

hand from Cyprus, to march over the waiting and weary land, and Turkey will become the finest country in the world. But we must not forget that this issue hangs on the heart and hand of England being held true to God and his adorable Son, and the Christians of England standing true to the faith of the Reformers.

The necessity of defence and of connection with India will secure the construction of railroads and the ultimate reclamation of the Euphrates valley. The time is not far distant, as was hinted in a former article, when the iron horse will from Vienna cross the Bosphorus and neigh on its way through the wild passes of Asia Minor, the steppes of Persia, and the plains of India till it enters its stable, for its return journey, at Calcutta or Peking. In the meantime a railroad through the valley of the Euphrates to some point on the Persian Gulf is a military necessity of England's position in Cyprus. This is an undertaking the first probably that will be accomplished, the effects of which it is difficult to over-estimate.

"In former days," says William K. Loftus, "the vast plains of Babylonia were nourished by a complicated system of canals and water-courses which spread over the surface of the country like net-work. The wants of a teeming population were supplied by a rich soil not less bountiful than on the banks of the Egyptian Nile. Like islands rising from a golden sea of waving corn stood fragrant groves of palms and pleasant gardens affording to the idler or the traveller their grateful and highly-valued shade. Crowds of passengers hurried along the dusty roads to and from the cities. The land was rich in corn and wine. How changed is the aspect of that region at the present day. Long lines of mounds, it is true, mark the course of those main arteries which formerly diffused life and vegetation along their banks; but their channels are now bereft of moisture and choked with drift sand; the smaller offshoots are wholly effaced. 'A drought is upon her waters,' says the prophet, 'and they shall be dried up.' All that remains of that ancient civilization, 'that glory of kingdoms,' 'the praise of the whole earth,' is recognizable in the numerous mouldering heaps of brick and rubbish which overspread the surface of the plain. Instead of the hum of many voices, silence reigns profound, except when a few passing travellers or roving Arabs flit across the scene. Instead of luxuriant fields, the groves and gardens, nothing now meets the eye but an arid waste—the dense population of former times is vanished, and no man dwells there."

Thus has it been literally fulfilled "that the sea (river) has come upon Babylon and she is covered with the waves thereof;" and, also, "That a drought are upon her waters and they are dried up;" "That she is wholly desolate;" "The hindermost of nations, a wilderness, a dry-land, and a desert." As for the city, it will never be rebuilt;