

the Aya Sophia, a Greek Cathedral built in A. D. 568, by Justinian, who exclaimed upon its completion: "Solomon, I have surpassed thee!" Nine hundred years later Mahmoud II., riding up to the high altar, transformed the church into a mosque, with the Mohammedan profession of faith "La Allah il Allah."

From that time it was the aim of every great Sultan to build a mosque which should surpass this structure. Mahmoud himself raised one of the most noteworthy mosques, and cut off the hands of his architect because he had made it lower than St. Sophia, while Suleiman the Magnificent produced one which in its style partakes as much of the Saracenic as of the Byzantine. Later on Sultan Ahmet built the mosque which bears his name, and which is distinguished by being reckoned the chief mosque of the city, and being the sole mosque in the world with six minarets. It is here that the old carpet, which has covered the Kaaba at Mecca for the past year, is annually deposited. Under its walls the terrible massacre of the Janizaries took place. The handsome Yeni Djami (New Mosque), or mosque of the Sultan Valide, was built by the mother of Mahmoud IV., and is the first one encountered after crossing the Galata bridge.

The Seraglio, or Palace, of which the gardens form the point of the peninsula, was built by Mahmoud II., and was the former residence of the Sultans before they took to raising boats and building unlimited white palaces, and it was from the lofty gate of this palace, the Bab-ehoum-ajun or "Sublime Porte," that the Turkish Government derived its colloquial name. Haskiaki accommodates the great Jew quarter, the Admiralty and the Arsenal. This point in time of peace furnishes the winter quarters of the iron-clad fleet.

The Petit Champ is a huge cypress-forested cemetery leading up to Pera, and forms, on festive occasions, the pleasure-park of the humbler classes of Greeks and Armenians. The Grand Champ is a larger cemetery on the other side of Pera.

On the summit of Pera is a long building, the Galata Serai, a Government college, under the supervision of a French officer. Beneath is the Galata Fire Tower, where a sharp lookout is kept for the slightest signs of fire. On the other side of Pera, and to the right, may be distinguished the white marble walls of the Palace of Dolma Bagtché, where the present Sultan is said to reside.

Scutari became well-known during the Crimean War for its huge hospital, the scene of the labors of Florence Nightingale. The Tower of Leander, or Maiden's Tower, lies at a short distance from the shore. According to classic legend, it was here that Hero waited for Leander, while Turkish lore tells of a Sultan's daughter placed there to be out of all harm, but who was, after all, killed by an asp, concealed in a basket of flowers which had been sent to her by her lover.

To the left of Stamboul is Topkapi, a Turkish quarter, where a cannon foundry is situated by the side of the mesque of Mahmoud II.

## THE EASTERN WAR.

### TURKEY'S NAVAL STRENGTH.

#### ON THE DANUBE.

Turkey possesses a strong flotilla of armoured gunboats on the Danube, which, if properly handled, ought to considerably impede any operations carried on for the purpose of constructing a bridge, and inflict great loss by shelling the enemy from a distance. The difficulty of crossing the river owing to these gunboats has not been underestimated by the Russian Government, and with a view of paralyzing their action, a number of small torpedo boats have been added to the equipment of the invading army. These boats are steam launches about 30 feet long, constructed, with the exception of one, which is of steel, of thin iron plating. They are fitted with engines of 8-horse power and possess great speed. Being specially built with a view to transport by rail, they are exceedingly light for their size, and do not weigh, with their engines and fittings all complete, more than 3½ tons. They will probably be fitted with the spar torpedo, and their crews will trust to the speed to carry them alongside an enemy's gunboat and away from it again, before the Turks will have sufficiently recovered their presence of mind to point a gun correctly or even fire one. As a protection against rifle-fire, these boats carry shields at each end, but there is nothing to prevent their being sunk by the fire of a great gun. Well manoeuvred, under the command of bold and enterprising officers, these launches might become very dangerous to the Turks, and, in any case, are likely to prove a valuable auxiliary force, as they may be used amongst other purposes for carrying over the advance guard.

The Russians, apparently, are feeling their naval inferiority, and would like to get a few larger craft than these launches on the Danube. They have a number of heavily-armed gunboats at Nicholaieff all prepared, and ready for sea at a moment's notice. It is probably the intention of the Russian Government to try and slip them into one of the mouths of the Danube, but the Turks are taking their measures in time, and a well-chosen squadron of small iron-clads has left

for the north with orders to keep the strictest and closest watch possible over the delta. This squadron, which is under the command of Mustapha Pacha, consists of two heavily-armoured iron corvettes, splendid craft in their way, mounting guns of the heaviest description, 12½-ton muzzle-loading Armstrongs, in a battery so arranged as to admit of a fire being delivered almost in a line with the keel. This is the naval force outside the river, and now a few words may be said about the squadron inside, which is under the command of Kiritlee Mustapha Pacha, an officer who has generally obtained credit for energy. The squadron on the river consists of some seven armoured gunboats and a few small wooden steam-vessels armed with light guns. The ironclad gunboats are all about 115 feet in length, carry each of them two breech-loading Armstrong guns (80-pounders) in a battery placed on the fore part of the deck, and are protected with 2-inch armour. The remaining two are of very superior construction, carrying their two guns (80-pounder Krupp) in a turret placed forward. They were built at Constantinople, and only launched a few months ago. The armour of these boats is sufficient to prevent the penetration of projectiles from field pieces, and they will be able, therefore, to move up and down the river delivering a galling fire at any point almost with impunity, unless the measures taken by the Russians to destroy them or keep them at a distance prove successful.

#### II.

#### IN THE BLACK SEA.

Turkey has a fine ironclad fleet in the Black Sea, sufficient in number possibly, when supplemented with their wooden vessels, to blockade, if necessary, the whole of the Russian coast. Properly watched, not a vessel ought to be allowed to escape out of a Russian port; and though there is a fine fleet of merchant steamers at its disposal, the Turks ought to be able to prevent the Russian Government from sending any supplies to its various *corps d'armées* except overland. With enemy's vessels stationed here and there, and a squadron of fast steaming iron-clads sweeping round the shore, threatening the sea-coast towns, attacking the fortified posts, and destroying the Government depôts, as the Turks if they understand the value of their fleet will certainly do, the Russians will have to retain considerable forces in the south for their defence. Recent intelligence from Odessa declares that the army destined for this work consists of at least 270,000 men, of which 200,000 at the present time are in quarters near that town, the remainder being distributed in detachments along the shore to the northward and eastward, as far as the mainland on the other side of the Crimea. This is a large force certainly, but ships have the advantage, in the present day, of steam, and can move about with far greater celerity than troops. Feints and threatened attacks upon certain positions with small portions of the fleet will serve to draw off the troops from other places whilst the main body of war vessels is preparing for a descent upon the towns thus left only partially defended. This is the sort of work which would be undertaken by a British fleet in similar circumstances, and the Turks are supposed to have studied in the same school. They possess amongst the vessels of the ironclad fleet just the sort of craft to suit a dashing commander—vessels of light draught, heavily armoured, mounting guns of large calibre, and steaming well. Two of the vessels in question, as previously mentioned, have already left for the mouth of the Danube, and there are two others of precisely the same description lying at Batoum, the Avni Hlah and Mouani Zehir. In addition to these vessels there are four other armoured corvettes which carry on the average eight heavy guns each, two of which, as a rule, are mounted on revolving platforms on the upper decks, for the delivery of "all-round fire." These ships, lying off a battery end on, could pour in a very destructive fire against a battery or other object as a target, whilst from their small size and absence of heavy masts and sailing gear they would present but a very small mark for the enemy. These eight vessels do not form the whole of the strength of the ironclad fleet, as there are lying at the present moment at the mouth of the Bosphorus five large broadside ironclad frigates, one of which is one of the most formidable vessels of her class afloat. She is called the Messoudieh, and having left the building-yard of the Thames Ironworks Company only within the last two years, has had every recent improvement, and is even a finer vessel than our own Sultan, which she closely resembles. She is protected by a belt of 14-inch armour, and carries fourteen 12½-ton guns, with two indented ports on either side, for firing fore and aft. The guns are protected by armour-plated bulkheads, and a double bottom; division into watertight compartments reduces considerably the risk of her total destruction by the explosion of the enemy's torpedoes. Unfortunately, she consumes an enormous quantity of coal, and so is hardly the ship for such active operations as we have sketched, though she would answer admirably for an attack upon a fortress or the blockade of a port. Another vessel of precisely the same description and size is expected shortly from England; she is called the Hamidiéh, in compliment to the Sultan. We give a sketch of her in this number. The four other ironclad frigates are of an old type, and only protected by plates of 4½ inches in thickness. They are the Mahmoudieh (now stationed at Batoum), the Aziziéh, the Orchanieh, and Osmanieh. They carry each

of them 16 heavy Armstrong muzzle-loaders, and possess very good steaming qualities. The whole strength of the Ottoman navy consists of fifteen ironclads, five wooden steam frigates, eleven wooden corvettes, two wooden gun vessels, and eleven gunboats, of which seven are armoured, and form the Danube flotilla previously described. There are thirteen large transports, six fast despatch vessels, and two Imperial yachts, besides a number of small steamers and wooden hulks. The official report places the total number of vessels of all descriptions at 132, manned by some 18,292 officers, seamen, and marines. Turkey, then, has, numerically speaking, one of the finest fleets in the world, and this naval force in other respects also is now not so deficient as it was some months ago. The ships are fully manned, armed, and provisioned. The captains handle their vessels fairly, and the crews work the guns in a smart manner. The weak point of the fleet is in manœuvring together, but this would only tell in an action with an enemy of anything like equal force, and need enter into no calculation with regard to operations against the enemy's coasts, for there it is rather judgment in placing the vessels for attack, and cool courage and endurance on the part of the officers and men which are required.

