

# **THE TURK IN THE BALKANS**

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The Turk in the Balkans by T. Comyn-Platt

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**T. COMYN-PLATT**

**THE TURK IN  
THE BALKANS**





*Proletariat*. 1 IN SPRING A BULGARIAN'S FANCY LIGHTLY TURNS TO THOUGHTS OF FREEDOM. (See page 62.)

# THE TURK IN THE BALKANS

BY  
T. COMYN-PLATT



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## P R E F A C E

I N submitting the following chapters to the notice of the reader, it should be observed that the one and only object in view has been to throw some light on the path of Eastern politics to the advantage, it is hoped, of future travellers.

Before many months have elapsed, Macedonian troubles will once more arrest the attention of Europe; the insurrectionary Hydra will again demonstrate its vitality, and the country be overrun with correspondents and others, eager for information as to current events. In the hope, therefore, that the knowledge and experience gained during a two and a half years' residence in Turkey, and by a journey of some months in Macedonia itself, may be of use to the intending traveller, the following pages are offered by way of arriving at a correct estimate of the true state of affairs.

To this end it has been found necessary to inquire briefly into the religious and political phases of the situation, though in so doing the investigation has been carried no deeper than is absolutely



## PREFACE

essential to a correct appreciation of the subject under discussion.

Without some such knowledge, any conclusions arrived at are almost certain to prove fallacious ; and it is because the vast majority of latter-day travellers, in this part of the Sultan's dominions, are so entirely ignorant of the very axioms of the situation, that the " truth " in Macedonia assumes such weird shapes.

To conclude without an expression of the most sincere thanks for the great hospitality and valuable information afforded by H.M.'s Consular officers, would be ungracious in the extreme. As Government servants, the very scant appreciation their labours call forth is anything but encouraging ; and yet, despite the manner of their treatment, no service can boast an abler, harder worked, or more miserably rewarded body of men. As representative officials they are unsurpassed, as sources of information they are invaluable ; and should the traveller at any time need assistance, he will find that no amount of trouble is spared to further his wishes.

T. COMYN-PLATT.

ARTHUR'S, ST. JAMES'S, LONDON.

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