John Catrup Esq

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THE FALL OF TURKEY.

The long duration and sudden fall of the Turkish Empire is one of the most extraordinary and apparently inexplicable phenomena in European history. The decay of the Ottoman power had been constantly the theme of historians; the approaching downfall, the unceasing subject of prophecy for a century; but yet the ancient fabric still held out, and evinced on occasions a degree of vigor which confounded all the machinations of its enemies.—For eighty years, the subversion of the empire of Constantinople had been the unceasing object of Moscovite ambition; the genius of Catharine had been incessantly directed to that great object; a Russian prince christened after the last Palæologi expressly to receive his throne, but yet the black eagle made little progress towards the Danube; the Musselman forces arrayed on its banks were still more formidable, and a host arrayed under the banners of the Osmanleys capable of making head against the world For four years, from 1808 to 1812, the Russians waged a desperate war with the Turks, they brought frequently 150,000, sometimes 200,000 men into the field; but at its close they had made no sensible progress in the reduction of the bulwarks of Islamism; two hundred thousand Musselmans had frequently assembled round the banners of the Prophet; the Danube had been stained with blood, but the hostile armies still contended in doubtful and desperate strife on its shores, and on the glacis of Schumla the Moscovites had sustained a bloodier defeat than they ever received from the genius of Napoleon. In the triumph of the Turks at that prodigious victory, the Vizier wrote exultingly to the Grand Seignor, that such was the multitude of the Infidel heads which he had taken, that they would make a bridge for the souls of the Faithful from earth to Heaven.

But though then so formidable, the Ottoman power has within these twenty years rapidly and irrecoverably declined. The great barrier of Turkey was reached in the first campaign of the next war: the Balkan yielded to Russian genius in the second, and Adrianople, the ancient capital of the Osmanleys, became celebrated for the treaty which sealed for ever the degredation of their race. On all sides the provinces of the Empire have revolted; Greece through a long and bloody contest, has at length worked out its deliverance from all but its own passions; the ancient war cry of Byzantium, Victory to the Cross, has been again heard on the Egean Sea;* and the Pacha of Egypt taking every advantage of the weakness consequent on so many reverses, has boldly thrown off the yoke, and advancing from Acre in the path of Napoleon, shown to the astonished world the justice of that great man's remark, that his defeat by Sir Sidney Smith under its walls made him miss his destiny. The victory of Koniah prostrated the Asiatic power of Turkey; the standards of Mehemet Ali are rapidly approaching the Seraglio; and the discomfited Sultan is driven to take refuge under the suspicious shelter of the Russian legions. Already the advanced guard of Nicholas has passed the Bosphorus; and the Moscovite standards are floating at Scutari; and to the astonishment alike of Europe and Asia the Keys of the Dardanelles, the throne of Constantine, are laid at the feet of the Czar.

The unlooked for rapidity of these events, is not more astonishing than the weakness which the Mussulmans have evinced in their last struggle. The Russians in their late campaign, never assembled forty thousand men in the field. In the battle of the 11th June, which decided the fate of the war, Diebitsch had only 36,000 soldiers under arms; yet this small force routed the Turkish army and laid open the far famed passes of the Balkan to the daring genius of its leader. Christendom looked in vain for the mighty host which at the sight of the holy banner, was wont to assemble round the standard of the Prophet; the ancient courage of the Osmanleys seemed to have perished with their waning fortunes; hardly could the Russian out posts keep pace with them in the rapidity of their flight; and a force reduced by sickness to twenty thousand men dictated peace to the Ottomans within twenty hours march of Constantinople. —More lately, the once dreaded throne of Turkey has become a jest to its ancient provinces: the Pacha of Egypt, once the most inconsiderable of his vassals, has compelled the Sublime Porte the ancient terror of Christendom, to seek for safety in the protection of infidel battalions; and the throne of Constantine, incapable of self defence is ultimately destined to become the prize for which Moscovite ambition and Arabian audacity are to contend on the glittering shores of Scutari.

