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THE
PARTITION OF TURKEY
A DIPLOMATIC HISTORY
1913-1923

BY
HARRY N. HOWARD

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TO MY BELOVED ELIZABETH

*“Doomed to know not Winter, only Spring, a being
Trode the flowery April blithely for a while”—R. L. S.*

PREFACE

THE breakup of the Ottoman Empire was one of the most significant and fundamental results of the world war. In many respects, and without underestimating the other fundamental causes of the war, the great conflagration of 1914-1918 may be considered as a struggle of the Great Powers of Europe over the Turkish question in all its aspects. The Austro-Russian rivalry in the Balkans, the German-Russian contest for supremacy at Constantinople and in the Straits, the British desire for protection of Near Eastern routes to India, and the French ambitions in Syria, raised problems (to mention but a few!) which were to be settled not by diplomacy, but by the arbitration of war. The Lausanne conference, of 1922-1923, reached the latest definitive solution of the Turkish problem. This essay proposes to treat of the period most significant for the partition of Turkey, 1913 to 1923, though it has been deemed advisable to include materials which both antedate the period and which bring the work substantially to the present.

The writer became interested in the subject of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire at the hands of the European Powers while he was making a study of the Mosul question, a few years ago. He has had access to the available published documentary sources, and it was his privilege to do archival study and research in the archives and libraries of Central and Balkan Europe in 1928, under the guidance and direction of his friend and teacher, Professor Robert J. Kerner, of the Department of History, of the University of California, at Berkeley.

The writer wishes to acknowledge his profoundest gratitude and indebtedness to Professor Kerner for his unflinching kindness, his friendly criticism, and his inspiring encouragement. Acknowledgement is due him not only for his assistance and direction during the early phases of the work, but also for his advice in all the stages of its preparation.

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