Seraglio in Constantinople.

In the year 1574, the famous library of Mathias Corvinus with his treasures as well as the priceless contents of the Seraglio were destroyed by fire. The present collection is much more recent, it includes robes of state decorated with gold and precious stones; maces, daggers, aigrettes, emeralds and gems of immense size; the keys of conquered cities; the sabre of Mohammed II., which is a short, straight blade of Damascus, having an inscription of Arabic letters in gold; a battered sword of iron, once used by the renowned Iskender Bey, and an enameled armlet of Tamerlane. Among the articles of great interest were the kettles, belonging to the Janizaries, which, when found turned bottom upwards while in use, was always a sign of revolt.

The Sultan then proclaimed John Zappolio governor of Buda Pesth, and returned to Constantinople, but in 1528 he marched again against Hungary, in consequence of the expulsion of Zappolio by Ferdinand, the King of Austria. Zappolio had sent an envoy to ask the assistance of the Porte, who returned with the verbal promise of help from the Sultan.

In May of the following year, Suleyman, with an army of 250,000 troops and 300 guns, arrived at Buda; on the way he met John Zappolio with his suite. The city after five days' resistance yielded, and the Turks for a few days luxuriated in their

own fashion, indulging in riots and brutal outrages. Finally Zappolio was officially proclaimed king.

The Sultan marched against Vienna, which was besieged for fifteen days; its brave garrison consisting of 20,000 men and seventy-two guns repulsed all the assaults of the Ottomans, and on the night of the 14th of October the besiegers were compelled to withdraw on account of severe cold and lack of provisions. Thus the Austrian capital was saved by the heroism and endurance of her defenders. During the siege of Vienna, the Turkish troops ravaged its suburbs, and the unfortunate inhabitants were driven from their homes, with great slaughter and the most horrible outrages to unprotected women, while the fairest children were taken into slavery. (See Creasy, p. 170.)

After this, the ancient crown of the Kings of Hungary, which the Ottomans had taken at Buda, was bestowed upon Zappolio by Suleyman.

In three months' time, an envoy was sent from Austria to Constantinople to demand a restoration of the subdued provinces from the Ottomans. A negative reply was given by the grand vizir, after which the army of Ferdinand attempted to retake Buda, but was unsuccessful.

The Sultan, inspired with the bigotry of Islam, on the principle that as there is but one God in heaven, therefore there should be but one power on earth, and that must be Suleyman himself. Consequently, the Sultans of Turkey have always considered the European rulers as regents acting under their control, and by their permission.

In May, 1532, the Sultan with a powerful army marched against Germany; but as Charles V. did not take the field against him, he plundered Styria and returned to Constantinople.

The fleet of Charles, under the command of Admiral Andrea Doria, attacked the coast of Peloponnesus, took Koron, Patras, and Naupactus, with other forts erected by Sultan Bayezid II.

Suleyman, wishing to march against Persia, complied with the demands of the delegates of Ferdinand, and concluded a five years' treaty of peace.

In October, 1533, the grand vizir went to Aleppo to winter there and subdued meanwhile several neighboring forts, among which was the strong fortress of Van, and then recaptured Tauris. After this, the Sultan crossed to Asia, arrived at Konieh, and then went through Tauris to Bagdad, with great difficulty on account of the bad roads, which were under the management of Tefterdar Scender Bey. He was reprimanded, lost his position, and in consequence of this, he and his father-in-law, Hussien Tchelebi, died from broken hearts, caused by the disgrace. Besides his treasures, he had 7,000 slaves, selected Christian youths, who had been torn from their parents. These were taken by Suleyman, guarded by his white eunuchs, educated by the Imperial government and trained for its service. Several of them afterwards arose to the rank of Pasha, one of whom was Mohammed Socoli, a Slavonian and the last grand vizir of Sultan Suleyman.

During the expedition against Persia, the Ottoman fleet of eighty-four vessels under Admiral

Haereddin Barbarossa, met near Tunis, that of Charles V., commanded by Andrea Doria consisting of 500 large and small galleys.

The Admiral Haereddin Barbarossa was a native of the island of Mitylene, and engaged in a number of piratical expeditions. He finally acquired the control of Algeria, and seeking a powerful protector, acknowledged the sovereignty of Sultan Selim, who invited him to Constantinople, and in 1539 he was appointed Admiral of the Ottoman navy and distinguished himself in many naval battles. He died in July, 1549, and was buried at Beshistash, leaving a large legacy to his son Hassen Bey, who succeeded him. He owned 2,000 Christian youths, 800 of which were presented to the Sultan, and 200 to the ex-grand vizir, Rustem Pasha, son-in-law of the Sultan. (See Scarlato, *Byzantium*, Vol. II., p. 96.)

The next spring Suleyman marched against Persia, while Haereddin, with a fleet of eighty-four vessels, sailed to the coast of Italy, attacked the towns of Reggio, Citraro, Sperlonga and Fondi; thence went to Tunis, of which Muley Hassan was the governor, and captured it.

Andrea Doria then attacked Tunis, defeated Haereddin, and with the assistance of Charles V., the Moorish prince, Muley Hassan, was again placed on the throne.

After the Sultan's return to Constantinople he concluded a commercial treaty with the King of France; this was the last official act of the grand vizir Ibrahim Pasha, who after his death was succeeded by Ayaz Pasha.

Ayaz Pasha, an Albanian captive, was an unlearned but a brave and active man. He died in July, 1539, leaving 125 children. He was converted to Islamism during his captivity, and had three brothers who were priests and lived with their mother at Avlona.

The Sultan, with Haereddin Pasha, attacked and captured Otranto, as well as other strong forts on

the Italian coast. After this the fleet sailed to Corfu, a Venetian possession, which was mercilessly ravaged during the admiral's stay of ten days, and many of its inhabitants were taken captives; nearly all the islands of the Aegean Sea were subsequently captured by Haereddin.

The combined Christian fleet, under the command of Doria, sailed near the Gulf of Prevesa; there Haereddin met them, and in September, 1538, a naval combat took place in which the latter was victorious.

In 1539 Constantinople was devastated by the plague, and soon after a large fire broke out by which much property was destroyed.

Twelve disastrous fires broke out during the years 1539, 1569, 1589, 1626, 1633, 1645, 1702, 1731, 1751, 1755, 1782, 1870, each of which consumed a large part of the capital, and many lives were lost. Few cities have suffered more from fire than Constantinople. There are two fire towers on the highest points on each side of the Golden Horn. One of these is an old Genoese fortification in Galata; the other is a Turkish structure in Stamboul, rather effective than otherwise, as it stands several hundred feet above the water. In the galleries of these towers watchmen walk day and night, field glass in hand. On the discovery of a fire in the daytime a red ball is hoisted from a flag staff; at night it is a red lantern, and guns are fired from a battery on the hill of Candilly on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. Nobetchis, or runners, dressed in red shirts, holding spears, are sent throughout the city and its suburbs and give the alarm to all the police stations, where the Begtchis, or district watchmen, learn the location of the fire and call attention to it by beating on the pavement with iron shod staves and call out "*Yangun Vaar Stambolda,*" or "*There is a fire in Stamboul.*" As soon as the alarm is given the fire engines are taken to the scene of action, but they are of little use for they are only three feet square, small enough to be carried on the shoulders of firemen, who rush furiously through the narrow streets stripped to the waist and screaming like maniacs. The firemen receive no pay excepting a bakshish at the New Year from the inhabitants of the village to which they belong, and are allowed to have certain other privileges.

The grand vizir and the pashas are required to be present at all large fires in Constantinople in order to encourage the firemen and superintend their work in extinguishing the conflagration. The announcement of the fire is made to the Sultan after he has retired into his harem in this manner: As soon as the news reaches the palace, a young Odalisque to whom the duty has been assigned, will array herself in a scarlet robe which covers the entire figure, with a turban of the same color. She will then go to his room, and, entering it, stands before his Majesty without uttering a word, for the scarlet costume is a sufficient explanation of her appearance there. The Sultan is thus apprised of the situation and ascertains at once the location of the fire.

A war against Hungary and Austria had commenced for the following reasons: Louis Gritti had received the crown of Hungary from the Sultan through the influence of John Zappolio, who afterwards assassinated him, but the murder was attributed to Ferdinand of Austria. He sent delegates to the Sultan asking to have the treaty carried out and the restoration of the dowry of Queen Máry, but the grand vizir replied that the death of Gritti had released the Sultan from any obligation in the matter. A secret alliance had been concluded between Ferdinand and Zappolio, which enraged the Sultan greatly. In the meantime Zappolio had died and Ferdinand applied to the Sultan for the crown of Hungary, but the Sultan had acknowledged John, the infant son of Isabella, the young widow of Zappolio, as the heir. Ferdinand besieged Buda, and Isabella implored the Sultan's assistance, who instantly prepared to attack him. Meanwhile the sanguinary war between Charles V. of Germany and Francis of France still continued. Francis asked the Sultan to help him and the Admiral Haereddin was ordered to do so, while the Sultan, with his army,

arrived at Buda. The infant son of Queen Isabella, only one year old, was presented to the Sultan, who promised to restore Buda when he should attain his majority. He then appointed an Ottoman governor there.

Haereddin Pasha went to aid Francis I., sailed to Messina, subdued it, thence to Marseilles, where he was received with great honors. The Ottoman fleet of 150 vessels was combined with that of France, forty in number, and attacked Nice, which soon surrendered.

In this epoch there were two distinguished Ottomans, Mehmed Pasha Socoli, afterwards grand vizir; and Ebousououd, who for thirty years was the Sheikh-ul-Islam.

In 1550 the Sultan laid the foundation of the magnificent mosque bearing his name—Suleymanie—which is still standing.

The mosque of Sultan Suleyman I. was constructed in 1550-1556 out of the debris of the church of St. Euphemia of Calsedon (modern Kadikeui), by Sinan, a famous Turkish architect. Suleyman himself from time to time worked with the laborers in order to excite their zeal. This mosque is the most splendid and important one of Stamboul. In the cemetery behind the mosque is the magnificent tomb of Sultan Suleyman; in this mausoleum are three large coffins covered with beautiful and costly shawls upon which were placed the turban and crest of each inmate. These coffins contain respectively, the remains of the founder of the mosque, Suleyman I., who died in 1556; Suleyman II., surnamed the "Stupid," who was a prisoner of state for forty-five years, and died in 1691; and Ahmed II., in 1695.

The hostilities with Hungary lasted until 1553, during which time the Ottomans captured the forts of Szegedin, Temesvar, Lipsa, Zolnok and others. Erlau resisted bravely for five months, when the Ottomans

raised the siege. Meanwhile the Shah of Persia marched against Scender Pasha, Commander of Erzeroum, but was defeated. The Sultan resolved to march in person against Persia.

The Shah Tamasp hearing of it, sent delegates to propose peace, but they were unsuccessful.

In August, 1553, the Sultan crossed to Asia, and arrived at Eregli; where his son, Mustafa, came to kiss his father's mantle. Through the intrigues of his step-mother, Hurem Sultana or Roxelana, and her son-in-law, the grand vizir Rustem Pasha, Suleyman was persuaded that his son, Mustafa, had plotted against him, and the unfortunate young man was strangled in his father's presence. The grief of the army on the death of the prince was very great, and his body was sent to Brusa for interment.

Roxelana, the renowned Sultana, whose Turkish name was Hurem, was the daughter of a Russian priest. She was carried into slavery while young, and became the wife of Suleyman the Magnificent. She was a charming and an accomplished, but unscrupulous woman, and in her influence over her aged husband, proved herself to be the power behind the throne (Creasy, p. 182).

In 1555 Mohammed Socoli was sent to quell a revolt in Macedonia. An imposter had assumed the name and title of the deceased prince, Mustafa, and had collected 20,000 followers; they were dispersed and their leader was beheaded.

The most memorable event at sea was the destruction of the Spanish Armada, and of the army near Tripoli. After the defeat Admiral Piali Pasha sailed with many eminent Spanish prisoners and the captured Spanish vessels to Constantinople. The Sultan resolved to attack Malta, and sent Piali, in April,

1565, with a fleet of 140 vessels carrying 30,000 land forces. The siege lasted about three months, with great loss on both sides. The Admiral Korkud was killed by a stone bullet at the first assault. The Europeans, consisting of 10,000 men and the grand master Valetta, resisted bravely, and the Ottomans were obliged to raise the siege, and returned to Constantinople. The merit of the defence belongs entirely to La Valetta, after whom a town in Malta was named. The island belonged to the Knights of St. John, afterwards called the Knights of Malta, to whom it was given in 1530, by Charles V., on their expulsion from Rhodes by the Turks. The French took it in 1798, but it was recaptured by the English in 1800.

The Ottoman Empire had several naval commanders of skill and renown, all of whom, strange to say, were of Christian birth. They were Haereddin Barbarossa, his son Hassan; Piali Pasha; Sinan Pasha; Korkud; Salih Reis; Kemal Reis; Piri Reis and Sidi Ali.

Ferdinand I. died and was succeeded by Maximilian, who refused the annual poll tax to the Sublime Porte, unless he could get possession of the port Zathmar. Finally the taxes were paid, and peace would have been concluded, but the death of the grand vizir, Ali Pasha, intervened, and his successor, Mohammed Socoli, rejected the proposition of Maximilian and declared war against Hungary in January, 1566.

On the 27th of June of the same year, the Sultan went to Semlin, celebrated there the festival of



1

2

3

1. Yol Hasseki or Street Inspector.
2. Tchohadar or Chief of the Pages.
3. Beuluk Aghassi or Chief of the Police.

Bairam and received cordially John, the son of King Zappolio, to whom twenty-five years before he had promised the paternal crown of Hungary. The Sultan then went to besiege the fort Erlau, which had successfully resisted, but hearing of the defeat of the Ottoman regiment at fort Szigeth, by Nicholas Zrinyi, he changed his plans, besieged it, and after fourteen days, Zrinyi offered to surrender if he might be allowed to retain Croatia, but this the Sultan refused to do.

On the 5th of September, 1566, the Janizaries assaulted the ramparts of the fort, and on the same night the Sultan died in his tent from old age. His death was kept secret until the arrival of Selim, his son and successor, from Kutahia. Three days after Zrinyi made his final rally, but fell dead, being pierced by two musket balls, and the Turks triumphantly entered Szigeth, but the explosion of a mine sent 20,000 of their number into the next world.

Sultan Suleyman revised the legal code of his country; he was a fine linguist, an eminent poet, and a good mathematician. In 1554, the use of Cahveh, or coffee, and coffee shops were introduced into Constantinople.

The café or coffee shop, is emphatically an Oriental institution; it is also a barber shop, with benches inside, which are covered with carpet or straw matting. In one corner there is a hearth, on which fire is continually kept, where the Cafedji or coffeeman prepares the coffee in an individual copper or brass pot, for every customer after he comes in. On the walls are shelves, upon which stand the nargheles or hubble-bubble, with their long markoutch, or flexible tubes, made expressly to use with them, and the tchiboucks, or long pipes. Razors are also placed upon nails in the walls, as well as brass and copper basins, in which the barber lathers the head of his customers before shaving them or clipping their hair. At the door there is a tchekmedjé or till, having a slit in the top into which the customer drops his fee as he leaves the place.

XII.

SULTAN SELIM II.

1566-1574.

After the death of Sultan Suleyman, a messenger was sent from Transylvania by the grand vizir Mohammed Socoli to Prince Selim, who left at once for Constantinople and was girded with the sword of Osman. He then went to Belgrade to meet the grand vizir who was returning from Transylvania with the corpse of Sultan Suleyman; Selim accompanied the army to the capital, where he was joyfully received and distributed the customary presents to the Janizaries. In 1568 a treaty was concluded between Maximilian and the Sultan, on condition that both parties should retain possession of what they already held.

In 1569, Joseph Nassy, a wealthy Portuguese Jew, succeeded in winning the confidence of Sultan Selim, partly by association in debauchery, and afterwards by apostacy, first from Judaism, and then from Christianity to Islamism, and induced him to attack the island of Cyprus in the hope that he might be appointed governor; his claim was also supported by Lala Mustafa Pasha, and the admiral Piali, a Hungarian renegade. Sultan Selim obtained from Sheikh-ul-Islam Ebousououd a Fetva or formal decision, authorizing him to do so. A year after, Selim

dispatched a messenger to the governor of Cyprus, Nicolo Dandolo, demanding the surrender of the island, but was answered in the negative. On the 1st of July, 1570, Mustafa Pasha arrived at the port of Limisso, and with an army of 55,000 attacked first, Nicossia; its governor, with his small garrison of 8,000 troops, bravely resisted; finally, however, he, with Cantareus, the Bishop of Pathos, and some of the nobles, gathered in the court of the palace, which they held until they received a promise of safety from the enemy. But as soon as they surrendered, the perfidious Turks commenced a general massacre of both sexes. Many pitiful deaths occurred, among them that of a woman of a noble family, who, learning of the death of her husband and three sons, hastened to her own home, and after embracing her only remaining child stabbed him to the heart, then used the weapon upon herself, thus saving both from the barbarity of the victors. Many of the survivors were taken into slavery, two hundred of whom, comprising the choicest youths, were placed on a vessel to be sent as a present to the Sultan at Constantinople. One of their number, a girl of noble family, succeeded in firing the gun powder magazine, thus saving herself and her companions from the dishonor of the Seraglio. (See History of Cyprus by B. Hamilton Lang, late H. M. Consul for the Island of Cyprus.) The allied Christian fleet, entirely ignorant of the Turkish victory in Cyprus, was anchored in the harbor of Candia, and when the intelligence was received by its leaders, they concluded to disband, each returning to his own country.

Early in 1571, Mustafa Pasha left Nicossia, and went to attack Famagosta. This place was defended not only by the troops, but also by the citizens, as well as by the Cypriote women of noble birth, who showed great heroism. At last it became clearly impossible to resist, from the scarcity of food and ammunition, and Bragadino, their commander, unwillingly surrendered.

