

Methodist Magazine and Review.

JANUARY, 1902.

THE CITY OF THE SULTAN.*

BY THE EDITOR.



IT is very hard for Constantinople to live up to its reputation. Even Naples must yield the palm in rhapsody of description to the famous city of the Golden Horn. The calm pen of Professor Grosvenor is moved to enthusiasm. "These varied and winding shores," he says, "combine in the perfection of ideal terrestrial beauty. It embodies a panorama such as one who has never beheld it cannot conceive, and those who have seen it oftenest find it impossible to adequately describe. Moreover, all this vision of scenic loveliness is pervaded and enhanced by its halo of romantic and historic memories, which transform every rock and cliff and touch every inlet and ravine, till the most phlegmatic gazer vibrates with the thrill of ever-present associations."

From our own personal experience, we can bear record that this testimony is true. Never have we seen more magnificent view than that from the old Genoese Tower at Galata. The bold sweep of the Golden Horn, the deep blue Bos-

phorus, the Sweet Waters of Europe, the snowy minarets and marble domes, rising amid the vivid foliage of gigantic planes and palms, and the deep purple of the far Bythinian mountains, made the most august and impressive view which we have ever beheld.

During Professor Grosvenor's many years' residence in the city he seems to have had access to every place of interest, including many from which the passing tourist is excluded. It is not often that archaeology and description are made so interesting. The eloquence and poetic feeling of the book give it the fascination of romance.

Constantinople is one of the most cosmopolitan of cities. "The sign over a cobbler's shop," says Professor Grosvenor, "may be painted in half a dozen languages, and the cobbler within violate the rules of grammar in a dozen or more." The endless variety of national types, costumes, and customs on Galata Bridge, which is crossed by a hundred and fifty thousand people a day, is probably unequalled elsewhere in the world.

To him who is familiar with the stirring story of the past of Byzantium, its mouldering monuments are eloquent with old-time memories. Our author traces these from the days of Byzas, its founder, coeval with the founding of Athens and Rome. Its chief interest, how-

* "Constantinople." By Edwin A. Grosvenor, Professor of European History at Amhurst College, etc. With an Introduction by General Lew Wallace. In two volumes. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Svo. Pp. xvi xiii-811.