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THE STORM CENTRE OF EUROPE.

BY THE EDITOR.

I.

The story of the Turkish Empire is like the book described in the Revelation, "written within and without with lamentations and mournings and woe." That Empire is the great anachronism of the Nineteenth Century, a survival of mediaeval despotism and barbarism. The recent Armenian atrocities are but a repetition of many similar crimes, the filling up of the cup of its iniquity.

No account of the present crisis is complete that does not describe the centuries of misrule and the causes leading to these disastrous results. The fidelity throughout the centuries of persecution of the ancient Armenian Church, is one of the most heroic in the annals of Christendom. In no other volume that we know have these features of the present crisis been detailed so ably and fully as in the book under review.*

Probably no two men living are better qualified to treat this theme than the author of this book and Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, who were both for many years missionaries in Turkey. It gives a survey of the rise and decline of the Ottoman power, of the ancient Oriental

Churches—Syrian, Chaldean, Nestorian, Jacobite and Armenian. It records the efforts of reform and progress under pressure of the European governments. It recites the marvellous record of Protestant missions in Turkey, and the condition of the Christian people. It describes the religious persecutions which they have undergone, the emergence of the present Armenian crisis, the Christian massacres throughout Asia Minor, the relief work which has been undertaken, and discusses the probable outcome in the partition of Turkey and great political crises to which the collapse of that Empire, so honeycombed with iniquity, corruption and fraud, shall give rise.

The "Sick Man" of Europe has been a chronic invalid for more than a century. At times his illness has become acute, as during the Greek revolt of 1821, the Crimean war of 1853 to 1855, the Russo-Turkish war of 1877 and 1878, and at the present crisis.

The present decrepitude of the Ottoman Empire can give no idea of its strength in the fiery zeal of its youth, nor of the apprehensions which it caused throughout Europe. For two hundred years the tide of battle ebbcd and flowed across the great Hungarian Plain, between Vienna and Belgrade; and Austria became in the sixteenth century, as Spain had been in the eighth, the bulwark of Christendom. A new crusade was waged by the Christian powers, not

* "Turkey and the Armenian Atrocities." By the Rev. Edwin M. Bliss, assisted by the Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, D.D., with an introduction by Miss Francis E. Willard. Profusely illustrated. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 574. Price, Cloth, \$1.50. From this book, by the courtesy of the publishers, the illustrations which accompany this article are taken.