

CHAPTER XII.

Origin of the Turco-Russian War—Rebellion in the Provinces—Onerous Taxes—Insurrection in Herzegovina—Rising in Bulgaria—Abdul Hamid II.—The Bulgarian atrocities—Fiendish outrages—Declaration of war by Serbia—The conflict—Discomfiture of Serbia—An armistice—The conference of the Powers—Reforms demanded—The ultimatum—Rejection of the terms by Turkey—Failure of the conference—Russia's circular—The London protocol—Declaration of war by Russia—Turkey's reply—Opinions of the Powers..... 452

CHAPTER XIII.

Relative condition and resources of the two Powers—Their armies and navies—Alexander II.—Withdrawal of the Embassy—Russian march to the Danube—Sinking of a Turkish iron-clad—Siege of Kars—Crossing of the Danube—Capture of Tirnova by the Russians—Capture of Nicopolis—Russian troops cross the Balkans—Repulse of the Russian forces at Plevna..... 471

THE WAR IN ASIA.

The Russians under Grand Duke Michael cross the frontier—First blood—Capture of Soukhoum Kaleh by the Turkish fleet and army—Capture of Ardahan by the Russians—Falling back of the Russians in Asia—Privations of the Turkish population—Battle of Shipka Pass—Fighting on the Lom—Storming and capture of Loftcha by the Russians—Capture of Nicsics by the Montenegrins—Siege of Plevna—A fierce struggle—Defeat of Mukhtar Pasha before Kars—Second siege of Kars—Its capture by storm—Siege of Erzeroum—Panic at Constantinople—Turkey humbled and disheartened by defeat.....486 to 502