On the 5th of August, Marco Antonio Bragadino, in official dress, accompanied by his officers and some noble Greeks, escorted by a guard of fifty soldiers rode to the lines, to deliver the keys of the city, and having given up their arms, according to the oriental custom, were received in the Pasha's tent with due honors. Mustafa Pasha, with all the deceit, cunning and dissimulation of his nationality, treated them most courteously, at length turning abruptly to Bragadino, he asked what security he intended to offer for the proper fulfillment of his part of the treaty. To this, Bragadino replied that no mention of security had been made in the capitulation. Mustafa saw in his suite a young Venetian, Antonio Quirini, of noble birth and fine appearance, and demanded his surrender as a hostage, which was refused by Bragadino. Instantly the Turkish general flew into a violent rage, and as a pretext accused them of having put to death all the Mussulmen taken prisoners during the seige, then at a sign to his eunuchs, they seized all the officers and strangled them outside the tent in the presence of the Pasha; this outrage was followed by the slaughter of all the escort. The next day the Ottomans entered Fama-

gosta, put to death the officers in command, and a general butchery of the unfortunate inhabitants took place, while others were carried into slavery. It is also said that many of the noble Venetian families were destroyed by being placed in vessels which were then scuttled. For Bragadino, a more terrible fate was reserved; after witnessing the death of his officers, his ears were cut off, and for ten days he was humiliated and tortured with a refinement of cruelty, which almost surpasses belief; finally he was led out to the large square of Famagosta, and slowly flayed alive, while from an adjoining height, Mustafa watched the dying agonies of his illustrious victim. The skin of their martyred relative was afterwards purchased by his family at a high price.

The particulars of Mustafa's treachery were reported by an eye witness of undoubted veracity. The Conte Hercole Martenengo, a member of Bragadino's suite, when dragged to execution, owed his life to the intervention of one of the eunuchs, who concealed him, afterwards accepted a ransom for his prisoner, and in the end he escaped. (See Smedley's *Venetian History*, Vol. II, p. 217.) Thus, the island of Cyprus was captured by the Turks at a cost of thousands of lives. Before the close of 1570, the Venetian senate attempted to treat with the Sultan, and the King of Spain, being alarmed by this movement, closed his negotiations with the Pope and Venice. By this alliance, a large army and a fleet were prepared for action; in the meantime the Turkish admiral had laid waste the islands between the Morea and the Dalmatian coast, and insulted

Venice in her own seas, but fearing that a longer stay there might cause his blockade by the allied vessels, he sailed for the Morea. It was not until the end of August, that the allies were ready for action, and had assembled at Messina. The command was given by Philip II., to his half brother, Don John of Austria, and who, though not yet twenty years of age, had already manifested those sterling qualities which were to rank him with the great naval commanders of his time.

Tidings were received of the arrival of the Turkish fleet under Ali Hassan Pasha, son of Barbarosa, in the neighboring gulf of Lepanto. As soon as it came in sight, Don John displayed immediately at his mast head the standard of the League, as a signal for battle, and ordering his shallop, went from galley to galley, urging upon all his followers to be brave in action, and loyal to their flag. The battle was long and obstinate; until Ali was killed with a musket shot, and his crew then threw down their arms. His head was severed from the body, set upon the point of a spear which Don John had in his hand, and finally mounted on the top of his mast. This horrible trophy was recognized at once, and terrified the entire Turkish fleet, which being without a leader surrendered. The allied fleet lost about 8,000 men, and the Turkish loss was over 25,000. Their rout was complete, many were taken prisoners, among whom were the two sons of Ali; 12,000 Christian slaves employed as rowers and fastened to the sides of the oars were released, and over one hundred war vessels were captured, many were

abandoned and about eighty were sunk during this terrible naval engagement. Ulutch Ali Pasha, governor of Algeria, with a few galleys escaped and arrived at Constantinople, where he was raised to the rank of Capedan Pasha by the Sultan, and was surnamed Kilitch or Sword.

In the following year, John, the Son of Charles V., sailed with the Spanish fleet and subdued Tunis, which greatly enraged the grand vizir, who in May, 1574, with the newly constructed fleet, consisting of 250 vessels under the admiral Kilitch Ali and Sinan Pasha, sailed to the African coast. After three days' siege, Tunis was captured, many Spaniards were taken prisoners, in addition to which the Turks seized 200 guns and 33 standards; thus, Tunis, Algeria, and Tripoli, became provinces of the Ottoman dominion.

In the latter part of Sultan Selim's reign he was greatly afflicted by the death of his second son, followed by that of the Sheikh-ul-Islam Ebousououd. Soon after this the Sultan had an attack of apoplexy, and died on the 4th of October, 1574, after eleven days' illness. He was born in 1524, and ascended the throne at the age of forty-two, and in consequence of his habits was surnamed Selim, the Sot. He was interred at the west circuit of St. Sophia, after a career of treachery, gross injustice and cruelty. He left seven sons, Murad, his successor; Mehmed, Suleyman, Mustafa, Tchihanguir, Abdullah, Osman, and three daughters.

At one time the Greek Easter—old style—and the Bairam, or Candy Easter of the Turks, happened to fall on the same day.

The grand vizir held a council, then sent for the Greek Patriarch, and told him the state of the case, insisting that a change must be made in the date of Easter. The Patriarch, as is generally the case, was a highly cultured man, and replied by asking the grand vizir to send to the nearest Greek school and request the presence of three boys, five years of age, then to question them. He readily complied, and at the suggestion of the Patriarch, asked the little ones, through an interpreter, when their Easter came. They quickly replied, "To-morrow will be Good Friday, and next Sunday will be Easter." "Are you sure?" "Yes, sir, very sure, for Easter is always the Sunday after Good Friday," they replied. After this the Patriarch asked the grand vizir to send for three Turkish boys of the same age, then questioned them himself in Turkish as to when their Bairam came. "We do not know," was their reply, "until we hear the report of the guns." On hearing this the grand vizir stroked his beard complacently, and turning to the other Pashas, said: "*We* must make the change. The Ghivours (Christians) are more sure of the date of their Easter than we, it will be necessary to postpone our Bairam until the next day." The Turks always celebrate the Bairam at the advent of the new moon, after Ramazan, or Lent. Three watchmen are selected from Sheikh-ul-Islamat to report the advent of the new moon, which is watched for from the highest hill in the suburbs of Constantinople. At the first glimpse they run, under high pressure, to Stamboul, and report to the judge appointed for that purpose, who rewards them. Early the following morning the firing of the cannons announce the dawn of Bairam. If it proves to be so cloudy that the new moon cannot be seen, this important watch takes place on the next night.

XIII.

SULTAN MURAD III.

1574-1595.

Murad, governor of Magnesia, received the announcement of his father's death, and reached Constantinople on the 21st of December, 1574. He was twenty-eight years of age, of medium height, pale and thin, with black eyes, thick eyebrows, and a light beard reaching below his breast. On his arrival, he ordered his five brothers to be executed.

His father's corpse was royally interred in the environs of St. Sophia, with those of his five brothers. On the 2d of January, 1575, he ascended the throne with the usual ceremonies.

Hostilities soon commenced between Hungary and the Sublime Porte, and lasted for a long period. In 1579 commercial treaties were concluded with France, Switzerland, Spain and England, whose queen, Elisabeth, as a stranger to Turkey, sent three English merchants, William Harebone, Edward Ellis and Richard Stapel, to Constantinople.

The pirates of Algeria, Tunis and Tripoli, paid heavy taxes to the Sublime Porte, and disturbed the European coasts, principally those of Italy, Spain and Portugal. The governor of Tripoli was asked by the sheriff of Fez to assist him against his rival, whose claims were supported by the Portugese, and as the sheriff of Fez died soon after, his successor became subject to the Sultan. In the same year Constantinople was visited by a plague, which carried off hundreds of its inhabitants, among the victims were Admiral Piali; Sheikh-ul-Islam Hamid; Sultana Mermah; an aunt of the Sultan, as well as his sister.

In October of the same year, while the grand vizir Mohammed Socoli was presiding in the council, a man disguised as a Dervish approached him to present a petition, and as he did so, stabbed him mortally; the murderer, a Bosnian, was condemned to death. The grand vizir was succeeded by Sinan Pasha, an Albanian, who disliked the Austrians, and in the divan asked their Ambassador

Pezzen, who had given authority to the King of Austria to appoint a common clerk as his representative. "My Sovereign," he replied, "is as free to appoint a clerk to be his Ambassador as the Sultan is to make a swinehead his grand vizir." Sinan Pasha turned to the other Pashas, and said, "I am paid in a good coin by this ghiaour or infidel." (See Scarlato, Vol. II, p. 415.)

The grand vizir, like many others of his race, hated the Christians, and did everything in his power to insult and annoy them. At one time he invited the Greek patriarch to dine with a number of high Turkish officials at his house. The patriarch accepted the invitation, and as he entered the parlor of his Mohammedan host found that the wily Turk had placed a number of small wooden crosses on the floor. He stooped, took one up, in his hand and reverently kissed it, then walked over the others on his way across the room. The grand vizir mockingly asked him, How is it that you, a Christian, tread on the emblem of your faith? The patriarch held up his cross and said, "There is but one Cross in which we believe, and the one that I hold in my hand at this moment represents it."

Shah Tamasp died, and was succeeded by his son, Haidar, but on account of the intrigues and revolts in different provinces, the new Shah was killed, and was succeeded by his brother, Ismael, who was also killed after a reign of eighteen months. This was a pretext for a war between Turkey and Persia, which continued several years; during this time Georgia, the ally of Persia, was subdued by Osman Pasha, surnamed Ozdemir, or the iron nerves.

The Georgians are a handsome race, the women, although of darker complexion, rival those of Circassia. The inhabitants are principally Christians, belonging to the Greek and Armenian churches.

In 1583 Queen Elizabeth appointed William Harebone Ambassador to Constantinople, who in 1587

presented a letter to the Sultan, in which he was implored to assist in maritime warfare against Spain.

In the meantime, the circumcision of the Prince Mohammed, eldest son of the Sultan, took place; the ceremonies were celebrated near the mosque of Sultan Ahmed, and lasted over a month, the illuminations and fire-works were exceedingly fine. All the foreign rulers were invited, and sent representatives with valuable gifts.

Prince Mohammed, already sixteen years of age, was soon after married, and was appointed governor of Magnesia.

The grand vizir Ozdemir died during his expedition to Persia; he was succeeded by Messih Pasha and afterwards by Sinan Pasha Kiyalizadé. He was a Genoese, son of Count Cicala, a descendant of the noble family of Doria, and while a boy was taken as a slave at the battle of Djerbé, in Africa, and kept in the Seraglio. Twice he was appointed admiral and married successively the two grand-daughters of Sultan Suleyman, and finally went with his fleet to Messina, to look for his mother and brother Charles; the latter was found and returned with him to Constantinople.

There was nominal peace between the Sublime Porte, Austria and Poland, still the hostilities between them continued in a measure, caused by the vacant throne of Poland. The Turks invaded Persia again, and in 1590 peace, advantageous to Turkey, was concluded through Hamza Mirza, the son of the Shah, who went to Constantinople for this purpose, accompanied by four generals and a thousand attend

ants. By this treaty, Georgia, Shirvan, Azerbizan, Loristan and Tauris were annexed to Turkey.

The Sultan, while in Constantinople, organized a fleet and appointed successively three grand vizirs, the last of whom was Sinan Pasha, who afterward erected Yali-Kiosk on the Seraglio point. In 1593 the Sultan declared war against Austria, but without much result, and in November, 1594, the sacred standard of the prophet (Sandjak-Sheriff), which was kept in Damascus, was conveyed with great pomp to Constantinople and sent to the grand vizir in Hungary, in order to animate the Ottoman army. The Sultan, being indisposed, was a guest at the residence of Sinan Pasha at Yali-Kiosk, on the Seraglio point; two Egyptian vessels entered the harbor and fired a salute; the concussion caused by it shattered the glazed dome of that house; he considered this an evil omen, became very melancholy, expired that night and was interred by the side of his father, Selim II.

Sultan Murad III. was born in 1546; he had a large number of wives, forty of whom were Hassekis or mothers of sons, but his most beloved was his first wife, Safié or neat, the descendant of a noble Venetian family of Baffo, who was taken as a slave by the Turkish pirates while going from Venice to Cercyra, of which her father was governor, conveyed to Constantinople and on account of her exquisite beauty was taken into Sultan Murad's harem, where she exercised a strong influence. He had 102 children, of whom only 20 sons and 27 daughters were living at the time of his death; all of the sons were killed

by their brother, Mohammed III., twenty hours after his arrival in Constantinople, and were interred near their father; 17 daughters died with the plague, and the rest were married. Sultan Murad was succeeded by his son, Mohammed III.

On the accession of a Sultan the majority of the women in the harem of his predecessor are unceremoniously drowned. This is done by fastening heavy stones to their necks, placing them into a large wooden chute—made and used for that purpose—through which the unfortunate creatures are thrown at night into the Bosphorus from the Seraglio Point where the current is very strong and the water deep. The authority of the mother of the Sultan is absolute in the harem, extending even to the power of life and death of those beneath her in rank. Unhappy is the one who may chance to offend her. Her sway is as despotic as that of her son in the world outside.

XIV.

SULTAN MOHAMMED III.

1595–1603.

The death of Murad was kept secret until his son received the tidings. He left Magnesia and arrived at Constantinople on the 3d of January, 1595. On his accession to the throne, he ordered his nineteen brothers to be strangled, so that they might not attempt to rob him of his power; he exiled Sinan Pasha and appointed as grand vizir Ferhat Pasha, an Albanian, who was sent against Moldavia and Wallachia, and proclaimed them provinces of the Ottoman dominion. After this he was assassinated; Sinan Pasha was re-appointed grand vizir and attempted to quell an insurrection in Wallachia, but

was unsuccessful; he was removed from office and Lala Mustafa was appointed in his stead, who died in three days after. Again, Sinan Pasha was recalled, and was made grand vizir for the fifth time

Sultan Mohammed, being angered by the misfortune of the Ottoman army, resolved to march in person against Wallachia and Hungary. Meanwhile Sinan Pasha had died and left an immense fortune; he was succeeded by Ibrahim Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law.

In the following June, the Sultan, accompanied by the grand vizir, marched against Hungary, crossed the Danube, and encamped near the Fort Erlau, which had been captured by the Hungarians. This fort after a short siege surrendered; but in October of the same year, the armies of Austria and Poland fought against the Ottomans near the town of Keresztes; they were successful in two battles, but lost the third. During this period, three grand vizirs in succession, had been in office.

The majority of the grand vizirs have been of Christian descent, taken as slaves while young, kept in a part of the Seraglios set aside for them and guarded by white eunuchs. Here they were trained and promoted from one rank to another, until they reached the highest in the Empire. In addition to these, the Sultans of Turkey for many years past have been in the habit of disguising themselves and visiting different quarters of Constantinople to learn the condition of things among the inhabitants, and if they chanced to meet any youths whom they considered suitable for the palace, they were quietly seized, confined and converted to Mohammedanism. This custom lasted until the reign of Abdul Medjid, the father of the reigning Sultan Abdul Hamid II.

In 1600, Kara Yazidji, or the black scribe, a military leader in Asia Minor, assisted by his brother Deli Hussein, the governor of Bagdad, formed an

army of Kurds and Turkomans, revolted against the Sultan and defeated the Ottoman armies.

While all this was taking place in Asia, the Ottoman fleet under the command of Kiyalizade, ravaged the coast of Italy and defeated the Spanish and Italian fleets, which had tried to subdue the coasts of Algeria and Tunis.

Abbas, the Shah of Persia, violated in 1602 the treaty of peace, by retaking Tauris and the other forts. As soon as the tidings reached Constantinople, preparations were made for another expedition against Persia, but the Sultan died from plague, on the 22d of December, 1603, and was succeeded by his son Ahmed.

Sultan Mohammed III. was born in 1566, his mother belonging to the noble Venetian family of Baffo. Mohammed left five sons, Ahmed I.; Mustáfa I.; Selim, who died before his father; Mahmoud, who, through intrigue, was beheaded by his father's orders; Djihanguir, who died in infancy, and three daughters.

XV.

SULTAN AHMED I.

1603-1617.

Ahmed I. succeeded to the throne at the age of fourteen years. Nineteen days after his accession to the throne, he was circumcised at the house of the grand vizir; afterwards he became seriously ill with small pox, but finally recovered.

In 1605 two sons, Osman and Mohammed, were born to the Sultan, then only sixteen years old.

In 1606, a treaty of peace was renewed with Hungary and Silvatorok. Holland and Belgium also concluded commercial treaties with the Sublime Porte, the Dutch merchants being in this way able to introduce the use of tobacco into the Ottoman Empire.

During this time Murad Pasha, surnamed Kuyudji, or "Well Digger," was appointed grand vizir. He marched into Asia, attacked Aleppo and Bagdad, and threw hundreds of their inhabitants alive into deep wells that were dug for that purpose. One instance of his cruelty is given: A number of the insurgents had been thrown into a well, among them was found a boy, whom he ordered to share the same fate. No one was willing to carry out this order, therefore the inexorable old man snatched the boy, strangled him with his own hands, then threw him into the well; apologizing for this deed, by saying that all of the insurgent leaders were boys before they became men. (See Scarlato.)

In 1609, the foundation of the mosque of Sultan Ahmed was laid on the plain of the Hippodrome; it still exists and bears his name.

This edifice was built in 1610 by Sultan Ahmed I.; it is the only mosque which is flanked with six minarets or tall spires. Many of the antique remains of the Hippodrome were used in its erection, and after St. Sophia, it is the principal place of worship in Constantinople; here the feasts of the Mussulmen are attended with Oriental impressiveness. Almost all the mosques of Turkey are supported by "Vacouf revenues" or mosque property. These Vacouf lands are acquired in this way:

If a citizen of Turkey dies leaving no male heirs, his property is given to the mosques. There are other lands comprising nearly

one-third of the Empire called "Mulk," which in case of death are transferred to any relatives, male or female, of the deceased owner. By means of the *Vacouf*, a large number of lazy, sensual, fanatical and rascally vagabonds called *Softas* are maintained; these men are so numerous as to constitute a dangerous element in society, naturally opposed to every sign of progress, and act as a check on any impulse toward reform. These *Softas*, generally the sons of peasants, come to Constantinople from different parts of the country, and enter themselves as students of law and divinity, in the principal mosques, where they are required to go through a regular course of study. They receive no salary, but are supported by the "*Imaret*" or charitable institutions, attached to all large mosques, and are gradually promoted to the rank of *Imams* or *Mollahs*.

