

**THROUGH FIVE  
TURKISH  
PROVINCES**

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Through Five Turkish Provinces by Mark Sykes

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**MARK SYKES**

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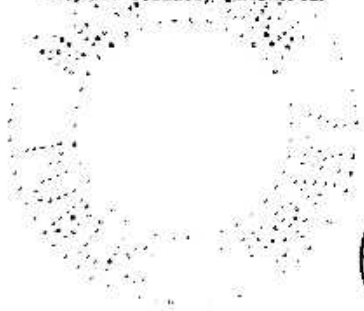
# THROUGH FIVE TURKISH PROVINCES

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By

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**MARK SYKES**

OF JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.



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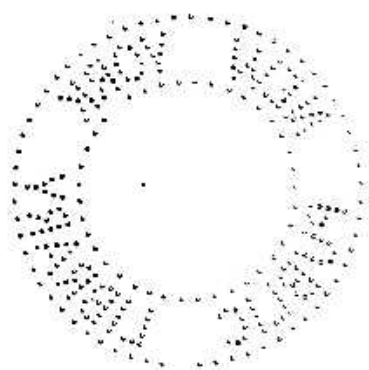
DEDICATED  
TO  
THE OFFICERS CIVIL AND MILITARY OF  
H.I.M. THE SULTAN OF TURKEY  
WHO  
BY THEIR HOSPITALITY AND KINDNESS  
MADE MY JOURNEY  
POSSIBLE.

1925

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PANAMA FROM C. O.





## PREFACE.

IN the spring of 1898 I renewed my acquaintance with the Hauran and commenced some investigations which I resolved to continue at the earliest opportunity. To enable me to do so, the authorities of my college at Cambridge kindly gave me leave of absence for the Lent term of 1899. I left England with the intention of spending three or four months in the Syrian desert, but, when I reached Damascus, I found that I was unable to obtain the necessary permit. The consequence was that I went over what to me was new ground, and visited Aleppo, Baghdad, Mosul and Van; coming home by way of Mount Ararat, Erivan, and Batoum. In the following pages I have given an account of my travels. The delay in publication is due to a variety of causes; among others to the fact that since the beginning of December last I have been with my militia battalion first at Aldershot and then in South Africa.

The notes which have served me for the compilation of this little book were jotted down day by day; whatever erroneous opinions may be expressed were formed on the spot and are not due to subsequent investigations. I have been blamed for not making "more of a book": to have done so would have been easy enough. I need but have padded what I have written with historical and geographical information, which it is better to seek in works on history and geography, and with crude and worthless criticisms of men, manners and institutions. I have preferred to state simply what has come under my own observation and not to ape the omniscience of the journalist or of the globe-trotter. The matter which is printed in Appendix I. originally appeared in the *Review of the Week* and I have to thank the editor of that paper for kindly allowing me to reprint it.

I had hoped to have been able to give many more illustrations: but my films were "fogged" in the process of development—a result which, I am informed, frequently happens when professionals deal with the work of amateurs.