

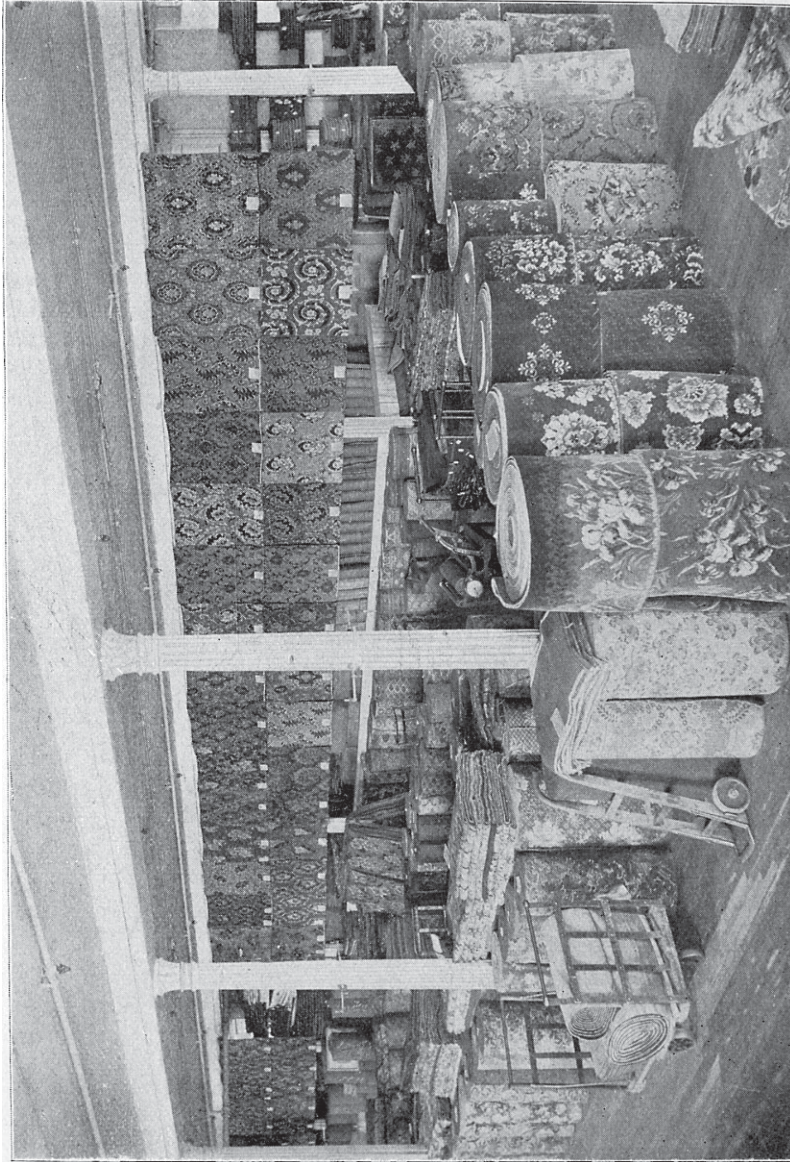


An Antique Soumak Rug.



Antique Cabistan.





View in Carpet Department—The H. B. Claflin Company.

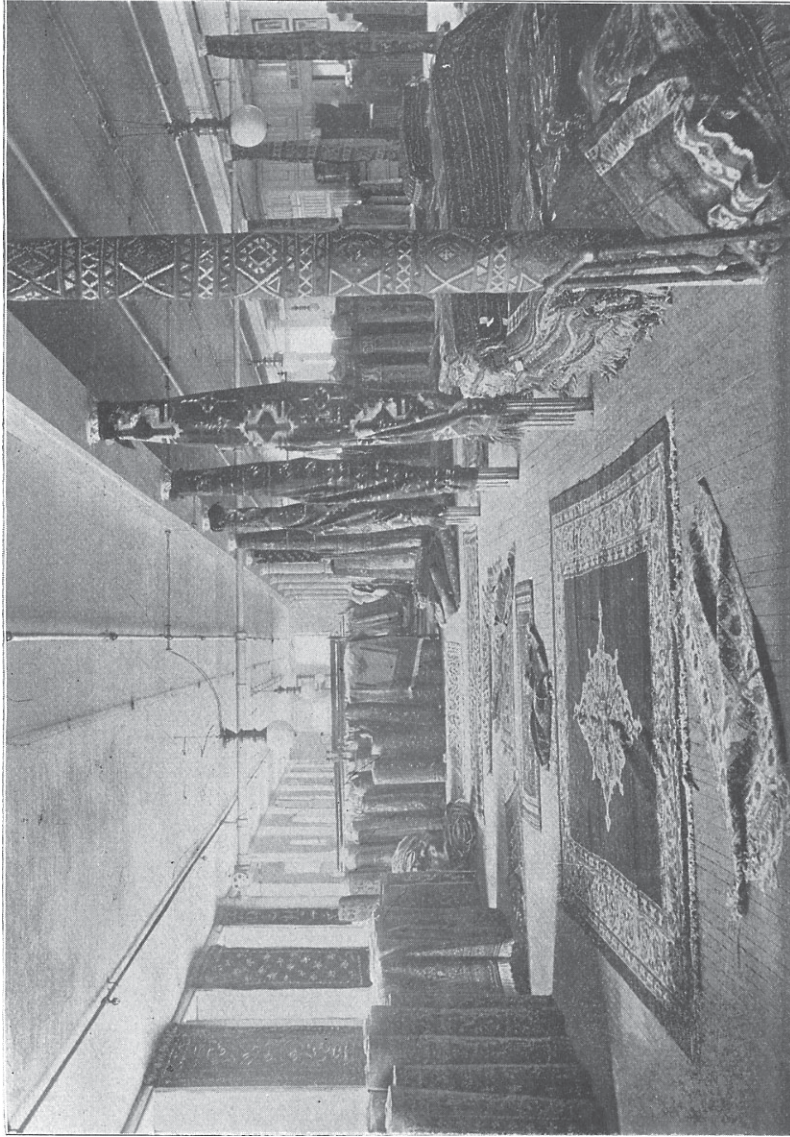


Antique Shiraz.



