

increasing rapidly in numbers while the Mohammedan remains stationary. Another reason is that Greek and Armenian youth cannot be taken into the army of the faithful, and military service cuts short the life of many of the Moslem young men. Hence women among the Turks outnumber the men ; yet polygamy does not prevail among them to that extent which is commonly supposed. The law prescribes that the husband shall provide a separate dwelling for each wife, and thus very few have the means to support more than one household.

There is perhaps no other thing which sets this country in such contrast to Christian lands as the treatment and position assigned to women. In the Turkish language there is no word for home. The wife is commonly designated by expressions equivalent to ' my fool,' ' my lacking thing,' or ' my ash-carrier.' What is most remarkable is that the adherents of the old Christian churches are in this scarcely any better than the followers of Mohammed. Turkish women conceal the whole face by a piece of dark cloth, the figures on which often give them a most hideous appearance. It is not the custom for women to eat with men ; they must first serve, and afterward they may have what remains. Very little notice is taken of them, a word being seldom spoken to them except it be in abuse. I have heard the Protestant pastor of a congregation not far from Tarsus say, that before his conversion, and while he yet observed Armenian customs, he and his wife lived together for five years without exchanging one word. Parents consider it the greatest misfortune to have a daughter born to them, and it is said that among the Turks, girl infanticide prevails to a large extent. A father usually reckons his family according to the number of his sons, daughters not being counted. If you look in at the door of a Mosque during the hour for prayer, you see not one woman in the assembly. In some Mosques, and in the so-called Christian churches, a gallery is provided for the women, where they are shut off from observation by a high lattice-work. Dogs may, and do often enter these holy (?) places, but they must not be defiled by a woman's foot. So strongly embedded in the life is this feeling, that even Protestants of the second generation have not shaken themselves free from it. In Protestant churches men and women sit on the same floor, but on opposite sides of the building, and often with a high partition between them. It is quite common to have girls from ten to fourteen years of age given in marriage. Daughters have never a word to say in the selection of a husband ; they are traded off