But if the weakness of the Ottomans is surprising, the supineness of the European powers is not less amazing at this interesting crisis. The power of Russia has long been a subject of alarm to France, and having twice seen the Cossacs at the Tuilleries, it is not surprising that they should feel somewhat nervous at every addition to its strength. England jealous of its maritime superiority, and apprehensive—whether reasonably or not is immaterial—of danger to her Indian possessions, from the growth of Russian power in Asia, has long made it a fixed principle of her policy to coerce the ambitious designs of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, and twice she has saved Turkey from their grasp.

When the Russians and Austrians, in 1786, projected an alliance for its partition, and Catharine and Joseph had actually met on the Wolga to arrange its details, Mr. Pitt interposed, and by the influence of England prevented the design; and when Diebitsch was in full march for Constantinople, and the insurrection of the Janissaries only waited for the sight of the Cossacks to break out, and overturn the throne of Mahmoud, the strong arm of Wellington interfered, put a curb in the mouth of Russia, and postponed for a season the fall of the Turkish power. Now, however, every thing is changed;—France and England, occupied with domestic dissentions, are utterly paralysed; they can no longer make a show of resistance to Moscovite ambition; exclusively occupied in preparing the downfall of her ancient allies, the Dutch and the Portuguese, England has not a thought to bestow on the occupation of the Dardanelles, and the keys of the Levant are, without either observation or regret, passing to the hands of Russia.

These events are so extraordinary, that they almost make the boldest speculator hold his breath. Great as is the change in external events which we daily witness, the alteration in internal feeling is still greater. Changes which would have convulsed England from end to end, dangers which would have thrown European diplomacy into agonies a few years ago, are now regarded with indifference. The progress of Russia through Asia, the capture of Erivan and Erzeroum, the occupation of the Dardanelles, are now as little regarded as if we had no interest in such changes; as if we had no Empire in the East threatened by so ambitious a neigbbor; no independence at stake in the growth of the Colossus of northern Europe.

The reason is apparent, and it affords the first great and practical proof which England has yet received of the fatal blow, which the recent changes has struck, not only in her internal prosperity, but her external independence. England is now powerless; and, what is worse, the European powers know it. Her Government is so incessantly and exclusively occupied in maintaining its ground against the internal enemies whom the Reform Bill has raised up into appalling strength; the necessity of sacrificing something to the insatiable passion of the Revolutionists is so apparent, that every other object is disregarded: the allies by whose aid they overthrew the constitution, have turned so fiercely upon them, that they are forced to strain every nerve to resist these domestic enemies. Who can think of the occupation of Scutari, when the malt tax is threatened with repeal? Who care for the thunders of Nicholas, when the threats of O'Connell are ringing in their ears? The English government, once so stable and steadfast in its resolutions, when rested on the firm rock of the Aristocracy, has become unstable as water since it was thrown for its support upon the Democracy: its designs are as changeable, its policy as fluctuating, as the volatile and inconsiderate mass from which it sprung; and hence its menaces are disregarded, its ancient relations broken, its old allies disgusted, and the weight of its influence being no longer felt, projects the most threatening to its independence are without hesitation taken by other states.

Nor is the supineness and apathy of the nation less important or alarming. It exists to such an extent as clearly to demonstrate, that not only are the days of its glory numbered, but the termination even of its independence may be foreseen at no distant period. Enterprises the most hostile to its interests, conquests the most fatal to its glory, are undertaken by its rivals not only without the disapprobation, but with the cordial support, of the majority of the nation Portugal, for a century the ally of England, for whose defence hundreds of thousands of Englishmen had died in our own times, has been abandoned without a murmur to the revolutionary spoliation and propagandist arts of France. Holland, the bulwark of England, for whose protection the great war with France was undertaken, has been assailed with British fleets, and threatened by British power; and the shores of the Scheldt, which beheld the victorious legions of Wellington land to curb the power of Napoleon, have witnessed the union of the Tricolor and British flags, to beat down the independence of the Dutch provinces.—Constantinople, long regarded as the outpost of India against the Russians, is abandoned without regret; and, amidst the strife of internal faction, the fixing of the Moscovite standards on the shores of the Bosphorus, the transference of the finest harbor in the world to a growing maritime power, and of the entrepot of Europe and Asia to an already formidable commercial state, is hardly the subject of observation.

