

**TURKEY AND ITS DESTINY**

THE RESULT OF

JOURNEYS MADE IN 1847 AND 1848 TO EXAMINE INTO  
THE STATE OF THAT COUNTRY.

BY CHARLES MAC FARLANE, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF

'CONSTANTINOPLE IN 1828.'

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I

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LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1850.

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## P R E F A C E.

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WOULD not, knowingly, have made a long journey to witness the dying agonies of an empire. I never should have thought of going to Turkey in 1847 if I had not been induced to believe that, since my last sojourn there in 1827-8, the Government and the condition of the people had been greatly improved; that an equality of rights had been established between the Mussulmans and the Christian and the other Rayah subjects of the Sultan; and that the tyranny, oppression, and corruption, on the part of the men in office and power, which had been so revolting during my former residence, had almost ceased since the accession of Sultan Abdul Medjid, and the rise of his present Vizier Reschid Pasha. Without believing *all* that was told to me by persons in the service of the Ottoman Government, and closely connected with Reschid, I felt confident, from their assurances, that Turkey had made, and was then making, a considerable progress in order, justice, and civilization. I went honestly in search of this improvement; but to see and judge for myself. The state of things which I found is explained in these volumes.

{ My wishes, my *interests*, would have been best served if I could have found the very opposite of that which

I have described ; but, finding things as they were, could not report them otherwise—nor would I have done so for all the diamonds the Sultan has ever given away in nishans and gold snuff-boxes.

At this moment I consider it of the highest political importance to England that the *true* condition of the Ottoman Empire should be made known. I devoted eleven months, and no small labour, to the collection of the materials which I now offer to my countrymen. I occupied myself mainly in studying the condition of the people, or the various peoples, nations, or races, that live under the rule of the Ottoman. I have discharged this work of almost everything that does not bear upon this one point. I have experienced a difficulty in suppressing, or leaving for some future publication, many pages of my journal which relate to scenery, antiquities, architecture, Turkish history and legends ; and I still regret having been obliged (for the present) to pass over in total silence several subjects which deeply interested me, and upon which I collected information from the best sources. Among these last I would mention the Armenian schools established by the American missionaries at Pera and Bebek ; the missionary labours and scheme of Bishop Southgate ; the case of Dr. Millengen, of Constantinople, whose children were kidnapped at Rome, and kept from him ten years (by the *liberal*, reforming Pope Pius IX., as well as by his predecessor Gregory XVI.) solely and avowedly *because he was a Protestant* ; the

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trade and resources of the island of Mitylene, concerning which much curious information was communicated to me by Mr. B. B——, one of the oldest and best of my friends at Smyrna, who had been residing some years in that beautiful island; and, lastly, a very curious and able (but long) paper on the deplorable state of agriculture and the vices of administration in the country round Smyrna, which has been sent to me since my return to England by Mr. J. Wilkin of Smyrna, a member of a family from which I received numerous kind offices in 1827–8.

I trust, however, that all these subjects will be delayed only for a few months.

People seem more than ever disposed to say that a great book is a great evil. I was afraid of making this too long, as also of spoiling its unity of design.

*Canterbury, Feb. 1st, 1850.*

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I have described ; but, finding things as they were, could not report them otherwise—nor would I have done so for all the diamonds the Sultan has ever given away in nishans and gold snuff-boxes.

At this moment I consider it of the highest political importance to England that the *true* condition of the Ottoman Empire should be made known. I devoted eleven months, and no small labour, to the collection of the materials which I now offer to my countrymen. I occupied myself mainly in studying the condition of the people, or the various peoples, nations, or races, that live under the rule of the Ottoman. I have discharged this work of almost everything that does not bear upon this one point. I have experienced a difficulty in suppressing, or leaving for some future publication, many pages of my journal which relate to scenery, antiquities, architecture, Turkish history and legends ; and I still regret having been obliged (for the present) to pass over in total silence several subjects which deeply interested me, and upon which I collected information from the best sources. Among these last I would mention the Armenian schools established by the American missionaries at Pera and Bebek ; the missionary labours and scheme of Bishop Southgate ; the case of Dr. Millengen, of Constantinople, whose children were kidnapped at Rome, and kept from him ten years (by the *liberal*, reforming Pope Pius IX., as well as by his predecessor Gregory XVI.) solely and avowedly *because he was a Protestant* ; the

to be the best cultivated and most prosperous part of the great Pashalik, and the Pashalik of Brusa was, by unanimous consent, the richest portion of Asiatic Turkey, and *the best governed*. To form an opinion as to the merits of the new system of administration I could not choose a better spot, or one so favourable to the reformers; for, being at so short a distance from the capital, it was, in a manner, under their eye. If anywhere in Asia Minor one could expect to find the humane principles of the Tanzimaut carried out in practice, it would be here; if anywhere justice was impartially administered between Mussulman and Christian, industry protected, and the Rayah farmer secured in the peaceful enjoyment of the fruits of his industry, it would be here. If the Tanzimaut was a dead letter at Brusa, what must it be in other parts?

I had on the spot excellent opportunities, and the best possible means of pursuing my inquiry, and of making myself acquainted with life on the road and the field, in the bazaar and the merchant's khan, and with the familiar in-door life of all classes. I have no intention of systematizing the facts I collected or the remarks I made. It will not only be easier to me, but also, I think, pleasanter to the reader, to continue the narrative form, and to give the facts and observations in the natural order in which they occurred.

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against the project, pleading their vested rights, the antiquity of their tenure, their privileges of *esnaff*, and the peril and enormity of allowing Franks, who were not subjects of the Sultan, nor amenable to Turkish law, to form establishments in the country and take the bread out of the mouths of true Osmanlees and faithful Rayahs. Some of the Turks and Armenians said that, if the doctor built, they would knock down and burn. What gave the *coup de grace* to the project was this—the doctor was told that Franks could hold no landed property or houses in their own names; that such property must be held in the name of a Rayah subject, who would of course be subjected to Turkish law. The same fatal bar prevents the employment of European capital in agriculture.

My old friend, Madame S——, sister of Tchelebee John, and daughter of dear old Constantine Zohrab, used her best offices for me at Tchekgirghè, as she had often done at Smyrna twenty years ago. We found her excited by an act of injustice and oppression. A poor Greek, who had bought a pair of new shoes at Brusa, had been stopped on the way to his village and told that he must pay a duty upon his shoes; and, not having money to pay, the Turks had taken his shoes from him, and had dismissed him with a cudgelling, and the horrible but usual abuse of his religion. “Cases like these,” said Madame S——, “are constantly occurring, the sufferers can complain to no one but my husband, and during the absence of Sir Stratford Canning consular reports seem to be little attended to at Constantinople.” It is due to Her Majesty’s Consul at Brusa to state that he never failed to notice these acts