

## ABOUT TURKEY'S SULTANS

### CRUELITIES PRACTISED BY THESE HUMAN MONSTERS.

Abdul Hamid Only One of Many Who Have Massacred Their Christian Subjects—A Long List of Butcheries Perpetrated by the Fiends.

The word Sultan (pronounced Sool-taan, not Sultan) is by no means a Muhammadan title. It occurs in the Kuran three times, but there it stands for authority. It occupies a similar position as a title of authority, among the Sunni Muslims as Shah does among the Shiaks of Persia. The proper title for the chief ruler in Islam is Imam (Eem-aan), or leader or Khalifa (Khaleefa), "one who is left behind," a successor, a vicegerent, or deputy. The word is used in the Kuran for Adam, who is said to have been placed upon earth as the vicegerent of God.

The rulers of the Ottoman Turks assumed the title of Sultan, because there was at the time of their rise in history a Caliph at Baghdad who claimed to be the rightful ruler in Islam.

The present Turkish dynasty, took its rise from Halaku, the grandson of Jenghis Khan, who, in the middle of the thirteenth century, came down from the fastnesses of central Asia, and seized Baghdad, putting the Caliph to death. Osman, the founder of the present Ottoman dynasty, first established his kingdom at Bursa, the ancient capital of Bithynia, and was immediately succeeded by his son, Orchan the Conqueror, a tyrant of the deepest dye. The present Sultan Hamid of Turkey is the thirty-seventh from Osman, and it is a curious coincidence that the present Ottoman dynasty supplanted the thirty-seventh Caliph of the Abbaside dynasty. The Sultan of Turkey, claiming, as he does, to be the vicegerent of the Prophet is the ninety-third in succession to Abu Bakr, the first Caliph.

It is remarkable that so many Sultans of the Ottoman dynasty have DIED VIOLENT DEATHS.

Orchan died of excessive grief on hearing of the death of his favorite son, in 1359. Murad I., known in history as Amurath, was assassinated, in 1373. Bayezid the Thunder Bolt was dethroned in 1400, and died of drunkenness. Murad II. fell down dead when feasting with his friends at Adrianople. Bayezid II. was dethroned by his son, Selim the Cruel, in 1512 and Selim died of a pestilential boil on the spine eight years afterward. Mustafa I., the Saint, reigned only three months and was dethroned by the Sheik of Islam in 1618. Muhammad IV. was dethroned, after a reign of thirty-nine years, in 1649. Ahmad II. died of insanity in 1703. Abdul Hamid I. was poisoned on April 19, 1729, and was succeeded by his nephew, Selim III., who was deposed in 1807. His successor, Mustafa IV., was deposed and strangled in 1808. Mahmud II., the reformer, was poisoned July 1, 1839. Abdul Aziz was assassinated on June 4, 1876, and his nephew, Murad V., who was proclaimed Sultan, was found to be a

raving maniac, and the present Sultan, Abdul Hamid II., reigned in his stead.

Abdul Hamid is the second son of Abdul Medjid. His mother died while he was an infant, and he was cared for by his father's second wife, a childless and wealthy woman. He is just 54 years of age, having been born Sept. 22, 1812.

He has been rightly designated by Mr. Gladstone "the assassin," and it is probable that this well-deserved title will pass down into history just as Muhammad II. was surnamed the Conqueror, Solim I. the Cruel, and Suleyman I. the Magnificent. But it seems scarcely fair that the reigning Sultan should have exclusive right to so fit a title, for the long line of Ottoman Sultans is one of

#### MONSTROUS CRUELTY

and outrage. In the reign of Bayezid I. the great warrior, Tamerlane of Tartary, invaded his dominions, and the two mighty chiefs met on the plains of Angora in the spring of 1402 and fought one of the most sanguinary battles recorded in history. Tamerlane seized the city of Smyrna, then held by the Christian Knights of St. John, and ordered a general massacre of the inhabitants without mercy to either age or sex. Thousands of Christian warriors were buried alive after their heads had been fastened under their legs. It was Sultan Muhammad II., surnamed the Conqueror, who conceived it to be his mission to stamp out Christianity. He entered Constantinople as the Mahdi of Islam on May 29, 1453. The Turks rushed into the city, meeting with no resistance, and the Sultan, proceeding to the Christian Cathedral of St. Sophia, stood upon the marble altar and recited the Muslim prayers. Upon the taking of Constantinople the meanest Turks insulted the noblest Christians with impunity. The Muslim conquerors did not hesitate to commit the vilest outrages on women and children, in mere wantonness, and yet it is a remarkable fact that this Sultan is said to have been the son of a Christian mother. He was a man with no redeeming virtue, a vicious and sensual tyrant.