The reason cannot be concealed, and is too clearly illustrative of the desperate tendency of the recent changes upon all the classes of the Empire. With the Revolutionists the passion for change has supplanted every other feeling, and the spirit of innovation has extinguished that of patriotism. They no longer league in thought or word, or wish, exclusively with their own countrymen; they no longer regard the interests and glory of England, as the chief objects of their solicitude; what they look to is the revolutionary party in other states; what they sympathize with, the progress of the Tricolor in overturning other dynasties. The loss of British dominion, the loss of British colonies, the downfall of British power, the decay of British glory, the loss of British independence, is to them a matter of no sort of regret, provided the Tricolor is triumphant, and the cause of revolution is making progress in the world. Well and truly did Mr. Burke say that the spirit of patriotism & Jacobinism could not co-exist in the same state; and that the greatest national disasters are lightly passed over provided they bring with them the advance of domestic ambition.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, are so utterly desperate in regard to the future prospects of the Empire, from the vacillation and violence of the Democratic party, who are installed in sovereignty, that external events, even of the most threatening character, are regarded by them but as dust in the balance, when compared with the domestic calamities which are staring us in the face.—What although the ingratitude and tergiversation of England to Holland have deprived us of all respect among foreign states? That evil, great as it is, is nothing to the domestic embarrassments which overwhelm the country from the unruly spirit which the Whigs fostered with such sedulous care during the Reform contest. What although the empire of the Mediterranean, and ultimately our Indian possessions, are menaced by the ceaseless growth of Russia; the measures which Government have in contemplation for the management of that vast dominion, will sever it from the British Empire before danger is felt from external foes; and long ere the Moscovite eagles are seen on the banks of the Indus, the insane measures of the Ten Pounders will have banished the British standards from the plains of Hindostan.

Every thing, in short, announces that the external weight and foreign importance of Great Britian are irrevocably lost; and that the passing of the Reform bill has truly been the death warrant of the British Empire. The Russians are at Constantinople! the menaces, the entreaties of England, are alike disregarded; and the ruler of the seas has submitted in two years to descend to the rank of a second rate power. That which a hundred defeats could have hardly effected to old England, is the very first result of the innovating system upon which new England has entered. The Russians are at Constantinople! How would the shade of Chatham, or Pitt, or Fox, thrill at the announcement! But it makes no sort of impression on the English people: as little as the robbery of the Portuguese fleet by the French, or the surrender of the citadel of Antwerp to the son in law of Louis Philippe. In this country, we have arrived, in an inconceivably short space of time, at that weakness, disunion, and indifference to all but revolutionary objects, which is at once the forerunner and cause of national ruin.

But leaving these mournful topics, it is more instructive to turn to the causes which have precipitated, in so short a space of time, the fall of the Turkish Empire. Few more curious or extraordinary phenomena are to be met with in the page of history. It will be found that the Ottomans have fallen a victim to the same passion for innovation and reform which have proved so ruinous both in this and a neighboring country; and that, while the bulwarks of Turkey were thrown down by the rude hand of Mahmoud, the states of Western Europe were disabled, by the same frantic course, from rendering him any effectual aid. How well in every age has the spirit of Jacobinism and revolutionary passion aided the march and hastened the growth of Russia!

