

SPEAKING OF THE TURKS

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Speaking of the Turks by Bey Mufty-Zade K. Zia

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BEY MUFTY-ZADE K. ZIA

**SPEAKING
OF THE TURKS**

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BY
MUFTY-ZADE K. ZIA BEY

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. HOMECOMING	3
II. SUMMER MONTHS	16
III. ERENKEUY	29
IV. MODERN TURKISH WOMEN	47
V. LIFE ON THE BOSPHORUS	67
VI. STAMBOUL	87
VII. BUSINESS IN CONSTANTINOPLE	107
VIII. A STAMBOUL NIGHT	127
IX. A NIGHT IN PERA	145
X. CONSTANTINOPLE, 1922	161
XI. ROBERT COLLEGE	183
XII. EDUCATION AND ART	204
✓XIII. A GLIMPSE OF ISLAM	224
XIV. A VOICE FROM ANATOLIA	245



SPEAKING OF THE TURKS

Speaking of The Turks

I

HOMECOMING

WE were arriving at Constantinople, my native city, from which I had been absent nearly ten years. I had been in America all this time. At first my business interests and later the general war had prevented my coming back to my own country even on a visit. I was of military age and Turkey was under blockade. When I had left Constantinople a few years after the Turkish revolution, the whole country was exhilarated, filled with joy, with ambition and with hope. Freedom and emancipation from an autocratic domination had been obtained. Nothing was to prevent the normal advance of Turkey and the Turks along the road to progress. We were at last to obtain full recognition as a civilized nation. We were at last to receive equal treatment from the other European nations.

But, alas, during the following years the gods decided otherwise. Long, interminable wars either waged or fomented by neighbouring enemies had hampered the progress of Turkey. First in