

THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

NOVEMBER, 1876.

EDITORIAL.

DECAY AND FALL OF THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

There is at present no matter of public interest of more importance to the Christian world than the solution of the Turkish difficulty. It is a problem that lies very closely at the root not only of the Christianization of Turkey, but of Persia also, and of India: for the drying of the Euphrates, we are told in prophetic language, is to open up the way for the kings of the east. It may be useful for our readers, who are no doubt watching with deep interest the progress of events in a land dear to all Bible students, to say a few things this month about Turkey, in the following order: 1st. Whence and how came the Turks to be where they are? 2nd. What is their present standing among the nations? 3rd. How have they fulfilled their civil duties as rulers? 4th. What future are we to expect for them? 5th. What has the condition and prospects of Turkey to say to the Christians of Canada?

I. WHENCE CAME THE TURKS?

It is now nearly six hundred years since Thaman, whose name has been melted into Othman or Osman

in Turkish, pursued on the eastern edge of the Greek empire his vocation as a shepherd and a robber. At the call of the Koran this freebooter descended from the Bithynian hills, and entered on a *gazi* or holy war against the infidels. On the 27th of July, 1299, he crossed the Rubicon that separated him from the Christianity of Europe, by invading Nicomedia. For twenty-seven years he pushed forward his conquests, fortifying the towns and castles he had pillaged, and constantly increasing his army by captives and volunteers. When oppressed with age and infirmities the welcome news reached Othman that Brusa was taken by his son Orchan, whence we may date the true era of that Ottoman empire that is to-day tottering to its fall. Orchan pushed his conquests to the shores of the Bosphorus and Hellespont, and over the maritime country from the Propontis to the Maeander.

The Turkish cimeter which, by his untimely death, dropped from the hands of Soliman, the son of Orchan, was wielded with the same spirit by Amurath or Murad, the first who carried the crescent into Europe, and subdued without resistance the whole province of Roumania or Thrace, making