

the downfall of Turkish supremacy. The deposition of the rulers; the rapacious greed, the extortion and cruelty of the tax gatherers; the growing effeminae, of the sultans, who, from the warlike vigor and devotion of the ancient leaders, have sunk into a slothful luxury; the licentiousness and impatience of discipline of the soldiery; the jealousies and wranglings of different orders of officials; all these have had a potent influence for evil in Turkish affairs. The very growth of the empire, the vast extension of the domain, multiplying as it did the enemies, not the upholders, of the state, was also an element of destruction. Lastly, but not least, the Mahometan religion, upon whose principles and dogmas the Turkish Government is founded, and which constitute its unalterable law, contains within itself no principle of improvement, and seems incapable of being accommodated to any practical system of reform. It prevents, by its inflexible precepts, any attempt at reorganization or improvement in discipline.

The reformer encounters at the very outset a multitude of deep-rooted religious prejudices, and is greeted by the great body of the people with an almost inexplicable hatred, as one who is endeavoring with impious hands to subvert principles established by the Koran and hallowed by ancient usage. Nothing short of a complete revolution, which shall suffice to remove the whole constitution, and perhaps also the very religion of the empire, will ever raise this unfortunate land to the level of other European powers, and regenerate it to a new and more enlightened and prosperous existence. If the Turks prove eventually to be incapable of rising to this height and grandeur of intelligence and civilization, then nothing remains to look to or hope for but foreign intervention, and the utter crushing out by mili-