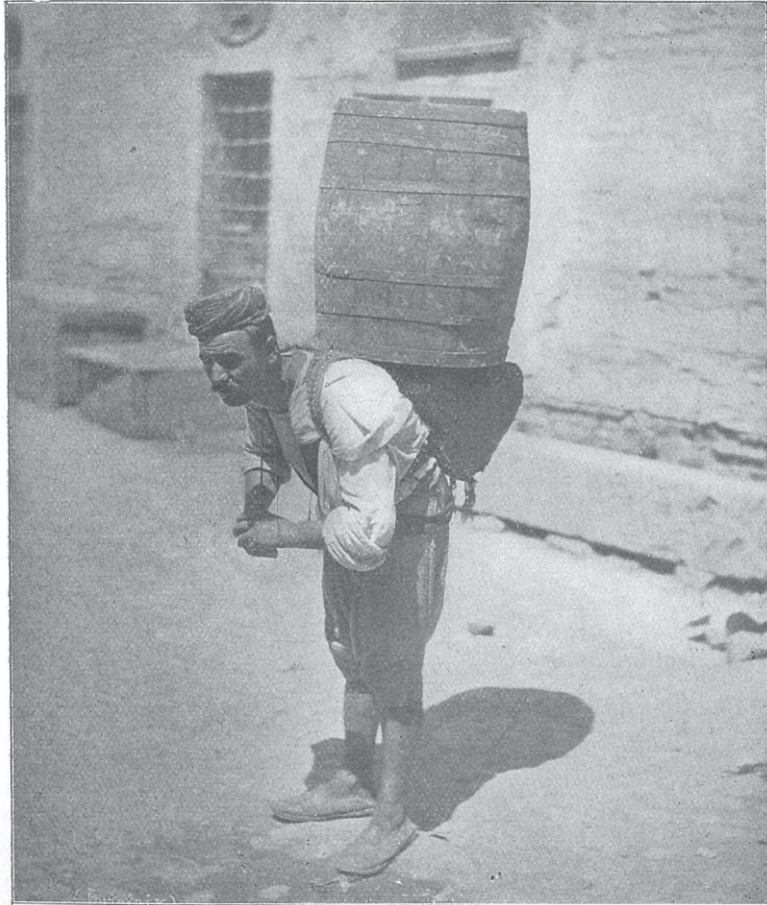


Antique Shirvan.



A Section of Oriental Rug Department in The H. B. Clafin Company's Warerooms.





**Khamel or Porter.**

One of these porters will often carry a bale of rugs or other merchandise weighing 500 pounds, without any apparent effort.



Example of a Kelim Portrait Rug.





A Section in the Rug Department.





Semi-Persian, Design Furnished by European Manufacturer.



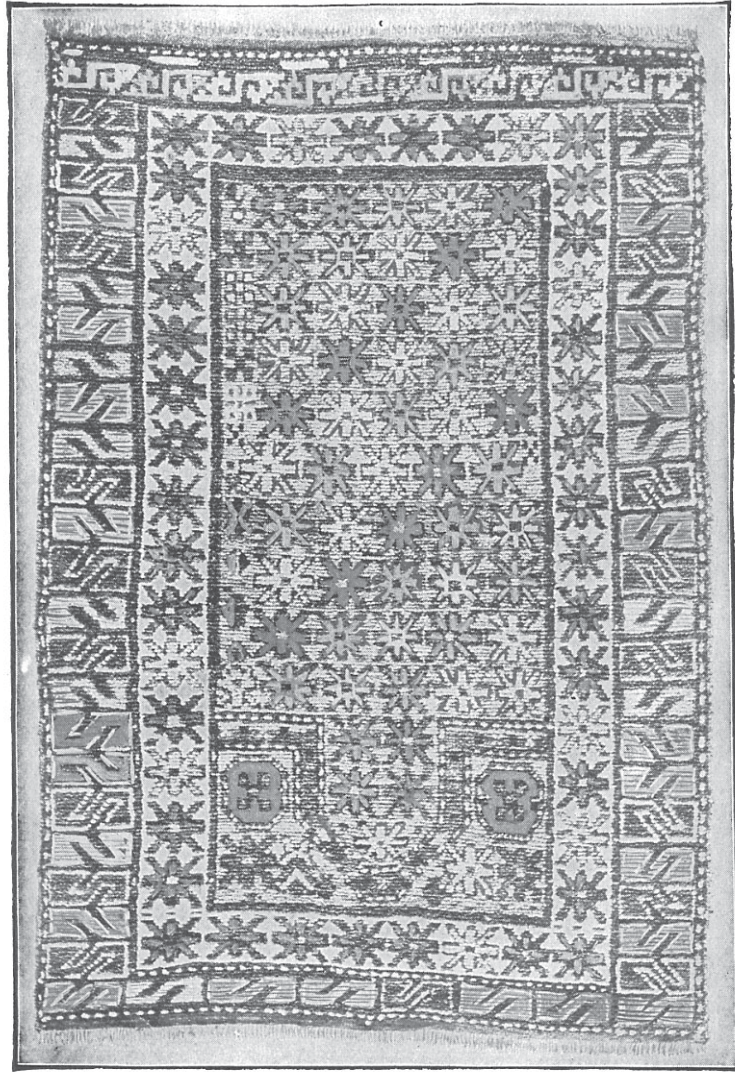


Iran Rug.



View of The H. B. Clafin Company's Carpet Department, Showing Samples on Forms.





A Very Old Daghestan Rug.



Iran Rug.