In the same year the large fountain of *Top-Hané* was built, which still exists.

From 1611 to 1614, no naval combats of any consequence took place, although the Ottoman fleet, under the command of *Mehmed Pasha*, the Sultan's son-in-law, had been unfortunate in several engagements, and he was succeeded by *Halil Pasha*, a converted Armenian.

While the Ottoman fleet was in the Mediterranean, in 1613, the *Cossacks* seized the opportunity and pillaged the town of *Sinope* on the Black Sea. This event was concealed by the grand vizir *Nassuh Pasha*, but it was communicated by the *Sheikhul-Islam* to the Sultan, who ordered the grand vizir to be strangled, and *Mehmed Pasha* was reappointed.

The Turks are ignorant, bigoted and so indolent and slow, that nothing short of the strongest excitement will arouse them to activity. "Patience," they say, "belongs to God; haste to the devil." Their life is monotonous; they rise early and offer their morning prayers, called "*Sabah Namaz*," and then retire for an additional nap. They take but little exercise except to go to the market or to the coffee-shop in their quarter; if a longer walk is desired, it is with the intention of resting under the shadows of

the linden or oak trees, near which clear brooks are often murmuring, and listening to the sweet song of the nightingale; this they call "kief" or pleasure. The evenings, Fridays and holy days are spent at the coffee-houses in gossip; coffee and sherbet are the principal beverages; pork, wine and ardent spirits are strictly prohibited by the Koran; but with the exception of pork, the other articles are now used on a large scale; smoking the pipe or narghele, hubble bubble, bathing, lounging for hours cross-legged upon a cushion or sofa,—for chairs are not used except among the higher classes—are their principal occupations. The fountains are not merely for ornament, but, as the Turks are enjoined by the Koran to take numerous ablutions it has been considered a religious duty to erect them for use. They pass two thirds of their lives in eating and sleeping, and take very little interest in the current events of the day. They are fond of all kinds of delicacies, and are excellent confectioners. When taking their places at the table, they use the word "Bismilah" or "In the name of God;" their meals are generally composed of a number of articles in small copper dishes, placed in array on a large copper tray, each of which contains but little, yet altogether food is offered in great varieties and quantities; they all eat from the same dish, and use their own fingers instead of knives and forks. If soup is served, wooden spoons are used, except with some of the wealthier class, who have metal or silver spoons. After their meals they all wash their hands in a brass basin, the water being poured from a ewer; then sitting crossed-legged on the "minderliks" or low sofas, they light their pipes, nargheles, or cigarettes, coffee is served, and then the storytelling begins. The eldest of the number, if qualified, commences, silence prevails during his narration, and there is scarcely any interruption either by question or applause, for the latter custom does not exist among the Turks. When he has concluded, the others in succession contribute their quota. The Turks invariably respect their parents, obey their superiors and have strong veneration for their elders. It is a well known fact that they have a greater esteem for a man wearing a beard, than for one who is close shaven, or deprived of it by nature. In order to emphasize a statement they place their hands upon their beards and say, "By this I swear." The bigoted Turks shave their heads, with the exception of a small tuft on the crown which is left, so that their prophet may seize them by it at death, and thereby draw them into Paradise. The Turks and all the subjects of Turkey wear a red fez with black tassels. It is never removed, except on going to bed, when it is replaced with a white cotton cap; on entering their houses their shoes are taken off and left just inside the street door.

Their salaam or salute is "Salaam Aleicoum," or "Peace be with you," and the answer is returned, "Aleicoum Salaam," or, "With you be peace;" while the body is bent until the right hand touches the ground; it is then brought to the breast, then to the mouth and afterwards to the forehead.

Polygamy is a part of their religion, enlarging the domestic slavery; for the sensual character of the Turks and that of their women is derived from their prophet Mohammed and nurtured to a very large extent by his precepts, which often causes premature old age. Within the last few years, however, polygamy has not been as prevalent as formerly, owing not so much to change in public sentiment, as to the lack of means.

The use of ardent spirits, opium, and other vices that cannot be mentioned are their daily pursuits.

The antipathy of the Christians to the Turks, is due more to the dread of their sensual passions, than to mere religious animosity. In the lowest classes of the Turkish people truth, honesty, and gratitude, may occasionally be found; in the middle classes, very seldom; in the highest, never.

A Turk never commits suicide, for he does not despair, but accepts all his misfortunes in the spirit of the inevitable as coming from God. (See Scarlato, Vol. I. p. 83.)

On the 22d of November, 1617, Sultan Ahmed died after a short illness. He was born in 1589, and left a brother Mustafa; and nine sons, Murad IV., Suleyman, Kassim, Osman I., Selim, Hussein, Mehmed, Bayezid and Ibrahim, of these Murad, Osman and Ibrahim reigned in succession; Mehmed was killed by his brother Osman; Suleyman, Bayezid and Kassim were killed by Murad; Selim died in infancy; Hussein in 1613; and there were a number of daughters who married men of rank.

Among the last acts of his reign, was an order from Sultan Ahmed to appoint "Koran readers" in the palace, who read the Koran every Friday, as well as the enactment of the new rules called "Sultan Ahmed Kanunumesse."

XVI.

SULTAN MUSTAFA I.

1617-1618.

Prince Mustafa, brother of Ahmed, was proclaimed Sultan at the age of 25 years. From his childhood until that time he had been confined in the palace. He was slender in appearance, pale, with a thin black beard, mustache and large black eyes. He was mild in disposition and was called a saint by the Sheikhs, although it is generally supposed that he was demented. He was girded with the sword of Osman, with the usual pomp and ceremony, and distributed the customary presents to his army. During his short reign of three months, he was under the control and guidance of his mother; the chief eunuch, and the Sheikh-ul-Islam; but finally resigned, was secluded again in the palace and succeeded by his nephew, Osman II.

XVII.

SULTAN OSMAN II.

1618-1622.

Osman ascended the throne at the age of fourteen. He was robust physically, and brusque in manner. The grand vizir Halil Pasha, had been in Persia in command of the army, during which time the Shah sent Kassim Khan, surnamed Bournou or

Hooked Nose, to negotiate with him. He was a man of great pride and vain boasting, and was admitted to the Turkish council, at a time when there was a strong wind. Dilaver Pasha, a Croatian, wishing to change the conversation, asked Kassim



SULTAN OSMAN II.

Khan if there was always a strong wind in Persia. Before Kassim could reply, Veli Pasha said very wittily, that, to-day the wind blew from Kassim Khan's nose, and that was the reason why it was so fierce. This caused all the Pashas to laugh heartily, Kassim's boasting ceased, and peace was soon after concluded.

In September, 1620, as the Poles had broken their treaty of peace, Scender Pasha marched against them and defeated them near Jassy.

The grand vizir Ali Pasha continued to persecute the Pashas and wealthy citizens, confiscating their immense properties to enrich the public treasury, a custom which lasted until the reign of Sultan Medjid. In January, 1621, the Sultan killed his brother Mehmed; in the same year Ali Pasha died, and was succeeded by Hussein Bostandji-Bassi, or chief gardener of the Seraglio.

The Sultan, however, being only 17½ years of age, rejected the advice of his counsellors and followed his youthful impulses. In May, 1621, the Sultan marched against Poland but was defeated with great loss; peace was then concluded; the grand vizir was removed and succeeded by Dilaver Pasha.

The Sultan returned to Constantinople, and was overjoyed to hear that his beautiful Russian wife had a son.

When a child is born in a Turkish family the father, mother or a relative recites the Ezan, inviting the child into the Mohammedan faith, and repeats its name three times; all of which is whispered into the infant's ear, before it is seven days old.

The great severity of the Sultan, the high price of provisions, the prohibition of wine and tobacco, and his seizure of the beautiful daughters of Perstev Pasha, and of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, as well as the loss to the regiments of the Janizaries in the war of Poland, angered them, as well as the inhabitants of Constantinople. Finally the Sultan planned to go to Syria, raise a large army of Kurds and Turcomans,

return with it to Constantinople and utterly destroy the turbulent Janizaries; but this bold stroke was betrayed, and caused his destruction.

On the 1st of June, Sultan Osman was dethroned, and was succeeded by the former Sultan Mustafa I., who had been confined in the palace; Daoud Pasha was appointed grand vizir by Validé, Sultan Mustafa's mother.

Osman was placed on horse-back, partially dressed with an old fez on his head, and was taken by the Janizaries, followed by a large mob, to one of the Seven Towers, in accordance with the order of Validé, the mother of Sultan Mustafa. The doors were fastened, and inside were the grand vizir Daoud Pasha; the Sultan's Kehaya or factotum, Omer Djebezibassi; and the policeman Kalenderoglou, who made three ineffectual efforts to strangle him; finally Djebezibassi passed the bow-string round his neck, assisted by Kalenderoglou, who pressed his secret parts—a Turkish fashion—in spite of Osman's pleadings for his life, and thus the cruel deed was accomplished on the 5th of June, 1622. (See Creasy, p. 243; Constantinople, by Scarlato Byzantium, Vol. I., p. 315.) The Grand Vizir Daoud Pasha then wishing to announce the Sultan's death, cut off his ears and sent them in a box to Mustafa's mother. He was succeeded by his uncle Mustafa I., who was taken from his seclusion to assume the reins of government.

XVIII.

SULTAN MUSTAFA I.

1622-1623.

Mustafa, on his second accession to the throne distributed again the Imperial gifts to the army. Soon after the Janizaries accused the grand vizir of being the cause of Sultan Osman's death, they succeeded in having him strangled, and successively four grand vizirs were removed; all this was in accordance with the request of the army, and the consent of Validé Sultana. During this reign many provinces were lost, and the state of the Empire was such that Mustafa was compelled to resign; he was confined again in the palace, where he was strangled in June, 1639. He was succeeded by his nephew, Murad IV., the son of Sultan Ahmed.

XIX.

SULTAN MURAD IV.

1623-1640.

Murad IV. succeeded to the throne on the 10th of December, 1623, at the early age of twelve, under the regency of his mother. He had an oval face, a pale complexion, black hair, keen eyes and was full of duplicity and cunning. Soon after his accession, the government, fearing the plunder of the Imperial Ottoman Mint by the revolting Sipahis and Janizaries, transferred it to a location by the old Byzantine church of St. Irene, now used as an armory, it stands on the declivity between old Seraglio point and St. Sophia.

In the same year Bagdad was taken by the Persians after a sanguinary attack, and soon after Hafis marched against the governor of Erzeroun, Abaza Pasha, who had revolted, and defeated him near Carmania. Abaza fled, while his wives and children



SULTAN MURAD IV.

were taken slaves. Hafis Pasha, wishing to quell the revolt in these provinces, again acknowledged Abaza Pasha as governor of Erzeroun on conditions which he instantly accepted.

A Cossack fleet, consisting of 150 small vessels with 3,000 men, appeared in the upper Bosphorus, landed at Buyukdere, Terapia and Yenikeuy, but they were repulsed.

Sultan Murad was now seventeen years of age, and was in the habit of going around the streets in disguise at night, to learn something of his people and their opinion of him as their ruler. He resolved to end the disturbances in his capital by putting the grand vizir to death, and appointed the Albanian Tabaniyassé Mehmed Pasha as his successor, with orders to punish the revolters at once. They were all slain, and their bodies floated thickly on the Bosphorus; hundreds of innocent people were butchered to gratify caprices of the tyrant. The cause assigned was, that the Sipahis demanded from the Sultan the heads of seventeen pashas, including that of the grand vizir Hafis and the Sheikh-ul-Islam Yahia, who were favorites of the Sultan.

In March, 1635, the Sultan marched in person to Persia, and captured several cities, thence returned to Constantinople. Soon after this, the Shah of Persia, being advantaged by the severity of the winter, re-took the captured cities, for which reason the Sultan and the grand vizir marched again to Asia, and arrived at Bagdad, which was captured after a siege of forty days, and a fearful butchery ensued, when only 300 of the 30,000 men in the garrison escaped; since then it has been under the sway of the Ottomans. After the capture of Bagdad, the Sultan returned, in 1639, to Constantinople in triumph, and in a short time a treaty of peace was concluded between Turkey and Persia.

In February, 1640, Sultan Murad was suddenly taken ill; his physicians, being influenced by the Pashas and the courtiers, who hated him for his cruelties, opened his veins, which terminated his life in the thirty-sixth year of his age.

Murad was greatly disliked for his atrocities. Among others the following instance is stated: He was in the habit of entering the north-eastern porch of St. Sophia, and on one occasion shot with his arrow and killed several Armenians, who, in the presence of the grand vizir, had been disputing with the Greeks for the possession of the tomb of Christ at Jerusalem; one of them, an Armenian priest who had been discussing it very loudly, was instantly executed by the order of the Sultan in the place where he stood.

The Armenians are a very ancient people, and their history is one of great interest. In the latter part of the third century, during the reign of King Tiridatis, Christianity was introduced into Armenia. The King was baptized by Bishop Gregory, and by the royal wish, all the inhabitants received the same sacred rite in the river Euphrates. They have kept their faith from time immemorial, amid severe persecutions from the Turks and the savage Kurds.

At another time he saw a number of Greek women dancing in a meadow; their merriment disturbed him. He ordered them to be seized and drowned. On one occasion a boat with several Christian women passed near the walls of the Seraglio, which to his bigoted comprehension seemed improper. He ordered his officers to fire upon them, and they sank before his eyes. Among the many cold-blooded massacres of his reign were those of his three brothers.

Murad IV. was born on the 8th of August, 1612. He had four sons, Ahmed, Suleyman, Mohammed and Allah-ud din, all of whom died before their father, and six daughters, who married pashas.

XX.

SULTAN IBRAHIM I.

1640-1648.

The successor of Sultan Murad was his brother Ibrahim, who had been confined for many years in the Seraglio, and was girded with the sword in the usual manner. An Austrian and a Hungarian deputy, arriving at Constantinople, succeeded in renewing their respective treaties in June, 1641. In January, 1642, two sons were born to him, Mohammed and Suleyman. The prohibition of tobacco was continued during this reign, but the use of snuff was substituted for the first time in Turkey.

An old Turk, being very fond of smoking, and fearing that he might be discovered, used to descend into a dry well to use his pipe; but at last the Sultan heard of it, went to the well, and found such to be the case. He then asked him, "How dare you violate my command?" The old man replied, "Son of a female slave, your dominion is only over the surface of the earth; I am smoking *in* it, where your control does not reach." The Sultan was pleased with the old man's ready wit, and did not punish him.

In the same year the first expedition, which proved to be unsuccessful, was sent against the Cossacks, who five years before had taken the Crimea.

In 1644, the chief eunuch of the palace, Subulus, through the intrigues of others, was obliged to go to

Mecca, but on his way was attacked by the Maltese pirates and killed. The members of his suite were taken prisoners, among whom were ladies of the highest rank; one was a young and beautiful Sultana, with her infant son, by Ibrahim, named Othman. The pirates took refuge with their prize on the south coast of Crete. The child was baptized, and finally became a Dominican monk, under the name of Padre Ottomano. The fury of Sultan Ibrahim on the receipt of this intelligence was ungovernable, and he breathed vengeance against all Christendom. The Ottomans prepared to declare war against the Venetian democracy, to which Crete belonged.

Youssouf Pasha was appointed general commander of the Ottoman army, and sailed with his fleet from Constantinople in May, 1645. He arrived at Crete, and landing at Hania, suddenly besieged that city, the inhabitants being ignorant of their approach. The siege lasted about twenty days, and after many assaults, the governor of that city concluded a treaty of peace. In the following year, 1646, they took Rethimno, and in the spring of 1648 besieged Candia, the capital of the island. Sultan Ibrahim was dethroned on August 20, 1648, and kept in custody with his two slave wives in two gloomy rooms in the Kafez, or cage, where, after ten days, he was strangled by the executioner, Kara Ali, and his helper, Hamal Ali, in the presence of the grand vizir, Kara Mehmed, and the Sheikh-ul-Islam, Abdul Rahim, who caused his death because Ibrahim had seized his beautiful daughter and taken her into his harem.

The Kafez, or cages, consist of twelve pavilions in a part of the Seraglio, each of which contains several rooms, surrounded by a high wall, which encloses a little garden. In these pavilions were secluded all the Imperial princes, brothers, nephews and sons of the Sultan, so that they might not attempt to rob him of his power. A pavilion is assigned to each prince; he is attended by several girls and a few young pages, and sees no one else but the black eunuch, who is also his tutor.

He was interred in the mausoleum of Sultan Mustafa, before the gate of St. Sophia. He left eight sons, Mohammed IV., his successor; Suleyman II., Ahmed II., Selim, Osman, Tchihanguir and Bryezid. The last four died in infancy; there were five daughters, all married.

XXI.

SULTAN MOHAMMED IV.

1648-1687.

Mohammed IV. was not seven years of age when he ascended the throne with the customary ceremonies. He was dressed in silk clothes, trimmed with gold and precious stones, and wore a white turban in which the Imperial aigrette of heron's feathers was fastened by a clasp of enormous diamonds. Being yet in his minority he was under the guardianship of his stepmother, Kiossem Sultana. During the first year of his reign disturbances took place in Constantinople and Asia Minor, which were soon quelled.

At this time the grand vizir, Mehmed Pasha, was removed and succeeded by Kara Mustafa, an Al-

banian, who treated the foreign ambassadors with great barbarity; he imprisoned Bailo, the Venetian ambassador, in the castle of Roumeli Hissar, and also hanged the first dragoman of another embassy, a relative of the prince of Moldavia.

