



## **TURKEY TO-DAY**

*BY THE SAME AUTHOR*

AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN A TURKISH  
HAREM

AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN ANGORA  
ABDUL HAMID'S DAUGHTER

A TURKISH WOMAN'S EUROPEAN  
IMPRESSIONS

SCENES FROM TURKISH LIFE



**THE GHAZI MUSTAPHA KEMAL PASHA**  
President of the Turkish Republic.

# TURKEY TO-DAY

By  
GRACE ELLISON

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**TO MY FRIEND AND BROTHER  
THOMAS F. ELLISON  
WITH AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE**

## PREFACE

**W**HATEVER may be the ultimate fate of the Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the President of the Turkish Republic, his name will always now belong to history. Posterity will pay tribute to the victories which won for him the title of Ghazi (the Conqueror), and to his creation and brilliant administration of the new Turkey, yet what places him above all Eastern potentates is the fact that he has given freedom to women, a stupendous reform that has had its repercussions throughout the East. Already in Syria, Palestine, India, and China, his name is mentioned with reverence and awe, particularly by women.

It is always difficult to give events which are still in the making their true perspective, nevertheless many years' intimate association with Turks in their own homes, the harems of yesterday, enables me to judge the present against the background of the past.

During these years, I have watched this nation from the days of Abdul Hamid up to the present day and carefully chronicled their efforts, their failures, and their achievements—always in close association with the men who have been building the nation. And during that time, I have seen the admirable qualities of the Turk, so long the victim of misrule, always torn by the jealousies of Europe, and the wrong values given to women in the State.

Even in the darkest hours of Turkish history, I did not lose faith in this people, knowing full well that if a man



would arise strong enough to give Turkey homes instead of harems, she would quickly take her place amongst the great peoples of the West.

And that man has arisen. . . .

In the autumn of 1922, I was the only Britisher allowed to penetrate behind the line of bayonets which separated Angora from the rest of Turkey.

During those critical days, waiting to see what victory and the Treaty of Lausanne would bring forth, the people of Angora lived like members of a brotherhood. It was then possible for the Ghazi, Mustapha Kemal Pasha, then only President of the Grand National Assembly and not as now of the Turkish Republic, to often allow one the privilege of chatting with him over a cup of coffee.

On one such occasion, speaking of the women of Turkey and how harem life paralysed their activity, the Ghazi said to me: "All this nonsense must stop. Turkey is going to build up a perfect democracy. How can there be a *perfect* democracy with half the country in bondage? In two years from now, every woman must be freed from this useless tyranny. Every man will wear a hat instead of a fez and every woman have her face uncovered; woman's help is absolutely necessary and she must have full freedom in order to take her share of her country's burden."

I published this daring prophecy in articles, and in my book *An Englishwoman in Angora*, but not one critic paid the least attention to the Pasha's astounding announcement, for no one believed that such a revolution could ever be achieved!

To those who knew anything about harems and Turkish home life or the fanaticism of Islam with regard to women such an idea seemed like the wild imaginings of a child.

## PREFACE

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Two years after this conversation took place, everything had happened as the President had predicted. The women are free! . . . They have awakened from their long, long sleep.

HOTEL METROPOLE  
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*March 1928*

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