

by their parents, like so many dumb cattle, often to a life of slavery and degradation. A man may put away his wife for any or no reason ; he may beat her as he would a beast, which is a thing of daily occurrence, but she has no redress ; she must bear it all without a murmur. So long has this tyranny and inhumanity prevailed, that the women of the East seem to have no spirit left in them. They are content with their slavish and degraded condition, never dreaming that they have any right to a better.

GOVERNMENT AND LAWS.

The form of government is an absolute monarchy, the sovereign now reigning being Abdul Hamid II., who, although a Turk, is honoured, by Moslems generally, as the successor of the Caliphs and the high priest of Islam. This is supposed to give him authority over Moslems outside of Turkey, but in reality, such is not the case any more than that the Pope controls Christendom. The Sultan of Turkey has ministers and counsellors around him, but they are in no sense representatives of the people. They are called to office and dismissed by the will of the Sultan. The empire is divided into a number of Vilayets, over each of which is placed a Vali or Governor General. This, and even higher offices are by no means limited to Moslems. In recent times Christians and Jews have been called to fill some of the most responsible positions in the nation. To every town or city is given control over its local affairs, the people appointing representatives to form a council for the assistance of the Kadi. Since the fall of Constantinople, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, have been represented before the Turkish government by a spiritual head, to whom almost absolute power is given over his own people. Protestants, too, are supposed to conform to this law, and every congregation should have a representative with whom the higher powers can deal in all matters affecting church relations. This law gives the old churches complete control over their own religious and educational matters. At first sight this would seem to be an advantage, but it does not always prove to be so, seeing these irresponsible officers may abuse the power delegated to them, as they often do, so that, in some respects, the direct government of the Sultan is more desirable. Not so long ago a foreigner could reside in Turkey only for a number of months specified in his permit. *If he remained beyond twelve months he could no longer claim the rights of hospitality, but must be taxed and treated as a 'Rayah.'* Now, however,