MR. COX ON TURKEY.

ITS CONDITION AND ITS SOCIAL LIFE.

DIVERSIONS OF A DIPLOMAT IN TURKEY. By SAMUEL S. COX, late American Minister to Turkey. 8vo. Charles L. Webster & Co.

Mr. Cox has written a large, and, in spite of the title, an ambitious work, not merely about his adventures in Constantinople, but on the history, condition, and prospects of the Turkish Empire, the character of its mixed population, and their religions, culture and social customs. He has gathered a great deal of information on these and other points and presented it with a blessed economy of puns and an air of serious purpose. He is diffuse and inconsequential, and his style has no literary quality; but many of the facts which he prints are interesting and curious, and his opinions deserve attention as those of a shrewd, though sometimes over-enthusiastic, observer. He has a warm admiration for the reigning Sultan, under whose just and liberal administration he believes that reform in Turkey is making great progress; but we do not learn upon what data Mr. Cox founds his conclusions, nor how far his investigations extended. His Majesty at any rate was sufficiently enlightened to treat our Minister with the utmost friendliness, and to entertain him handsomely at the palace. "The Sultan," says Mr. Cox, "is one of the most industrious, painstaking, honest, conscientious and vigilant rulers of the world. He is amiable and just withal. His every word betokens a good heart and sagacious head." Our Minister had an opportunity of presenting to His Majesty a stereoscope as a gift from the President, together with a remarkable collection of views, and the ponderous volume of the Census—the whole series of ten reports, including census blanks, instructions, etc. The photographs delighted the Sultan; the portraits of American Indians amazed him; and the census reports determined him to have a census of his own, for which he gave orders on the spot, engaging Mr. Cox to help with his advice. The estimate of the Turkish subject is hardly less favorable than that of his ruler:

Judging by the thousands of soldiers whom I saw after the *emeute* in Bulgaria in 1885, and by the physique and robustness of those who, every Friday, pass our Legation on their way to the Salemlik, I think that the average Turk is in a contented and healthy state. He shows an equable temper and a regular life. His religious observances and grave countenance give to his habitual reserve, not merely the outward sign, but the inward kindness joined with an easy manner. Suppose he has the love of ease: suppose he is deficient in our ethics and education: suppose his mental faculties are not fully developed and sophisticated; suppose he does loll upon a divan and pass the time with his guests in talking of indifferent things; suppose he is content with his chibouque and coffee, his mosque, bath and repetitious prayers, his game of chess or backgammon: suppose he is eager to listen to the old tales, proverbs and parables, or revels in the enjoyment of his astrologies and his pilaf—it may be said of him, that when he comes down to work as a mechanic or merchant, he is honest and fair in his labor and dealings. As a farmer he serenely ploughs his fields and reaps his harvests amid the vicissitudes of his lot and his trials with the tax-gatherer. At home he is a model of domestic tenderness toward his family and loyal to his sovereign and religion. In summing up his character the qualities of patience, candor, contentment and resignation are conspicuous beyond those of any other race upon the footstool. If the religion of the Koran pervades every act of his life and mixes with his every occupation; if his prayer, by its frequent dropping, wears away the stoniness of his heart, still he preserves the refinement and hospitality that belong to the Orient. He will give to his guests all that he has—"eggs, fruit, coffee, bread, fish, honey with Scio wine, and all for love, not money."

Of the Turkish woman Mr. Cox gives the oracular opinion that she is neither so bad nor so good as she is painted. Her one prevailing quality seems to be that she is a good eater. She has just enough vanity to be interesting. She is not perilously coquettish, and the current stories of intrigues of the harem are entitled to no consideration. On the contrary the Turkish woman is an obedient wife and a fond mother, frivolous in her amusements, for she is no more than a grown child, but happy enough in her seclusion, with needlework, housework, "studies," baths, "cultivation of the love of jewelry, flowers and toilet," meditations upon nature and "pious thoughts." This is a pleasing picture, and we trust there is no mistake about the pious thoughts.

