

DOES NOT LIKE CEREMONY.

The Sultan of Turkey Receives Visitors in Simple Style and Lights Their Cigarettes.

The correspondent of an English paper was recently accorded an interview by the Sultan of Turkey and was surprised at the noticeable lack of ceremony with which he was received. When the newspaper man entered the royal presence he found his majesty standing ready to receive him. The descendant of Mahomet II. and of Selim had no rich turbans, no jeweled robes, no ornaments, nothing that distinguishes princes from ordinary people in the east, except the true ornaments of the noble and well born, polite bearing and refined expression. He appeared a perfect European prince, if anything politer and simpler than ordinary men. His majesty has even cast off the aigrette which his predecessors wore with the fez. There were no intricate ceremonies to be gone through as at the reception of the great mogul or at other eastern courts. There were no attendants present as are invariably to be seen in the private rooms of eastern princes. "Sentiment and tradition," says the correspondent, "compelled me to do homage to the caliph like an oriental, with a bow. As soon as the formality was gone through his majesty shook hands, took his seat and desired me to be seated. The sultan was dressed plainly, wearing no orders, stars or decorations of any kind. He is very fair, has a round head plentifully covered with grizzly hair, and possesses striking features." The interview was of the most chatty and friendly character; the sultan showing marked acquaintance with literature, especially that of the east, and his information on general subjects is extensive. When the correspondent arose to take his leave the Turkish ruler put his hand on the visitor's head and gave him by that act the caliph's blessing.

With the multifarious duties that he has to perform his majesty prays, according to the Mohammedan custom, five times a day with the regularity of a clock. He fasts for thirty days during the month of the Ramadhan. He abstains from all kinds of alcoholic beverages and from gambling. He patronizes religious and moral institutions not only among his own people but among all the Mohammedans of the world. Moreover, he does not confine his charity to the poor and needy of his own religion, but, according to the dictates of the koran, he helps the deserving irrespective of their religious beliefs. He allows toleration to the highest degree, and is himself anything but a bigot. He is a great patron of learning of all kinds.

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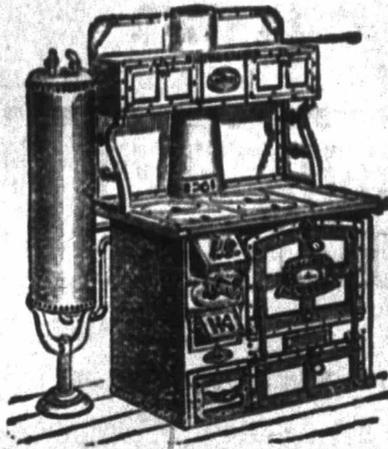
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