The fact of the long duration of Turkey, in the midst of the monarchies of Europe, and the stubborn resistance which she opposed for a series of ages to the attacks of the two greatest of its military powers, is of itself sufficient to demonstrate that the accounts on which we have been accustomed to rely, of the condition of the Ottoman Empire were partial or exaggerated. No fact is so universally demonstrated by history as the rapid and irrecoverable decline of barbarous powers, when the career of conquest is once terminated. Where is now the Empire of the Caliphs or the Moors?—What has survived of the conquest one hundred years ago, of Nadir Shah? How long did the Empire of Aurengzebe, the throne of the great Mogul, resist the attacks of England, even at the distance of ten thousand miles from the parent state? How then did it happen that Turkey so long resisted the spoiler!—What conservative principle has enabled the Osmanleys so long to avoid the degradation which so rapidly overtakes all barbarous and despotic empires, and what has communicated to their vast empire, a portion of the undecaying vigor which has hitherto been considered as the grand characteristic of European civilization? The answer to these questions will both unfold the real causes of the long endurance and at length the sudden fall of the Turkish Empire.

Though the Osmanleys were an Asiatic power, and ruled entirely on the principles of Asiatic despotism, yet their conquests were effected in Europe, or in those parts of Asia in which, from the influence of the Crusades, or of the Roman institutions which survived their invasion, a certain degree of European civilization remained. It is difficult utterly to exterminate the institutions of a country where they have been long established; those of the Christian provinces of the Roman Empire have in part survived all the dreadful tempests which for the last six centuries have passed over their surface. It is these remnants of civilization, it is the institutions which still linger among the vanquished people, which have so long preserved the Turkish provinces from decay; and it is these ancient bulwarks, which the innovating passions of Mahmoud have now destroyed.

1. The first circumstance which upheld, amidst its numerous defects, the Ottoman Empire, was the rights conceded on the first conquest of the country by Mahomet to the *dere beys*, or ancient nobles of Asia Minor, and which the succeeding Sultans have been careful to maintain inviolate. These dere beys all capitulated with the conqueror, and obtained the important privileges of retaining their lands in perpetuity for their descendants, and of paying a *fixed tribute* of money and men to the Sultan. In other words, they were a hereditary noblesse; and as they constituted the great strength of the empire in its Asiatic provinces, they had preserved their privilege through all succeeding reigns The following is the description given of them by the intelligent traveller whose work is prefixed to this article:—

"The dere beys," says Mr. Slade, "literally lords of the valleys, an expression peculiarly adapted to the country, which presents a series of oval valleys, surrounded by ramparts of hills, were the original possessors of those parts of Asia Minor, which submitted, under feudal conditions, to the Ottomans. Between the conquests of Brussa and the conquest of Constantinople, a lapse of more than a century, chequered by the episode of Tamerlane, their faith was precarious; but after the latter event, Mahomet II bound their submission, and finally settled the terms of their existence.—He confirmed them in their lands, subject, however, to tribute, and to quotas of troops in war; and he absolved the head of each family for ever from personal service. The last clause was the most important, as thereby the Sultan had no power over their lives, nor consequently, could be their heirs, that despotic power being lawful over those only in the actual service of the Porte The families of the dere beys, therefore, became neither impoverished nor extinct. It would be dealing in truisms to enumerate the advantages enjoyed by the districts of these noblemen over the rest of the empire; they were cases in the desert; their owners had more than a life interest in the soil, they were born and lived among the people, and, being hereditarily rich, had no occasion to create a private fortune, each year, after the tribute due was levied. Whereas, in a pachalick, the people are strained every year to double or treble the amount of the impost, since the pacha, who pays for his situation, must also be enriched. The devotion of the dependents of the dere beys was great: at a whistle, the Carlosman Oglous, the Tchapan-Oglous, the Ellezar Oglous, (the principal Asiatic families that survive,) could raise, each, from ten thousand to twenty thousand horsemen, and equip them. Hence the facility with which the Sultans, up to the present century, drew such large bodies of cavalry into the field. The dere bays have always furnished, and maintained, the greatest part; and there is not one instance, since the conquest of Constantinople, of one of these great families raising the standard of revolt. The pachas invariably have. The reasons, respectively, are obvious The dere bey was sure of keeping his possessions by right; the pacha of losing his by custom, unless he had money to bribe the Porte, or force to intimidate it.

