

CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence

REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

EDITOR.

Volume V.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1852.

Number 3.

THE WAN REAPERS.

BY MRS. EMILY C. JUDSON.

I came from a land where a beautiful light
Is slow creeping o'er hill-top and vale,
Where broad is the field, and the harvest is
white,
But the reapers are haggard and pale.

All wasted and worn with their wearisome
toil,
Still they pause not, that brave little band,
Though soon their low pillows must be the
strange soil,
Of that distant and grave-dotted straud.

For dangers uncounted are clustering there,
The pestilence stalks uncontrolled,
Strange poisons are borne on the soft, languid
air,
And lurk in each leaf's fragrant fold.

There the rose never blooms on fair woman's
wan cheek,
But there's beautiful light in her eye,
And the smile that she wears is so loving and
meek,
None can doubt it comes down from the sky.

There the strong man is bowed in his youth's
golden prime,
But he cheerily sings at his toil,
For he thinks of his sheaves, and the garner-
ing time
Of the glorious Lord of the soil.

And ever they turn, that brave wan little
band,
A long wistful gaze on the west—
"Do they come, do they come from that dear
distant land—
That land of the lovely and blest?"

"Do they come? do they come? Oh, we're
feeble and wan,
And we're passing like shadows away;
But the harvest is white, and lo! yonder the
dawn!
For laborers—for laborers, we pray!"
[Macedonian.]

THE RESTORATION OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

One of the most common, if not universal impressions of the day, is the belief in the decay, weakness and probable speedy decline of the once powerful empire of Turkey. Many are inclined to the opinion, that even its present existence and continuance as an independent power is but by sufferance—that her enemies are only waiting for their time, and, at his own selected season, there is nothing to hinder the Czar of Russia from marching his armies throughout her territories, and taking final possession of her capital and her sovereignty. Many have looked for this catastrophe ere this, believing that the protection she granted to the unfortunate Hungarian patriots who sought refuge within her borders; and still more, her subsequent liberation of Kosuth and his companions, would afford a convenient and welcome excuse for the invasion and partition of Turkey among the despots of Eastern Europe. It would appear from a recent work upon the condition of that country, written by a person abundantly well qualified and able to appreciate the real condition, power and prospects of Turkey, and therefore thoroughly reliable, that this general impression of the weakness of the Turkish Empire is not well founded. Whatever may have been her condition at the time of her last disastrous war with Russia, when with a disorganized army, domestic difficulties, and a ruined navy, she was taken at disadvantage and compelled to submit to the in-

glorious conditions of the treaty of Adrianople, her present condition is very different.—The forbearance of Austria and Russia, when we see the matter in its true light, ceases to deserve that name, and the conviction forces itself upon us, that if they have not already manifested their rage and fury at the escape of their victims from their vengeance by the invasion of Turkey, it is only because they dare not. Instead of forbearance the reason is impotence and bankruptcy on the part of Austria, and a prudent regard for the probable consequences on the part of Russia.

The recent extraordinary act of the French President makes it more than probable that our attention may soon be called to important events in Europe. The reaction, sure sooner or later to follow, can hardly fail to set in motion movements looking to the liberation from despotism of Hungary and Poland, or Italy—perhaps all three—and as in such a struggle, much may depend upon the strength or weakness of Turkey—her ability or inability to maintain an upright and independent position, her true position is one of great importance and immediate interest.

Our attention has just been called to, and our interest engaged by, the work to which we have alluded, and in its present connection with subjects now uppermost in the public mind, we feel confident our readers will thank us for gathering from it some of the more important of the facts it furnishes, coming as they do, from a source that may be received with perfect confidence. The work we allude to is one recently published in England, by J. H. Skene, Esq. Its title is—"The Three Eras of Ottoman History; a political Essay on the late Reforms of Turkey, considered principally as affecting her Position in the event of a War taking place." Ill informed persons, speaking or writing of the Turkish army, are apt to treat it as inefficient, badly equipped, ill disciplined, and in every respect inferior to that of any other of the great powers in Europe. So far is this from being the case, it appears from the facts given by this writer, that the Turkish army is at the present moment in a more efficient state than it has been at any time during the last two centuries, and that in the event of a war, the Sultan would probably be able to maintain himself single handed and alone, even against the combined attacks of Austria and Russia.

We have not room to follow the writer we speak of, in his excellent review of the history of Turkey; we propose to confine ourselves to her present condition. In this connection, however, it is necessary to state, that early in the present century, the insubordination of the Janissaries, or standing army of Turkey, had become such, that it was found necessary to overthrow them, as the only alternative to the overthrow of the empire itself. With many difficulties and much danger, this was finally accomplished. While the Sultan was replacing the Janissaries by regular and better disciplined troops, and before he could organize a new army, the ambition of Russia sought to take advantage of his condition by an unprovoked and unjustifiable war. Taken thus at disadvantage, Turkey was defeated and compelled to assent to a humiliating treaty of peace. Since then, a number of years of uninterrupted peace have enabled the Sultan to form a powerful and well disciplined army.—We cannot give in detail Mr. Skene's minute account of the organization of this army. It is divided into six separate armies, each consisting of two services, the active and the reserve. The whole establishment of the former, belonging to the active service, amounts to 190,000 men, but its effective strength is at present 123,000. The reserve now composed

a force of 212,000 men, and will have a total of 330,000 when this establishment shall have been completed. The two services as they now stand, form an effective force of 335,000 men. When their full strength shall have been filled up as contemplated, it will amount to 480,000. Besides these, there are a number of detached corps in Crete, Tripoli, Tunis, in garrisons, &c. &c., which raise the effective strength of the present standing army to 365,000 men. By the augmentations as proposed and now being carried out in Bosnia, Albania and Servia, and inclusive of the marines, sailors, and the police force, "the grand total of armed men at the disposal of Turkey, in the event of her existing resources being called into play, may be quoted at no less than 664,000 men, without having recourse to occasional levies, which are more easily and efficiently realized in Turkey than in any other country."