#### III.

#### SEA-COAST DEFENCES.

With regard to the defences of the towns along the southern shore of the Black Sea, the Turks are behind hand, as it is only at Batoum where the batteries are in anything like an efficient condition. At Trebizonde there is nothing, and this large town, the most important as far as commerce is concerned, along the whole southern shore, the port of Erzeroum, and the landing place of goods for the Persian market, is completely at the mercy of any bold naval commander who with a ship or two, even armed merchant steamers, can manage to slip past the Turkish fleet. At Sinope batteries for the defence of the harbour have been in course of construction for years past. The positions of the batteries have been well chosen with regard to cross fire, and every part of the harbour is well commanded. Batoum is the point to which the Turks have given their greatest attention, for they know how ardently the Russians covet its possession. Lying close to the Russian frontier, it presents such a tempting prize that to acquire it alone the Russians might almost risk a war. It is undoubtedly the natural port of the Caucasus, for there is no other harbour where vessels can lie in all weather for miles around. Under ordinary circumstances the place presents much more the appearance of a Russian seaport than a Turkish harbour, for, as a rule, there are seven or eight Russian steamers always lying in the port. All goods for the Caucasus have to be transhipped at Batoum into small steamers to be taken inside the bar of the river at Poti, and it is naturally very galling to the Russians that the place should be in the hands of the Turks.

The defences of Batoum consist of a battery mounting 25 guns of various calibre, ranging from 12 to 22 centimetre Krupps, and two other smaller earthworks arranged to fire across the bay. The one to the northward mounts four guns, 15 and 22 centimetre Krupps, whilst the one at the head of the bay is armed with seven, three of which, however, are smooth-bored of heavy calibre. Although the defences of Batoum seaward are formidable enough, no provision has been made for its protection against an attack in the rear. The Russians would have, however, a tremendous task to come down upon Batoum from behind, for there are high mountain ranges and thick forests to be traversed, and numerous streams to be passed, necessitating months of pioneer work before the army could advance. The Turkish troops at Batoum at the present moment amount to something like 12,000 men, but preparations have been made for enrolling the Circassians as light cavalry, so that in case of need a very large auxiliary force can be added. It is quite likely that the Turks will advance upon Poti, resting their left wing upon the fleet. There are no difficulties in the way, as the intervening streams are all fordable and the distance not great. By capturing Poti the Turks could inflict a heavy blow, as the railway to Tiflis would be in their hands, and they could destroy it as well as the harbour works. For the defence of Poti, three earthwork batteries have been thrown up, one near the southern mole mounting four large Krupp guns, another a little south of it mounting two Krupps and twenty mortars, and a third four Krupps and thirty mortars. There is also a long intrenchment for riflemen, and a few torpedoes have been laid down as a "scare" for the Turkish ships. The Russian troops for the invasion of Asiatic Turkey are concentrated at Alexandropol, a large town on the frontier, but a very few hours' march from Kars. They are said to have something like 150,000 men, with all the transport arrangements ready for making an advance. Kars is now very strongly fortified, new batteries having been constructed.

From Poti round to the Crimea there are a few small fortified posts as at Anapa, Soukhoum Kaleh, and Redout Kaleh; but they would offer very slight opposition to the Turkish fleet, as the guns are of no great calibre, and the Russians are trusting not so much to driving off the iron-clads with a heavy fire, as to giving a warm reception to any landing parties by having detachments of Cossacks stationed along the coast, assisted by batteries of light field pieces. It is said also that a very large number of torpedoes