These provincial nobles, whose rights had been respected during four centuries, by a series of twenty four sovereigns, had two crimes in the eyes of Mahmoud II; they held their property from their ancestors, and they had riches. To alter the tenure of the former, the destination of the latter was his object. The dere beys—unlike the seraglio dependents, brought up to distrust their own shadows—had no causes for suspicion, and therefore became easy dupes of the grossest treachery.—The unbending spirits were removed to another world, the flexible were despoiled of their wealth. Some few await their turn, or, their eyes opened, prepare to resist oppression.—Carlosman Oglou, for example was summoned to Constantinople, where expensive employments, forced on him during several years, reduced his ready cash; while a follower of the seraglio resided at his city of Maghesia, to collect his revenues. His peasants, in consequence, ceased to cultivate their lands, from whence they no longer hoped to reap profit; and his once flourishing possessions soon became desolate as any which had always been under the gripe of pachas."

This passage throws the strongest light on the former condition of the Turkish Empire. They possessed an *hereditary* noblesse in their Asiatic provinces; a body of men whose interests were permanent; who enjoyed their rights by succession, and, therefore, were permanently interested in preserving their possessions from spoliation. It was their feudal tenantry who flocked in such multitudes to the standard of Mahomet when any great crisis occurred, and formed those vast armies who so often astonished the European powers and struck terror into the boldest hearts in Christendom. These hereditary nobles, however, the bones of the empire, whose estates were exempt from the tyranny of the Pachas, have been destroyed by Mahmoud. Hence the disaffection of the Asiatic provinces, and the readiness with which they opened their arms to the liberating standards of Mehemet Ali.—It is the nature of innovation, whether enforced by the despotism of a sultan or a democracy, to destroy in his fervor the institutions on which public freedom is founded.

2. The next circumstance which contributed to mitigate the severity of Ottoman oppression was the privilege of the provincial cities, chiefly in Europe, which consisted in being governed by magistrates elected by the people themselves from among their chief citizens. This privilege, a relic of the rights of the *Municipia* over the whole Roman Empire, was established in all the great towns; and its importance in moderating the otherwise intolerable weight of Ottoman oppression was incalculable. The Pachas or temporary rulers appointed by the Sultan had no authority, or only a partial one in these free cities, and hence they formed nearly as complete an asylum for industry in Europe as the estates [illegible] did in Asia. This important right, however, could not escape the reforming passion of Mahmoud; and it was accordingly overturned

"In conjunction with subverting the dere beys, Mahmoud attacked the privilege of the great provincial cities, (principally in Europe) which consisted in the election of ayans (magistrates) by the people, from among the notables. Some cities were solely governed by them, and in those ruled by pachas, they had, in most cases, sufficient influence to restrain somewhat the full career of despotism. They were the protectors of ayans, as well as of Mussulmans, and for their own sakes, resisted exorbitant imposts. The change in the cities where their authority has been abolished [Adrianople, *e. g.*] is deplorable; trade has languished, and population has diminished. They were instituted by Solyman [the lawgiver] and the protection which they have invariably afforded the Christian subjects of the Porte entitles them to a Christian's good word. Their crime, that of the dere beys, was being possessed of authority not emanating from the Sultan.

"Had Mahmond II. intrusted the government of the provinces to the dere beys, and strengthened the authority of the ayans, he would have truly reformed his empire, by restoring it to its brighest state, have gained the love of his subjects, and the applauses of humanity. By the contrary proceeding subverting two bulwarks [tho' dilapidated] of national prosperity—a provincial nobility and magistracy—he has shown himself a selfish tyrant."

3. In addition to an hereditary nobility in the dere beys, and the privilege of corporations in the right of electing their ayan, the Mussulmans possessed a powerful hierarchy in the *ulema;* a most important body in the Ottoman dominions, and whose privileges have gone far to limit the extent of its despotic government. This important institution has been little understood hitherto in Europe; but they had contributed in a most important manner to mitigate the severity of the Sultan in those classes who enjoyed no special protection.

