

an alliance with the English against Philip of Spain, humbled Persia, and though he was afterwards compelled to retreat in humiliation from Hungary and Transylvania, for a time carried his victorious armies almost to the very gates of Vienna. Under Mohammed III. the weakness of the Central Administration was becoming evident. Tributaries were rebelling, and enemies were encroaching on the conquered country at a distance from the seat of government. Under his successors, though occasionally the Turks have increased their conquests, it cannot in general terms be denied that the progress of the empire has been downward. Its old enemies have practically ceased from troubling it, but either directly or indirectly the dominions of the Sultan have been rapidly pared by the Czar, until latterly whole provinces have been lopped off, and subject princes have secured their independence either wholly or partially. The Crimean war partially recouped the country for the losses it had sustained in former campaigns with the Russians. It also brought Turkey fully into the comity of European nations, but it involved her in expenses which, under her corrupt mode of administration, she was unable to bear. In the end an act of bankruptcy, coupled with incorrigible misgovernment, alienated from her the regard of her old allies, so that a petty rebellion which began in Herzegovina ended by 1877 in a gigantic war with Russia, in conjunction with the revolted Montenegrins, Servians, Bulgarians, and Roumanians, which the Sultan had to fight unaided by assistance outside the empire. The result of the war was that Servia, Montenegro, and Roumania received their independence, with some increase of territory, that Greece was also promised an addition to her bounds, that Bulgaria was established as a tributary principality, and Roumelia as a partially autonomous state, the Sultan's dominions in Europe being as limited as were those of the last Byzantine Emperor just before the Turks took Constantinople. Finally, in Asia the Russians received, in addition to a large war indemnity, considerable additions to their huge empire at the cost of the defeated Turks, while the English had ceded to them in trust the island of Cyprus, and the Protectorate of Asia Minor, under certain conditions which were privately entered into between the Queen and the Sultan prior to the assembling of the Berlin Congress, which settled the final terms of peace between the late combatants. Whether the decadence will continue is a question into which it is no part of our province to enter, and which, moreover, space will not admit of discussing; these few paragraphs on the history of the empire which we have given being intended solely to enable the reader to understand, somewhat more clearly than would otherwise be possible, the description of its component parts to which subsequent pages will be devoted.

#### DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENT.

In spite of all its pruning, the Sultan rules a vast empire which might in time become even more powerful than it was in its best days when it was smaller. In Europe he has an immense country of 80,000 square miles, though before the Treaty of Berlin the extent and population of the Sultan's possessions were more than double what they are now. These—including in addition to the mainland, Crete, Thasos, Imbros, Lemnos, Samothrace, and the tributary principality of Samos—contain a