Discourteous treatment of the foreign ambassadors existed until the reign of Mohammed II. The receptions at Constantinople were thus described by an eye witness. "Imagine a proud British nobleman before he was allowed to approach the 'Shadow of God upon Earth,' as the Sultans have always called themselves, compelled to pass through a rabble of insulting Janizaries, and then to wait until the chief master of ceremonies could announce to the Sultan, that an unbelieving dog from the little island called England, had come to offer his Majesty some choice presents, and to rub his face in the dust of his august footsteps. Then the Sultan, or the 'Possessor of men's necks,' would command that he should be treated in the usual manner, which was as follows: Water and towels should be passed around for his ablutions and those of his suite, the ambassador and his companions would cover their unwelcome persons with fur cloaks and, seated on low stools, were fed upon the greasy dainties vouchsafed for their refreshment, previous to entering into the audience room. Then the same proud Britisher was guarded by two white eunuchs and conducted by them into the presence of the Sultan, who reclined among cushions. One of the officers in attendance assisted the ambassador to kiss the Sultan's robe, and in departing he was not allowed to turn his back to the Sultan." Insults and contumely, some of which is too shameful for public print, have been constantly heaped upon Europeans even at the present time. In 1892, during the month of Ramazan, or Lent, just before I left Constantinople, several Turks in high official positions had planned a gross insult and assault—in a manner that cannot be related here—upon a young German sailor belonging to the yacht used by the German ambassador, who at once went to the Sultan for redress. He was assured that the offenders would be banished, but the promise was not kept. A second application was made by him in person to the Sultan, who, with the most profuse apologies, instantly summoned one of the chamberlains and apparently in a great rage ordered that these men should be banished without delay. They were sent away long enough for a change of air, and in a few weeks, apparently much benefited by the trip, they resumed their former official position in Constantinople. So much for Turkish duplicity. This is only one of the numberless insults which, unfortunately for those of foreign birth, are of frequent occurrence.

In December, 1649, the circumcision of the Sultan and of his three brothers took place, which was celebrated with great pomp. The disturbances of the Janizaries still continued, the Albanian Ahmed Pasha, surnamed "Melek," or angel, was appointed grand vizir, but being an inexperienced man, he was deposed, and Siavus Pasha, a Christian, was appointed instead. These disturbances caused also the death of Kiossem Sultana, who was very old; she built several edifices, among which was the Validé Han, of white stone, which still exists in Constantinople and has been ever since occupied by Persian merchants.

Hans, of which several still exist in Constantinople, are large buildings of hard, white stone, looking like fortifications, each surrounding a square courtyard upon which the shops front.

These alternations of the grand vizir, with the disturbance of the Janizaries, caused the failure of the Ottoman arms against the Venetians.

Mehmed Pasha, the son of a priest, and surnamed Kiuprulu, from his birthplace, was appointed grand vizir. During his term of service he slaughtered 36,000 men. Thirty persons were executed every day for an entire year, and their heads were exposed upon stakes before the gate of the palace. Among the victims of this inexorable monster was the Greek Patriarch Parthenius III., who was treacherously accused of holding private communications of a revolting character with the Prince of Wallachia. The French Ambassador, De La Haye, delayed in offering the customary gifts, and was imprisoned at Adrianople, with his son, who had been lashed. (See Scarlato, Vol. II, p. 431.)

Mehmed Pasha recaptured Lemnos and Tenedos, died in 1661, and was succeeded by his son Ahmed Pasha, who marched against Hungary. His army consisted of 120,000 men, and 135 guns, with a reserve cavalry of Tartars. In March, 1664, the grand vizir commenced hostilities, seized many forts, and a severe battle was fought near the Convent of St. Gotthard.

The Austrians, with the French, under Reymond, Count of Montecuculi, defeated the Ottomans. As the French army came forward with their shaven faces, Kiuprulu asked scornfully, "Who are these young girls?" But he soon found that the young girls, as he termed them, regardless of the Turkish battle cry of Allah! rushed upon them and cut them down, calling out as they did so, "Alons! Alons! Tué! Tué!" The Janizaries who escaped that carnage remembered long afterward the French cry of Alons! Tué! (See Creasy, p. 282.)

In March, 1666, the Venetians proposed to the Sultan a treaty of peace, but did not succeed, as they were unwilling to yield the occupied towns of Crete, and General Deli Hussein Pasha went to Heraclea, and besieged it for three years. Reinforcements of French, Italian and Maltese troops went to assist the Venetians, but without success. Finally, in 1669, Morosini, governor of the fort, concluded a treaty of peace, and the island of Crete fell into the Ottoman power, after many severe conflicts and a loss of 30,000 troops to the Turks. General Deli Hussein, after the capture of Crete, returned to Adrianople with a few selected slaves as gifts for

the Seraglio, for which he was rewarded royally by the Sultan. Among these there was a young Greek woman of remarkable beauty from Rethimno, of Crete, named by the Sultan Rempie-Giul-nous, and who became the mother of Mustafa II. and Ahmed III. (See Scarlato D. Byzantius, Vol. II, p. 250.) In the meantime, the Cossacks being disturbed by the Poles, asked through the Khan of Tauris, the assistance of the Sultan, who consented and marched against Poland in October, 1672. The King of Poland died, and was succeeded by the brave John Sobieski, who violated the treaty, and hostilities commenced again. He marched against the Turks, and defeated them twice, with a loss of 25,000 men at Choczim, in 1673. Through the mediation of France, terms of peace were concluded in 1676, at Daoud Pasha, near Constantinople, and Kara Mustafa Pasha was reappointed grand vizir.

Mustafa Pasha was surnamed Kara, or dark, for his cruelties. He married the sister and then the daughter of Sultan Mehmed IV., but having been unsuccessful at the siege of Vienna, was beheaded in January, 1684, at Belgrade. His harem consisted of over 1,000 slave wives, attended by 1,500 girls, also slaves. These all were guarded by 700 black eunuchs. His servants, horses and cattle numbered thousands. (See "Constantinople," by Byzantius, Vol. I, p. 387, and Vol. II, p. 435.)

Meanwhile Russian excursions against Tauris irritated the Sublime Porte, and in June, 1678, the grand vizir marched against Russia, and attacked Fort Cehzrym with severe loss.

During that time the chief dragoman of the Sublime Porte, the erudite Greek Panayoti Nikussio, was succeeded by Alexander Mavrocordato of noble family.

An incident is related on good authority, at that period, which is said to have occurred near the walls of Eghri-capou or crooked gate, formerly called the gate of Charsia. It seems in the year 549 A. D., while the Emperor Justinian went from the palace of the Acropolis to the Hebdomon, he lost from the Imperial crown a diamond of 25 carats. It is natural to suppose that anxious search was made for the precious gem, but the diamond lay concealed, and so remained during nine hundred years of political convulsion, while wars and bloodshed, the sack of the palace by the Crusaders and others, with the fall of the Greek Empire, swept over and desolated the spot. Then the diamond came once more to light and was found by a little shepherd lad. He picked it up among the ruins and loose rubbish, and used it in the "chuck farthing," a game still in favor among the Moslem children. The father, however, was a wise man, he guessed something of the value of the shining stone, obtained an audience with the Sultan and received in return for the almost priceless jewel, the post of chief shepherd of the Imperial flocks; the child was educated at the expense of the Padishah or Sultan, and became in time a person of eminence. The diamond received the name of "Tchoban Tashi," or Shepherd's Stone, and was placed among the most precious jewels of the Sultan's treasury. This "Shepherd's Stone" is clearly a jewel with a destiny, for it comes once more into notice, helping this time, not to make a poor lad's fortune, but to take a rich man's life. In the reign of the Sultan Mohammed it was necessary to reset the the diamond, and therefore it was confided to an aged Armenian jeweler of great renown. The old man was bending anxiously over his work, duly impressed with the importance of the occasion and of the fatal consequences of any accident to the stone, when his hand slipped, and there, before his terrified sight, appeared a thin line, seemingly a crack, crossing the precious jewel! The shock was too great, and the unfortunate jeweler, with an exclamation of despair, fell back and expired; terror had blinded him to the fact that it was only a hair from his eyebrow, which falling on the diamond, gave it the appearance of a flaw. The historian Scarlato Byzantius gives a different version of this. See Vol. 1, page 164.

In 1681, a treaty of peace between the Sublime Porte and Russia was signed, securing Kief to the latter.

In 1683, the Sultan, taking a part of his harem, as was always his custom, marched against Austria, accompanied by the grand vizir. He arrived at Belgrade

in May, 1683, and sent the grand vizir Kara Mustafa with an army of 200,000 Turks and Tartars to Vienna, besieging it for sixty days. The Emperor Leopold I. left Vienna in terror, and his example was followed by many of his people. The city was defended by 70,000 troops under the command of Count Rudiger of Stahremberg; during the siege provisions and ammunition became very scarce, the garrison lost 6,000 men and many died daily from pestilence and the attacks of the enemy. Many captives from the suburbs were killed by the Turks, a large number of whom were women, who were first subjected to the cruelest treatment from the soldiers. At last, the intrepid John Sobieski, with an army of Germans and Poles, attacked the Turks, who after a short resistance were entirely routed, and their artillery, equipments and provisions were taken. The gallant Sobieski was received by Count Stahremberg in the magnificent crimson tent left by the grand vizir, who greeted him as the deliverer of Vienna. Together they went to St. Stephen's Cathedral and gave thanks for their deliverance from the Ottomans.

St. Stephen's Cathedral, in Vienna, was founded in 1359 and was not completed until 1480; it is a fine Gothic edifice with a spire 437 feet high, containing a very large bell, cast from the cannons taken from the Turks when they raised the siege of the city.

Sobieski pursued the retreating Turks and terminated the campaign on October 27, 1683, with the capture of Grau, which place had been almost a century and a half in their possession.

Sultan Mohammed IV., being enraged at these misfortunes, caused Kara Mustafa to be beheaded at Belgrade, and Ibrahim Pasha succeeded him.

In the spring of 1684 the hostilities commenced again with the Austrians, Poles, Venetians and Hungarians; the Ottomans were defeated by the allied army with the loss of Buda.

The grand vizir was succeeded by Suleyman Pasha, who organized a new army and in May, 1686, he went against Hungary, wintered at Belgrade and was defeated at the battle of Mohacs. Thus Hungary was released from the rule of the Ottomans, while Francisco Morosini, with the Swiss Count Cionigsmar, subdued the Peloponnesus.

These defeats caused the deposition of the grand vizir, for the army revolted and proclaimed as his successor Siavus Pasha. He tried to quell the disturbances, but without success, and on the 6th of January, 1688, the revolters forced open his doors, killed him and maltreated his wife and sister. (See Creasy, p. 302.) On the 20th November, 1687, they succeeded in dethroning the Sultan after a reign of 39 years, and his brother was proclaimed as Suleyman II. The dethroned Sultan was born on the 14th of January, 1642, and died of dropsy at the age of 50. He was interred in the mosque of his mother, Yeni Validé Djami. He left four sons, Mustafa II., Ahmed II., Bayezid and Suleyman, and four daughters, all married.

XXII.

SULTAN SULEYMAN II.

1687-1691.

Suleyman II. had passed 45 years in compulsory seclusion before he was proclaimed Sultan and girded on him the sword of his ancestors at Eyoub. The new grand vizir, Ismail Pasha, being unable to rule the affairs of the Empire, was succeeded by Yenitchar Agha Mustafa Pasha, a Christian by birth. The defeat of the Turks compelled him to continue the war, and he marched with the Sultan against the allied forces in June, 1689, but the enemy advancing captured Nissa, and the Sultan withdrew to Philipopolis; the grand vizir, taking with him the sacred standard, assumed the command of the army but was unsuccessful, which caused his removal.

These disturbances were advantageous to the army; the Venetians subdued the Peloponnesus and Thebes, and the allied powers captured Belgrade and invaded Bosna. In 1691 the Sultan marched in person, but died of dropsy in June of the same year on the way thither. He was interred in the mausoleum of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent.

XXIII.

SULTAN AHMED II.

1691-1695.

Ahmed II., brother of Suleyman II., ascended the throne and girded on him the sword at Eski Djami in Adrianople. The grand vizir Kuprulu Mustafa

Pasha was ordered to march against the Austrians ; met the enemy near Salakeman ; he was killed in battle but his corpse was not found ; the loss of the Ottomans was 28,000, and that of the Austrians 6,000. (See Scarlato Byzantius, Vol. II., p. 438-440.) The entire battle field, with 150 guns, was occupied by their victors.

On the 6th of February, 1695, Sultan Ahmed died of dropsy, leaving twin sons and one daughter. He was born in March, 1643, and succeeded his brother at the age of 48. He was passionately fond of music and literature, but had a melancholy disposition.

XXIV.

SULTAN MUSTAFA II.

1695-1703.

Mustafa II., son of Mohammed II., soon after his succession resolved to take the field in person. He advanced to Tamesvar and recaptured several fortresses. In September of the same year he defeated the Austrians near Lugos.

In May, 1697, the Sultan arrived at Belgrade, and in September the grand vizir attacked the Austrians near Zanta, the battle proving a most destructive one. Prince Eugene, after two hours fighting, gained a great victory ; 20,000 Ottoman corpses covered the battlefield, 10,000 more were drowned in the river in their flight, and the grand vizir Elmas Mehmed was killed. The booty of this victory was large and varied, among which were the Imperial

seal of gold, bearing the Tughra or monogram of Mustafa II., still existing in the museum of Vienna; his carriage, the treasury of the army, consisting of 3,040,000 florins; also 9,000 wagons, a large number of camels, oxen, horses and much ammunition, as well as ten of his wives. The Sultan saw the destruction of his army and fled to Temesvar, whence he retired to Constantinople.

In September, 1697, the powder magazine exploded and caused great destruction; many were killed and hundreds of houses were destroyed; in consequence of which, the Sultan ordered it to be transferred to Makri-Keui, a suburb of Constantinople, where it still exists.

On the 24th of October, 1698, representatives of Turkey, Austria, Venice, Russia and Poland, assembled at Carlovitz, where a treaty of peace was signed. In February, 1700, Ibrahim Pasha, a special envoy from the Sultan, arrived in Vienna with valuable presents for the Emperor Leopold, who received him with honors; in return, he sent an envoy with gifts to the Sultan.

In the same year, the newly appointed ambassadors of France and England, Ferriol, Marquis Dargental and Sir Robert Sutton, arrived at Constantinople and went to the palace to present themselves to the Sultan, through the chief dragoman of the Sublime Porte, Alex. Mavrocordato. Both were in court dress, and covered with the Imperial Turkish caftans or cloaks. They were ordered to put aside their swords, as no one was allowed to enter the Sultan's presence wearing it, not even the grand

vizir. The English ambassador readily complied with the request of the dragoman and was received by the Sultan; but Ferriol refused to do so, threw off the caftan, and at once left the palace with his suite.

During this time, the grand vizir died and was followed in succession by two others; the latter of whom, through the revolt of the Janizaries, fled to Adrianople; this was followed by the dethronment of Sultan Mustafa, which occurred on the 3d of September, 1703. He died of melancholia and was succeeded by his brother Ahmed III.

XXV.

SULTAN AHMED III.

1703-1730.

The reign of Ahmed III., comprises a series of campaigns with Austria, Venice and Russia.

Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, wishing to extend his dominion, cast an eye upon certain possessions of the Ottoman Empire.

With this in view, he undertook an expedition against the Crimea, which he easily captured and where he erected strong forts at the entrance of the Sea of Azoff.

The Sultan in the space of five years had born to him, twelve sons and daughters.

Charles XII., of Sweden, and Mazeppa, hetman of the Cossacks, were defeated in 1709 at Paltova, by Peter the Great, and they fled to Bender. Charles spent five years in Turkey (1709-1714), and during his stay urged the Sultan to fight against the

Russians; but Peter the Great demanded the surrender of Mazeppa and the exile of Charles, which was refused by the Sublime Porte. A treaty, however was signed between Russia and Turkey, on the condition that the King of Sweden should return freely to his dominion. The Sultan being aware that the Russians controlled Azoff, was irritated and caused the arrest of the Russian ambassador, Count Tolstoi, in the public streets and committed him to the castle of the Seven Towers; this caused a declaration of war between Russia and Turkey.

The grand vizir Beltadji Mehmed left Constantinople in May, 1711, met the Russians under the command of the Czar, at the Pruth, where the latter was defeated, and Catharine I. saved Russia and her husband only by large bribes. Thus peace was concluded with the grand vizir, but the Sultan being displeased removed and exiled him to Mitylene; and appointed Damad Ali Pasha in his stead, and another treaty was signed in 1713, advantageous to the Turks.

Peter the Great allowed the officers of his army to be accompanied by their wives.

Gen. Bruce, a military officer of great ability who enjoyed the esteem and confidence of the Czar, and was sent by him to Constantinople, relates the following sad story, "On our return from the Pruth, Colonel Pitt had the misfortune to lose his beautiful wife and daughter by the breaking of a coach wheel. This left them far in the rear and they were captured by the Tartars and sent to Constantinople for the Seraglio. The Colonel besought the aid of the grand vizir but without success, and then went to Constantinople and failed in every effort until becoming maddened by repeated disappointments, he was imprisoned, but through the assistance of the foreign ambassadors was finally released, with great difficulty."

On the 13th of October, 1714, Charles returned to Sweden disguised as a courier in a black wig, a gold laced hat and a blue coat. In the same year the Montenegrins revolted again, but were soon quieted; their leader fled to Cataro, belonging to the Venetians, but as they refused to surrender him to the Ottomans, war was declared against Venice.

The grand vizir Damad Ali, with 100,000 men and a large fleet, sailed to the Peloponnesus and captured it in 1715, butchering the inhabitants by thousands in cold blood and selling the women and children into slavery. (See Scarlato, Vol. II, p. 454.)