"In each of the Turkish cities," says Mr. Slade, "reside a muphti and a mollah. A knowledge of Arabic, so as to be able to read the Koran in the original, is considered sufficient for the former, but the latter must have run a legal career of one of the medresschs, (universities of Constantinople) After thirty years probation in a medressch, the student becomes of the class of muderis, (doctors at law,) from which are chosen the mollahs, comprehended under the name of ulema.—Students who accept the inferior judicial appointments can never become of the ulema.

"The ulema is divided into three classes according to a scale of the cities of the empire. The first class consists of the caziaskers [chief judges of Europe and Asia;] the Stamboul effendisi, [mayor of Constantinople;] the mollahs qualified to act at Mecca, at Medina, at Jerusalem, at Bagdat, at Salonica, at Aleppo, at Damascus, at Brussia, at Cairo, at Smyrna, at Cogni, at Galata, at Scrutari. The second class consists of the mollahs qualified to act at the twelve cities of next importance. The third class at ten inferior cities. The administration of minor towns is entrusted to cadis, who are nominated by the caziaskers in their respective jurisdiction, a patronage which produces great wealth to these two officers.

"In consequence of these powers, the mollah of a city may prove as great a pest as a needy pacha; but as the mollahs are hereditarily wealthy, they are generally moderate in their perquesitions, and often protect the people against the extortions of the pachas. The cadis, however, of the minor towns, who have not the advantage of being privately rich, seldom fail to join with the aga to skin the 'serpent that crawls in the dust.'

"The mollahs, dating from the reign of Solyman—zenith of Ottoman prosperity—were not slow in discovering the value of the situations, or in taking advantage of them; and as their sanctity protected them from spoliation, they were enabled to leave their riches to their children, who were brought up to the same career, and were, by privilege allowed to finish their studies at the medressch in eight years less time than the prescribed number of years, the private tuition, which they were supposed to receive from fathers making up the deficiency. Thus, besides the influence, of birth and wealth, they have a direct facility of attaining the degree of muderi, which their fellow citizens and rivals had not, and who were obliged in consequence to accept inferior judicial appointments. In process of time the whole monopoly of the ulema centred in a certain number of families; and their constant residence at the capital, to which they return at the expiration of their term of office, has maintained their power at the present day.—Nevertheless, it is true that if a student of a medressch, not of the privilged order, possess extraordinary merit, the ulema has generally the tact to admit him of the body; wo to the cities to which he goes as mollah, since he has to create a private fortune for his family.—Thus arose that body—the peerage of Turkey—known by the name of ulema, a body uniting the high attributes of law and religion; distinct from the clergy, yet enjoying all the advantages connected with a church paramount; free from its shackles, yet retaining the perfect odour of sanctity.—Its combination has given it a greater hold in the state than the dere beys, who, though possessed individually of more power, founded too on original charters, sunk from a want of union."

The great effect of the ulema has arisen from this, that its lands are safe from confiscation or arbitrary taxation. To power of every sort, except that of a triumphant democracy, there must be some limits; and great as the authority of the Sultan is, he is too dependent on the religious feelings of his subjects to be able to overturn the church. The consequence is that the vacouf or church lands have been always free both from arbitrary taxation and confiscation: and hence they have formed a species of mortmain or entailed lands in the Ottoman dominions, enjoying privileges to which the other parts of the empire, except the estates of the dere beys, are entire strangers.—Great part of the lands of Turkey, in many places amounting to one third of the whole, were held by this religious tenure; and the device was frequently adopted of leaving property to the ulema in trust for particular families, whereby the benefits of secure hereditary descent were obtained. The practical advantages of this ecclesiastical property are thus enumerated by Mr. Slade:

