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MORRISBURG ILLUSTRATED.

In our next number we shall present the first of two large double-page illustrations of Morrisburg, Ont. It will consist of views of prominent public and private buildings, with such scraps as will tend to give an artistic finish to the scene. This new enterprise of ours is beginning to excite attention throughout the country, and we are in receipt of flattering commendations. And we are certain that the more it is known, the more it will be appreciated. It will be the first time that Canada, its history, resources, industries, geography, &c., will have been set before the people of the country. Not only persons resident in the several localities described, but others should make it a point to collect these illustrated articles to preserve them for future reference. Nowhere else will they ever find such a mine of useful and entertaining information. The letter-press is equal to the pictorial execution. Our Special Correspondent, Mr. George Tolley, well known for years as the editor of the *Montreal Star*, is devoting his whole time, energy and ability to the work, and he has an eye especially for bits of curious antiquity connected with each place which he visits. For instance, this week, owing to the lengthy matter connected with Morrisburg, we have detached, as introductory to next week's illustrations, his account of "Uncle Carlo's" adventures in the romantic days of invasion and rebellion. We bespeak for Mr. Tolley the consideration of our friends wherever he goes. Orders for the first of this *Morrisburg Illustrated* Number should be sent in early, as back sets are often difficult to supply.

ST. JOHN, N.B.

The present number contains the fourth of the series of portraits of the principal men and notabilities of St. John, N.B. We beg to call the attention of all our friends in the Maritime Provinces to this series.

NOTICE.

The indexes of the two volumes XV. and XVI. are now ready, and those of our subscribers who may desire them especially for binding, as we recommend them to do, will be at once supplied on dropping word by messenger or postal card.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 9th, 1878.

STAMBOUL.

PERHAPS the best way of learning geography is when a great war attracts our attention to a special country. We have, in the present Eastern war, given full description of the principal places involved. To-day events bring us directly to the great city of Constantinople, and furnish us the occasion of opening a page of history. Constantinople is situated on a series of gentle hills at the east of a triangular promontory having the Sea of Marmora and the Bosphorus on the south and east, and the Golden Horn, an inlet of the latter, on the south. It is thus surrounded by water on all sides, excepting the west, and has a sea front altogether of about eight miles in extent. Taking the form of the ground on which it stands, the city is also triangular in shape, its apex projecting into the Bosphorus, and its base, a lofty double wall, of four miles in length, stretching across the promontory, from the Sea of Marmora to the Golden Horn. Each of the sides may be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and within these limits the whole of the city proper is included. On the opposite side of the Golden Horn, and also occupying the extremity of a promontory, sometimes called the Peninsula of Pera, are situated the extensive suburbs, Galata, Pera, and Tophana. Constantinople was formerly walled on all sides; but those along the

Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmora are in a ruinous state, and in many places have altogether disappeared. At present the entrance is by 28 gates. The appearance of the city from without is extremely picturesque and imposing, with its mosques, cupolas, and minarets, interspersed with lofty cypresses, and its port crowded with shipping; but within it consists mostly of a labyrinth of crooked, ill-paved, and dirty lanes, and a crowd of low-built and small houses, formed of wood or roughly-hewn stone. Its drainage is favoured by its uneven and sloping site and a great number of public fountains, which amply supply the city with water brought from artificial tanks constructed at some distance. This capital, including its suburbs, contains 14 royal and 332 other mosques, 49 Mohammedan colleges, 183 hospitals, 36 Christian churches, several synagogues, 130 public baths, and 180 khans or inns, besides numerous bazaars, coffee-houses, and caravanseras.

On the extreme north-east point of the promontory on which the city stands, called Point Serai, is situated the Seraglio, or palace of the sultan, having the Bosphorus in front and the Golden Horn on the left, and commanding a magnificent view of the opposite shore, including the beautiful town of Scutari and its cypress covered hills. The Seraglio, with its gardens and groves, includes an area of about three miles in circumference, and is washed by the sea for two-thirds of its extent. Having been enlarged and altered at various periods, according to the taste or caprice of the princes and sultans, it now consists of a conglomeration of buildings, clustering together without order or design. Its apartments, however, are spacious and richly furnished. At the principal entrance is a large and lofty gate, called Bab Humayun, the high door or Sublime Porte, from which has been derived the well-known diplomatic phrase, all political business being transacted, as supposed, under this portal. Within the precincts of the palace is the celebrated Divan, and the Harem, with the "Garden of Delight," in which are numerous gorgeous paterres and pavilions; the latter as bright with painting and gilding as the flowers which blossom on every side, while clusters of roses bloom in baskets of gilded wicker-work, and fountains murmur under the deep shadow of overhanging boughs. Near by is a battery of heavy cannon. The site of ancient Byzantium is supposed to have been included within the present limits of the Seraglio.