In 1716 Prince Eugene of Austria, allying with Venice, informed the grand vizir that, according to the treaty which had been signed at Carlovitz, the Sublime Porte was compelled to pay an indemnity to the Venetians; but as it was refused, war was declared, and Eugene defeated the Turks at Peterwarden with a loss to the latter of 30,000, among which was that of the grand vizir. He was succeeded by Halil Pasha, an Albanian; Prince Eugene, however, continued his campaign against the Turks and captured Temesvar. In 1717 the Turkish fleet went to Corfu, but was compelled finally to raise the siege in consequence of a severe hurricane. In June of the same year the Sultan, with an army of 150,000, encamped near Belgrade. Prince Eugene with 80,000 men attacked the Turks after midnight and defeated them; 10,000 of the Turks were killed, a great number wounded and taken slaves, and a large amount of ammunition fell into the hands of the conquerors; Belgrade was soon after surrendered to the Austrians.

These reverses caused the removal of the grand vizir; he was succeeded by Nissandji Mehmed Pasha, who after several months' service was followed by Ibrahim Damad Pasha, the son-in-law of the Sultan. In July, 1718, through the arbitration of England and Holland, the representatives of Turkey, Austria and Venice were assembled at Passarovitz, and after twelve councils, which lasted 70 days, a treaty of peace was finally concluded by which Austria retained Servia and Moldavia; Venice possessed Cithyria, Parga, Preveza and the forts of Dalmatia, and Turkey kept Tinos, Egina, Peloponnesus and Crete.

In 1721 the Sultan celebrated the marriage of two sons and three daughters, as well as the circumcision of four younger sons.

During that time the Sultan's Kiosk, or summer residence, which still exists, was built at Keat-Hané, a suburb of Constantinople. Soon after an insurrection broke out in Persia, and the grand vizir, as well as Peter the Great, undertook expeditions thither, and thus a part of the Persian provinces were divided between them.

In October, 1730, the grand vizir was strangled during a revolt of the Janizaries, and Sultan Ahmed II. was compelled to abdicate. He was confined in the Seraglio, where he died a natural death on the 13th of June, 1736. His nephew succeeded him as Mahmoud I.

Sultan Ahmed III., the son of Mohammed IV., was born on the 24th of December, 1763, and succeeded his brother at the age of 29. He had eighteen

sons, Mehmed, Issa, Ali, Selim, Murad, Abdul-Melek, Bayezid, Murad Selim, Mustafa III., Seifedin, Hassan, Mehmed, Suleyman, Abd-ul-lah, Nouman, Abdul-Hamid, and Suleyman. The greater part of them died during their father's life-time, one was killed and two reigned as Sultans; he also had twenty daughters, married to pashas.

XXVI.

SULTAN MAHMOUD I.

1730-1754.

On the 18th of October, 1730, the new Sultan girded on him the sword of his progenitors with the usual ceremonies, and distributed gifts, as customary, to the Janizaries. Silihtar Mehmed Pasha was appointed grand vizir. He was influenced by the chief of the revolters, Patrona Halil, an officer of the Janizaries, to depose many pashas; among them was Gregorius Guiga, the Prince of Moldavia, who was succeeded by a Greek butcher, Yanaki, a friend of Patrona Halil. The pashas then united, killed Patrona Halil, the grand vizir was removed and succeeded by Kaba-coulac Ibrahim Pasha, who tried to quell the disorders in the capital by putting Yanaki and 7,000 of his supporters to death; while the Princes of Wallachia, and Moldavia, Constantine Mavracordato and Gregorius Giuga were re-appointed. Soon after this the grand vizir was removed, and was succeeded by Osman Topal, or

“lame,” a Greek slave of Peloponnesus, converted in boyhood and kept in the Seraglio, who took the command of the army, defeated the Persians; peace was concluded and Tauris was restored to the Persians. The Sultan was indignant at these conditions, removed the grand vizir in March, 1732, and appointed Ali Pasha Hekim-Zadé, a Venetian by birth.

Osman Pasha Topal was reappointed general commander of the Turkish army, consisting of 100,000 men, and in July, 1773, defeated the Persians near the River Tigris and retook Bagdad. In a second engagement with the Persians near Kerkoud, the Turks were defeated, and Osman Topal Pasha fell dead on the battlefield. During this period, three grand vizirs were removed in succession.

The Sultan abolished all the festivals and holy days which had been introduced during the reign of his father, Ahmed, and retained only the Mevlout, or the birth day of their prophet, which since has been celebrated with great pomp.

Augustus II., King of Poland, being dead, Stanislaus Leczynski was proclaimed his successor, he was protected by France, but Russia rejected him, and seized Warsaw, the capital of Poland, and the son of Augustus was proclaimed king.

On the 25th of June, 1736, the dethroned Sultan Ahmed III., who had been secluded in the Seraglio, died.

During this time the Russians subdued the Crimea, and allying with the Austrians declared war against the Turks, who to avoid hostilities concluded peace at Niemeroy, a Polish town; the Sul-

tan was displeased at this, removed the grand vizir and appointed Abdulah Pasha Mohsinzadé his successor. The treaty of Niemerov being rejected, the Russians again invaded the Crimea, and subdued two fortresses near Azoff, but the Turks, in the effort to regain it, were defeated with a loss of 20,000 men; meanwhile the Austrians subdued Nissa and Croatia, afterwards retaken by the Turks. The grand vizir Hadji Mehmed Pasha marched against the Austrians and defeated them at Krozka with a loss of 10,000; then attempted to capture Belgrade, but he was unsuccessful and was defeated by the Russians at Choczin. Finally, through the intervention of France, peace was concluded, and Belgrade was ceded to the Turks in 1739. In April, 1740, the Sultan celebrated the marriages of his three daughters to different pashas.

In the same year the Emperor of Austria, Charles IV., died and Maria Theresa, his daughter, ascended the throne.

In 1741, the Sultan, imitating the example of Ahmed I. and Murad IV., sent an expedition to Mecca bearing valuable gifts.

In the meantime, the Shah Nadir of Persia, made demands which were rejected by the Turks, who declared war against him in 1743, which lasted three years.

Mahmoud I. was the first Turkish sovereign who allowed the ambassador of a European power to visit different apartments in his palace; granting this privilege to the French ambassador Castellan, who, with his suite, had received medals bearing the monogram of the Sultan.

The Sultan was passionately fond of music, and was the first to introduce European music in the Seraglio.

In 1747 Shah Nadir was assassinated by his own pashas, and was succeeded by his son Mirza.

Mustafa Pasha, governor of Rhodes, took an envoy of the Sultan from the Island of Rhodes to Asia Minor. On his return to Rhodes in January, 1748, he had a crew of Maltese, Greeks, Turks and Arabs. Among the last was a young man named Kara-Mehmed of violent temper who had been, as he thought, unjustly treated, and who determined to kill the governor in revenge. He informed the Maltese and Greek slaves who were on board, of his plans. Finally they attacked the crew at a signal, killed some, threw others overboard and disarmed the rest. The governor's life was saved through the interposition of a Maltese youth, but he was kept a prisoner in his cabin. On the first of February the mutineers reached Malta and were received by the grand master and his staff with due honors. Mustafa was kept a prisoner in the castle of St. Elmo, but afterwards, through the efforts of the French ambassador, was allowed to live in a private house near Valletta, and to correspond with his friends in Constantinople. In the meantime, Kara Mehmed, the cause of all Mustafa's misfortunes, was on friendly terms with the grand master, who finally persuaded him to become a Christian. Kara Mehmed nominally embraced Christianity, only to carry out a most diabolical plot against the grand master. As a Mohammedan he naturally regretted

having surrendered one of rank and of his own faith to the enemies of Islam, and determined to atone for it by the massacre of the grand master Emmanuel Pinto and his knights, with the surrender of the Island to the Ottoman government.

The plan was approved by Mustafa, and a slave who held a position of trust in the palace, was to strike off the grand master's head, which was to be followed by a slaughter of all the knights. One of the soldiers, a Maltese, learning of the plot, informed the grand master of it; by the next morning the baseness of Mehmed was known in every direction, and an immense crowd demanded his instant death. Mustafa was again confined in the castle of St. Elmo; Kara Mehmed, with forty-eight of the ring leaders of this conspiracy, were executed.

In 1748 the Kurds revolted in Constantinople in order to plunder Bezesten, but the grand vizir, through the Janizaries, succeeded in dispersing them.

Bezesten is the most Oriental of the Bazaars devoted to the sale of jewelry and bric-a-brac, largely of a military kind; besides this, there are two others, the Grand Tcharsi or bazaar, and the Missir Tcharsi or spice market. These are ancient stone buildings covered with vaulted roofs, and lighted by windows.

In the year 1750 the Janizaries revolted, and three grand vizirs were appointed in succession.

On the 25th of December, 1754, Sultan Mahmoud I. died of old age, and was succeeded by his brother, Osman III. Mahmoud I., son of Mustafa II., was born on the 2d of August, 1696, and succeeded his uncle at the age of thirty-five. He laid the founda-

tion of the mosque Nourri Osmanié in 1748, on the second hill of Constantinople, which was completed by his successor, Osman III.

XXVII.

SULTAN OSMAN III.

1754-1757.

The accession of the new Sultan was celebrated with the usual ceremonies.

His reign of three years was a time of peace for the Ottoman Empire, with the exception of the successive appointment of four grand vizirs.

Sultan Osman spent much time in going around his capital in disguise, and thus became aware of the condition of his people unknown to them. He regulated the clothing of his Greek, Armenian and Jewish subjects; the covering of their heads consisted of large cylindrical lamb skin caps of different shapes and colors; coarse colored cloaks, the shoes of the Greeks were black, of the Armenians red, the Jews blue, and yellow to be worn by the Mussulmen, whether men or women. The Greek and Armenian women were dressed like the Turkish until the reign of Mahmoud II.

On the 13th of November, 1757, Sultan Osman died a natural death, and was succeeded by his nephew, Mustafa III. Osman III., son of Mustafa II., was born on the 29th of March, 1696, and succeeded his brother at the age of fifty-eight, without issue.

XXVIII.

SULTAN MUSTAFA III.

1757-1774.

Mustafa III., after a long confinement in the Seraglio, ascended the throne at the age of fifty.

War with Russia was declared in the latter part of 1768. The grand vizir was compelled to flee, and thus the Russians captured Choczin and Moldavia, and slaughtered all the Turks in Wallachia. This caused the removal of the grand vizir and the re-appointment of Halil Pasha.

Russia sent a fleet in October, 1769, from Cronstadt to Peloponnesus, commanded by Admiral Spiridof, with a land force under the two generals Theodore and Alexios Orloff.

General Orloff besieged Coron and Modon without success, and as Morea was in revolt, marched with its assistance against Tripolitza, but they were defeated by the Turks on account of the lack of troops.

The Russians held Cyclades for a short time, but when they sailed for Tchesmé, the Greeks were left unprotected and exposed to the cruelties of the Turks. The Patriarch Meletios was blinded and exiled; many were slaughtered in cold blood in Thessaly and Larissa. At the island of Limnos the Bishop and all the priests were cruelly tortured and beheaded, while at Smyrna the Christians were savagely butchered as they were coming out of the church of St. Photini.

The Russians on their arrival at Tchesmé attacked the Turkish fleet under Admiral Djezaerli Hassan and destroyed it totally in July, 1770.

In the same year the Russians subdued Bender, Akerman, Braila, Galatz and Kilia, the grand vizir retreated and returned to Constantinople, with scarcely 3,000 men. The Sultan was very indignant and beheaded the grand vizir, appointing instead Silihtar Mehmed Pasha, who was also defeated by the Russians with the loss of the Crimea. After this Mohsinzadé Mehmed Pasha succeeded as grand vizir.

Hostilities commenced in 1772, and Mohsinzadé marched against the Russians without success. These defeats greatly distressed the Sultan, who died a natural death on the 25th of December, 1773, and was succeeded by his brother Abdul Hamid I.

He built a mosque at Scutari in 1760, and another called Kipir at Indjirkeui, a village on the Bosphorus, as well as a bath and a fountain called Tchoukur-Tchesmé in 1763. Mustafa III. was born on the 3d of February, 1717. He had five daughters and two sons, Selim III., and Mehmed, the latter died before his father.

The baths in Turkey are not only used for cleansing purposes, but figure very largely in their religious ceremonies. The wealthy Turks do not patronize the public baths, but have them built in their residences for their own private use.

The main bath is a large room paved with marble, from which open several smaller ones. It is lighted from above by glass lenses inserted in the cupola. In all the rooms are faucets furnishing cold and hot water, under which there are marble basins about twenty inches wide and fifteen inches in depth, placed twenty inches above the floor.

XXIX.

SULTAN ABDUL HAMID I,
1773-1789.

Abdul Hamid was five years old when his father died, and ascended the throne after 45 years, confinement in the Seraglio. Upon assuming the reins of the government his first step was to omit the customary distribution of presents to the army, and since then this custom has been abolished.

Hostilities commenced again on the Danube, which were of short duration, for on the 22d of June, 1774, after seven hours' council, a definite treaty of peace was concluded at Kainardji. The conditions were the restoration of the forts to the Sublime Porte, except Kertch, Yeni Kalè, Azoff, Kilburn, and Kabartas; the free passage of the Black and Egean seas; the change of prisoners, the title of Emperor to the Czars; the protection by Russia of the Christians in Turkey.

War was soon again declared between Russia and Turkey, and the Empress Catharine II., an implacable enemy of the Turks, made an alliance with the Emperor of Austria, Joseph II., in 1787, who in an engagement with them narrowly escaped capture.

Admiral Hassan, with his fleet sailed against the Russians, who were besieging Oczakof. But the Turks abandoned the enterprise and commenced to butcher the inhabitants of a neighboring village, after their fashion; the Russians, thirsting for vengeance, pressed forward and killed 30,000 Turks.

In 1787 Ali Pasha Tepedelin of Yanina, resolved to control Greece and treacherously murdered many of its brave men; but in 1788, Suli being assisted by



ALI PASHA TEPEDELIN of Yanina.

the brave Andrutso of Atalant, and Marco Bozzaris, resisted and defeated Ali Pasha.

Ali Pasha Tepedelin was born at Tepelené in the year 1750, and belonged to an Albanian family, which had long been Mohammedans. In 1788 he distinguished himself in a battle against the Austrians, became Pasha of Tricala and Thessaly, and finally proclaimed himself Pasha of Yanina in Epirus.

All his acts were marked with treachery and fiendish cruelty. At last wishing to become master of Albania, Thessaly, Greece and Ionian Islands, he revolted against the Sultan, but was finally seized and treacherously put to death by the Ottoman general, Hurshid Pasha.

Sultan Abdul Hamid was poisoned on the 19th of April, 1789, and was succeeded by his nephew Selim III. Abdul Hamid was born on the 1st of June, 1725. He left three sons, Mehmed, who died of small pox, Mustafa IV., Mahmud II., and several daughters.

XXX.

SULTAN SELIM III.

1789-1808.

Selim III., son of Mustafa III., was 27 years of age when he ascended the throne. His face was thoughtful in expression, with black eyes and eyebrows, crooked nose, black beard, pitted face, tall, and slightly stooped.

He wore a white silk coat lined with valuable fur, and a green conical cap covered with a white linen turban, bearing on the front a diamond brooch with

feathers, and at his waist a Persian dagger set with precious stones. The new Sultan organized an army of 200,000 recruits from Albania, Bosna and Asia. He visited different parts of his capital in disguise; deposed the grand vizir Yussuf, and appointed Jezaerli Hassan Pasha, who was defeated in the naval battle of Tchesmé and saved his life by swimming. He also commanded the army during the expedition against Russia and Austria, but he was totally defeated by Suvaroff, the brave Russian general, at the battle of Oxanio in the Delta of the Danube, with a loss of 20,000 men, 100 standards, and all the artillery. Suvaroff, with his ally, the prince of Saxe-Coburg, conquered many towns as well as Ismael, with its garrison of 40,000 Turkish troops, almost all of whom were killed at the assault on the 22d of December, 1790. The Austrians conquered Servia, Wallachia and Moldavia, in the meantime the Emperor of Austria died in March, and was succeeded by his brother Leopold II., who, frightened at the attitude of France, concluded a treaty of peace at Sistov on the 16 of August, 1791, by which he restored to Turkey all the captured provinces and towns, and through the intervention of England and Prussia, peace was concluded at Jassy, on the 9th of January, 1792; thus the Crimea and part of Bassaravia was restored to Russia.

The Ottoman Empire was greatly disturbed by Napoleon I., who sent an expedition of 35,000 troops to Egypt in 1798 and subdued it. He took Gaza, stormed Jaffa and Acre, which was stubbornly held by the Turks, and after heavy losses Bonaparte



SULTAN SELIM III.

was forced to retire to Egypt, where on the 25th of July, 1799, the battle of Aboukir was fought near Alexandria with a complete destruction of the Turkish army. But the disturbances in France induced Napoleon to withdraw, and peace was concluded in Paris in 1801.

The invasion of Egypt by the French caused the inhabitants of Suli to revolt for their liberty.

Suli is situated in Epirus, a mountainous district, very difficult of access. The inhabitants of Epirus took refuge there, to preserve the religion, customs, and liberty of their forefathers. Ali Pasha Tepedelin, however, being a deceitful and ferocious man, could not tolerate them, as they would not acknowledge his authority, and he attempted to subdue them. These mountaineers fought against the troops of Ali Pasha in 1790, and twice had repelled his attacks successfully. The war of the Suliotes against Ali Pasha lasted for many years, in which they exhibited great bravery. Ali Pasha found it impossible to conquer them either by force or by stratagem, but finally they were obliged to surrender through the lack of provisions, and a treaty was made by which they would be allowed to emigrate with their arms and personal effects. This treacherous Pasha, however, violated the treaty at once and attacked the Suliotes as they were leaving their homes in three divisions. The first, under the command of Tchavella, reached Parga safely; the second, under Coutchonica, were pursued and besieged at Zologo, a rocky spot above Acheron. There occurred one of the most pathetic and horrible incidents of that epoch. The ammunitions and provisions being exhausted, and the women seeing that there was no safety for them, and realizing their dreadful fate if they fell into the hands of the Turks, threw their children down into the rocky abyss below, then clasping each other by the hand commenced to sing and danced one by one over the cliff thus rapidly following their little ones into eternity. One hundred and fifty men were left out of 800, who escaped to Parga; the third and last division, consisting of 1,000 Suliotes, reached a convent, but after a brave resistance all were killed but 45, who also reached Parga. Such was the heroic and tragic termination of this war.

