

# THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

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## Editorial.

### THE THIRD GREAT EPOCH.



CHRISTIANITY, in relation to the kingdoms of this world has seen (as a distinguished historian, Philip Smith, has suggested) two great epochs—the *founding* of Constantinople in 324, and its *fall* in 1453. It sees now, with that famous city still as the centre, a third epoch which may be called the *regeneration* of Constantinople, and, we trust through it, of the East.\*

It does not lie within our province at present to pass judgment on the manner and the means by which Turkey has passed as really under the protectorate of England, as some of the Provinces of India. We all know that the history of our power in India is stained with

\* We give here an extract from an Editorial in the CHRISTIAN MONTHLY in Nov., 1876, on the "*Decay and Fall of the Turkish Empire.*" In answer to the question then anxiously asked by many "*What is in the future?*" the Editorial thus referred to the answer of Scripture:—"The answer to this question is with God alone. The statesmen of Europe seem like men at their wits' end. They know not what to do, nor what is to be. The answer to the question is in Revelations, 16th chapter and 12th verse. '*And the sixth angel poured out his vial on the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*'" This verse, taken in connection with the preceding verse, ("And the fifth angel poured out his vial on the seat of the beast, and his kingdom was full of darkness, and they gnawed their tongues for pain,") shows, 1st. That as Popery and Mahometanism rose into existence almost contemporaneously, and under the fifth and sixth trumpets, (about the beginning of the seventh century,) so also shall they perish contemporaneously, and under the fifth and sixth vials. 2nd That the extinction of Mahometan power will be after the fashion of a great river retiring into its channel after a time of inundation. It will retire gradually. It will retire leaving behind it the races and churches which lay buried under its waves for so many centuries, but which it did not destroy. 3rd. The destruction of Mahometanism will open the way for extension of the Gospel into India and Persia, which must be meant by the way of the Kings of the east being prepared.