

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67929-0 - The Day of the Crescent: Glimpses of Old Turkey

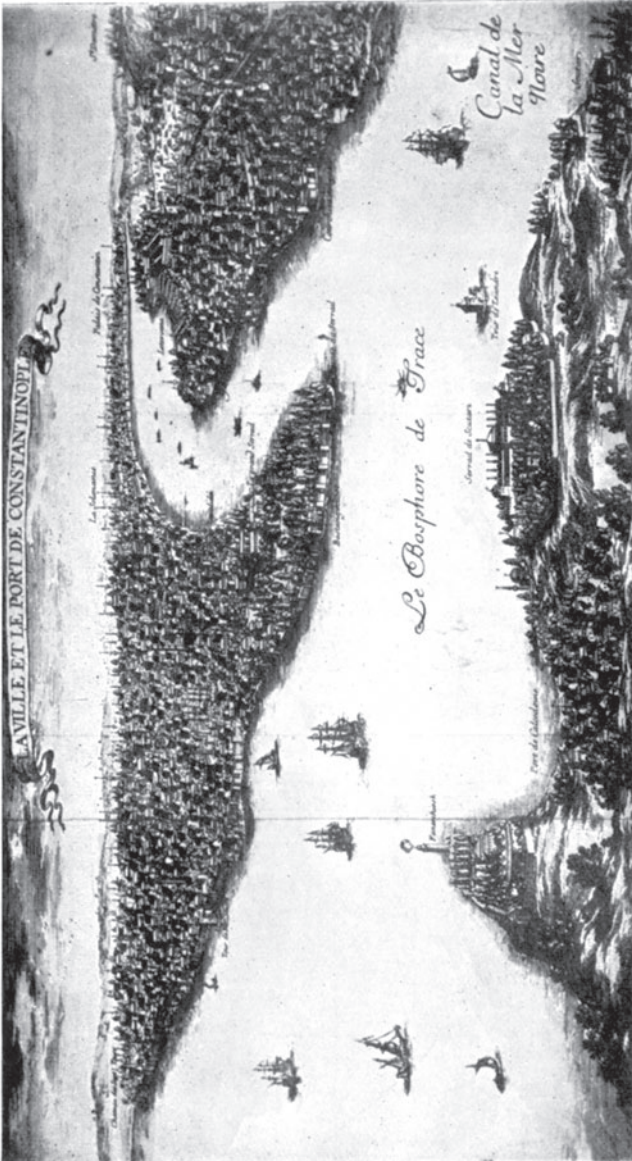
G. E. Hubbard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# THE DAY OF THE CRESCENT



CONSTANTINOPLÉ  
From Grelot's *Voyage de Constantinople*, 1680

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67929-0 - The Day of the Crescent: Glimpses of Old Turkey

G. E. Hubbard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# THE DAY OF THE CRESCENT

GLIMPSES OF OLD TURKEY

BY

G. E. HUBBARD

LATELY H.M. VICE-CONSUL FOR THE VILAYET OF MOSUL

Author of *From the Gulf to Ararat*

CAMBRIDGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1920

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-67929-0 - The Day of the Crescent: Glimpses of Old Turkey  
G. E. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107679290](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107679290)

© Cambridge University Press 1920

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1920

First paperback edition 2014

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-107-67929-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## PREFACE

THIS book issues from the press on the eve of the conclusion of the Turkish Peace Treaty. The occasion lends an added piquancy to the subject. Turkey in defeat contrasts with Turkey triumphant and the gulf between gives the measure of a nation's fall.

The Treaty, unless all the signs are at fault, will reduce a straggling and divided Empire to a compact and unified State, and launch Turkey on a new era of existence as an ethnical unit. Her development on these new lines will profoundly affect the course of history in the Nearer East and will certainly be watched keenly by all who study the trend of events in that quarter of the globe. In this class of readers one may safely postulate a retrospective interest in the nation's past, and to them I confidently commend this humble attempt to create a picture of the golden age of Turkey.

For the rest, my aim will be rewarded if the book makes an appeal to the sense we all possess for the exotic and picturesque, while throwing a little fresh light on the history and character of a people whom Englishmen have found worthy of their steel ever since the days when first they met

“in glorious Christian field,  
Streaming the ensign of the Christian cross  
Against black pagans, Turks, and Saracens.”

(*Richard II*, IV. 1.)

I am indebted to the editor of *The United Services Magazine* for permission to incorporate in this book the

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67929-0 - The Day of the Crescent: Glimpses of Old Turkey

G. E. Hubbard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

vi

*Preface*

greater part of an article entitled “ The Fighting Turk ” which I contributed to a recent issue, and I have to acknowledge the courtesy of the Hakluyt Society in agreeing to use being made of the Society’s reprints of the Covell and Dallam diaries.

