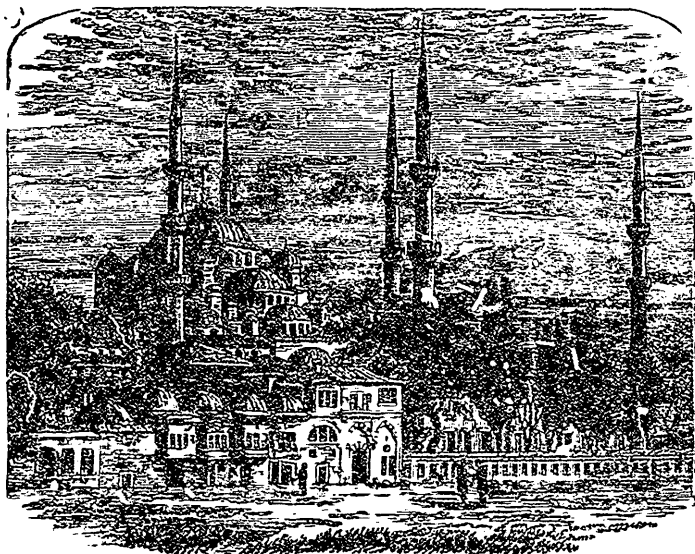


again, you pass by shops for the sale of furs, or for work in gold and silver. It is as varied as a fair, and more extensive. Screened from the sun, wind, and rain, these streets are pleasant lounging-places, and are thronged by the fair sex. Like their western sisters, shopping is with them a favourite pastime.

We set out one morning for a day's tour among the mosques. There are said to be three hundred of them in the city. Crossing the great bridge, we came after a short walk to the Sublime Porte, whence the Government obtained its name. It proved to be a rather humble entrance-gate to a long, low range of yellow buildings. It fell so far below our expectations that we had to



MOSQUE OF SULTAN AHMED.

turn away with a laugh. Then we came to the high wall of the Seraglio, said to be nearly three miles in circumference. Jealously guarded within this wall, formerly dwelt the numerous wives of the sultans, and here were deposited their immense treasures. Now silence and desolation reign within. The beauties have been transferred to other palaces, and the treasures have melted away like snow.

At length we came to the Mosque of St. Sophia, or Holy Wisdom, so called after the second person of the sacred Trinity.