

They naturally send us to Mr. Stewart's book for all the details, which are the more acceptable because of their pleasing setting. The letter-press is heightened in interest by thirty-three views, which bring out very clearly some of the best known of the buildings and streets destroyed, as well as present to us some of the scenes of desolation and ruin which remain to tell the destructive character of the conflagration. It is in all respects a creditable work, and the early day on which it has appeared in the market speaks well for the energy displayed in its production.

The companion works on "Russia" and "Turkey," reprinted by Messrs. Holt & Co., of New York, should be carefully studied by everyone who desires to understand the strength and the weakness, the merits and the failings, the virtues and the vices, of the two belligerents. Having already reviewed at length Mr. Wallace's admirable account of the Empire of the Czar, we now purpose to give some account of Col. Baker's elaborate work on Turkey.* It may be necessary to distinguish between three Bakers, all known to fame, and, we believe, brothers. Sir Samuel Baker is the well-known traveller; Col. Valentine Baker is a volunteer officer on the Turkish staff; and Col. James Baker is our author. The last-named has lived, off and on, in Turkey for three years (1874-77), and has a large estate, managed by a Scotch agent, about eight miles from Salonica in Macedonia. Before entering upon a review of his book, it seems impossible to avoid a comparison of it with Wallace's "Russia." The author of the latter deliberately set to work to study the language and habits of the Russian people. He was six years in the Empire, and the result is a complete survey of the whole subject, on the whole impartially given. Both authors, as might be anticipated, are prepossessed in favour of the people they have studied; and the great value of both works, taken together, is the real insight they give us into the really good, and essentially bad characteristics of the two empires, as displayed in their institutions, military, religious, governmental, social, and domestic. The strong party feeling displayed in England in favour of Russia on the one side, and Turkey on the other, find their corrections in these two admirable volumes. They differ, it is true, in point of impartiality; for Col. Baker's prepossessions in favour of the Turk are not disguised. Still, generally speaking, the Russo-ophile will learn much that he should know from "Turkey," while the Russo-phobist may glean some lessons from both authors. The work before us is extremely well executed in every respect, with a slight reservation in point of fairness and impartial judgment. The narrative of the writer's travels is peculiarly vivacious. He has a keen military eye, the zest of a sportsman, and the practical *nous* of a settler. There is no subject on which even a specialist in any department of knowledge would like to be informed which is untouched in this volume; and Col. Baker touches no subject without casting upon it a flood of light. Topography, religion, military defence, legal, political, and fiscal institutions, land tenure, ethnology, archæology, history, the fauna and flora of the country, its geology, agriculture, manufactures, are all

* *Turkey*. By JAMES BAKER, M.A., Lieutenant-Colonel Auxiliary Forces, formerly 8th Hussars. New York: Henry Holt & Co.; Toronto: Willing & Williamson. 1877.