have been laid down along the coast, some of them far out at sea. How much has been really done in this way can hardly be known, except to the Russian officers immediately concerned, as the successful use of submarine weapons depends more than anything else upon the secrecy with which the operations have been conducted. One thing, however, is known for certain, that the Russians throughout the winter have been most actively employed in manufacturing torpedoes in the arsenal at Nicholaieff, and that a great number have already been laid down in the harbour of Odessa, and the estuary of the Bug river. It is said that some of the torpedoes have been laid down as far out at sea as five miles, but if so they are far beyond the range of any of the batteries, and might either be picked up or destroyed by an adventurous enemy not afraid to risk his men. Towards the end of the American war the Federals became so used to the work that they regularly swept the rivers, and picked up hundreds of the Confederate torpedoes with, comparatively speaking, little loss in the way of men. It is true that the torpedoes of that date were different from those of the present day, in that their explosion depended upon mechanical action, and not upon electricity. The necessity for the employment of conducting cables renders it easier, however, to destroy electrical torpedoes, as by creeping with grapnels from boats it is possible to pick up the wires, and then once the latter are cut the mine is useless. The boats naturally run the risk of being destroyed, as the torpedoes being laid down in groups and lines "en echelon," they must at times be hovering over some one or other of them; but then a torpedo can be used but once, and if fired for the destruction of a boat, a gap will be formed for the passage of the ships. Nicholaieff, where the Russians have their arsenal, is most strongly defended by torpedoes. From the estuary to the town the whole channel is mined, and there is little probability of the Turks attempting to force a passage. The Russian torpedoes are made of thin sheet copper filled with dynamite, and are to be fired by electricity from the shore. They have been laid down off all the sea-coast towns, and the Straits of Kertch are full of them, for the Russians have a lively recollection of what was done by British gunboats round the shores of the Azof during the Crimean war.

Before concluding it should be said that one great advantage possessed by the Turks, which will facilitate considerably the intended operations of their fleet in the Black Sea, is the coal mines of Heraclea. An abundant supply of this most necessary material can be easily obtained, as the distance from any part of the Black Sea to the port of shipment is inconsiderable.

### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

RAYMOND (Colonel Sellers), is going to Europe presently, and Jefferson (Hip Van Winkle) contemplates returning ere long.

PROPOSALS have been made by a Paris musical house to Brother Giovanni, the famous Roman tenor, to come to Paris to sing entirely for ecclesiastical purposes.

A DAUGHTER of Jefferson is engaged to be married to B. L. Farjeon, English novelist, author of "Grif," "Blade of Grass," etc. The marriage will take place next month.

MISS CLARA MORRIS appeared as *Miss Milton* in Boston recently. At the end of the second act she found that the company were not well up in their parts, and that she would be at a disadvantage if she continued the performance, so the audience was dismissed. Mr. Don Boucheault states that there is no theatre outside of the city of New York properly managed in America.

MR. WILLIAM WINTER, the poet and dramatic critic of the *Tribune*, sailed in the *Britannic* last Saturday. He goes for his health, but his pen will not be entirely idle, as he intends to write a series of letters to his paper. Winter and Jefferson have been on intimate terms for many years, and the last son born unto the comedian is called William Winter Jefferson. The comedian and the critic will together visit Shakspeare's birthplace and other points of interest in England.

### LITERARY.

A VERY remarkable address on Shakespeare has been delivered in London by a distinguished *scout* and *vérificateur*. The occasion was a gathering of literati and artists. It was maintained that evidence has recently been discovered to show that Shakespeare, who has so often denounced strong drink, himself fell a victim to it, and died prematurely of a fever brought on by drinking.

GEORGE MACDONALD, the poet, has a large family—nearly a dozen children—and they are giving tokens of inheriting some of their father's talent. They have been acting at Mrs. Cowper-Temple's piece founded on the second part of the *Pilgrim's Progress*, and the performance is to be repeated at Mrs. Russell Gurney's. It was very well done.

THE war correspondents for the Paris papers are off. M. Ivan de Woestyne has gone to St. Petersburg to join the Russian army, and M. Henri Charbrillat has gone to Constantinople. The vigorous and caustic writer, M. Saint-Gerest, will trace the war to its origin in the ideas of the people in Russia itself, and the Comte de Kératry is to furnish an account of the doings in the Christian provinces tributary to Turkey.

A COPY of Beaumont and Fletcher which formerly belonged to Charles Lamb has been bought for the British Museum. It has numerous notes by Lamb, and markings by himself and sister of passages to be extracted for his *Specimens of Early English Dramatic Poets*. Many notes by Coleridge are also in it. One runs: "N.B.—I shall not be long here, Charles. I go, you will not mind my having spoiled a book in order to leave a relic." S. T. C. Oct., 1811.

MR. FARJEON, who first attracted attention as a writer of romances while editing a newspaper in Australia, will visit New York in the autumn, and may enter the lecture field. It is proposed to give him a dinner and reception at the Lotus Club. He is a member of the Junior Garrick Club of London, and is patronized by Baroness Rothschild. Farjeon paid this country a visit about seven years ago. His brother is a merchant in New York, and his brother's wife is the heroine of his pretty song so popular in London music-halls, called "Bread and Cheese and Kisses."