Immediately without the Seraglio is the principal mosque of St. Sophia, originally a Christian cathedral, built by the Emperor Justinian, between 531 and 538, at a cost equivalent to at least £1,000,000 sterling. This edifice is in the form of a Greek cross, 269 ft. in length, by 143 in breadth (in its interior), and surmounted by a flattened dome, 180 feet above the ground, besides several minor cupolas, and 4 minarets added to it by the Turks. In its interior are numerous large columns, a floor of variegated marble, and some magnificent bronze gates; but most of the ancient Byzantine paintings and decorations have been hidden by Turkish inscriptions, and the general effect of the building is destroyed by the presence of a multitude of lamps, globes, and other insignificant ornaments depending from the dome. Near St. Sophia is the mosque of Aclamet, a fine structure with a beautiful marble pavement, and 6 minarets—a number possessed by no other mosque in the Mohammedan world. This mosque stands on the Atmeidan, or "hor-cours," the ancient Hippodrome of historic celebrity, a space of 300 yards in length by 150 in breadth, and on which are the granite Theban obelisk set up by Theodosius, the broken pyramid of Constantine Porphyrogenitus shorn of its bronze plates, and the identical twisted brass column which originally supported the tripod in the temple of Delphi. The other principal mosques are those of Solyman the Magnificent, a masterpiece of Saracenic architecture, of Mohammed II., Bajazet (Bayazet) II., Selim

II., Mustapha III., and Othman and Eyub, with the Valide mosque, built by the mother of Mohammed IV., and containing pillars from the ruins of Troy. Most of these establishments have attached to them one or more colleges or charitable institutions: that of Mohammed II. is surrounded by 8 endowed academies, a diet-house for the poor, hospital, caravanseras, and baths all surmounted by lead-covered cupolas. There are government naval and military and medical colleges, as well as numerous inferior schools; but the system of education throughout the whole is on a low scale, and very inefficiently conducted. The bazaars are extensive and well supplied, but have no architectural beauty. The numerous cemeteries in and around the city are among its greatest ornaments. Many new barracks, schools, and hospitals have been established in different parts of the metropolis by the late and present sultans. The principal antiquities are the "burnt column," originally erected by Constantine the Great, a part of the column of Arcadius, the pillar of Marcian, vestiges of the Benevolence Palace, built by Theodosius II., the aqueduct of Valens, various subterranean cisterns, the principal of which, called by the Turks the "thousand and one columns," is a vault, 240 feet in length by 200 feet in width, and supported by 424 pillars. About the south-west angle of the city is the citadel of the "seven towers," (*Heptapylon*) a fortress erected about A.D. 1000, and now used as a state prison.

The city proper comprises separate quarters for the Jews, Armenians, and Greeks; that of the last, the "Fonar," extends along the shore of the port, or the "Golden Horn." This fine harbour, which has usurped the name of the promontory on which Byzantium was built, extends between the city and its suburbs, Pera, Galata, &c., for about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from south-east to north-west, breadth varying from 1 to 4 furlongs. It is deep enough to float ships of the largest size, can receive 1200 of the line, and is always full of mercantile and other vessels, with a vast number of light boats, which here form the principal vehicles of transport. A bridge of boats across it, constructed in 1837, connects the Fonar with Pera; besides which suburb, those of Cassim, Pasha, Tophana, Galata, and Tershanna, with the Imperial arsenals and dockyard, are on its north shore. The foreign commerce of Constantinople, though extensive, is not so large as might have been expected. The imports consist of corn, iron, timber, tallow, and furs from the Black Sea and Russia; cotton stuffs, yarn, woollens, silks, metallic goods, watches, jewellery, furniture, dyes, and drugs from Western Europe; corn and coffee from Alexandria; sugar from the East and West Indies; and wax, copper, gums, drugs, porcelain, overland from China, &c. Scutari is the place of rendezvous for caravans from Persia, Armenia, &c., and is the seat of the principal corn warehouses, and manufactures of Turkish silk and cotton goods. The other manufactures are morocco leather, saddlery, shoes, meerschaum pipe-bowls, mouth-pieces, and pipe-tubes; and expressly for the manufacture of the last, large numbers of cherry-trees are raised near the city. Constantinople is the see of Greek, Armenian, and Catholic-Armenian patriarchs.