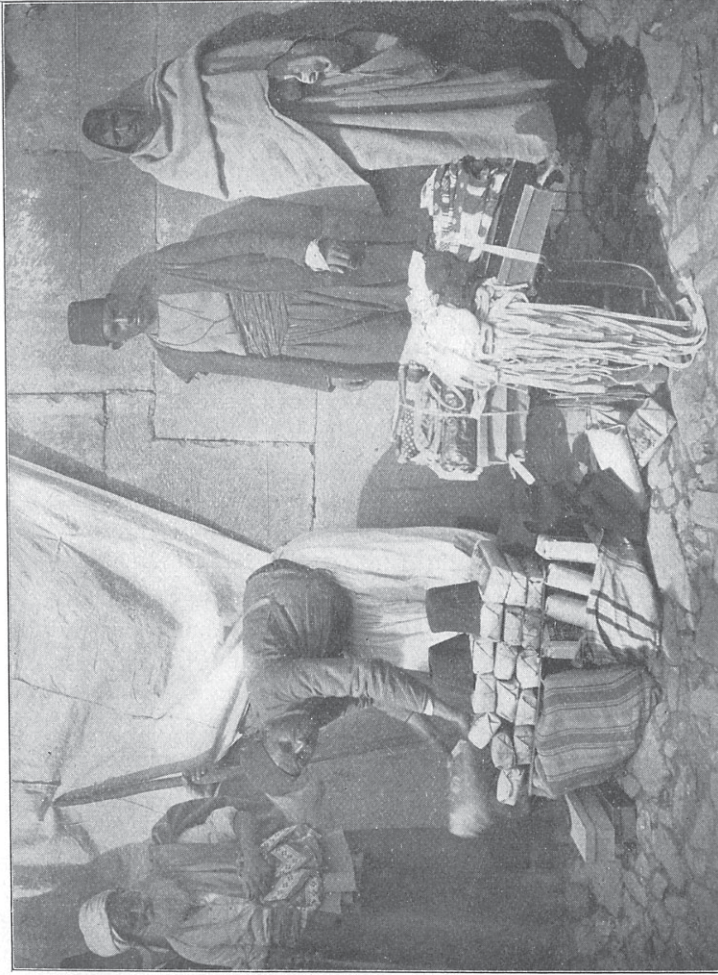
**A Part of the Wire Grass Matting Section.**

The H. B. Claflin Company are Selling Agents for this very popular floor covering.



Antique Cabistan.





A Turkish Merchant and His Place of Business.

## CONSTANTINOPLE.

ANY book on Oriental Rugs, however humble, would not be complete without frequent references to the "City of the Sultans," Constantinople, called by the Turks Stamboul, or Istamboul.

The city of Constantinople was founded by the Emperor Constantine, in the year 330 A. D., and was made the capital which it continued to be until 1453, when the Turks captured the city. It is situated at the junction of the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmora, and upon the site of ancient Byzantium, which was built in the year 667 B. C., and has ever been the great central distributing market for Oriental Rugs. To it the products of every Eastern land goes, and from it the Western world draws its largest supply.

It would be quite impossible to give even a cursory history of this city, with its centuries of romance, mystery and bloodshed ; but, after consultation with friends who are familiar with the Orient and the rug trade, it was decided to add to the story of the rugs a few views of Constantinople, which it was believed would prove of interest.

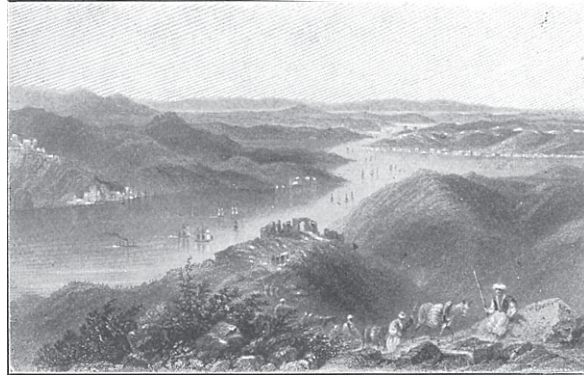
The illustrations and the reading matter pertaining thereto are more closely identified with a generation ago than of the present day, and, because of the impossibility of ever reproducing the original steel engravings, are of more than ordinary interest.

While it is true that the mode of life in the East changes but little in centuries, it is also true that many innovations have occurred in the Capital and its environments in the past twenty years. The European and American influences have made a great difference, and the Constantinople of to-day is not as it was a generation back.

The merit, if there be any, in the following pages, lies in the fact that the scenes delineated can never be viewed again, for they are of the past.

There are a thousand places of interest in the capital which have not been referred to lest the subject become tiresome and the reader, who expected Oriental rugs, should feel that he was receiving too long a story concerning Constantinople.





#### THE BOSPORUS,

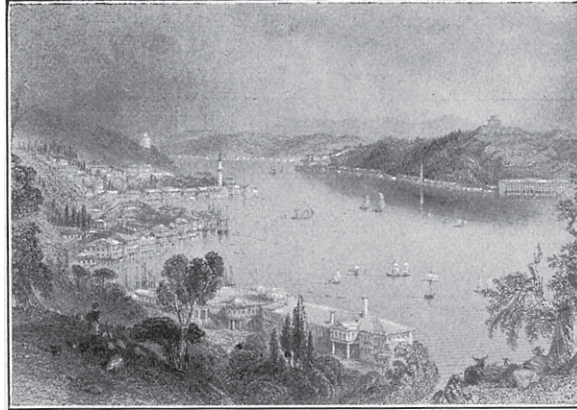
or, as many erroneously spell it, Bosphorus (we prefer the error, and will spell with the added h), is one of the great historic bodies of water. It connects the Sea of Marmora with the Black Sea, and separates Europe from Asia. The view herewith presented, is opposite the Genoese Castle and is one of the most delightful in the world, unique, for there is only one "City of the Sultans" and one Bosphorus. Byron describes the situation simply and beautifully :

" 'Tis a grand sight, from off the Giant's Grave,  
To watch the progress of those rolling seas  
Between the Bosphorus, as they lash and lave  
Europe and Asia."

The length of the Bosphorus is about 17 miles and its breadth varies from a third of a mile to two miles. The name signifies Ox-ford or Cow-ford, for it was here, legend says : Io, transformed into a cow, swam across. The depth of the stream varies from about 148 to 338 feet and the rapid currents from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmora produce a counter current along the shores, which at times makes a commotion not quickly forgotten.

The stream is one so closely identified with the history of Europe and Asia, and so often written and spoken of, that to dwell upon the subject in this monograph would be time wasted.

The palaces along the banks do not form the least interesting feature. If the history of each was told many volumes could be filled.



### THE BOSPHORUS,

LOOKING NORTH FROM ABOVE THE PALACE OF BESHIK-TASH.