A powerful insurrection in Servia, headed by George Petrovitch, called by his countrymen Czerni George, greatly disturbed the Ottoman Empire. This intrepid leader had been in early

youth obliged to leave his country, in consequence of having killed a Turk by whom he had been insulted, and became a sergeant in the Austrian service. His call on his country to shake off the Ottoman yoke was enthusiastically obeyed, and so successful were his efforts, that in 1806, he became master of Belgrade.

Napoleon's victories greatly surprised Selim, who sent Halep Effendi to congratulate him on his success. The French ambassador Sebastiani was received with great honor at Constantinople, which displeased the English and Russian ambassadors. Sebastiani then induced the Sultan to dethrone the hospodors or princes of Wallachia and Moldavia, Constantine Ypsilanti, and Alexander Morusi, and appointed instead Scarlato Calimachy and Alexander Sutzo. In November, 1806, the Russians invaded Moldavia and Wallachia without a declaration of war, while the English ambassador, fearing the intrigues of the French ambassador, who was on friendly terms with the Sultan, left Constantinople secretly on the English frigate to join the fleet at Tenedos. On the 20th of February the English fleet entered the Hellespont, arrived at Princes islands near Constantinople, but finding that city well garrisoned, the admiral, Sir John Duckworth, fearing that they might be shut in, in case the Dardanelles should be strongly fortified, left during the night after a stay of only eleven days. In May, 1807, an insurrection of Janizaries caused Sultan Selim's deposition and he was succeeded by his cousin Mustafa IV.

Selim III., son of Mustafa III., was born on the 24th of December, 1761. During his reign, he applied himself to the internal improvements of his kingdom and the re-organization of the Ottoman army, intending to dismiss gradually all the regiments of the Janizaries, who constantly disturbed the capital and thus reduced the military pride of the Ottoman Empire. With this in view, the Sultan sent for military officers from Paris in 1792, who introduced the first military regiments, which were called Nizam Djedit. These regiments were drilled on the basis of the French army, being under the command of the French general Aubert Duboyet. The Janizaries, however, refused to submit to this discipline, but the Sultan paid no attention to them, and took under his patronage the other regiments, increased them, and built separate barracks for them at Scutari bearing his name Selimiéh; and another at Levent Tchiflik, a place between Pera and Buyukderé. The Sultan left no issue.

XXXI.

SULTAN MUSTAFA IV.

1807-1808.

Mustafa IV., son of Hamid I., ascended the throne in the usual manner at Eyoub.

Soon after, the Russians having subdued Wallachia and Moldavia, prepared to cross the Danube, but they were opposed by Napoleon who determined to march against Russia.

The disturbances continued in the capital; Mustafa Bairactar arrived in Constantinople on the 28th of July, 1808, with the banner of the prophet, and announced that peace was concluded with Russia. He forced his way with his followers to the second court of the palace and proclaimed Selim as Sultan, but when he reached the audience hall he found that the eunuchs had just strangled him, by the order of Sultan Mustafa. Bairactar with the other revolters deposed Mustafa at once, assassinated him and proclaimed as the successor to the throne his half-brother, Mahoud II.

Mustafa IV. had no children, he was illiterate, and possessed but little strength of character.

XXXII.

SULTAN MAHMOUD II., THE REFORMER.

1808-1839.

Mahmoud II. ascended the throne in the 23d year of his age. He was of medium height, rosy complexion, with black hair, eyes and eyebrows, a short full black beard, he was haughty in manner and had a coarse voice. His first step was to punish the assassins of his cousin Selim and his brother Mustafa. During his reign the disturbances continued to such an extent that the Sultan was greatly puzzled. These disturbances encouraged the Russians to commence hostilities again. The grand



SULTAN MAHMOUD II.
Grandfather of the reigning Sultan.

vizir marched with 20,000 troops against the Russians and was defeated near Giurgevo. The Russians captured several forts on the Black Sea, but at last were obliged to withdraw on account of the advance of Napoleon with his large army. A treaty was concluded between Russia and Turkey at Bucharest in 1812, more advantageous to the former than to the latter.

The new grand vizir, Hurshid Ahmed Pasha, sent a strong force against the revolting Servians; Czerni George, after a brave resistance, had fled for safety to Russia, and thus, with great slaughter, Servia was subdued in 1813. Czerni attempted to renew the war in 1817, but was betrayed to the Turks and executed.

The Greeks had sunk into a state of ignorance and inaction, but toward the close of the last century, through the efforts of Constantine Riga Phereo, who by his personal efforts, the enthusiasm of his books, and the patriotism of his odes, succeeded in uniting the Greeks to fight for their liberty and thus to throw off the intolerable yoke of Turkey. He was betrayed, however, by the Austrian government, which was friendly with the Turks, and was surrendered with his comrades to the Pasha of Belgrade, who condemned them to be drowned in the river Istros. His cruel executioners found it difficult to overpower him and he was finally shot. Just before expiring he said: "In this manner the brave end their lives; I have sowed enough seed; and the hour is approaching when my nation shall gather the sweet fruit."

In 1820 the Heteria, a secret society, was formed from the higher ranks of the Greeks, to establish the independence of their country.

The town of Parga was purchased from the English by the cruel and blood thirsty Ali Pasha of Yanina, in his revolt against the Sultan; it was the last retreat of the brave inhabitants of Suli.

Parga, situated on the border of Epirus, came under the control of the Venetians in 1401; afterwards it was held by the French, and in 1814, after the fall of Napoleon, was taken by the English and sold to Ali Tepedelin Pasha of Yanina, who intended to exterminate its people. When they heard the dreadful news, they determined not to fall into the hands of the Turks, and decided to kill their wives and children, then to fight until the last. An English officer hearing of their determination hastened to Corfu, and reported it to High Commissioner Maitland. He sent General Adams, a kind hearted man, to investigate the matter, who finally succeeded in checking the advance of Ali's army, and persuaded the people of Parga to remove to Corfu. Thus the village was evacuated and then occupied by Ali Pasha's troops.

Prince Alexander Ypsilanti was chosen leader of the Heteria in February, 1821. In March of the same year he crossed the Pruth, and erected his standard in Moldavia; but on the 17th of June, through the treachery of some of his officers, was defeated.

In this battle, the Hieros Lochos or "Sacred Band," consisting of 400 youthful students, the pride of their country, refusing to yield fell bravely on the field of Chaeronia. Ypsilanti retreated into Austria, intending to pass into southern Greece, where the insurrection had extended, but he was seized by the Austrians and held as a prisoner.

When the news of the revolt in Greece reached Constantinople, the Turks began to massacre all the unfortunate Greeks in their possessions. Among

others was the Patriarch Gregorius V., 70 years of age, who on Easter Monday (old style), was visited by two officers sent by the Sultan, the first of whom appointed another Patriarch, while the second officer, Keseder or executioner, ordered the venerable priest to be conveyed to prison. According to the historians Pouqueville and Gordon, eighteen or twenty bishops and priests were confined in the same prison; efforts were made in vain to convert them to Islamism; they were tormented by having their heads bound with iron chains, their bodies terribly lacerated, and finally they were beheaded. The Patriarch alone was spared and was conveyed to Fanar, a village in the harbor of the Golden Horn. After suffering much indignity and many cruelties, he was hanged on one of the gates of the Patriarchate (which has since been kept closed) and after dragging his corpse through the filthy streets, it was thrown into the sea. The lifeless body floated near a Greek ship, carrying the Russian flag, owned by John Sclavo, a Cephalonian, which was lying near the bridge of Galata; it was recognized by the archdeacon of the Patriarchate, who was on board intending to sail for Odessa. Instantly the crew drew it up and tenderly conveyed it to Odessa, where his funeral was held with great pomp and solemnity, the entire expense being paid by the Czar.

Similar scenes took place in different parts of the Turkish Empire, and it seemed as if this was the total extermination of the Christians which had been resolved upon by the Turks. On the 11th of April, 1822, the Capedan Pasha Kara Ali, with a powerful

fleet, was sent to quell an insurrection in the island of Scio, excited by Bourna, a Sciote, formerly in the French army. He wished to free the island from the Turkish yoke; went to Samos, persuaded its governor to assist him, but the attempt was unsuccessful. The Turkish troops, 7,000 in number, landed and commenced to butcher its unoffending people, and by the end of May, 25,000 men, women and children had been murdered, and 45,000 taken into slavery, many of whom were sold in the markets of Constantinople, Egypt and Barbary, while 15,000 succeeded in escaping to Greece. It is impossible to describe the horrors and fiendish outrages enacted on this island at that time.

A pathetic incident occurred in connection with a young Scian who had escaped, and learned that his beautiful young sister Marigo had been taken captive and placed in a harem in Constantinople. He determined to find her, and for this purpose, as a pedler of chewing gum, went through the streets of the Turkish quarters calling *Μαριγῶ, ὁ Κωστῆς ὁ Μαστιχὰς*, or "Marigo, Constantine the gum-seller," the first being her name, the second his, in order to attract her attention. In this way, after a long patient search, he discovered his sister and finally succeeded in aiding her to escape.

After these dreadful scenes, and while a part of the Turkish fleet was anchored near Scio celebrating the eve of Bairam, two heroic men, Constantine Canaris of Psara and George Pipinis of Hydra, determined to prevent it from attacking Samos; with thirty-two brave companions, they sailed in two brigs fitted up as fire ships, accompanied by several other vessels carrying the French and Austrian colors. They approached the Turkish flagship at night and set fire to it. The powder magazine ex-

ploded, killing the crew, consisting of 2,986 Turks, with many of the captains, officers and unfortunately a great many Scian slaves, women and children. The Capedan Pasha escaped in a boat, but a falling mast sunk it, and Kari Ali was dragged to the beach and died on the same spot where the Sciote hostages had been tortured. Canaris, with his followers, after his success, returned to Psara. Several Turkish war vessels afterwards met with the same fate from the brave Canaris and his associates. Many came from different parts of Europe to aid the Greeks in their struggle for freedom; among them was the renowned poet, Lord Byron, who died at Messolonghi on the 18th of April, 1824, at the age of thirty-seven.

On the 1st day of July the newly appointed Capedan Pasha, with a fleet of eighty-two vessels and 14,000 troops, arrived at Psara and attacked it. Many were killed, others escaped, the remainder of the garrison with their wives and children fled to the Convent of St. Nicholas, which, after a long struggle, was blown up, thus destroying thousands of the besiegers and the besieged.

The same horrible fate befell the inhabitants of the Islands Kassandra, Niaousa, and Kasos. On the first about 1,000 men and women perished; on the second it is estimated that 20,000 of both sexes were killed and taken slaves; many maidens and mothers, clinging to their children, madly threw themselves into the sea to escape their ferocious assailants.

Kasos, the last island, was entirely desolated by Mohammed Ali. Two thousand children were

sent to the slave market in Alexandria; the boys by his order were forcibly proselyted through the rite of circumcision before they left the island. (See *History of Greece*, by A. J. Antoniades, p. 306.)

In 1825 the Christian inhabitants of Cyprus were charged with complicity in the revolution in Greece. Kutchuk Mehmed, its governor, invited the clergy and nobles to a council at Nicosia. After their arrival the gates were closed, and with a few exceptions, all were most treacherously murdered. (See *History of Cyprus* by R. Hamilton Lang, late H. M. Consul for the Island of Cyprus.)

In the same year Ibrahim Pasha, the adopted son of Mohammed Ali, viceroy of Egypt, landed in the Morea with an Egyptian army, and during his entire expedition his course was marked with the most indelible cruelties to the Greeks. A market was opened at Methoni for the sale of young people of both sexes, while the adults were condemned to hard labor in the galleys.

On the 6th of July, 1827, the representatives of England, France and Russia met in London and signed a treaty for the protection of Greece; orders were then sent to the fleets of these three great powers under Sir Edward Codrington in the Mediterranean, to put a stop to the fighting, and if possible proclaim an armistice. The Turks being unwilling to comply with this, attacked the allied fleet in the harbor of Navarino, and in a short and fierce engagement were totally destroyed. This defeat enraged the Sultan and he positively refused to make any terms with the Greeks, and the ambassadors of the



The Royal Family of Greece.

three powers left Constantinople. The next year the Russians invaded Turkey, and finally compelled its ruler to enter into a treaty.

Meanwhile the French had invaded the Morea to assist the Greeks, and obliged Ibrahim to leave that country for Egypt. Thus the freedom of Greece was assured, and under the control of the three allied powers, Count John Capodistria of Corfu was proclaimed ruler of Greece, but he was assassinated in 1831. On the 6th of February, 1833, Otho, second son of Louis, King of Bavaria, was proclaimed the first King of Greece at the age of eighteen, but after a reign of 30 years he was dethroned and succeeded in 1862 by the present sovereign William II., son of Christian IX., King of Denmark as George I. He married in 1867 the grand Duchess Olga, the eldest daughter of the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia.

During the last revolutionary war in Greece, a most notable event occurred in Constantinople, which was the extinction of the famous corps of the Janizaries. Sultan Mohammed II., seeing that they were unruly and would not comply with the new military regulations, resolved to exterminate them. He succeeded in gaining the confidence of Hussein Pasha, their Agha or chief; Kara Jehennem, chief of the artillery, and Bostandji Bashi, the head of the life guards. He effected this coup d'etat successfully. The Janizaries having no suspicion of what had been done, obeyed the command of their chief Hussein Pasha, gathered from all parts of the capital on the 9th of July, 1826, and assembled in their barracks at

At-Maidin, in readiness to resist any attempt on the part of the Sultan to compel their submission. Mahmoud II. invited all Mussulmen who were true to him, and to the Holy standard of the prophet,



QUEEN ALGA of Greece in the National Uniform.

to meet in the court of the Seraglio, where the Sheikh-ul-Islam and the Ulemas pronounced the abolition of the Janizaries, while his body guard and a portion of the artillery were assembled ready for

action. The Sultan risked his life frequently by going on horseback among the crowds of Janizaries, which was a brave act on his part. Suddenly orders were given to the gunners to fire upon the barracks, and assisted by the infantry, thousands of the Janizaries were killed within its four walls, while all who attempted to escape were shot down.

With the extinction of the Janizaries, the Sultan ordered all the heads of their tombstones to be destroyed. These were composed of marble pillars, terminating in a globe, bearing some resemblance to a human head and decorated with a turban, the form and folds of which indicated the rank of the deceased; but now the shape has been altered into that of a fez, which is colored.

Life sized models of the Janizaries are exhibited in a building called Kilitch-Hané at At-Meiden in Constantinople. The atrocities committed by this corps are beyond description; thousands of innocent Christians have been slaughtered in cold blood for mere caprice. Every Sunday they would assemble at all of the Christian churches, and having scattered some dirt near the door a broom was placed beside it, and the Christians who passed by were compelled either to sweep it away, or to contribute something towards its removal; or if a Christian happened to pass a Janizary, while he was sharpening his Yataghan, a kind of broad sabre, it was frequently tried on his body.

In 1829 Nicholas I., Emperor of Russia, declared war against Turkey; a Russian army crossed the Danube and arrived at the entrance of the Helles-

pont and Bosphorus, but the Turks were frightened and asked for peace. A treaty was signed at Adrianople, on the 14th of September, 1829, on condition that the Ottoman government should pay the entire indemnity of the war.



KAZAZ ARTIN.

During that time, Turkey was saved from the monetary crisis caused by the payment of those indemnities to Russia, by a prominent Armenian, Kazaz Artin, a resident of Constantinople. The government treasury was empty and Sultan Mah-



Facsimile of the Coins first used by Kazaz Artin to pay the Armenian Bankers.

moud II. was in despair for it was utterly impossible for him to raise the money, but through the ingenuity of Kazaz Artin, who procured a loan from the Armenian bankers of Constantinople, the amount was paid to the Russians. The money was soon after returned to these bankers in "Beshlik," a coin composed of copper and silver, of which very little is now in circulation.

This remarkable man exercised a strong influence over Sultan Mahmoud, who in return was very fond of him and in many ways showed his partiality for him. An incident illustrating this is related. Several ladies from the Imperial Harem were in the habit of riding out occasionally, closely veiled, and escorted on horseback by the eunuchs of the palace, who were Nubians. It was the custom of the bystanders sitting outside the coffee shops to rise and salute the Nubians as they passed, and on one occasion Kazaz Artin for some reason omitted doing so. He received a severe blow on the face from the negro, which bruised his cheek and tying it up with his handkerchief he went at once to Sultan Mahmoud, who inquired concerning the cause of the injury, and Kazaz Artin related the occurrence. The Sultan was very indignant and ordered the chief eunuch Kizler Aghassi to call all the others into his presence, and name those who had been out during the day, while at the same time by his command the executioners were assembled in an adjoining room. The Sultan asked Kazaz Artin to point out the offender, who was immediately strangled in the presence of all as a warning to the others. The Sultan then said to them: "This man is my faithful friend, he must at all times be treated with respect by every one of you."

In July, 1830, Turkey lost Algeria, which was subdued by the French.

In 1831 Commodore David Porter was commissioned Chargé d'Affaires to the Sublime Porte at Constantinople, and in 1839 as Minister Resident. During his administration there, the first treaty was made by the United States with Turkey, by which all American citizens are entitled to the same privi-

leges as those of other nations. He died at his post, at St. Stefano, a suburb of Constantinople, on the 4th of February, 1843.

In 1831 Henry Eckford, a prominent naval archi-



WARREN HIDDEN EFFENDI.

