

give them a fresh anecdote or illustration in addition to the hackneyed ones from Western Europe. You have told them "Belgium is called the cock-pit of Europe; for you see it lies where the armies of France, Germany and England when at war are apt to meet and fight." True. Would it not be a relief to you and to them to add, "and notice why the Balkan peninsula is such another; for here Europe and Asia, Moslem and Christian hosts can get at each other between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean." Read, and you will find as much that is fascinating, varied and unexpected as in western history; as well as a subtlety of thought and intensity of feeling, both for good and bad aims, peculiarly Oriental. While urging you to read and study, I want to give a caution, which brings me to my third word, Greece, or rather, Greek.

My caution is, take your attention, your brains with you when reading. Especially be on your guard to notice ambiguous uses of words you thought transparently simple. Such words, e. g., as Greek and Roman. I have said enough already to hint to you that some writers mean by the latter word what belongs only to the Italian Rome; others will limit it to New Rome, Byzantium or Constantinople. So with the word Greek. We think that all belonging to a certain race, to a certain language, is Greek. It is a shock to find a writer using the word so as to exclude every person or fact that is Christian. If Christian, it is, according to some, not Greek, but Romaic. It is not easy to recognize our old friend "Greek fire" under the title "Romaic fire." Most of us would call modern Greek a different dialect; but some refuse to call it Greek at all! So be ready for ambiguous uses of common words. However, this is not peculiar to the later Roman Empire, only we find some bad cases there.

Keep your head when you come to adjectives or adverbs. Gibbon is a great name in history. He calls the later Empire "weak." To guard Europe for all these centuries against the constant attacks of the Moslem armies! Weak! Where do you find your strong nations? Of course, if to be finally overthrown is to be weak, it was. But both Europe and the Turks themselves were astonished when Constantinople fell. Before you follow Gibbon's views, read Professor Freeman.

Unless a writer is in sympathy with his subject he will not be fair.

The trouble is that most of our books about the modern Greeks are written from the western standpoint by westerners, "O East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet," and understand each other without effort and difficulty. Take the Crusades. Did you ever read any history written from this point of view:—the Greek Emperor asked help to restore to him what he had lost, and the Crusaders came in response and most of their leaders took an oath to him of loyalty—which no one kept? You never read any books often or always reminding you that the kingdom of Jerusalem was founded on broken vows, treachery and all that was base. It is not that history is falsified so much as that other points of view are kept in the foreground. Read with discrimination, never forgetting that the writer, if a westerner, has little sympathy with a Greek, who is of the near East.

Often writers of travels in the Balkans will contrast the "cowardly Christian" with the "brave Turk." Remember, the one is an unarmed man of a subject class and the other an armed member of the dominant race. The way those Christians fought in later wars shows their courage. Little Montenegro could never have kept free in the midst of mighty Turkey had her sons been cowards.

All along the centuries since the Crescent first gained power over the Christians to this year of grace there have been what the books call coldly "murders;" but what are murders because of religion? Any sympathy with the victims would proclaim them of "the noble army of martyrs." Read, then, with caution as to spelling; with discrimination as to ambiguities, and be on your guard lest adjectives debase the moral coinage—but *read*.

A MILLION LITTLE DIAMONDS.

A million little diamonds
Twinkled in the trees,
And all the little maidens said,
"A jewel, if you please!"

But while they held their hands
To catch the diamonds gay,
A million little sunbeams came
And stole them all away.—*Selected.*