From the palace a most charming view of the Bosphorus is obtained, together with Scutari and the bald and white Mount Olympus. This beautiful scene combined goes to make up the grand and imposing city of the seven hills and its suburbs.

There is no palace or mosque in the East that is not closely associated with traditions more or less interesting, and the palace of Beshik-Tash is no exception.

One of the stories connected with this edifice is interesting, even though greatly abridged. Sultan Mahmoud, in his youth, was prevailed upon to consult certain astrologers, and among other words of wisdom and folly given, he was informed that so long as he continued to build palaces his success would be assured.

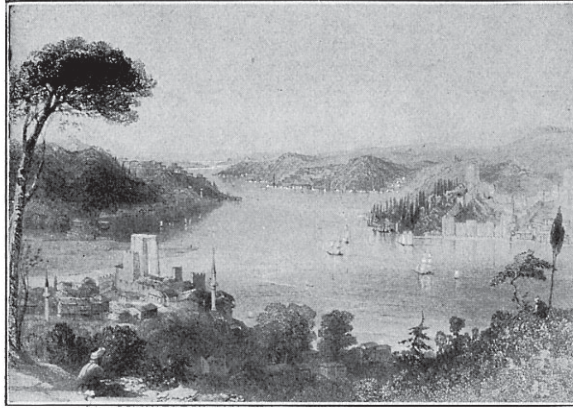
Firmly believing in this message, he built about fifty-seven Kiosques, in the neighborhood of the capital, which were more or less elaborate.

The last one, Beshik-Tash, was the largest and the least worthy of commendation.

An Armenian was selected to build the palace, but he would not admit that any of the Padishahs (sovereigns) of Europe occupied so grand or imposing palaces as those of Constantinople. The Sultan, who had the plans of every palace in Europe, asked the architect if he was a liar, or were all the people in Europe from whom he had received the plans, liars? The end of that architect was sudden.

The Armenian architect who was finally selected to build the palace, produced a thoroughly European structure (as Mahmoud ordered) at a cost of about five million dollars, but the result was far from satisfactory. If the magnificent and well proportioned columns that support the open peristyle were removed, the huge pile would look like a factory. There are many interesting stories which might be written concerning Beshik-Tash did space permit.





THE CASTLES OF EUROPE AND ASIA.

Two famous fortresses about half way up the Bosphorus, where the channel is unusually narrow. They have been used as prisons and were the scene of many executions in bygone days, of which many grewsome relics may be seen. On the European side the ground-plan is formed by the characters of the Prophet's name, and it was this fortress that held the Janissaries and the large gun which announced to the Sultan the execution of those whom he had marked for death. A history of these castles reads like a story from the "Arabian Nights."



MOUNT BULGURLHU.

The view from the mountains of Bulgurlhu is a scene never to be forgotten. The town of Scutari is at the feet of the observer, while the city of Constantinople lies apparently in a bed of clear and beautifully colored water in the distance.

The islands of the Sea of Marmora and the everlasting snows on Mount Olympus are plainly seen.



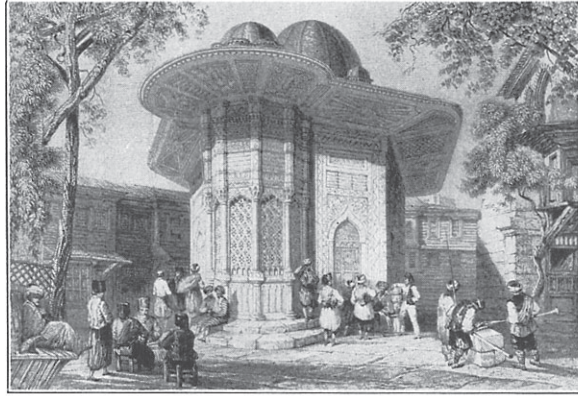
Yenikeuij is situated on the European side of the Bosphorus, about two miles from Therapia. It is most delightfully located; in many places the waters of the strait beat against the foundations of the houses and overflow the narrow terraces from which the caiques are taken for a sail either on business or pleasure bent.

If one's mind is at rest, the delightful life which can be spent in and near Yenikeuij has few counterparts in the world.

Some of the houses overhang the sea, a novel situation, particularly on a stormy night. The heights above are thickly wooded, and many beautiful homes have been built, which are occupied mainly by the wealthy Greek and Armenian merchants during the hot months, and, did space permit, some very interesting stories might be told concerning them, only one: Dooz Oglue was a mighty power as banker and diplomat, he was not alone wealthy, but talented as well. In, for him, an evil moment he decided to build a palace at Yenikeuij, and at a fabulous sum secured the sites of thirty-five houses. An enormous sum was spent to erect the structure, and the cupidity of the Ottoman court was excited. The banker was accused of usury—which was probably true—of treason, which was a myth; but there were sufficient crimes charged against him to cause his hanging from his own threshold. He probably did not “see” the police commission in time to receive the protection, of which so much is known in the United States. Notwithstanding that the East and the West are far apart, there is almost always, for he who has money, a way out, if he only finds the right door.

One of the wild and weird out-door sports is that known as the festival of fire, an interesting account of which will be found in the work entitled “The City of the Sultans,” that may be found in any large library.





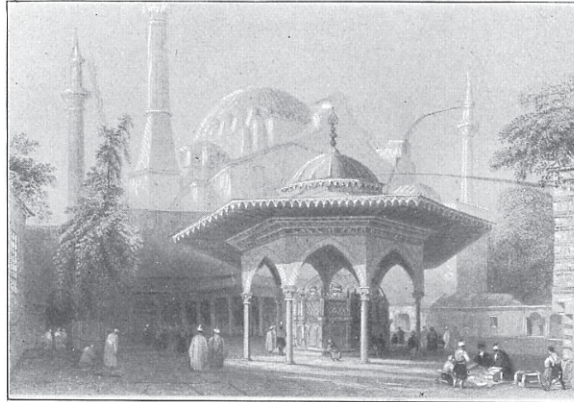
FOUNTAIN IN GALATA.

Almost all the fountains in Constantinople are worthy of note. The fountain at Galata is perhaps one of the best examples of the pure Moorish style. It would only prove tiresome to go into details, but here all gather who long for a little rest. The khamal, or porter, will drop his heavy load and refresh himself with the drink which God gave to man—pure and sparkling water, and at this rendezvous, at all times, there will be found numerous merchants plying their trades.