Professor E. G. Browne has most kindly corrected the proofs of the book with a view to the orthography of oriental names and words, and Mr Wratislaw, His Majesty’s Consul-General at Beyrout, and a direct descendant of the Baron Wratislaw who figures in the book as the hero of the last two chapters, has given me most useful assistance in revising the text.

G. E. H.

*April, 1920*

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE . . . . .	v
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	i
A literary "find." The old travel-books and their authors. The Turkish Peril. How the Grand Turke addressed the Princes of Christendom. The taint of Byzantium. Turkish militarism. The fate of an empire.	
CHAPTER I	
A LITTLE CONDENSED HISTORY . . . . .	7
The period of the book. Last of the Crusades. "The scourge of God." Selim the Grim. Suleyman the Magnificent. An example of chivalry. Conquests and reforms. A dramatic death scene. The story of Count Christopher. A series of royal degenerates. Murad the Fourth. A family of great Vizirs. The second siege of Vienna. Decapitation of an ostrich. A terrible record. The end of an era.	
CHAPTER II	
THE OLD SERAGLIO AND THE ADVENTURES OF AN ORGAN-BUILDER . . . . .	25
A city of fair fame. Sandys describes the seraglio. A perilous pleasaunce. A Sultan's pay-roll. The palace pages. A drastic curriculum. Master Thomas Dallam. A gift to the Sultan. The wonderful organ. The dress rehearsal. Seeing round the palace. Sultanas at play. Chased by blackamoors. Safely home.	
CHAPTER III	
THE SULTAN'S ARMIES . . . . .	39
Origin of the Janissaries. A ceremony of initiation. Life in the ranks. The regimental cauldron. The Janissary's charter. From body-guard to regicide. <i>Spahis</i> and <i>piadés</i> . A prototype of the Red Knight. Artillery. A remarkable gun-team. The corps of "Mad-caps." The Tartar auxiliaries. Licensed freebooters.	

	PAGE
CHAPTER IV	
A PALACE AUDIENCE . . . . .	50
A stir in the <i>bailaggio</i> . The crossing of the Golden Horn. Through old Stamboul. Entering the Seraglio. The two court-yards. The Janissaries' dinner-call. Admittance to the <i>divan</i> . A cabinet meeting. Business of state. A gargantuan feast. The Sultan on his throne. A dazzling spectacle. A diplomatic reconciliation.	
CHAPTER V	
AN EMBASSY TO THE GRAND TURKE (1) . . . . .	62
Truce between Turkey and the Empire. The new ambassador. Journey to Constantinople. Dr Quackquelben's misadventure. Bulgarian costumes. The Sultan's zoo. The credulous hyena. Suleyman at Amadia. A Persian banquet. An unpropitious reception. Portrait of Suleyman. Homeward bound. An agonizing sight. The price of a nose. A brief respite.	
CHAPTER VI	
AN EMBASSY TO THE GRAND TURKE (2) . . . . .	78
"A bushel of troubles." Pertinacity in adversity. An invaluable recipe. Gloomy quarters. The embassy menagerie. The pig and the door-keeper. Affection in a crane. Gentle horses. Morale of the Turkish army. A damaging comparison. The symbolic melon. Outwitting a <i>chaoush</i> . A military march-past. A row with the Janissaries.	
CHAPTER VII	
AN EMBASSY TO THE GRAND TURKE (3) . . . . .	93
The relics of a fleet. The fate of the prisoners. A work of humanity. A puritanic monarch. The Pestilence. Escape to Prinkipo. A fisherman's paradise. The fat Franciscan. Story of the <i>Hoji's</i> sleeve. The end in sight. A surly farewell. Amenities of the road. Henry and the hatchet. A satisfactory ending.	
CHAPTER VIII	
TWO MARTIAL ADVENTURES (1). . . . .	106
The book-shelves of the "Green Dragon." A philosophic globe-trotter. By caravan to Turkey. Serajevo. Falling in with the army. Company for the Devil. A short way with miscreants. A grisly tower. Luxurious "bashaws." Wives and Catimites. The pasha's offer. A bloody revenge. A reluctant parting.	



Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-67929-0 - The Day of the Crescent: Glimpses of Old Turkey

G. E. Hubbard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

ix

## CHAPTER IX

	PAGE
TWO MARTIAL ADVENTURES (2) . . . . .	116
War between the Poles and Turks. The armies meet. The opening attack. Running the blockade. A mediaeval trench raid. The Turks' "big push." Holding the breach. Behemoth bound. A petulant Sultan. Reception of the messengers. An elephant as a peace-offering.	