Superintendent of the works in the Imperial Ottoman Mint. Taken at 76 years of age.

tect of Scotch descent, sailed from New York for Constantinople in his beautiful vessel, known as a sloop of war, bearing his name, hoping to contract

with the Turkish government for the construction of war vessels. Mahmoud II. declined to make any contract for ships to be built in another country, but engaged Mr. Eckford to superintend the navy yards in Turkey. He sent to New York for a number of skillful workmen, who came over in a ship named the *America*; only one vessel however—the frigate *Nizaretteer*—was built before Mr. Eckford's death, which occurred in Constantinople, November 12, 1832. Mr. Eckford was a man of remarkable genius, as well as of original and scientific methods. He was a great favorite of Sultan Mahmoud II. and his mysterious death, in the prime of life, was a great loss, not only to the ship building interests of Turkey, but also to that of his adopted country—the United States. His influence, however, was felt in Turkey, for all the men-of-war were built for a long time after his models. Mr. Eckford was succeeded by Mr. Foster Rhodes, who had been his foreman and who afterward received a brilliant decoration in the shape of a miniature vessel, which the Sultan requested him to wear every day. After a few years Mr. Rhodes returned of his own accord to America and was appointed Naval Constructor at the U. S. Navy Yard in Brooklyn. He was accompanied by all the Americans there, except Mr. J. Reeves and Mr. Warren Hidden of New York, both of whom had married Russian ladies, natives of Constantinople. Mr. Reeves soon left Turkey; Mr. Hidden, —father of the author, whose ancestors came from Haddon Hall, Derbyshire, England,—left his native land on October 12, 1832, at the age of 20, and after

seven years' service in the government arsenal, he was appointed on the 1st of January, 1840, superintendent of all the works in the Imperial Ottoman Mint, and during fifty-five successive years in his official position received two decorations; one the Nisham Iftihar, or prize of glory, set with diamonds from Sultan Abdul Medjid, son of Mahmoud II.; also the order of Osmanié or military prize from the reigning Sultan Abdul Hamid II. (For further particulars see, "An American Machinist in Turkey," in Supplement of Scientific American, March 2, 1895.)

The first American missionary, the Rev. Dr. W. Goodell, arrived at Constantinople in 1831; he was followed successively by Rev. Messrs. Dwight, Schauffler and Dr. Holmes; they were afterwards joined by others, and in 1872 a magnificent Bible House at Flindjandjilar street in Stamboul was erected for the use of the mission.

Serious troubles occupied the attention of Sultan Mahmoud II. Mohammed Ali Pasha, governor of Egypt, was ambitious and desired to secure the vice royalty for himself, as well as the control of Syria and a part of Asia Minor. He sent his son Ibrahim Pasha with a large army and subdued Gaza, Jaffa, Kaiaffa, Ptolemais, and Damascus and defeated Hussein Pasha, as well as the army of the grand vizir Reshit, who was taken prisoner in December, 1832, after a brave resistance.

The Sultan was terrified and asked Russia for assistance against Ibrahim; who, meanwhile, had subdued several towns in Asia Minor, arrived at

Smyrna, over which he appointed a governor. In February, 1833, the Russian fleet arrived in the Bosphorus, and anchored at Hunkiar Skelessi, landed 15,000 troops, under the command of General Orloff; England and France induced Ibrahim Pasha to evacuate the subdued towns in Asia Minor, and the Russian fleet left Constantinople; on their departure, a massive stone was erected as a memorial, which still exists. Mohammed Ali then was acknowledged as hereditary vice-roy of Egypt, to which was annexed Syria and Adana; and to Ibrahim Pasha, Ptolmais, Aleppo, Tripoli and Damascus.

In 1838 Mohammed Ali Pasha and his son Ibrahim Pasha, renewed hostilities with great loss to the Turks. While France was arbitrating, Sultan Mahmoud was poisoned on the 1st of July, 1839, at his Imperial Kiosk, or summer residence at Tchamlidja, a village in Scutari.

Mahmoud II., son of Abdul Hamid I., was born on the 20th of July, 1785; during his reign both the bridges of Galata and Azab-capou were constructed. He also built the Stamboul tower of white stone on the square of Seraskerat or the Ministry of War; and in 1830 the mosque of Top-Hané. Beyond Top-Hané, on the same road, is another mosque built by the Admiral Kilitch Ali Pasha in 1580, renowned for the collection of faience which decorates the interior. Sultan Mahmoud was very voluptuous, but bold and vigorous in character. He established the first medical college in Constantinople; as well as the first Turkish journal under the title of the "Ottoman Monitor." He achieved a most difficult feat,

that of abolishing the use of the turban among his troops, and approximating their uniform, arms, and military discipline to the standard of European nations, and also made great changes in the ceremony of the Turkish court and in the Seraglio.

His dress consisted of a light blue silk jacket, closely buttoned up to the neck, a small diamond badge on the breast and trousers of crimson silk, white stockings and European shoes.

He left two sons, Medjid, and Aziz, and four daughters, all married.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and the Mohammedan countries commenced on the 1st of June, 1792, when President Washington appointed Admiral John Paul Jones a commissioner to treat with Algiers in regard to the ransom of captives, with Thomas Barclay as substitute. Unfortunately Admiral Jones died before his commission was received, followed soon after by the death of Barclay. Finally David Humphreys of Connecticut, Minister Resident to Portugal; James Donaldson, Jr., consul to Tunis and Tripoli with Pierre Eric Skjoldbrand, Consul at Algiers, composed the commission. At first they were unsuccessful, but finally Joel Barlow was added to the number and a treaty was concluded between the two countries. This afterwards prepared the way for the first treaty between the United States and the Sublime Porte. The first minister who went to Turkey was ex-commodore David Porter; he was succeeded by Dabney S. Carr, of Maryland; then in succession by George P. Marsh of Vermont, May 29, 1849; Carroll Spence of Maryland, Aug. 23, 1853; James Williams of Tennessee, January 14, 1858; Edward Joy Morris of Pennsylvania, June 8, 1861; Wagne MacVeagh of Pennsylvania, June 4, 1870; George H. Boker, of Pennsylvania, November 3, 1871; Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, March 9, 1875; James Longstreet, of South Carolina, Jun. 14, 1880; Gen. Lew Wallace, of Indiana, May 19, 1881; Samuel S. Cox, of New York, March 25, 1885; Oscar S. Straus, of New York, March 24, 1887; Solomon Hirsch, of Oregon, May 16, 1889; David P. Thompson, of Oregon, November 15, 1892; Alexander W. Terrell, of Texas, April 15, 1893.

The next in rank to U. S. Minister is that of Secretary of the Legation and the Dragoman or Interpreter; the former acts as *Chargé d' affairs* at any time during the absence of the minister;

the latter is the medium of communication between the Sublime Porte and the Legation. This position was filled for 36 years by Mr. John P. Brown of Ohio, well known to many Americans who have been in Turkey.

The U. S. Legation at Constantinople is entirely separate from the U. S. Consulate in its functions and its locality.

XXXIII.

SULTAN ABDUL MEDJID I.

1839-1861 A. D.

The death of Mahmoud II. was announced to his son, Medjid, and on the same day, July 1, the cannons announced the accession of the new Sultan. His first act was to attend the funeral of his father, who was interred in his mausoleum near the Hippodrome.

Abdul Medjid ascended the throne at the age of 17, and belted on him, as usual, his progenitor's sword at Eyoub on the 11th of July, 1839.

Mohammed Ali Pasha, vice-roy of Egypt, again caused disturbances, but was compelled by the allied European powers to sign a treaty, by which he became subject to the Sultan, and withdrew from Syria and Asia Minor.

Until the year 1842, the Keymés or treasury notes issued by the Ottoman government were written by hand, sealed by the Minister of Finance and by the director of the Imperial Ottoman Mint; the smallest denomination was \$8. But in 1843 the necessary

machinery was constructed, and the notes were printed in the mint, the smallest denomination being 10 piastres, and the highest 100.



SULTAN ABDUL MEDJID.

In 1850 the Turks attacked the Island of Samos in their usual manner. A strong proof of this is a letter in the hands of the author, dated April 18, 1850, which was sent from that island during the

attack by the Turks, written by his friend Dr. Nicholas Grammatopoulos, a physician in the Ottoman army, esteemed by all for his ability and skill, who writes to his brother-in-law that the third day of the attack was a most horrible and pitiful one; churches were ransacked, women and girls were assaulted in the streets by the Turkish soldiers, one of whom, a beautiful young bride, was chased by the ferocious Turks; she saw the doctor, called to him for help, and he went to her assistance at once; after this, a number of young women were offered to him by the soldiers as gifts, all of whom he rescued.

In 1851 Sultan Abdul Medjid was a guest at the house of Stefano Bogorides in Arnaout Keui on the Bosphorus, on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter to John Photiades Bey. This was entirely contrary to the Mussulmen custom and quite beneath the dignity of the Sultan.

Nicholas I. of Russia sent Prince Mentchikoff, as an envoy, to make some demands from the Sublime Porte concerning the Holy places in Jerusalem, but the Ottoman government refused them, and in the following year the Crimean war was proclaimed. The Sublime Porte asked the assistance of the European powers, and the allied English, French and Italian fleet sailed to the Bosphorus and anchored at Beicos. The destruction of the Turkish fleet by the Russians at Sinope in November, 1853, caused the allied fleet to go to the Crimea, with a land force of 50,000 French troops, and 15,000 Sardinians, under the command of St. Arnaud; while 25,000 English troops under Lord Raglan occupied Varna; the

meantime the Austrian army invaded Moldavia. In three engagements which took place respectively at Alma on the 20th of September, 1854; at Tchernaiia the 26th of October, and at Inkerman on the 5th of November of the same year, the Russians lost about 20,000 men; and Sebastopol was taken on the 8th of September, 1855, after a siege of ten months. During this siege 7,557 French, 2,447 English, besides a number of Austrian and Sardinian troops were killed. In Asia, Kars was surrendered to the Russians on the 25th of November after a heroic resistance.

On the 3d of March, 1855, Nicholas I., died and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. who being of an amiable disposition, signed a treaty of peace on the 30th of March, 1856. The conditions were, that Turkey should be independent; foreign men of war were prohibited from passing through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles; the passage of the Black Sea and the Danube to be free for the commerce of all nations; and that Russia should not maintain a fleet in the Black Sea.

At the close of the year 1857, Sultan Medjid sent Mohammed Pasha, the Rear Admiral, to the United States with a suite, for the purpose of having constructed there a three-decker ship-of-war, to bear the name of the Sultan. He arrived in New York on the 6th of March, 1858, and on the 18th of the same month was formally received by President Buchanan. He finally left America greatly disappointed in not carrying out his plans. In 1860, horrible atrocities and massacres occurred at Lebanon

and in Damascus, when more than 1,200 Christians perished at the hands of the Turks.

On the 25th of June, 1861, Sultan Abdul Medjid died and was interred in his own mausoleum in the garden of the mosque Selimié. Abdul Medjid was born on the 6th of May, 1822, he was a man of delicate constitution and of medium stature. His nose had not the equiline curve, possessed by some of his predecessors; his complexion was pale, with a brown beard, large forehead, full black eyes and a mild physiognomy. His costume was simple, consisting of a surtout of deep blue, white trousers, patent leather boots, and a red fez, in which the imperial aigrette of heron's feathers was fastened by a button of enormous diamonds.

He erected several splendid edifices, one of which was the palace of Dolma Bagtché, which was completed in 1853. Its interior is magnificently decorated and furnished with oriental taste and splendor. Others were the palace of Guiok-Suyiu or sweet waters of Asia; the palace of Beicos; two kiosks at Flamour in Beshik-tash, and others.

Sultan Medjid left six sons, Murad, Hamid, Resat, Ahmed Komaleddin, Mehmed Buhran-ud-din and Nour-ed-din, and eight daughters married to pashas. He was succeeded by his brother Abdul Aziz in 1861.

During the reign of Sultan Medjid, an occurrence took place illustrating some phrases of the Turkish character. On the marriage of his daughter, several holidays were granted to the people with much festivity in a large square of Constantinople. Consequently thousands were out on foot and in carriages. Among the latter was one occupied by two ladies closely veiled, one of whom was the wife of a Turkish official. In the crowd there was a government de-

tective, an Armenian, who, from certain indications, perceived that her companion in the carriage was a young man in disguise. He went at once to the police station and stated the case to the captain in charge of that quarter, who immediately accompanied him to the spot. The captain watched the pair closely and was convinced that the detective was correct; he approached the carriage alone, and placing his hand on the open window, said, "Lady, who is your companion?" Knowing the consequences, she quickly drew off a diamond ring of great value and slipped it on one of his fingers. With the utmost suavity, he said, "Madame, you can remain here as long as you like; you are perfectly safe now;" and left her with a bow. He then called several policemen and instructed them to watch that carriage, and not to allow any one to pass it, or in any way to annoy its occupants. He returned to the police station, taking the detective with him, and said, "What is this you have done? I am in danger of losing my position, for having annoyed one of the wives of the grand vizir!" Her companion was her daughter—not a young man. With many curses he ordered him to be thrashed, and kept him in confinement until the next day, when he was released.

XXXIV.

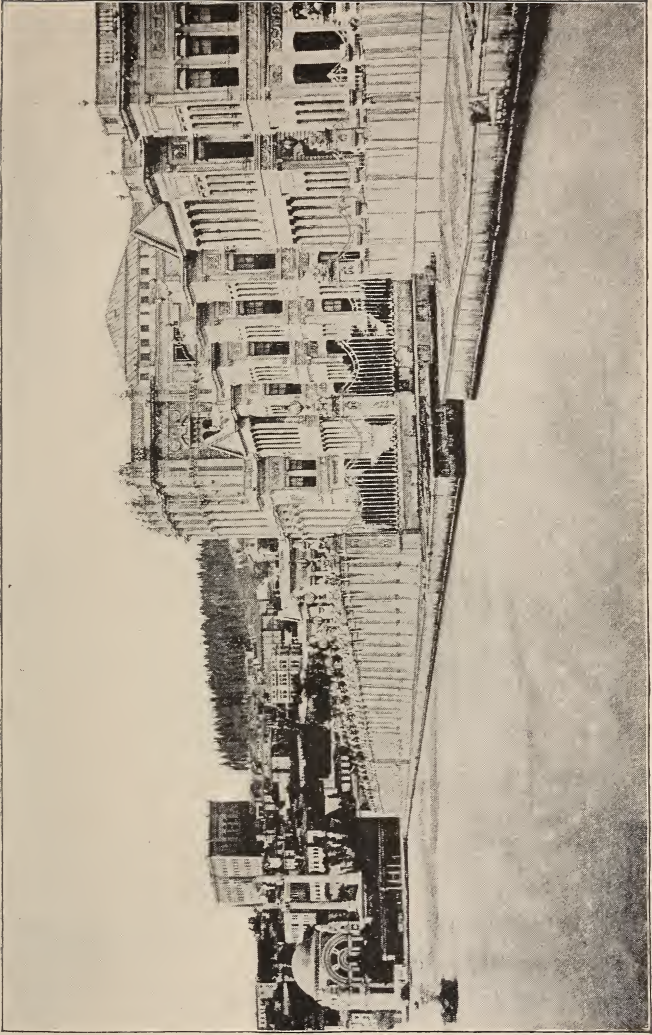
SULTAN ABDUL AZIZ I.

1861–1876.

Abdul Aziz I. ascended the throne in 1861, and girded on the sword of Osman with the usual pomp.

In 1862 a commercial treaty was made between the United States and Turkey, signed by E. Joy Morris, of Pennsylvania, Minister Plenipotentiary to the Sublime Porte, and by the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Morris, in this treaty, and all other transactions with the Ottoman government, exhibited great tact and dignity, requiring all with whom he came in contact to respect the country which he represented. He was formerly a United States senator from the state of Illinois; a fine linguist and a thorough American. A great compliment was paid him by the grand vizir Ali Pasha—

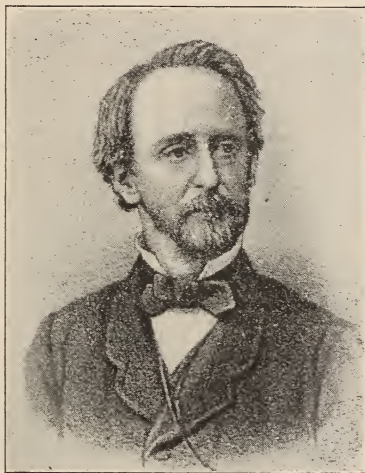


Palace of Dolma—Bagtché.

formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs—when Mr. Morris went to bid him farewell at the time of his return to the United States. The accomplished diplomat shook hands most warmly with the American Minister and said to him: “You are an honor to your country and to your countrymen.”

In 1863 the first National exhibition in Turkey was opened at At-Meidan.

In 1866 the inhabitants of Crete, wishing to free themselves from the cruelty of the Turkish yoke and to be annexed to Greece, revolted, but without



E. JOY MORRIS.

success; this state of things lasted until 1868; the same futile attempts had been made in 1821, 1856 and 1858. This unhappy island since its capture by the Turks from the Venetians has been the scene of constant contention. It has been devastated and impoverished like the other Christian possessions of the Turks, and its history is a record of brutal oppression and misrule.

In 1867 Sultan Aziz visited Europe, accompanied by his son and his nephews, at which time he was seen by the author at Richmond on the Thames. No other Sultan has ever taken a similar journey.

Several years ago I was a passenger on the beautiful steamer Korniloff belonging to a Russian line between London and Odessa. The captain and officers were cultured gentlemen, and when they learned that I was an American, treated me with the greatest kindness and took me into their confidence. Among our fellow passengers, were Said Effendi, a high Turkish official resident in Bebek on the Bosphorus—with his harem, Imam and suite, going from Malta to Constantinople; their presence on board led the second mate, in a pleasant after dinner talk, to tell me the following incident of a previous voyage: A Turkish pasha, with a suite, also had taken passage on the Korniloff at Constantinople for Malta; on their arrival at Smyrna, the pasha, after inquiring as to the length of their stay there, went on shore with his male attendants to take a Turkish bath, as a religious duty, and in order to be thoroughly cleaned from their sins. The hour of departure arrived but the pasha and his party were a minus quantity. It was impossible to wait any longer and the Korniloff steamed out of the harbor of Smyrna just as the Turkish owner of the harem and his servants rushed frantically down on the pier, waving their handkerchiefs, and gesticulating to the captain. But in vain! Alas for the obduracy of the Russian government officer who would not allow his steamer to be hindered by the delay of a sinless Turk wishing to join his harem! He was compelled to wait for the next steamer and found his wives awaiting him at Malta, having received nothing but kind and gentlemanly treatment from the officers of the Korniloff.

In 1869 two important events occurred; the first was the opening of the railway between Constantinople and Adrianople. The second was the inauguration of the Suez canal, which connects the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. This reduces the distance between Western Europe and India from 11,379 to 7,623 miles. This feat is one of the most wonderful engineering triumphs of modern times, and was completed by the energy and perseverance of Ferdinand De Lesseps.

In the same year, Sultan Abdul Aziz issued an Iradé or mandate, forbidding Turkish subjects from expatriating themselves by becoming citizens of other countries without his permission. During the



SULTAN ABDUL AZIZ.

administration of Minister S. S. Cox, the United States informed the Turkish government that it would not acknowledge that law; but to this day

the Sublime Porte refuses to recognize the naturalization of any subject who left Turkey after 1869.

In 1870 a great fire occurred at Pera opposite Constantinople, when 9,000 houses were destroyed and 2,000 people perished.

The first fire brigade in Constantinople was organized in 1874, by the Count Edmond Széchenyi Pasha, a Hungarian nobleman, under whose control it has been ever since.

During this reign, several disturbances took place in the Danubian provinces which hastened the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

In August, 1875, an insurrection broke out in Herzegovina against the Sultan, which neither the arms, threats or promises of the Turks would quell. The inhabitants of Montenegro, a brave and hardy people, called the Black Mountaineers—from the dark pine forests on their mountains, sympathized with, and assisted the Herzegovenians during this revolt. Montenegro, although nominally subject to Turkey, had for several years carried on a periodical warfare with varying success, one incident of which is worthy of special mention. A detachment of several hundred Turks entered a rocky pass, accompanied by their brass band, and were captured by the Montenegrins who were in ambush; after this the Turkish soldiers were compelled to exchange their uniforms for the much worn garments of their captors and then released to return to their own head-quarters. As they approached the Turkish camp they were fired upon by their own comrades, who mistook the wearers of the Montenegrin uni-

form for their enemies; by this error they were all sent to the Mohammedan paradise. Meanwhile the band was compelled to play during the night for the amusement of their victors.

Matters of graver import occupied the Sultan's attention at that time, for the Turks were incited to insurrection in the different mosques of Constantinople by the Softas and Mollahs in order to establish reforms in the government, and they demanded the dismissal of the grand vizir Mahmoud Nedim, and the Sheikh-ul-Islam, which had been promised by the Sultan.

Later on many of the Softas and Mollahs were organized into regiments and sent to the battle field, being misled by the false reports published in all the Turkish papers, and posted up in every street by the authorities, that the Turks were gaining on the insurgents.

On the 7th of May, 1876, the French and German consuls at Salonica, Messrs. Paul Moulin and Henry Abbott, were murdered. This unfortunate event was caused in the following manner: A Bulgarian girl, a convert to Mohammedanism, became disgusted with harem life, and returned to Salonica, claiming the protection of the Russian consul. On her arrival there she was taken forcibly from the Turkish guards by some Greeks, and carried to the house of a relative, who was also the consul both for America and Russia. The Turks of Salonica were irritated by this and claimed her as long as she wore the Turkish costume. Messrs. Moulin and Abbott, who were brothers-in-law, both young men of good

family, wishing to quell the excitement, went with the governor of Salonica to the mosque Yeni Djami. Their presence increased the tumult, however, and the consuls were beaten to death by a mob of fanatics, in the governor's presence.

The revolution in Herzegovina continued for nearly a year, and meanwhile an attempted revolt took place in Bulgaria. The Turkish government, in addition to its regular troops, employed thousands of savage Bashi-Bozouks, such as Circassians, and Zeibeks, who committed the most brutal and indescribable tortures upon the Christians early in 1876, the report of which filled Christendom with horror. (See Argyle's *Eastern Question*.)

Mr. Baring, of the British embassy at Constantinople, visited Bulgaria during that time, and states that the authorities of Tartar-Bazardjik had ordered Ahmed Agha of Dospat to march against Batak. He reached that place on the 9th of May, and summoned the inhabitants to give up their arms, but they refused to do so, fearing the consequences. Ahmed in reply solemnly swore that if they would give up their arms, not a hair of their heads should be touched; the villagers believing him, acceded to his request. Instantly the Bashi-Bozouks attacked and slaughtered them in cold blood, excepting about 1,200 who took refuge in the church; they were pursued by the Turks, who tore the tiles off the roof, threw burning pieces of wood and rags saturated with petroleum into the crowd of human beings inside. At last the door was forced in, all were killed except eighty girls who were carried off. For

this exploit Ahmed Agha and his colleagues, Tosoun Bey and Nejib Effendi, were decorated by the government with the order of the Medjidié. According to Mr. Baring's account fifty-four Bulgarian villages were burned and destroyed, and their inhabitants met the same cruel fate. The total number massacred was estimated at 25,000. A pamphlet published in England entitled, "The Aborigines' Friend," narrates the work of the late Stamatios L. Spanoudis, a Greek gentleman of Constantinople,—an intimate friend of the author,—who rescued large numbers of children previously kidnapped by the Circassians, Bashi-Bozouks, and other marauders in 1876; many of whom had been sold in Constantinople and in Asia Minor. Another pamphlet, published also in England, "The Kidnapping of Bulgarians During the Russo-Turkish War," mentions the number saved by him from the sad fate which otherwise awaited them. Over 200 boys and girls of different ages were rescued, several from the ex-grand vizir Savfet Pasha's summer residence at Canelidja, a village on the Bosphorus; from the ex-grand vizir Edhem Pasha's house at Ouzoun-Tcharshi, Stamboul; from the house of Said Pasha's son near Vlanga, Stamboul; from Sherif Pasha's house at Scutari; from Geifyk Hassan Pasha's house at Bebek, a village on the Bosphorus; from Kemal Pasha's house at Scutari; eight girls, aged 17 to 18, from Kiamil Pasha's house at Bebek, on the Bosphorus; from the house of Kiazim Bey, ex-prefect of Constantinople.

In the year 1876, Sultan Abdul Aziz, in consequence of the dissatisfaction of his subjects, was forcibly deposed by his pashas. On the night of the 30th of May, he was taken by sea from his palace of Dolma-Bagtche, with his retinue of wives, and secluded in the Eski-Serai, or the Seraglio, thence was conveyed to the Tchiraghan palace on the Bophorus, and an end was put to his miserable existence on June 4, 1876.

Abdul Aziz was tall, and stout, with a haughty manner. Among the events of his reign, was the formation of a mounted body guard, consisting of the sons of noble families in the subdued provinces taken as hostages, and wearing the richly embroidered, picturesque and beautiful costumes of their respective countries.

Like all his predecessors he maintained a large harem, consisting of 1,000 odalisques.

The Sultan, except on special occasions, eats alone. His meals are served in silver vessels closely sealed with a paper slip, which is stamped. The chief chamberlain breaks the seal and tastes every dish before it is given to the Sultan; this is done in his presence as a precaution against poison, and it is eaten from the dish in which it is served.

In the residences of the pashas, and in the homes of the wealthy, all the meals are prepared in the kitchen of the selamlık, and the necessary portion is taken to the haremlık by the aivaz, or bearers for this purpose. The food is carried on large wooden trays covered with cloths; on their arrival at the harem door, the bearers call out *Destour! Destour!*—Keep away. Thus the slave girls are apprised of their presence, and hide themselves while the trays are placed on the floor, after which they are taken upstairs by the servants, for the use of the household. It is not customary for the master or male members of the family to join the women at the table. The houses are divided into two parts—the Selamlık and Haremlık; the former is occupied by the men as a residence and for social purposes, while the women have the same right to, and use of the haremlık. In the latter, no man, except the master,

is ever allowed to enter, and when a Hanoum or lady visitor is there, the entrance is prohibited even to him. The Turkish "Hanoums" or ladies, many of whom are of Circassian birth, never go out unveiled, the only part of the face visible being their eyes; their heads are covered entirely with "Yasmak," or thin white gauze, two folds of which are used; one passes around the forehead, the other is placed just below the eyes, and both are fastened at the back of the head and fall under the Feridje, or silk cloak, which covers the entire body. Thus disguised, they may go about as they please in the day time, without the knowledge of their husbands, and they are to be seen everywhere. Groups in gayly colored dress, shopping in the bazars, or under the trees by the sweet waters of Europe and Asia, or gliding on the Bosphorus in caiques or wherries, those of high rank being attended by one or more eunuchs. They also carry parasols of the gayest hue, which are generally open even after dark. This protection renders the face invisible and is called "Nam-Ihram." According to the teachings of the Koran, woman is of no value, and is spoken of as a slave. The Hanoums, if wealthy, are guarded by eunuchs, their husbands are their absolute masters.

Once a week, as a religious duty, they go to the bath and remain there the entire day, indulging in all the gossip of their quarter.

Abdul Aziz erected several splendid edifices on the Bosphorus, such as the palace of Beylerbey in 1865; the Tchiraghan palace, the Yildiz palace or the Star residence on the top of the hill of Beshiktash, now used as the residence of the reigning Sultan.

He organized a fleet of iron-clads; and in 1876 the underground railway which unites Galata with Pera was built. His nephew Murad V. was proclaimed Sultan in his stead, but proving to be an imbecile, he resigned and is closely secluded in the palace of Tchiraghan, and was succeeded by his brother, Abdul Hamid II., who is the reigning sovereign of Turkey.

XXXV.

SULTAN ABDUL HAMID II.

1876.

Abdul Hamid, the second son of Abdul Medjid, was born on the 22d of September, 1842. His mother died while he was an infant, and he was cared for by his father's second wife, a childless and wealthy woman.

In 1867 he accompanied his uncle, Sultan Abdul Aziz, to Europe, and on the 31st of August, 1876, he ascended the throne, as Sultan Abdul Hamid II. (The author was an eye witness of the pomp attending this ceremonial)

Events of great importance occurred in the early part of his reign. The revolt increased in the Danubian Principalities, and in the same year Alexander II. notified the Sultan, that if he could not give satisfactory guarantee for the better government of his Christian subjects the Czar would interfere.

In the following December a conference of the great powers was held in Constantinople, and on the 31st of March, 1877, a protocol was signed by them; but it was not accepted by the Turks and it was evident that the matter must be settled by the sword.

On the 23d of April, 1877, Russia declared war against Turkey; on the 27th of June, the

Russian army, in three divisions, crossed the Danube, captured Tirnova, and soon after Gen. Gourko made his daring expedition across the



SULTAN ABDUL HAMID II.

Balkan, and took Kysanlik and Eski-Zaghra. In Asia, the Russians captured Ardahan, and overthrew the Turkish army, which was afterward followed by

the fall of Kars. Osman Pasha, after a strong resistance, was captured on the 10th of December at Plevna, and with his army were taken prisoners; and the remnant of Suleyman Pasha's army was dispersed. The Russians advanced to Adrianople and took it without difficulty. The Turks then asked for an armistice; but the Russians continued their march to St. Stefano, a few miles from Constantinople.

England fearing that the Russians might occupy that city, sent her fleet which entered the Dardanelles on the 8th of January and anchored before Constantinople.

On the 31st of January an armistice was concluded at St. Stefano, a suburb of the capital, followed on June 13, 1878, by the treaty of Berlin, by which the Danubian provinces, Servia, Roumania, and Montenegro, were to be independent; Bulgaria was to be ruled by a prince under the control of the Sultan.

A part of Thessaly was given to Greece. Austria was to hold Bosna and Herzegovina; England occupied the Island of Cyprus, Russia held Kars, Ardahan, and Batoun.

In 1881 the assassins of Abdul Aziz, the ex-grand vizir Midhat Pasha, Riza Pasha, Minister of Justice; Mahmoud Damat Pasha; Sheit Bey; Ized Bey, Behlivan Mustafa or wrestler, were punished by Sultan Abdul Hamid II. They were exiled with the exception of Behlivan Mustafa, his murderer, who was condemned to death. Hussein Avni Pasha, Minister of War; Ahmed Pasha Minister of the Navy; and Reshit Pasha, who were also in the plot,

were previously killed by Hassan Bey, the Circassian aid-de-camp and brother-in-law of the deceased Sultan.

The present Sultan, Abdul Hamid II., like many of his predecessors, lives in constant fear of poisoning or of assassination. On this account, it is said that he changes his bedroom every night, so that he cannot be easily found. Dr. S. Mavroyeni Pasha, the head physician of the palace, is required to visit the Sultan daily and must, without fail, make his call early in the morning, so as to see his illustrious patient, as he comes out from his harem, examine, and if necessary prescribe for him. This is probably on the principle that the prevention of physical ills is better than the cure.

The instruction of the Turkish children was formerly conducted in two kinds of schools,—the mektebs or primary schools, taught by the Imams or religious men; and the medressés or schools of theology. Abdul Hamid II., the present Sultan, however, has established a number of schools in which the rising generation is instructed after the European methods.

The great national Greek school, which has a library of nearly twenty thousand volumes, is one of the finest institutions of learning in Turkey, and was built at Fanar, on the Golden Horn, in 1881, by the Patriarch of Constantinople, Joachim IV., a man of fine scholarship.

There is also a Greek Theological Seminary, on one of the hills of the island of Halki, in the Sea of Marmora, built in the year 1844 by the Patriarch Germanus IV. In 1885, a Tramway company was organized, which opened communication between Galata and Chichli. The next year the Dercos water was brought to Constantinople and its suburbs.

In 1892 the Sultan organized a new cavalry composed of the wild, ferocious and desperate Kurds to which he gave his own name Hamidié. He also summoned a number of their chiefs to Constantinople, invested them with military rank and decorations as a reward for horrible atrocities committed by them in past years; provided them with the best of modern arms, and a uniform including large black woolen caps, having brass badges in front. During their stay of several months in the capital, they were frequently seen by the author in this dress. These Kurds constitute at present a brigade of legalized and lawless robbers, free from any restriction or control, and were thus sent back to their own country. They are the same desperadoes who have already, and will continue to devastate and pillage Armenia. The Turkish government invariably denies all these outrages, it is natural that it should do so. The Sultan always favored them, for he considered them a bulwark against the Armenians in case of revolt.

Arrests are frequently made in Turkey very unjustly, and on the slightest pretext or suspicion. The following incident is an illustration: A short time before I left Turkey, a number of Armenians, under arrest, passed the house at Yenikeui where I was staying during the summer. On inquiry I learned that they were Armenian cooks, quiet middle aged men employed in wealthy families, who had served the noon dinner, and were sitting together in a coffee-shop discussing their own matters, with the intention of returning in a couple of hours to their work. Suddenly the coffee-shop was surrounded by a number of Turkish police, and in spite of their protestations to the contrary, they were arrested on the plea that they were planning a conspiracy against the government. They were compelled to walk several miles to Pera, guarded by the police, who were changed at the different villages on the route. What finally became of these poor Armenians, I could not learn.

but they were probably "chained and exiled," which in Turkish parlance, means, that they were heavily chained together, placed on a vessel, and at night quietly dropped into the strong current of the Bosphorus. Dead men tell no tales!

In 1894 a massacre took place in Turkish Armenia, caused by a Kurdish raid in which two Kurds were killed. Their corpses were conveyed by friends to Moush who declared that the Armenians had revolted; this served as a pretext for an order from the Sultan to massacre the defenceless people, upon whom his troops committed the most indescribable outrages without the least regard to age or sex. The end of this savage butchery came only when there was no more material for it—after the inhabitants of more than thirty Armenian villages had been murdered and their houses destroyed. In one place a number of men, women and children had collected for safety and were finally induced to surrender, only on the solemn promise of protection from the Kurds, but after having done so, many of them, including several priests, were seized and buried alive; some were impaled in Turkish fashion, and others were driven into houses, around which inflammable materials were piled, then fired, burning them slowly to death.

Hundreds of women and young girls, after receiving the most agonizing and fiendish treatment from the soldiers, were killed by them. Even the little children were not exempted, and were used as targets by the brutal soldiers. As a reward for these outrages, Ziki Pasha, commander of the troops, and the Kurdish chiefs associated with him, were decorated by Sultan Hamid!

At the close of the Russo-Turkish war, Nerses, the Armenian Patriarch, implored the Russian commander at St. Stefano in concluding the treaty with Turkey, to insert a clause stipulating that autonomy should be granted to Armenia; for she has been subjected from time immemorial to the same injustice and maltreatment as Greece and Bulgaria. His request was willingly granted by the commander, and Turkey accepted the conditions of the Berlin treaty to carry out such reforms and improvements as Armenia needed, and also guaranteed its protection, while England became the special guarantor of the promises of the Sublime Porte. Those reforms have never been carried out; the protection has never been given, any more than were the reforms promised by the Porte immediately after the Crimean war.

Early in the summer of 1895 an insurrection took place in Macedonia, the details of which are too recent to require repetition here; the result of this however was favorable to the insurgents.

In September of the same year, a formidable riot occurred in Constantinople in which Armenians and Turks were killed. The Armenians fled to the churches for security and after several days, through the intervention of the Foreign Ambassadors, they were allowed to go safely to their homes.

In October, 1895, an Imperial Iradé was granted to the Armenians by Sultan Abdul Hamid II., in conformity with the demand made by Russia, England and France, but those who understand the Turkish character know certainly that those promises of re-

form will be evaded if possible, in fact they were not made with any intention of fulfillment. Reform of any kind is utterly impossible, it is contrary to the nature of the Turks. It is truly said that the only "good Turk is a dead Turk," for then he is incapable of injuring others in thought, word or deed. It is a blot upon the civilization and humanity of the Nineteenth Century, that a sensual and grossly immoral nation as the Turks, to whom rape and abduction are daily events, with a long and appalling record of bloodshed, cruelty and barbarity, should control several millions of Christians who are superior to them in character, intelligence and in every other respect.

Is it not time for Christian nations to unite and free them from the debasing and demoralizing yoke of the Ottomans which they have borne for centuries? The only way to do this is to follow the advice of the venerable ex-premier of England—Mr. Gladstone—and send the Sultan and his Mohammedan subjects "bag and baggage to Bagdad." May the day soon come!





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