

A WORD FOR THE TURK.

**Cleanly and Strong, Never a Drunkard, and
His Women Virtuous.**

(Constantinople Letter to Philadelphia Telegraph.)

A wash is a part of a Turk's prayer; and a very sensible, practical prayer it is, especially in a town with such dirty streets. Not only is washing a part of the Turk's religion, but it is against the law of the Prophet to drink alcohol. With the exception, therefore, of a few Europeanized Turks, they are all total abstainers. Drunkenness is unknown among them. In the Turkish hospitals alcoholism is absolutely unknown; and the diseases that result from vice are very rare. Nowhere are so virtuous and sober a people to be found as the Turks. If there is vice in Constantinople, it is in the European quarter and for Europeans, that is, for the Christians; and I defy any traveller to find in Stamboul among the Mahomedan a disorderly house or a disreputable woman. Such a woman would at once be torn to pieces by her co-religionists; but the Mahomedans, of course, do not care how much a Christian woman degrades herself.

As a practical result of this strict observance of the Mahometan religion we were all overwhelmed with admiration for the physique of the Turkish people. We were ninety members of the Congress of Hygiene, belonging to thirteen different nationalities and to all sections of the Christian religion, and we were compelled unanimously to render homage to the virtue, the sobriety and the physical strength of the Turkish people. Never before had we seen men carry with such facility immense loads on their backs. Never had we examined an entire population so sound in limb and constitution. Then, if what can be seen with the naked eye does not suffice, let any doubting reader inquire from a European who has held a command in the Turkish army. They will all say that the Turk makes the finest simple soldier in the world. It is only in the higher walks of life that the Turk has decayed. He has lost his Mahometan virtues without acquiring the good points of Western civilization. But Mohammedan virtues exist. They are a great, a mighty factor, and the self-conceited Christian has much to learn from the simple folks in a Mahometan country.