

its side towards Europe, lies secure within an enclosure which is capable of supplying all the wants and luxuries of a great city.

The harbour of Constantinople, which in some points resembles the East River, of New York, obtained in a very remote period the name of the *Golden Horn*; *golden* from the riches which every wind wafted into that capacious port, and *horn* from the curve, which may be compared to the horn of an ox, described by this off-shoot of the Bosphorus. The *horn* is 500 yards wide at its root, and at seven miles tapers into shallow and sweet water in the mouth of the Lycus. So deep is the harbour, and so little are the tides felt, that as Gibbon remarks, "the largest vessels may rest their prows against the houses while their sterns are floating in the waters."

As to the defences of this city from the attack to which it is now exposed from Russia, we quote the language of a recent writer:—

"While Turkey can continue to hold the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, the two entrances to the Sea of Marmora, Constantinople can bid defiance to the Czar and his Russian hordes. Now that the Eastern question is putting on a serious aspect, and few or none can prophecy the final ending of events, the situation of Constantinople for defensive purposes becomes a matter of special interest. The Bosphorus, it will be remembered, is a winding channel only sixteen miles in length. Its defences consist of numerous batteries mounting nearly four hundred heavy guns. The greatest width of the Straits does not exceed two and a half miles, while at its narrowest part the concentrated fire of 165 guns can be brought to bear upon a hostile ship or fleet. The Dardanelles, forming a longer and wider entrance to the Sea of Marmora, is not less strongly fortified. It would be sheer madness, then, for a hostile power to think of forcing a passage either by way of the Bosphorus or Dardanelles, without first reducing the powerful batteries. It is true that they are open to an attack from the land side, but the Turk is wide awake, and Colonel Valentine Baker has already submitted a plan to render them impregnable. Reference to a map will show that the Bosphorus can only be attacked from the north by a narrow belt of land which the Sea of Marmora protects on the south and the Black Sea on the north. The land at the harbour of Buyuk Chekmege is only about nineteen miles broad, and the whole narrow strip, under Colonel Baker's plan, will be fortified by a chain of outlying works. In the same way the military engineer proposes to strengthen the approach to the Dardanelles, and a heavy line of earthworks extending across the isthmus, will connect the Chersonese with Roumelia. The isthmus is less than four miles across, and the depth of water sufficient on both sides to allow ships of war to come close in shore for the purpose of assisting in defence. When these two lines of forts are completed, Constantinople can bid defiance to an enemy from the north. If Russia has designs upon Constantinople, it is scarcely probable that an attack would be attempted from the other side of the sea of Marmora. The nearest part of Russia, the Caucasus, is 900 miles distant. The country to be traversed is utterly destitute of supplies and roads for artillery. Again, Turkey has at the present time fourteen monitors on Lake Scutari, and these would materially interfere with