

without once descending to the ground, enduring

"Rain, wind, frost, heat, hail, damp and
sleet and snow,
 Battering the gates of heaven with storms
 of prayer."

Here Constantine, after his vision of the fiery cross in the heavens, built his new Rome, dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. Here in his presence were laid the foundations of Saint Sophia. Here, after being thrice destroyed, it was rebuilt by Justinian, and for nine hundred years was the most august church in Christendom, and for five hundred more the most august mosque in the world. Within its walls St. Chrysostom, the golden-mouthed, and St. Gregory Nazianzen, preached in the ancient tongue in which the Gospels were written, and here in cruel massacre the Crescent triumphed over the Cross. "O Solomon, I have surpassed thee," said Justinian at its dedication, on Christmas Day, 537, as he looked on the great mosaic of the wise king of Israel.

The expenditure on the Church of Holy Wisdom was greater than for any other sanctuary ever reared to the glory of God. St. Peter's cost less than forty-eight million dollars; Sancta Sophia cost more than sixty-four millions. St. Peter's occupied in building 120 years, Notre Dame, in Paris, 72, St. Paul's 35, Sancta Sophia, erected a thousand years before St. Peter's, was completed within six years. It was the scene of the great ecclesiastical and state pageants of the Byzantine empire for a thousand years.

"In fadeless, incorruptible mosaic," says Professor Grosvenor, "the whole of the Old and New Testament story, the life of the Holy Virgin, the sublime tales of martyrs and saints, who had won their crowns and in their footsteps guide the world up to glory,

streamed their priceless sermons everywhere on the rapt worshipper. When the sun was set the flames of six thousand silver lamps, tossed from the sacred glittering surface, 'made the night,' says Theophanes, 'as brilliant as the day.'"

Though the crescent has superseded the cross on its lofty dome, it still retains its name of Holy Wisdom. Of the great mosaic, which for well-nigh fourteen hundred years has portrayed the figure of our Lord, the writer says: "The right hand, gentle

'as when
In love and in meekness He moved among
men,'

is extended still in unutterable blessing, and in its comprehensive reach seems to embrace the stranger. Within the shadow one feels Christ is keeping watch above His own."

Our author goes on to describe many other churches and mosques in the ancient city, with their often thrilling and romantic history. Among the most remarkable features of ancient Byzantium still remaining in the modern city is the Hippodrome.

This is a large square, occupying in part the site of the ancient circus, nine hundred feet long and four hundred and fifty feet broad. Here occurred those fierce conflicts between the red and green factions which at times almost convulsed the empire. In its centre rises an obelisk of Egyptian granite brought from Heliopolis. Its deeply-carved hieroglyphics and the Greek and Latin inscriptions at the base still speak of the past to the present in tongues almost forgotten of mankind. A considerable portion is concealed in the well-like enclosure around it, for the whole square has been raised to a considerable height by the accumulated debris of centuries. This column consists of three serpents