

The public letter writer, in a country whose public instruction is confined to occasional lessons given in the mosque to a man of considerable importance and often conducts his business in an open air convenient to his *clientele*. We saw one quarter of an hour where four of these persons were actively engaged in the performance of their honorable calling.

Not only is the Ottoman silver coinage a debased one, but the circulation of it consists of copper coins silver plated. Still, so comparatively, are coins of a the small denominations that the value of the premium, as compared with money of a larger value, and the funny state of affairs that confronts the visitor—he is not given his full change, if making a purchase, unless it happens to be of large dimensions!

Not only must the traveler have his passport *visé* by Turkey, Roumania and Russia, but he must, after crossing the frontier, have it *visé* to leave these countries. The authorities intend not only that no objectionable party shall enter their precincts but that nobody shall leave without their consent. To the independent American who imagines that he can get through without these formalities will be lightly dealt with. We saw several such who were made to feel the strong arm of the oppressor.

A break in a tunnel on the direct route to Belgrade forced us to travel to Buda-Pesth *via* the Black Sea and Bucharest. On all sides of the great strides made in late years by the Turkish Empire since they severed their connection with the Turkish Empire, we were glad to visit their prosperous and well kept city capital. At the same time we left Constantinople with regret, because of the oriental dirt; its "yellow" dogs and its mediaeval method of life far the most picturesquely situated and most imposing city in the East has yet seen. The views from its seven hills, or from across the Bosphorus are not only beautiful beyond description but change every hour of the day. Naples presents a magnificent front, but the city of Constantine the Great is as much more imposing in a dozen ways than the Neapolitan capital as the Nile is grander than the ravines about our suburb of Glencoe.