It was Sultan Selim I. the Cruel who first assumed the title of Caliph. He threatened to kill all his Christian subjects unless they embraced Islam, and would have carried out his threat but for the manly attitude of the Greek Patriarch. In return for his clemency he took the Christian Church edifices and turned them into Muslim mosques, Suleyman, the Magnificent, slaughtered in battle

#### TWENTY THOUSAND

Hungarian Christians, and in September, 1524, entered the cities of Buda and Pest, without any resistance and took 100,000 Christians—men, women and children—to Constantinople to be sold as slaves. It was this Sultan who very nearly conquered Vienna, but the Austrian capital was saved by the heroism and endurance of her defenders.

Sultan Murad IV., who reigned from 1623 to 1640, was notorious for his crimes. On one occasion he killed several Christians with his own hands at the northeastern porch of St. Sophia, and on another, when he saw a number of Greek women, dancing in a meadow, he ordered them to be seized and drowned. Among the many cold-blooded murders of his reign were those of his three brothers. This Murad was so greatly hated for his atrocities that the physicians of his court opened his veins and terminated his existence at the early age of 36.

The cruelties of the Turkish Sultans have developed with the growth of civilization. For it is during the century

which is passing that the greatest enormities have been perpetrated, Mustafa IV. was an assassin to the manor born, and would have committed great enormities if he had not been deposed and assassinated.

Under the reign of Sultan Mahmud II., designated the Reformer, from 1808 to 1839, there was a determination to convert the Christians of the Turkish empire by force, and on this account Russia decided to subdue and extinguish the power of the Turk. The Russians captured several ports on the Black Sea, but, on the eve of victory, were obliged to withdraw on account of the

ADVANCE OF NAPOLEON with his large army into Russian territory. On April 6, 1822, the Turkish troops landed at Samos and butchered its unoffending people. Twenty-five thousand men, women, and children were murdered and 45,000 were sold as slaves in the market places of Egypt and Barbary. The little island of Cosos was entirely desolated and 2,000 children were sent to the slave market in Alexandria.

Sultan Abdul Medjid was regarded as the friend and ally of Christian people, and it was in defence of his empire that France, England, and Sardinia sacrificed thousands of lives. Sebastopol was taken on Sept. 8, 1855, after a siege of ten months, and during this siege nearly eight thousand French and three thousand English soldiers of the line were killed.

During the reign of Abdul Aziz the inhabitants of Crete were cruelly treated, and the island was devastated and impoverished, like the other Christian possessions of the Turks. On May 7, 1876, the French and German Consuls at Salonica were murdered, and the revolutions in Herzegovina and Bulgaria continued for more than a year. The Bashli-Bazouks attacked and slaughtered 1,200 Christians who took refuge in a church. The total number of Christians massacred at this time was estimated by Mr. Baring of the British Embassy at 25,000.

And thus the tale of tyranny goes on. The only remedy for all this is that proposed by Mr. Gladstone, namely, to send the Sultan and his Muhammadan subjects "bag and baggage to Bagdad."

#### A DUEL WITH PILLS.

An extraordinary duel, which at the time created an immense sensation, was one in which the decision was arrived at, not by swords or pistols, but by means of a deadly poison. The men—who, it is hardly necessary to say, had fallen out over a lady—had left the arrangement of details to their seconds, and until they faced each other they did not know by what method they were to settle their differences. One of the seconds was a doctor, and he had made up for the occasion four black pellets, all identical in size and shape. "In one of these," he said, "I have placed a sufficient quantity of prussic acid to cause the almost instantaneous death of any one who swallows it. We will decide by the toss of a coin which of you is to have first choice, and you will alternately draw and swallow a pill until the poison shows its effects." Two of the pellets were then taken as the toss had decided, but without effect in either case. "This time said the doctor, speaking of the two pellets remaining, "you must both swallow the pill at the same instant." The choice was made and in a few seconds one of the men lay dead on the grass.

Only eleven days are required to transport a letter from Florence to New York.

### "MY OPTICIAN,"

DEALER IN HIGHEST GRADES OF

### SPECTACLES.

TELESCOPES, OPERA GLASSES,  
MICROSCOPES and EAR DRUMS.

Tel. 11. 159 YONCE ST., TORONTO.

### OWBRIDGE'S LUNG TONIC FOR THAT COUGH.

## HOOVER & CO.,

43 King St. W., TORONTO.

### ONE MINUTE HEADACHE CURE 10c

It is the cheapest and best Headache Remedy made. Try a package and you will recommend it to your friends.

All Druggists, and at 395 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont.