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Adolphus Slade

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Published in 1867, this book discusses the Crimean War from a pro-Turkish perspective. Sir Adolphus Slade (1804–77) covers the history of Ottoman military development as well as the origins of the Eastern Question, and the events leading to the outbreak of war. As a naval officer, whose *Records of Travels in Turkey, Greece, &c., and of a Cruize in the Black Sea, with the Capitan Pasha* is also reissued in this series, he was lent to the Turkish fleet in 1849 and took the name Mushaver Pasha. For seventeen years he worked to overhaul the navy, especially the defences of the Bosphorus, and his successes made him impatient with the allied French and British fleets. In 1854, an argument with their Admirals led to his removal from active service, and to a bitterness reflected in this book, which nevertheless provides a fascinating perspective on the war's diplomatic and military complexities.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

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

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108044745

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1867

This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04474-5 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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TURKEY AND THE CRIMEAN WAR:

A NARRATIVE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS.

BY

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR ADOLPHUS SLADE, K.C.B.

(MUSHAVER PASHA).

“METHINKS, THE TRUTH SHOULD LIVE FROM AGE TO AGE,
AS 'TWERE RETAIL'D TO ALL POSTERITY,
EVEN TO THE GENERAL ALL-ENDING DAY.”—SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON:

SMITH, ELDER AND CO., 65, CORNHILL.

1867.

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TO

ADMIRAL W. A. BAILLIE HAMILTON,

MANY YEARS SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY

WITH HONOUR TO HIMSELF AND ADVANTAGE TO THE SERVICE :—

The following Pages are Dedicated

WITH PLEASANT MEMORIES OF EARLY DAYS,

BY HIS OLD MESSMATE,

THE AUTHOR.

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P R E F A C E .



THE reforms wrought by Sultan Mahmoud II.—in effect a Moslem social revolution,—disturbed the foundations of the edifice reared by his ancestors, and altered the relations of Turkey with Christendom. Previously isolated, with her hand against everybody and everybody's hand against her, Turkey then entered the comity of nations, but on invidious terms,—the terms of a step-child in a numerous family. Drawn irresistibly within the sphere of alien influences exercised by diplomatists variously inspired, she gravitated now towards one now towards another centre of attraction, with unstable equilibrium. No longer self-reliant, she viewed apprehensively the ambition of a neighbour and uneasily the aspirations (encouraged by classic sympathies) of quondam subjects : ill reassured in regard of the former by international jealousy, and with respect to the latter by political incapacity.

Irresolute between antagonistic pretensions, the Porte allowed a dispute at Jerusalem between members of the Latin and Oriental churches to ripen into a “ question ; ”

which opened a way for the French ruler to raise the tone of his army and thereby replace France in her natural position, abdicated by his predecessor, in the front rank of nations. Leading England, while seeming led by her, to concur in his policy, and Turkey to believe in his sincerity, he secured their active alliance, and so ably played his cards in the ensuing game of war as to derive from it a maximum of “glory” with a minimum of obloquy. Russia’s ardent foe in the Crimea, France sat at the council table at Paris her genial advocate.

A sketch of Sultan Mahmoud’s reforms, and—direct consequence—the attitude of diplomacy at Constantinople, preceded, for the sake of comparison, by an outline of the conditions of Turkish power when that power was formidable to Europe, has seemed to the author a fitting commencement of a narrative which embraces, with other topics, remarks on the Crimean war remotely flowing therefrom.

Having briefly touched on those subjects, the author indicates in the following pages the influences brought to bear on the Porte preceding and during the Crimean war, and gives deferentially a qualified Turkish view, essential for the completion of the picture, of some of the events of that war: moved by a legitimate desire to show cause for the untoward action of the Anglo-French alliance on the prestige of the Ottoman power; and also, by a sense of the moral obligation of every one in a position of observation during that period to contribute, in the

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PREFACE.

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degree of his lights and opportunities, materials for the elucidation of a probable subject of controversy in later times, the miscarriage in the main of a remarkable league formed for the purpose of depressing one and ostensibly sustaining another empire.

Within eight years of the Peace of Paris Russia dared to irritate her recent vanquishers. Heedless of the urbane remonstrances of one, of the traditional sympathies of the other, she stamped out Polish nationality with her heel, and, careless about public opinion, plucked, remorseless, Caucasian independence up by the roots. The Khans of Turkistan have since admitted her supremacy, and the Ameer of Bokhara has sued for her graces. Within eleven years of that peace the Eastern question, which enthusiasts fancied had been laid under the Malakof for a century, reappears looming on the horizon, hazy, indistinct, like the genius freed by the fisherman in the Arabian Nights. Like that curious Arab watching amazed the condensation of the portentous vapour into form and substance, politicians and philosophers are watching with speculation in their eyes for an outline of the features of the Apparition. In view of a possible menacing aspect, monarchies are arming, cabinets are scheming, nationalities are stirring, and propagandism is active. England alone, the most interested after Turkey, *the outwork of her Asiatic Empire*, in that question, sits in the chair of self-complacency, fanned by the breeze of commercial prosperity.

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The thesis that no race, whether Christian or Moslem, *in* the Turkish empire can succeed the Ottomans as the rulers of it, may be disputed by phil-Hellenists and philo-Sclavs, and the theorem that Egypt cannot exist as a sovereign Moslem state is apparently ignored by the actual viceroy : they are, nevertheless, the reality of the Eastern question ; and although in the opinion of some it matters but little to England whether an Othman, a Romanof, or a Hapsburg rule on the banks of the Bosphorus, it does in the opinion of all concern her much whether a Turk or a Frank rule in the valley of the Nile.

London, March 1, 1867.

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ERRATA.

Page 123, line 30, *for* “uncensored” *read* “uncensored.”

Page 133, line 6, *for* “the Egyptian *Hassan Pasha*” *read* “the Egyptian Admiral
HASSAN PASHA.”

Page 138, line 23, *for* “Certainly not” *read* “Certainly.”