There is of course nothing among the Turks corresponding to what we call society, and even the intercourse among foreigners in Constantinople seemed to Mr. Cox rather dull. The Turk, however, is hospitable. He seldom dines alone, and we have this entertaining account of a banquet in high life:

The Pasha sits down, cross-legged, on a divan, and his eunuch, or aga, brings him a chased silver basin and ewer. After the Oriental method water is poured upon the hands. Another servant brings in a gold-embroidered napkin; then drawing up a low table, which is becoming common now in our Western households as an article of bric-à-brac, being inlaid with mother-of-pearl, an attendant places upon this the waiter loaded with the repast. There are many dishes to suit a variety of tastes. A favorite dish is a lamb roasted whole. It is stuffed with rice, raisins, and the favorite pistachio nut. This nut is sold upon the streets of Constantinople as commonly as the peanut in New-York. It is the pearl of good things. Then comes a delicate dish of small fish, and there is no place equal to the Bosporus for this article. Egg plant, if it be in season, appears fried in oil, and followed by boiled squashes stuffed with hash. The Turkish hash is by no means to be derided, for it is neither second-hand nor equivocal. The national dish is called dolma. Hash is an element of that dish. Hash and mutton is the *piece de resistance*. Rice is served with it, as well as with rabbit, and both are cooked in vine leaves. Then we have chicken breasts stewed in rose water, and cakes of flour and sugar, or dough, sweetened and cooked. Then come the jellies, the sherbet, the exquisite rose preserves and various "dulcet syrups, tinctured with the cinnamon." Nothing equals the rose preserves in the eye of the Oriental housewife; and here, by way of parenthesis, it is just to say that the housewifery of the Turkish matron cannot be overrated. She has much to do and does it well. There are a number of side dishes in small saucers—most of them delicate and unfamiliar to us. To crown the repast comes the *pilaf*. This is a dish of rice seasoned with butter and tomato juice, in accordance with an invariable custom at every meal.

Is not this *menu* a sign of advanced civilization? Is not this a feast fit for Lucullus? One of these Eastern dishes has as much patriotic flavor as the roast beef of Old England, the frogs of France, the *olla* of Spain, or the hog and hominy of America. It is the plenteous *pilaf*, the national dish. It is worthy of all acceptation. It is sometimes spelled *pillau*, but generally pronounced *p'laf*. It is on every Turkish table. It may be made in various ways, but its very soul consists in the essences and sauces which belong to the stewed meats, over which plain boiled rice is poured. The rice is as white as the unbotted snow of Boreas. To a Turkish or Arab peasant or soldier a dish of *pilaf* is a feast of the gods, and as prepared here in the East would adorn a Demonico dinner.

I am not aware that the Roman gourmand ever ate with his fingers, nor have I ever seen any classic announcement of the number of times to his fork; but it will be many decades before the Turk gives up the habit of eating with his fingers, or regarding the knife, fork and spoon as otherwise than unhandy tableware—wasteful and ridiculous.

Are there any liquids on the table? No. No bottles, no pitchers! No; only a large glass of water for each guest at the end of the entertainment.

The history of the Orthodox Greek Church is treated at considerable length, together with the points of difference between the Eastern and Western communions; but as a theologian Mr. Cox leaves something to be desired. His repeated references to what he calls the "Arian" heresy would be enough to awaken suspicion that in such matters he is not quite at home. He states that one of the principal Latin doctrines repudiated by the Greek schism was the "infallibility" of the Pope. He is nearly a thousand years too fast. It was the Papal supremacy which the Greeks denied.

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Situations Wanted—Males.

COACHMAN, GROOM or USEFUL MAN.—By a sober, competent young man, thoroughly understands the care of horses, carriages and harness; can feed furnace and do all general work; city or country; not afraid of work; good references. Address G. L., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

COACHMAN and USEFUL MAN.—By a first-class English coachman; can milk if required; make himself generally useful; good man with horses; city or country; good references. Address G. S., Box 278, Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

COACHMAN.—By a first-class man, single, who thoroughly understands the care and management of horses and carriages; leaves his place on account of family going to Europe; first-class city reference. Address, for three days, S. W., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

COACHMAN and GARDENER—COOK, &c. By man and wife; man first-class coachman and gardener; understands the care of horses and harness; can milk; tend to furnace; wife as good plain cook; can tend to milk and butter; is willing to assist with washing and ironing; no family; good reference. Address W. M., 5 Winthrop Place.