It also appears from Mr. Skene's account, that this service is highly popular, and that the physical comforts of the troops are well taken care of. He says:

"The military hospitals might serve as a pattern of cleanliness to the first armies of the world, and the medical officers are now perfectly efficient, some of them studied at European universities, others having become proficient in their art at the medical college of Constantinople, and a few being foreigners."

With regard to their probable efficiency in the field, he further states that they are rapid in their evolutions, especially the cavalry and artillery—that the Russians have been shown, when brought into comparison, to be infinitely slower, and that the latter are very far inferior in their infantry drill. He adds:

"With such an army as this, formed by a nation whose inherent bravery has never been impugned, even by its most prejudiced detractors, it will readily be allowed, that were the campaign of 1829 against the Russians to be fought over again now, the result would be very different, considering how many years the regular troops of the Sultan have been in training, and also how undeniably the Russian army has been falling off, for it was not then to be compared with what it had been in 1816, and it is not now equal to what it was in 1829."

The efficiency of the reserve of the Turkish army, this writer further states, was recently fully demonstrated:

"When an army of 62,000 men was assembled by Turkey in the space of six weeks, on the occasion of the interruption of her amicable relations with Russia and Austria, on account of the Hungarian refugees. In another month, 200,000 men of the reserve, might have been collected at Constantinople, had they been required; and it furnished matter of astonishment to the many foreigners in that capital, to behold a thoroughly drilled and disciplined army thus extemporized in a camp, to which a number of mere peasants in appearance had been seen flocking from their villages."

These facts, which we have thus endeavored, substantially, though imperfectly, to embody in our synopsis, are important and interesting, in the present aspect of European affairs. They show that, regarded only in reference to her present military forces, the strength of the Ottoman Empire is anything but contemptible, or likely to be disregarded by her more despotic neighbors; and that in the event of future commotions, the wisest policy of Austria and Russia will be to let Turkey alone. Whether, with her present strength, Turkey would continue to submit to the disadvantageous terms of the treaty of Adrianople, or would take advantage of a favorable

opportunity to recover her exclusive controul of the Dardanelles, is another affair. It would be worse than idle to indulge in conjectures on that point, which the future alone can solve.

We have confined ourselves to the improved condition of Turkey, in reference to her army alone. There are other, and to the philanthropist and the Christian—even though we are speaking of a Mahometan country—far more pleasing evidences of the progress and improvement of Turkey, which, while they add to the happiness of her people, add also to the strength, as they insure the popularity of her government.—We know of no country where there have been, during the few past years, more substantial improvement and progress than have been manifested in Turkey, by the liberal policy of her government.—These have been shown in the spread of religious toleration—the effusion of schools, academies, medical colleges, and hospitals—in the impartial administration of justice, wise, humane and liberal laws, and many other evidences of an improved and improving government. But we cannot now dwell upon these topics, though we may take occasion to speak of them hereafter.—Boston Atlas.

BOUNDARY TERRITORY.

The mind is bewildered in the contemplation of the extent of our country. Leaving out of sight the immense territorial acquisitions from Mexico, and the kingdom for which Oregon is ample, who in the Atlantic States forms an adequate idea of the comprehension of the upper Mississippi? Between the northern Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, and extending up from the Platte river to its junction with the Missouri, or the southern boundary of Iowa, to the British possessions, is a territory of vast extent, which is to be the domain of numerous new States, and the home of busy millions. Who can tell us what they shall be in the coming ages of our country's career?

Some idea may be formed of the extent of the valley of the upper Mississippi, from the purchases our Government has recently made of the Indians in that direction. From the Dakotas or Sioux, the U. S. Commissioners have bought all their lands lying in the southern and south-western part of Minnesota, embracing about *twenty-six millions* of acres of excellent lands, including the whole valley of the Minnesota or St. Peter's river, which empties into the Mississippi from the west, near St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota. The cost to our Government was not quite nine cents per acre. This tract is equal to *fifty-six thousand square miles*, and is capable of forming six new States of the size of New-Hampshire! To make the extent of this purchase still more intelligible, it may be compared with New-England, to the whole of which it is about equal.

Nor is this all. A treaty has been made with the Chippewa Indians, by which they convey to the United States a large and valuable tract in the northern part of the Territory of Minnesota, including all that part of the valley of the Red river lying south of the British Possessions, being a tract about 300 miles long and 150 broad, containing 45,000 square miles, or a territory sufficient to form *five* States of the size of New-Hampshire. Here, then, within the boundaries of Minnesota, has been purchased of the Indians sufficient to form *eleven* new States equal to New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont, and nearly *twice* the extent of the whole of New-England! But this is only a small part of the territory lying west of Wisconsin and north of Iowa and in the valley of the upper Mississippi, still further west. What a nation, when this