

many does not wish to see Russia more powerful in Europe. Thus an entirely bankrupt and corrupt government continues to exist. Countries which in the time of the Romans and Greeks, of the Egyptians and Assyrians, were covered with prosperous and powerful cities, and still of the highest possibilities in the way of civilization, are desolate and depopulated.

The miserable condition of Turkish countries, aside from other causes of decay, results from a system of tax-farming by which contractors, for a certain sum furnished the Sultan, have unlimited power of oppression and extortion over the provinces. Land is uncultivated and trade idle, because wealth is only a summons for the extortions of the tax-collectors.

The Turks themselves are a naturally intelligent and well-disposed people, but corrupted by European and Eastern vices and mixed with a multitude of renegades who in all centuries have been the most depraved and vicious of their officials. Moreover, they are unfitted by religion and social habits to assimilate and adopt those features of European civilization which would bring them into sympathy with the subject European populations.

The Turkish language is Turanian (p. 32), but mixed with Arabic. In literature and poetry the Persians have served as their models.

Tobacco, although we cannot now imagine a Turk without his pipe, was first used after 1604. Coffee first appeared in Constantinople in the reign of Solymán the Great.

The character of Turkish government was doubtless superior in its prime to many other eastern despotisms, but it was usual, until 1600, for the new Sultan to put to death his brothers in order to forestall their rivalry. One of the Sultans thus killed nineteen brothers. The punishment of death was inflicted by many Sultans for the slightest offences. A Sultan of the 17th century put to death one hundred thousand persons. A Grand Vizier of the 17th century, renowned for his justice, put to death thirty-six thousand persons in five years. It is true that these executions were partly called for by the crimes and insubordinate violence of the Janissaries, but this does not better our conception of the Turkish State. In the time of Bonaparte it was still usual for Turkish soldiers to disperse after, or even before, victory, to collect the heads of their slain enemies.

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN EXERCISE.

What nations were engaged in the wars closed by the various treaties mentioned in the summary on the next page?

What changes of territory were involved in each one of these treaties?

What was the leading feature of French and English history at the time of the battle of Nikopolis? (P. 128.)

From what time do you date the Byzantine Empire, overthrown in 1453?

Who married the Byzantine heiress soon after? (P. 415.)

Mention the sovereigns of Europe contemporary with Solymán the Great? (P. 239.)

What territory was gained by the Turkish victory of Mohacz? (P. 233.) When lost? (P. 428.) By what treaty?

What conquest roused Christendom to the triumph at Lepanto? (P. 427.)

What was the government of Cyprus at this time? (P. 427.)

When did the Turks lose Cyprus? (P. 429.)

Who was king of France when Sobieski defeated the Turks?

What gains were made by Russia at the expense of Turkey in the 18th century? (P. 418.)

What territories has Turkey lost in the 19th century? (Pp. 428, 429.)