OUR NEW PROTECTORATE:

TURKEY IN ASIA: ITS

GEOGRAPHY, RACES,
RESOURCES, AND GOVERNMENT.
IN TWO VOLUMES. - VOL. I

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# J. CARLILE MCCOAN

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### PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH the Anglo-Turkish Convention has suggested the first title of these volumes, I owe it to myself to say that the idea of the book was conceived, and several of its chapters were written, before the indiscretion of the Globe revealed that questionable compact to the world. From the first, I had shared the conviction of all who knew the poverty of the Porte's resources that, however heroic might be its defence, Turkey, unaided, must be beaten in the late struggle, with the result of virtually ceasing to be a European Power; and, in view of the major interest that must thereafter attach to its Asiatic empire, there seemed room for a concise but comprehensive sketch of the present condition of these Eastern Provinces. It can hardly be claimed that this want-which the Convention of June 4 has since greatly emphasized-has been quite completely met by Captain Burnaby's rapid "Ride" from Scutari to Kars, nor even by Mr. Geary's later and very different record of his

journey from Baghdad to Alexandretta. It has in part been more nearly supplied by the excellent letters of Mr. George Barkley to the *Times*, which I take leave to call models of what such a correspondence should be. But as that gentleman's excursion only carried him through Asia Minor and western Armenia, his admirable sketches describe little more than a third of the field covered by our new engagements, and necessarily omit much about even that for which the ampler limits of a book afford space.

My sole qualification for attempting to supplement the work of these writers is-that at considerable intervals of time I have travelled over more of the country than any of the three, and have, so to speak, digested the results of my observations during a long residence in Constantinople under conditions favourable to further acquaintance with most interests of the country. As the narrative of mere personal experience, however, could have little interest for the reader, I have purposely confined my notes of this to the narrowest limits, leaving undescribed, and even unmentioned, several journeys of which scraps of information here and there given are the only result worth recording. In statements of fact and description of places outside my own personal knowledge-which necessarily form the greater part of the book-I have spared no pains to obtain and

carefully sift the best available information; and in the opinions expressed on the whole, I have honestly said what I believe, without either political or religious bias of any kind. If my critics will only credit me with this double fact, and bear in mind that the volumes now submitted to their judgment pretend to be, as stated elsewhere, nothing more than a "slight contribution to popular knowledge of a country to which, for English readers, recent events have given a new and more than ever practical interest," I will bow to their verdict, whether it approve or condemn the book.

In conclusion, my acknowledgments are due to the courtesy of Mr. Allingham and Messrs. Longmans for permission to reprint so much of Chapters VIII., IX., X. and XI. of Vol. I., and of I., II., V. of Vol. II., as appeared in *Fraser's Magazine*.

J. C. McC.

LONDON, February 1879.



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