SCENE FROM ABOVE THE NEW PALACE OF BESHIK-TASH, ETC.

From this point a magnificent view of the Bosphorus is obtained. Nearly the entire length of this grand body of water can be seen and the snow-covered Mount Olympus flashes out through the clear blue sky like unto a pearl set in a cluster of sapphires. The palace, although it cost a vast sum (about five million dollars), and is enormous in its proportions, amounts to comparatively nothing, as has been explained before. It is the beautiful situation that appeals to one.



COURT AND FOUNTAIN AT ST. SOPHIA.

Like all other mosques, the court of St. Sophia is paved with marble. In the quiet shade of the plane trees, the pious Moslems spread their carpets, seat themselves and watch the other pious ones who pass into and out of the temple from sunrise to sunset, meanwhile smoking their chibouques.



TURKISH COUNTRY HOUSES ON THE BOSPHORUS.

If one is familiar with the affairs of the East, he might tell to one unfamiliar, from the comfortable caique as they floated along, the history of many of these dwellings. This was the residence of a court favorite. This was the former home of a Bey or Minister now dead or disgraced, but every one sadly going to ruin, the heavy hand of time has fallen, and what was once the grandest, now looks poor and dilapidated; but, notwithstanding all, the ancient grandeur will remain until there is not one stone left upon another.

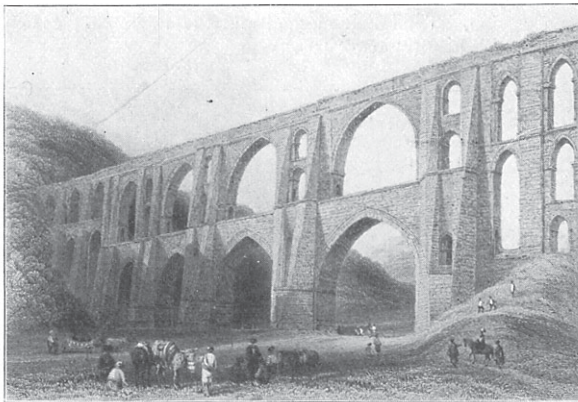
The homes of those who have power and wealth is all that poet or painter could delineate. A volume might be written about the summer houses on the Bosphorus, and it would not prove uninteresting.





Therapia and the Giant's Grave.

When there is so pleasing a subject and one so full of local and general color as Constantinople, it is only by a strong effort and self restraint that pages are not written concerning the Giant's Grave. The Valley of Sweet Waters, one in Europe and one in Asia, and a hundred other points and matters of interest, poetic and historic, alike interesting to the Occidental and the Oriental; but a halt must be called so far as this present edition is concerned, because otherwise it will become more of a story of Constantinople than of Oriental rugs.



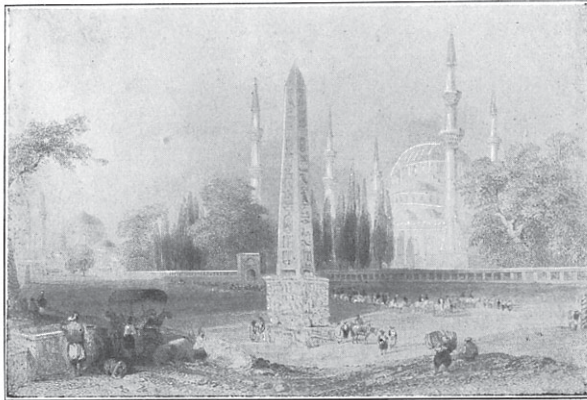
The Acqueduct of Valens.

This is one of the most striking architectural works in the City of the Three Seas. This view is near Pyrgo, but throughout its entire length, every foot is picturesque. It stretches across a deep valley and joins two of the seven hills. In many places it is covered with vines and honeysuckle which are kept delightfully fresh by the water which constantly oozes through the interstices of the stone. This is only one of the several aqueducts that formerly were located in the city; there are several, however, in the neighboring country.



#### EYOUB,

one of the most sacred spots to the Mahometan, is delightfully situated. It commands a complete view of the Golden Horn and a long distance up the Bosphorus. The beautiful mosque of pure white marble has a court gloriously shaded by gigantic trees, and paved with marble. The mosque is never entered by an unbeliever and even the court is reluctantly allowed to those not of the faith. Upon this spot, tradition says, that Abu Eyoub, who was the companion of the Prophet during the siege of the Saracens in 668, was slain, and it is in this mosque that every Sultan is invested with the sword of sovereignty upon his accession. The grand mosque and the interesting cemetery abound with historic interest.



#### THE ATMEIDAN OR HIPPODROME.

The difficulty of doing adequate justice to this place of historic interest in a humble book of this kind will be recognized by all who are familiar with the subject. Many pages would be necessary to give but an outlined history, and these pages are not at command.





ONE VIEW OF THE MOSQUE OF ST. SOPHIA.

The mosque of St. Sophia, or *Aya Sofia Jamisi*, is an important point of interest in Constantinople. By many it is regarded as one of the most interesting, and, in some respects, the most beautiful example of the Byzantine style of architecture. As a place for religious ceremonies, the contrast between it and the grand Gothic structures in various parts of the world, impress every thoughtful one. Viewed from the outside, there appears a lack of sympathy, and the general impression made, is that the edifice is out of proportion and not beautiful; but, with a view of the interior, one cannot but be impressed with the grandeur of the architecture, notwithstanding that there are numerous inharmonious, many-colored pillars, mosaics and inscriptions. The grand sweep of dome and the bold span of arches make up for other deficiencies. The dome rises in the centre from the floor 180 feet, and the diameter is 107 feet. So slight is the curve that the depth is only 46 feet. Around the rim of the dome there are forty windows. The building was erected by Constantine 558 A. D. to the glory of Christianity, but the Crescent took the place of the Cross when the Moslems captured the city.

There is, perhaps, no more interesting story in history than that of Constantine and St. Sophia. The great ambition and aspiration of the ruler, who decided that Constantinople should be the capital of the world, the success which followed, the failure which later occurred when the Crescent took the place of the Cross, are not alone interesting, but very instructive.

