

Adrianople his capital. Then, for the first time in a thousand years, was Constantinople surrounded, both in Asia and Europe, by the arms of the same enemy. That beautiful city was coming gradually into the coils of the Asiatic serpent, and yet there is not found in it power or unity to resist the silent slimy advances at this critical time of the terrible monster.

"Enough! No foreign foe could quell
Thy soul till from itself it fell,
Self abasement paved the way
To villain bonds and despot sway."

The Turks were now face to face with the Scythian nations, situated between the Danube and the Adriatic, (the Bulgarian, Servians, Bosnians and Albanians, with whom they are now in mortal strife) those warlike tribes that had so often insulted the majesty of the Roman Empire. From these tribes, distinguished by their hardihood of mind and body, came the very arm that accomplished their own subjugation. Amurath claimed as his share of the spoils of war the fifth of the goods and the *captives*. The stoutest and most beautiful of the Christian children taken captives were educated in the Mahometan faith, and trained as soldiers of the crescent. The new army was named by a celebrated dervis. Standing in front of the army and stretching the sleeve of his gown over the head of the foremost soldier, the holy man said, "Let them be called Janizaries." (*Yenji cheri* or new soldiers.) At a time when none of the Kings of Christendom had (what is now the curse of Europe) a standing army, this body of men in constant exercise and service became a formidable power in the hands of Amurath. The Janizaries fought with zeal against the "infidels"—their own country-men, and in the battle of *Cossova*, (1389) the independance of the Slavonian tribes was finally crushed. It was to Amurath, however, a dear-bought victory, for, from the crowd of the slain

started up a wounded Servian soldier who rushed on the Sultan, and ran him through with his sword.

Bajazet, surnamed Ilderim or the *Lightning*, the son of Amurath, succeeded his father. It was he who boasted that after conquering Germany and Italy, he would feed his horse with a bushel of oats on the altar of St. Peter at Rome. It looked as if he could have fulfilled his threat, after the battle of Nicopolis, where he defeated an army of 100,000 Christians; but he was checked in his career by a long and painful fit of the gout. Whether he could or not, but for the gout, have taken Rome, he would undoubtedly have taken Constantinople, but for the invasion of Tamerlane, who finished the career of this monster of lust and cruelty by enclosing him in an iron cage. It was not, therefore, till 1453 however that Constantinople came into the power of the Turks. Since that time till this time, a period of over 400 years, the Turks have held their position like a mighty colossus, standing on three continents, and holding in their power the finest cities (for situation) in the world, and lands famed above all lands for their history and their romantic beauty.

II. WHAT IS THE PRESENT POSITION OF TURKEY?

On this point we find recent and full information in the pages of Whitaker's Almanac for 1876, from which we transfer, without abridgment, the following valuable summary of facts:—

TURKEY (THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.)

This empire comprehends all the countries under the authority of the Sultan—Turkey in Europe, Turkey in Asia, Turkey in Africa (Tripoli), Tributary Provinces in Europe (Roumania, Montenegro, and Servia), in Africa (Egyptian territory, and Tunis), comprising altogether over 45,000,000 square miles, with a population of 42,065,510, consisting of Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Slaves, Romans, and Albanians (in Europe alone),