

Taurus Mountains—quite near Tarsus, have a certain amount of grandeur, which is very much enhanced by the historical interest connected with them ; so it is all through this land ; associations of the past surround every mountain, river and plain with a halo of glory, but apart from this they would be considered commonplace indeed.

THE PEOPLE, THEIR LANGUAGES AND HABITS OF LIFE.

The inhabitants of Turkey are principally Ottomans, Greeks, Armenians and Arabs ; but besides these there are found in smaller numbers Jews, Kurds, Druzes, Zeibeks, Fellahs, Circassians, Youruks and Bosnians. So numerous and diverse are these races that a better constituted government than that of Turkey would find it no easy task to keep them all within the limit of the law. The languages commonly spoken throughout the empire are Turkish, Arabic, Armenian and Greek. Turkish is the official language ; Arabic prevails in Syria and the seaport towns ; Armenian in Eastern Turkey and Greek in Western Turkey. In Asia Minor almost all the people, of whatever nationality, know Turkish. Evidently the Ottomans had no written language up to the time they became a conquering people, for to this day they use Arabic characters in writing and printing Turkish ; but Greeks and Armenians use the characters of their respective languages for this purpose. Turkish has a large admixture of Persian and Arabic ; the higher it is the more it contains of these. It is a very euphonious language, the pronunciation of which can be easily acquired by a foreigner, whatever his native tongue may be. To become familiar with the construction, however, is a far more difficult task, as it is in almost all respects the very opposite of the English. Armenian is harsh and by no means attractive in sound, but being similar to English in construction, missionaries find it comparatively easy to master. Greek is largely spoken in the territory once known as the Byzantine Empire. It differs widely in pronunciation from the Greek taught in Colleges in America. The one is about as far removed from the other as Italian is from the Latin. In the structure of words and sentences, however, the difference is not so marked. For richness of vocabulary and vigor of expression Arabic easily takes the palm from all the languages of the East.

The common estimate of the Turks, that they are a barbarous and sanguinary people to whom one cannot safely trust his life, is incorrect. This impression was given, doubtless, by the atrocious acts of the Janizaries, whose history of crime and inhuman cruelty is attributed to the nation as a whole.