To a great extent, the history of St. Sophia would be much the history of the Turkish Empire, from the beginning to the present day.



AN INTERIOR VIEW OF "AYA SOFIA JAMISI,"

or St. Sophia, is so closely identified with matters historical and interesting, that everyone who visits the East makes this spot one of the chief points to visit.

The mosque is built in the form of a Greek cross, and is 269 feet long by 243 broad, and from the floor to the summit of dome the height is about 180 feet.

The most pronounced effect upon one who visits St. Sophia for the first time is its vastness. After becoming familiar with this feeling, one visitor may become interested in the richly mosaiced floors, or the Imperial closet that faces the pulpit and which is of marble, most wonderfully worked, or one or more of the thousand interesting matters, but the first impression on a visitor is the vastness of the structure.

The building is very peculiar in many respects. Its vastness is exaggerated by the fact that there is no furniture, as in Christian churches, and because of the wonderful dome. The visitor is usually impressed because of the magnificent and gigantic pillars. There are eight of porphyry from the temple at Heliopolis. There are verd antique from Ephesus, Egyptian granite and rare marbles—and aside from any sentiment, the effect upon the visitor is profound. The blue doves sometimes fly from place to place, the descendants of the birds which the Turks found there when it was a Christian Church instead of a Moslem mosque, one of the particular features of the spot, and they are watched over with care, and woe betide him who would injure one.

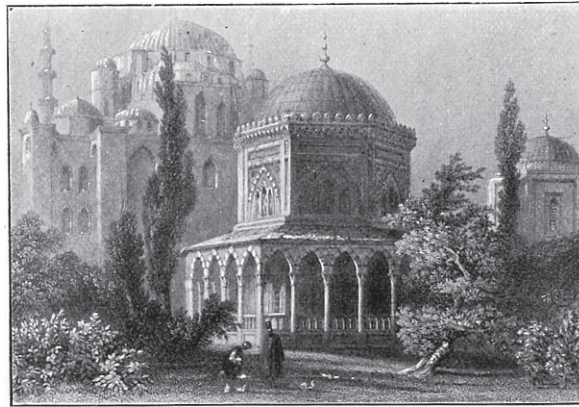
The legends connected with St. Sophia would be sufficient to make volumes. The Bishops' Gate; the Sweating Stone, all are intensely interesting, but the court is, after all, the place of interest for those in business.



The red-capped soldier, the tall and slim Effendi, turbed in cashmere, will be found there, and here also will be seen the Emir in green robe, proud to announce to the world that he was a descendant of The Prophet. The Dervish with his conical hat of grey felt. A Santon, or saint, with more supposed gifts from the gods than the gods ever dreamed of having themselves, and more filthy than a depraved Kaffir, all these and many others will be found in the Court, but the ones of most interest are the merchants. The pilgrim merchant, or hadjis, will spread his mat and offer for sale all sorts of relics from Mecca. Charms against snake bite, against the evil eye, and if he was wise and had a Western partner, he would land in America and do a power of charming to more purpose.

These merchants will go to any extremity to prove the value of the goods offered. The dye will be thrown upon a piece of cloth, or rubbed freely into the beard to show that it is good as claimed. The chaplet of Arabian wood is rubbed through the hands in a brisk manner and the perfume developed. If the stranger purchases, he probably pays five times the value of the article, but has the problematical satisfaction of having been taken in by an adept who had the power to cause his mind to become absorbed with the article offered for sale.

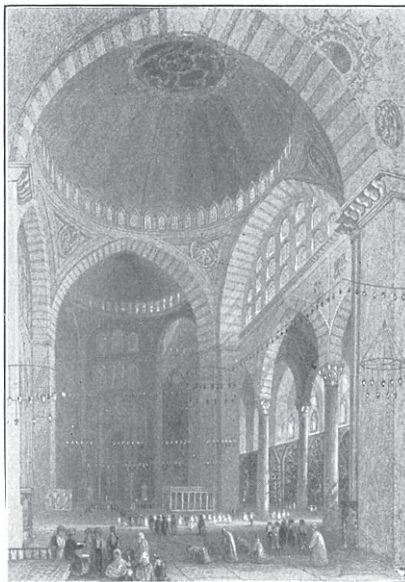
When the sale is concluded, the one who made it, and the other merchants who have taken a great interest in the transactions, will murmur or say aloud. "Allah buyûk der"—(God is great), after which the pipes will be resumed and the story continued from where it left off.



THE MAUSOLEUM OF SOLYMAN.

After having passed through the beautifully covered way from the outer court of Solimanié you reach the tomb of Solyman, a light and elegant sexangular structure. There is scarcely anything to suggest a house of death, even when one steps across the rich carpet to the sarcophagi of the magnificent Solyman and his successor Sultan Achmet.

The two daughters of the great Sultan are close by and only a few paces away lies the favorite wife of Solyman, the beautiful and bloodthirsty Roxalana, whose life was more like that of a wolf than that of a woman.



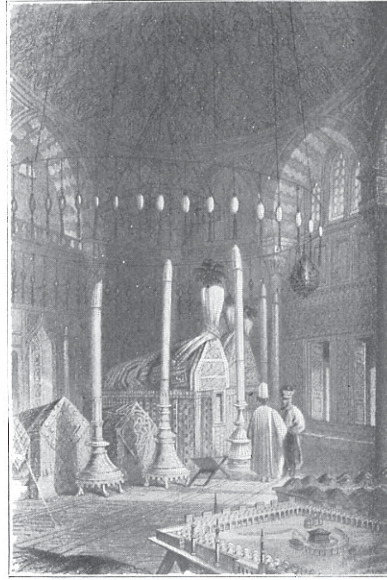
INTERIOR OF THE MOSQUE OF SULTAN  
SOLYMAN, THE MAGNIFICENT.

The Mosque of Solyman, named by the Turks Suleimanié, is regarded by many as the most elegant religious edifice in Constantinople. The wonderfully painted windows, which have, for their style, no rivals in the world, were taken from the Persians, so it is said, by Solyman to decorate the temple which he founded.

The beautiful and graceful dome is supported by four slight, but well proportioned pillars. The dome rests so lightly upon the capitals that the support appears quite unnecessary, and stamps this building as one of the most interesting in the world, and quite distinct from any other edifice in Constantinople. One might write pages concerning the architecture, of the four columns of porphyry, the relics of an ancient temple, which now are at the angles, or of the delicate Arabian architecture of the arches, or a thousand and one matters, but the chief feature, after all, which distinguishes Suleimanié above all mosques, is the fact that for hundreds of years it has been a storehouse of the faithful, and of the unfaithful as well.

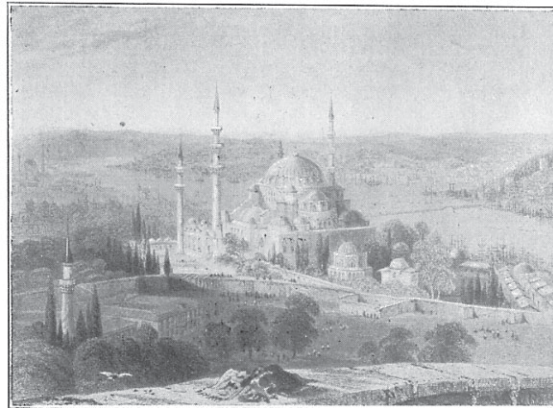
The beautiful and richly decorated gallery which extends along the entire Northern face of the edifice is filled with chests of all sizes and descriptions; the coarse cypress, painted a dull green and adorned with mammoth flowers, quite as coarse as the box. The fine cedar, with clasps, each having the sign manual of its owner. The chests of nobles, iron clamped and sealed again and again, alongside of which may be the treasures of the "Kaitab," the reader of the Koran, or that of an official courier, but, whatsoever your faith may be, you can be assured that you will receive any package, at any time, just as it was received, and if you die, as all must, the heirs will have no trouble in securing the property.

Each package is marked with a sign, or hieroglyphic, which is known only to the owner and the custodian. There is no tax, and many cases have been in this mosque for over a century. Wars may rage, but this place is never disturbed. It is sacred to the living and to the dead.



INTERIOR OF THE MAUSOLEUM OF SOLYMAN,  
SULTAN ACHMET AND ROXALANA.

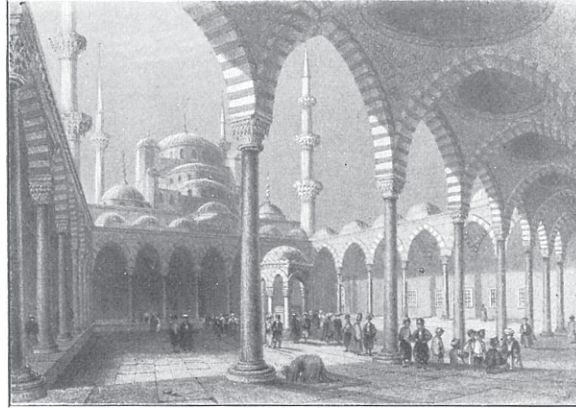
In the foreground on a stand there is a model of the mosque at Mecca and the Prophet's tomb, with pilgrims arriving, and departing, and altogether a beautiful miniature.



MOSQUE OF SULEIMANIE,  
FROM SEBRASKIER'S TOWER.

It is said: 'Tis a fine art to know when to stop writing or talking, and to realize that at times "silence is golden." To begin the story of Suleimanie, without completing it, would be unwise, and to write a fairly complete story would take pages.





COURT OF THE MOSQUE OF SULTAN ACHMET.

The position of the Mosque of Sultan Achmet is very grand. It occupies one of the most elevated positions in the city, and has the distinction of having six minarets, which, it is said, were erected by the Sultan to rival the temple at Mecca. When these minarets were erected after the sanction of the Mufti, reluctantly given, the Mufti added one other minaret to the mosque which was sanctified by the Prophet so that it might have more distinction than that of any other. It is less spacious than St. Sophia, and less elegant in its details to that of other mosques, but in exterior effect far superior. There are many interesting associations concerning this mosque in connection with the refusal of the Janissaries to submit themselves to the Sultan.

The mosque occupies the site of the Atmeidan, or Place of Horses, and is separated from the ancient Roman race-course by a marble wall and gilt railing.

In the near vicinity of the mosque there are many interesting and historic spots. One, the monument to Constantine, a square pillar ninety feet in height, occupies a space at the upper end of the Atmeidan, but to which of the fourteen Constantines it was originally dedicated no one can tell.

There are so many interesting associations connected with this spot that it would not be possible, at the present time, to go into even a short story concerning them.



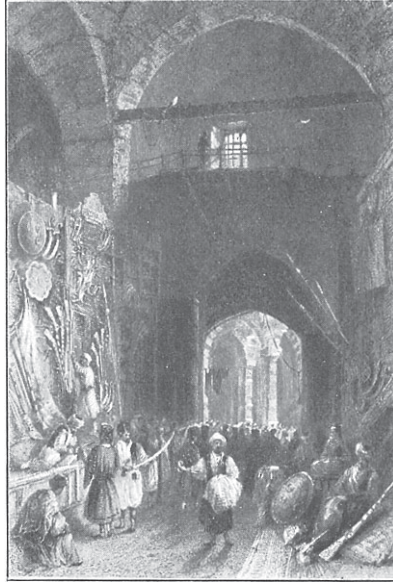
A SCENE IN THE TCHARTCHI OR BAZAAR.

Everything, however full of interest in the City of the Three Seas, gives way before the charms of the bazaars. The constantly shifting groups, the innumerable costumes and races of people, together with the endless variety of articles offered for sale, make the bazaars of Constantinople a scene ever to be remembered.

Each avenue is devoted to a particular line of goods, and if the complete story of the Tchartchi is ever written, it will make a most interesting volume.

Here is the central point, the rendezvous for all those who desire to gossip or intrigue. Here also gather the Turk, Armenian, Persian, Greek and the Jew, with many other nations and religions, each on money-making bent.

The bazaars and the baths are probably the most important features in life in Constantinople, where the gossip or news of the day is to be received or given.



THE ARMORY BAZAAR.