"The vacouf (mosque lands) have been among the best cultivated in Turkey, by being *free from arbitrary taxation.* The mektebs (public schools) in all the great cities, where the rudiments of the Turkish language and Koran are taught, and in which poor scholars receive food gratis, are supported by the ulema. The medresschs, [illegible] hospitals, fountains, &c. are all maintained by the ulema; add to these the magnificence of the mosques, their number, the royal sepultures, and it will be seen that Turkey owes much to the existence of this body, which has been enabled, by its power and its union, to resist royal cupidity. Without it where would be the establishments above mentioned? Religious property has been an object of attack in every country.—At one period by the sovereign, to increase his power; at another by the people to build fortunes on its downfall. Mahomet IV. after the disastrous retreat of his grand vizier, Cara Mustapha, from before Vienna, 1683, seized on the riches of the principal Mosques, which arbitrary act led to his deposition. The ulema would have shown a noble patriotism in giving its wealth for the service of the state, but it was right in resenting the extortion, which would have served as a precedent for succeeding sultans. In fine rapid as has been the decline of the Ottoman empire since victory ceased to attend its arms, I venture to assert that it would have been *ten fold more rapid but for the privileged orders*—the dere beys and the ulema. Without their powerful weight and influence—effects of hereditary wealth and sanctity—the Jannissaries would long since have cut Turkey in slices, and have ruled it as the Mamelukes ruled Egypt.

"Suppose now the influence of the ulema to be overturned, what would be the consequence? The mollaships, like the pachalicks, would then be sold to the highest bidders, or given to the needy followers of the seraglio. These must borrow money of the bankers for their outfit, which must be repaid, and their own purses lined, by their talents at extortion.

It is one of the most singular proofs of the tendency of innovation to blind its votaries to the effect of the measures it advocates, that the ulema has long been singled out for destruction by the reforming Sultan, and the change is warmly supported by many of the inconsiderate Franks who dwell in the East. Such is the aversion of men of every faith to the vesting property or influence in the church, that they would willingly see this one of the last barriers which exists against arbitrary power done away. The power of the Sultan, great as it is has not yet ventured on this great innovation: but it is well known that he meditates it, and it is the knowledge of this circumstance which is one great cause of the extreme popularity which has rendered his government unable to obtain any considerable resources from his immense dominions.

4. In every part of the empire the superior felicity and well being of the peasantry in the mountains is conspicuous, and has long attracted the attention of travellers. Clark observed it in the mountains of Greece, Mariti and others in Syria and Asia Minor, and Mr. Slade and Mr. Walsh in the Balkan, and the hilly country of Bulgaria. "No peasantry in the world," says the former, "are so well off as that of Bulgaria. The lowest of them has abundance of every thing—meat, poultry, eggs, milk, rice, cheese, wine, bread, good clothing, a warm dwelling, and a horse to ride. It is true he has no newspaper to kindle his passions, nor a knife and fork to eat with, nor a bedstead to lie on; but these are the customs of the country, and a pacha is equally unhappy. Where, then, is the tyranny under which the Christian subjects of the Porte are generally supposed to groan? Not among the Bulgarians certainly. I wish that in every country a traveller could pass from one end to the other, and find a good supper and a warm fire in every cottage, as he can in this part of European Turkey." This description applies generally to almost all the mountainous provinces of the Ottoman Empire, and in an especial manner to the peasants of Parnassus and Olympia, as described by Clarke. As a contrast to this delightful state of society, we may quote the same traveller's account of the plains of Romelia. "Romelia, if cultivated, would become the granary of the East, whereas Constantinople depends on Odessa for daily bread. The burial grounds choaked with weeds and underwood, constantly occurring in every traveller's route, far remote from habitations, are eloquent testimonials of continued depopulation. The living too are far apart; a town every fifty miles, and a village every ten miles, is close, every horseman meeting on the highway regard each other as objects of curiosity. The cause of this depopulation is to be found in the pernicious government of the Ottomans." The case of remarkable difference lies in the fact, that the Ottoman oppression has never yet fully extended into the mountainous parts of its dominions; and consequently, they remained like permanent veins of prosperity, intersecting the country in every direction, amidst the desolation which generally prevailed in the pashalicks of the plain.