## CHAPTER X

A PERSIAN INTERLUDE . . . . .	130
The history of "Long Hassan." <i>Il Magnifico Barbaro</i> starts on his mission. Cyprian politics. Across Asia Minor. Ambushed by Kurds. Arrival at Tabriz. The garden-palace. An exciting tournament. The envoys from India. A punitive expedition. <i>Fête champêtre</i> . A monstrous cake. The return to Venice.	

## CHAPTER XI

THE SULTAN'S NAVY . . . . .	138
A Pera "chestnut." Origin of the Turkish navy. The Barbary corsairs. Barbarossa. An apprenticeship in piracy. Doria enters the stage. Well-matched opponents. Barbarossa and Suleyman. The great Capudan Pasha. Battle of Prevesa. The church-bells of Nice. <i>Mât raïs ul bahr</i> . Captains Courageous. Indian adventures. Account of a cyclone. Ceding the trident. The victims of Jerba. The last fight of "The three halfe moons." The feat of John Foxe, Gunner.	

## CHAPTER XII

A DRAGOMAN'S DIARY . . . . .	161
The election of a <i>bailo</i> . A magnificent send-off. Overland to Stamboul. Conflicting astrologies. Sports on the At Maidan. Speeding the pilgrims. Preparations for war. Scenes at the camp. The Sultan's secret. An ill-omened start. The court at Belgrade. Premature rejoicings. The saving of Vienna. The Sultan's home-coming. The return of the Embassy.	

## CHAPTER XIII

A BELATED CRUSADE . . . . .	179
How Crete fell to Venice. The Turkish invasion. Candia besieged. The crusaders leave Toulon. An escapade in Sardinia. The landing at Candia. A discreditable episode. Manning the walls. The great sortie. A hopeless struggle. Calling the roll. A cosmopolitan garrison. Successive misfortunes. A survivor's <i>quarantaine</i> .	

*Contents*

## CHAPTER XIV

	PAGE
A BUNDLE OF GLEANINGS . . . . .	187
An adventurous Don. The circumcision of a Prince. Pyrotechnical marvels. Presents at a wedding. The cats' <i>table d'hôte</i> . "Fruits on a Dunghill." A lesson in modesty. Grelot's adventure. The <i>imam's</i> lamps. Sketches of dervishes. A colony of sorceresses. Mohammed's fowls. A Pasha in a powdering-tub.	

## CHAPTER XV

A PRISONER IN THE GALLEYS, etc. (1) . . . . .	200
Christian prisoners in Turkey. The mission to Constantinople. The mission is interned. Spying on the Turks. A shameless betrayal. The arrest of the mission. Threatened with "gauching." Refusal to apostate. The arsenal prison. Mass under difficulties. The eating of "Marko." Condemned to the galleys. Life of a galley-slave. Hunger and torture. Locked in the Black Tower. The <i>agha</i> of the Tower. A living purgatory. A heartless joke.	

## CHAPTER XVI

A PRISONER IN THE GALLEYS, etc. (2) . . . . .	221
A ray of hope. Disillusionment follows. The new Grand Vizir. A petition and its answer. Summoned to the <i>divan</i> . A friend in need. Freedom from fetters. The <i>adieux</i> at the Tower. Marching with the army. Promises of liberty. A serious hitch. Escape from the army. Encounter with Tartars. Saved by a thunderstorm. Crossing the lines. A target for cannon-balls. Safe among friends. Arrival at Prague. A great-hearted Englishman. Faith in captivity. <i>Exeunt omnes</i> .	

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

GENERAL VIEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
SERAGLIO POINT . . . . .	<i>To face page 26</i>
A TURKISH LADY . . . . .	37
A JANISSARY . . . . .	40
THE <i>AGHA</i> OF THE JANISSARIES . . . . .	42
A "MADCAP" . . . . .	48
A <i>CADILESKER</i> . . . . .	54
THE GRAND VIZIR . . . . .	87
A <i>HOJA</i> . . . . .	100
WARSHIP PASSING DOWN THE BOSPHORUS . . . . .	140
TURKISH WRESTLING . . . . .	165
AN OFFICER OF JANISSARIES . . . . .	170
TURKISH FIREWORKS . . . . .	190
GRELOT'S SKETCH OF STA SOFIA . . . . .	194
A "GEOMAILER" . . . . .	196
THE SITE OF THE BLACK TOWER . . . . .	214