Do not contrast the bazaars of the East with the department stores of the West. The bazaar is like a cluster of streets, each devoted to a particular branch of trade, and on the whole, resembles a small covered town supported by arches of solid masonry.

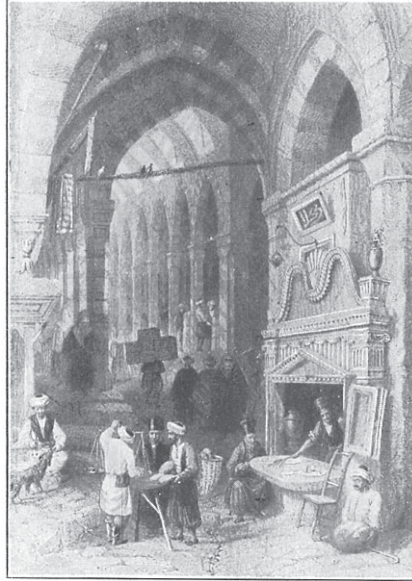
The street known as Bezenstein is the one devoted to jewelers. The plain, rug covered, wooden counters, fixed on a raised platform, affords a place for the display of such articles as the merchant desires to exhibit to the public, and a glance into the glass cases on the counter would make one believe that the stock was particularly small and poor; but let the real buyer come along, and the Armenian (almost all the dealers are Armenians) will quickly open the doors of the inner apartment and a collection of jewels sufficient to satisfy anyone and suitable for every purpose will be offered for inspection.

The Armory Bazaar is one of the most interesting, for here one may be supplied in a few minutes with the most ancient arms or armor, or with the latest and most improved products of the Western world. One may, when the price is settled upon, be, like the ghost of Hamlet's father, "Armed from top to toe," but with this difference: he can be accommodated with any kind of armor and of whatsoever age.

There are so many interesting bazaars that it would be impossible to mention them here, but all are the scenes of intense activity—the spice, tobacco, porcelain, shoe, and so on.

The Tcharchi of Constantinople offers to the student a constant and most interesting study.



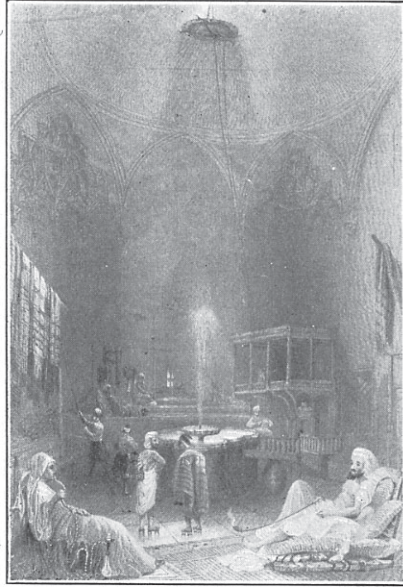


KAIMAC SHOP IN THE TCHARTCHI.

The confectionery bazaar is one of the most attractive to the Orientals and also to the European, for the people of the East excel in everything that appeals to the palate. The kaimac is clotted cream, and, in the language of the country, signifies the excess of excellence. In this bazaar there may be found preserved rose leaves, fit for the fairies, and gums from all parts of the world, mixed with sugar, and formed into a thousand shapes. Yahourt, or congealed buttermilk and chalva, a composition of flour, honey and oil, that is not one of the least favorite among the many which are designed to please the palate and nose.

There is a most amusing scene when the fresh dainties are set forth, not unlike the rush at the American bargain counter; this scene, however, is not on the scale that one would see in the West when a special is offered on bargain day.

The confectionery bazaar is regarded as one of the most important in the Tchartchi. All the beauty of the city gather at this spot to talk and have refreshments.



THE COOLING ROOM.

The cooling room of a Hamman in a Turkish bath is a most delightful place. No luxury which the East affords is so thoroughly enjoyed as the baths, whether private or public. The bath house is the center for social gossip or political intrigue, and is a very important factor in Oriental life. An unabridged history of the baths would be equivalent to a history of the Turkish Empire.

In the private baths especially, all that wealth and art can conceive is concentrated to make the spot a fairyland

The cooling room is one of the three apartments which, combined, make up the Turkish bath.

Unless one has had the opportunity to visit one of the Turkish baths, no conception can be formed of what they are like. The bather, upon leaving the outer hall, is supplied with shoes or sandals which are raised several inches above the floor, because the inner apartment is so hot that, until one becomes accustomed to the sulphurous vapor and the peculiar conditions, it would be impossible to touch the floor with naked feet. The dense vapor, the shrill cries of the slaves, the murmur of their mistresses in conversation, while they refresh themselves with sweetmeats and drinks, all combined make up a picture never to be forgotten.

The old women who hawk the sweets and drinks, frequently carry as many love letters as articles for sale.



VIEW FROM THE OCMEDIAN OR PLACE  
OF ARROWS.

The Ocmedian is an extensive plain, beautifully situated, the view from which is very grand. The plain is studded over with columns of stone or marble, and each one bears an inscription, some in gold. They are the records of the archers; not always truthful. Sultan Mahmoud, was passionately fond of the sport of archery, and made records which it is scarcely necessary to say were never beaten in his Empire. His records are wonderful even for Turkey, but there is a story, as there usually is, with all affairs of the East.

The Sultan never allowed a week to pass without practice. The Court was ordered to attend God's annointed one. After the ruler had "sped the winged arrow," the members of the Court were invited, and it would have been a sad mistake if any in his Court had gone a greater distance than he. In one instance the Sultan shot three hundred yards, and the closest to that was two hundred, and that shot was made by the chief archer of the Court (wise archer).

It was the custom for the pages of the Court to rush forward, in pursuit of the arrow, and to hold it up when secured, so that if the shot was a long one, the spot might be marked by a suitable stone. There was a prize given to the page who first secured the arrow, and this race was a peculiar one, for, wise in their day and generation, the pages learned to run very low, and with experience, contrived to pick up the arrow while at full speed, without being discovered. Carrying it for some distance beyond the spot where it fell, one would hold it up in triumph, and if the distance was sufficiently great, a stone was erected.

Perhaps it is fortunate for archery records and the page that he did not run six hundred yards.