5. The Janissaries were another institution which upheld the Turkish Empire They formed a regular standing army, who, although at times extremely formidable to the Sultan, and exercising their influence with all the haughtiness of Prætorian guards, were yet of essential service in repelling the invasion of the Christian Powers. The strength of the Ottoman armies consisted in the Janissaries, and the delhis, and the spahis; the former being the regular force, the latter the contingents of the dere beys. Every battle field, from Constantinople to Vienna, can tell of the valor of the Janissaries, long and justly regarded as the bulwark of the Empire; and the Russian battalions, with all their firmness, were frequently broken even in the last war, by the desperate charge of the delhis. Now, however, both are destroyed; the vigorous severity of the Sultan has annihilated the dreaded battalions of the former—the ruin of the dere beys has closed the supply of the latter. In these violent and impolitic reforms is to be found the immediate cause of the destruction of the Turkish Empire.

(To be concluded.)

We find a curious statement in relation to poisoning horses, in a late New York paper. The writer states that in the year 1826, an acquaintance of his, in the country, lost two horses under circumstances calculated to excite the belief that they had been poisoned, & subsequent developments fastened suspicion upon an individual in the neighbourhood, who had some two or three weeks before purchased from an apothecary an ounce and a half of arsenic. With these and all the lesser facts that could be collected, the case was presented to the Grand Jury, who found a bill of indictment against the suspected individual, who was duly arrested, and gave bail for his appearance at Court. In this stage of the proceedings, his counsel advised him, after being fully persuaded of his innocence, to procure a horse of no great value, and give that horse as much arsenic as it was supposed these horses had taken, the experiment to be instituted solely with the view of ascertaining the precise manner in which arsenic would produce death, and not doubting in the least that it would do so. The writer adds:—"I was one of the three chosen to conduct the experiment. We gave the horse half an ounce of arsenic; ten hours after we gave him a quarter of an ounce, and so continued until we had given him one ounce and a half, without producing in the horse the slightest inconvenience. Two weeks afterwards I tried the same experiment on another horse, and with arsenic procured at another place, given in the same quantities, and with precisely the same result. It is proper to remark that this last experiment was instituted at the request of the gentleman whose horses had died, and it was witnessed by him and at least twenty of his friends, and the result was so entirely satisfactory, that he immediately withdrew all proceedings against the person he had before suspected. I offer these facts as evidence that the commonly received opinion, that arsenic is so convenient a poison with which to destroy horses, has no foundation in it."

Munificent Gift.—The New York Gazette of Wednesday announces an act of one of its citizens, the notice of which we copy with no ordinary pleasure:

James Boorman, Esq. of this city, has presented to the New York Institution for the blind, a ten years' lease of the buildings and ground formerly called Abingdon Place, a short distance beyond the paved part of the city, and between the 8th and 9th avenuss.—The main building on the premises is a large substantial two story house, 100 by 54 feet, situated on a rising ground overlooking the Hudson river. There are also two stone kitchens apart from the main building, and a well of good water near the house. The ground is now in good order, under cultivation as a garden, and contains a little over two acres. The situation is stated to be one of the pleasantest on Manhattan Island, in the immediate vicinity of the city, and offers fine air, good soil for cultivation, a shady grove and flower garden, with wide and level paths. The house is very large, two stories high, with a spacious attick abundantly large enough for a workshop and place for exercise in bad weather, while the distance from the City Hall is only about three miles.

Singular Story.—A singular snake story is related in the last number of the Montrose, Pa. Volunteer. The circumstance is said to have occurred in Tunkhannock, Luzerne county, and is thus narrated: "A little child begged of its mother a piece of cake, and on receiving it, immediately went out of the house. A short time afterwards the mother sought the child, whom she found a little way from the house amusing itself with feeding the cake to a large rattle snake.—The snake with its head elevated nearly to the height of the child's head was receiving with much apparent satisfaction from the hand of the unconscious child, the crumbs of cake which it broke off and put into his snakeship's mouth. The alarm of the mother, as might reasonably be expected, was very great on seeing her child put its fingers into the mouth of so dangerous a creature as the rattle snake; but retaining a proper presence of mind, she persuaded the child to come to her, and then pursued and killed the snake."

Ex-Sheriff Parkins, and Rowland Stevenson the banker, are both confined in prison in New York. They inhabit adjoining cells.

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