

extended. Religious liberty has been largely increased. The capitation tax has been abolished. The Christians of all denominations are being raised to an equality with those who long oppressed them.

The population of Turkey in Asia, is, at least, three-fourths Mahommedan, of which the larger part is of the Turkish race. But in Europe the Christians form by much the larger portion of the inhabitants of the Turkish provinces. Where no census is taken, it is impossible to arrive at a correct estimate of the population; and concerning Turkey the most conflicting statements are put forth. One of the latest authorities on this subject, estimates the entire population of the Ottoman Empire, including the Danubian Principalities, Egypt, Arabia, and Syria, which are scarcely more than nominally Turkish, at 34,500,000, irrespective of those doubtful dependencies at 14,000,000.

We will now direct our attention to the great nation, with whose gigantic forces Turkey has been necessitated to commence an unequal strife. Russia is the secret dread of continental Europe; but she has no charms for the scholar or the student. You turn in vain to her gloomy, repulsive and barbarous past for ought to awaken enthusiasm or to gratify the taste. In the palmy days of the Roman Empire, the barbaric world was divided into three great sections, differing from each other in language, in appearance and in customs. One great family of barbarous tribes roamed over the wide territory which lies north of the Oxus, and stretches from the Caspian Sea, to the frontier of China. From these vast regions came the Hun, the Turk, and the Tartar. Another rude and powerful race of men, tall in stature, noble in aspect, fair in complexion, fearing death less than servitude, cherished their wild valour in the dark forests of