

TURKISH JOURNALS.

THE most peculiar newspapers in the world are published in Turkey. The press is a comparatively new thing there, and unique. It is only a few years ago that Turkey had a great awakening, during which many new enterprises were established and experiments tried. The most important of these was the advent of the newspaper. The Turks did not take kindly to it at the start. It was only by means of bribes and the aid of foreign powers that they were allowed to get any foothold at all, and even the editor was in fear of his life every time the paper went to press. Every man whose name was mentioned felt at liberty to demolish the plant, and it was an every-day occurrence for the editor to be called to account at the point of a sabre. After many had been killed, and the remainder wounded and intimidated, the papers adopted a new method, and for some years dared to publish nothing about a person unless it was highly complimentary. But the Turks finally tired of this, and fresh raids were made with terribly disastrous results. The government then stepped in and after subduing the riots, publicly encouraged the establishment of newspapers, relying upon the institution of the censorship to render them harmless. Under this yoke they have existed until the present time, and, notwithstanding the terrible drawback, have gradually increased in numbers. Most of them are published in the Turkish and Arabic languages, and the most important are naturally at Constantinople and Beyroot. The latter place has now fifteen, and all in Arabic. Each issue is as good as a comic opera, and how they manage to live and find readers for the matter they publish is a mystery, for they contain little more than a few articles eulogistic of the government. The censors placed in each newspaper office are supreme, and all attempt at free ex-

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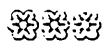
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pression of opinion is rigidly excluded. This is also true of the two papers published in French and English at Constantinople. The government really holds a string to every item that is turned in. Two regularly appointed censors are sent to a newspaper office as soon as it is established—one for day duty and one for night. They are appointed for that particular paper, and are held solely responsible for every item that appears in it from one year's end to the other. In the event of one displeasing line slipping in unawares they may pay for the oversight with their lives. Although they have no voice in the management of the paper, they are the real editors and examine every proof sheet before the paper is made up. What is objectionable to the government, their friends or themselves, is rigidly cut out. Armed with blue pencils, they sit in the office day and night, and as fast as the matter is set, proofs are handed them. Out of ten columns of apparently harmless matter—for it is so dead and dry as to be absolutely without brilliancy, force or character—they usually allow