

throne, ranks pre-eminent Mahmud, the first Mahomedan conqueror of Hindostan, the unsparing rifler of its almost fabulous treasures, and the inflexible enemy of its debasing idolatry.

In the former part of the eleventh century the grandson of Seljuk, a Turkish Chieftain that had with his friends and vassals fled from Turkestan, was chosen by lot to ascend the throne of Persia, just rendered vacant by a Turkish victory. The chosen warrior, Togrul Beg, did honour to the choice by the exhibition of those barbaric virtues, which delight a brave but savage race. Two other great princes in turn succeeded Togrul Beg—Alp Arslan and Malek Shah under whom the Seljukian Turkish Empire obtained its widest limits—from Cashgar on the borders of China, to the vicinity of Constantinople. Upon the death of Malek Shah, the Turkish Empire was torn to fragments by civil war, from the confusion of which arose three Kingdoms, one of which, still ruled by a descendant of Seljuk, had Nice for its metropolis—a city situated in Asia Minor, a hundred miles from Constantinople. In the course of their conquests the Seljukian Turks captured Jerusalem; and by the barbarities they inflicted upon the Christian pilgrims and clergy in that venerable city aroused the fierce fanaticism of Europe, just beginning to emerge from its state of ignorant barbarity.

At nearly the commencement of the thirteenth century the pastoral hordes of central Asia were again maddened with the lust of universal conquest; and under the leadership of Zenghis Khan, his lieutenants and his successors rolled the bloody and devastating tide of savage war from the Sea of Japan almost to the shores of the Baltic. In this terrible deluge the Seljukian dynasties all perished. But the Tartar power soon vanished from Asia Minor, and scarcely one hundred years from