The social condition and every-day life of Constantinople presents some curious phases. The streets are generally dull and deserted, all bustle and animation being confined to the bazaars. Many of the houses have no windows at all toward the street, but only a long, narrow, dingy door; and where there are any, they are latticed and closed. Till 1844-45, there were no lamps or lights of any kind in the streets, neither were the latter named, nor the houses numbered; all this, however, is now remedied. Towards evening the coffee-houses are much thronged; but at sunset the Turks retire to their homes, and do not go abroad till next morning. A great number of dogs are permitted to range the streets, which act as scavengers;

they have no private owners, but belong to the community. Each ward has its own particular dogs, and should an individual trespass upon a neighbouring territory, he is immediately driven off by the dogs that occupy it. The climate is variable, and the temperature, especially in winter and spring, is subject to great vicissitudes; snow and hard frost alternate with mild weather. The mean temperature of the year is 56° F.; winter, 48° F.; summer, 71° F. The annual quantity of rain which falls is moderate. Constantinople is but indifferently supplied with public means of conveyance, the chief one being caïques or wherries, the number of which plying on the waters has been estimated at 80,000. They are extremely light, elegantly constructed, and move with great rapidity. There are, besides the caïques, a class of large and heavy boats that ply regularly between the city and the opposite shores. Omnibuses have been recently introduced; besides plying on the thoroughfares, they run also to Adrianople.

Constantinople was originally founded by Byzus, A.D. 656, and rebuilt by Constantine, A.D. 328, who gave it his name. No city in the world has been subjected to such numerous and celebrated sieges, and no other has undergone so many vicissitudes of fortune. Yet it has only been taken twice, namely, in 1204 by the crusaders, who retained it till 1261, and by the Turks under Mohammed II., May 29, 1453—an event which completed the extinction of the Roman Empire in the East. Population, including the suburbs, 750,000, comprised of Turks, Arabians, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, and Europeans.

THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

It is some satisfaction to be able to announce to our readers that, on the 31st January, the preliminaries of peace between Russia and Turkey were signed at Adrianople. The protocol said to have been received by the Porte from its plenipotentiary, Suleiman Pasha, is as follows:

- I. The creation of Bulgaria into a Principality.
- II. War indemnity, or territory in compensation.
- III. Independence of Rumania, Servia and Montenegro, with increase of territory for each.
- IV. Reforms in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.
- V. An ulterior understanding between the Sultan and Czar regarding the Danubians.
- VI. Evacuation of the Danubian fortresses and Erzeroum.

It must be remembered, however, that these conditions are only preliminary, and by no means to be regarded as final. Austria has insisted upon an European conference, which all the other Powers have supported, and which Russia has been forced to submit to. At that Conference, several of the Powers which have been quiescent throughout the war, now appear determined to raise their voices. If Cambray can be taken as an authority, France declares that any engagements made at Adrianople modifying the treaty of 1856 must be considered null and void. The Russian conditions, except the demand for indemnity, involve a flagrant violation of that treaty, and French interests, it is held, in the East have hardly changed since 1856. On the other hand, we learn that the proposal of an Italian alliance with Powers opposed to Russian aggrandizement, but at the same time guaranteeing the freedom of the Christian nationalities, is most favourably entertained at Rome. The Pope and Cardinal Simeoni, Pontifical Secretary of State, are agreed as to the necessity of encouraging an alliance of Italy with England, France, and Austria. In Vienna there is a very despondent feeling, as it is evident that Germany is favouring Russia. This we have held all along. No wonder, therefore, that Austria is about to present a note refusing to sanction any conditions of peace which would imperil the existence of Turkey. Neither is Rumania satisfied. Prince Nicolas has ad-