COACHMAN and GROOM.—By a respectable, trustworthy single Protestant man; thoroughly understands the care of horses, carriages, &c.; can drive; best city references. Address G. W., 161 East 52d-st.

COACHMAN.—By one thoroughly understanding his duties; steady and reliable; highest personal references from last employer. Apply JAMES, care London Harness Agency, 574 5th-ave.

COACHMAN.—By a reliable man, who thoroughly understands the care of horses, carriages and harness; best city references. Apply or address JAMES, 135 West 55th-st.

COACHMAN.—By a man who thoroughly understands his duties; wages moderate; last employer can testify. Call or address J. C., butcher store, 159 West 28th-st.

COACHMAN.—Thoroughly understands his business; eight years' best references; last employer can be seen. Address J. H., care of A. S. Flandran & Co., 374 Broome-st.

COACHMAN and GROOM.—By a young single man; thoroughly understands the care of horses, carriages and harness; can tend furnace; generally useful; leaving family giving up horses; first-class references from last and former employers, who can be seen. Address L. WASSH, Port Richmond, N. Y.

COACHMAN.—By a first-class single man, long experienced in the care and management of horses, carriages and harness; careful driver; city or country; willing and obliging; can milk; not tend furnace; best city references from last employer. Address T. L., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

COACHMAN.—By a single man; thoroughly understands care of horses and carriages; good city driver; can come highly recommended from last employer; good reference in country. Call or address H. B., care of H. BREWSTER & CO., 5th-ave., 42d-st.

COACHMAN.—By a first-class English coachman, age 25; single; thoroughly competent; at present employed; R. S., 244 East 15th-st., Stuyvesant square.

COACHMAN.—By a gentleman who is about to give up his carriage horses, a place for his coachman, a thoroughly competent, trustworthy man; abstemious in habits, and one who will be furnished with the best references in every way. Address F. C., care of J. Curley, Brooklyn, N. Y.

COACHMAN and GROOM.—By a useful man who thoroughly understands the care and treatment of horses and carriages; best city references; married; wages. Address J. L., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

COACHMAN.—By young man; first-class in every respect; very strush and careful; never has any lame horses; always in first-class places; best city references; one reference for five years from last place. Call two days or J. L., 1,741 Broadway.

CLOTHING SALESMAN.—By an experienced clothing salesman in the States of Alabama, Mississippi and West Tennessee; position in a good wholesale clothing house; has quite a connection in that territory; would take in the iron and coal districts of those states of Texas; offer to look a well established house in the eye. Address D. H. W., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

COACHMAN.—By a young man, married, no children; has reference from some of the first families of city; will be found willing and obliging; understands his business thoroughly; good city driver; no objection to country; best of references. Address F. E., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

COACHMAN.—By a first-class man, thoroughly understanding his business; has lived in his last situation in the city over 13 years; best of references. Address M. J. SCATTERY, 240 Tillary-st., near Jay-st.

GROOM and FOOTMAN.—By a young man; thoroughly understands his business; experienced; obliging; good driver; good and to show to advantage; best references. Address W. B., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,238 Broadway.

NURSE or WAITER.—By a young colored man as general nurse or waiter; can give references. Address F. BALL, 110 West 17th-st.

USEFUL MAN or GROOM.—By a young man; lately landed; willing to work and trustworthy; understands his duties; good groom; good horseman; good gardener; good cook; good waiter; fond of children; good milker; good plain cook; good laundress; good chambermaid; good seamstress; good housekeeper; good butler; good farmer; good dairyman; good baker; good washer and ironer; good market gardener; good poultry raiser; good bee man; good fruit man; good all around man; good all around man; good all around