and ornaments Some of them frequently play and dance before the grand ſignior, while others divert him with their conversation. They have a great many female ſlaves to wait on them ; but are ſcarce ever suffered to go abroad, except when the grand ſignior changes his place of residence ; when a troop of black eunuchs convey them to the boats, which are encloſed with lattices : and when they go by land, they are put into cloſe chariots, and ſignals made at certain diſtances, to give notice that none may approach the road through which they are to paſs.

The Turks are generally robuſt and well-ſhaped, of a good mien, and patient of hardſhips, which render them fit for war. They ſhave their heads ; but wear their beards long, except the military and thoſe in the ſeraglio, who wear only whiſkers, They cover their heads with a white linen turban of an enormous ſize, and never pull it off but when they ſleep. None but Turks must preſume to wear a white turban. Their breeches or drawers are of a piece with their ſtockings ; and they have ſlippers instead of ſhoes, which they pull off when they enter a temple or houſe. They wear ſhirts, with wide ſleeves, not gathered at the wriſts, and over them a veſt tied with a ſaſh ; their upper garment being a looſe gown, ſomething ſhorter than the veſt.

The women’s dreſs pretty much reſembles that of the men ; only they have a ſtiffened cap with horns, ſomething like a mitre, on their heads inſtead of a turban, and wear their hair flowing down. When they go abroad, they are ſo wrapped up, that their faces cannot be ſeen.

The Turks sit, eat, and ſleep, according to the cuſtom of the eaſt, on ſophas or cushions, mattresses, and carpets. Rice is their moſt general food, and coffee their common drink. Their moſt uſual ſalutation is to bow the head a little, laying the right-hand on their breaſts ; but to perſons of rank they ſtoop ſo low as to touch the border of their veſt. The women are kept under a rigorous confinement. They have generally delicate skins, regular features, black hair and eyes, with an admirable cheſt. Many of them are com­plete beauties. Their cleanlineſs is extraordinary ; for they bathe twice a-week, and ſuffer not the ſmalleſt hair or the leaſt soil to be upon their bodies. As to the qualities of their minds, they are ſaid to want neither wit, vivacity, nor tenderneſs ; and to be exceedingly amorous. It is no doubt for this reaſon that the men never ſuffer their wives faces to be ſeen, not even by the deareſt friend they have in the world.

There is no need of much wit to behave one’s ſelf well here ; for a good mien and gravity ſupply the place of merit in the eaſt, and much gaiety would ſpoil all. Not that the Turks want wit ; but they fpeak little, and pride themſelves in ſincerity and modeſty more than eloquence. The Turks uſe no unnecessary words, whereas the Greeks talk incessantly. Though theſe two nations are born under one climate, their tempers are more different than if they lived in the moſt diſtant countries. The Turks make profeſſion of can­dour and faithfulneſs, and are a charitable good-natured people, jealouſy excepted, and very ſober. On the other hand, they are extremely proud, insolent, indolent, ſuperſtitious, and covetous. They are alſo much addicted to unnatural luſts ; and despiſe all other nations in general, eſpecially thoſe which are not of their religion. The common appellation that they give the Chriſtians is that of dogs. An uniformi­ty runs through all the actions of the Turks, and they never change their manner of living. They ſeem to have no kind of genius for the improvement of the arts and ſciences, though they live under the influence of the ſame heaven, and posseſs the ſame countries, as the ancient Grecians did. They generally loiter away their time, either among the women in the haram, or in ſmoking or taking opium ; and though they herd together, you will obſerve as little converſation among them as amongſt ſo many horses in a ſtable. They ſeldom travel, or uſe any exerciſe or rural ſports ; and diſcover little or no curioſity to be informed of the ſtate of their own or any other country : but Turkey, after all, is not without men of parts, probity, and honour ; nor with­out benevolent, liberal, convertible, and ingenious people. They behave very commendably to their ſlaves and ſervants, and frequently better than the Chriſtians do to theirs. There are no hereditary governments or tides of nobility in Turkey; and indeed the commonalty there enjoys the greateſt liberty.

The languages ſpoken in Turkey in Europe are the Turkish and Tartarian, which have a great affinity to one another ; the modern Greek, which differs widely from the ancient ; the Sclavonian, and Walachian. The Arabic is the language of the learned. Learning is at a very low ebb among the Turks: however, they have ſome ſchools, colleges, and academies ; but they are on a very different footing from thoſe among us. Not many years ſince a printing-houſe was ſet up at Conſtantinople, where books of all kinds were allowed to be printed, except on matters of religion. The moſt ingenious Muſſelmen employ themſelves in reading the Alcoran and the commentators upon it, to which almoſt all their learning is confined. Some of them amuſe themſelves with poetry, in which they are ſaid to ſucceed very well. Other Turks delight in muſic, and ſpend the whole day in playing upon an inſtrument, without be­ing tired, though they only repeat the ſame tune. It is ſaid there are a great many manuſcripts in the Turkiſh, Arabian, and Perſian languages, among the Turks ; but it is not to be ſuppoſed that they contain any very deep, solid, ingenious, or uſeful learning.

The Turkiſh regular troops are the ſpahis and timarſpahis, who are light-horſe. The latter, who have eſtates in land assigned them inſtead of pay, are obliged to bring a certain number of ſlaves into the field with them. The tri­butary princes of Moldavia and Walachia, and the Crim Tartars, are alſo obliged to send auxiliaries. But the flower of the Turkiſh army conſiſts of the janiſaries, who amount to about 40,000, and are all infantry. They have parti­cular privileges, being ſubject to no juriſdiction but that of their aga or commander Their pay is three aspers a-day,beſides victuals, and a suit of clothes every year. They are all lodged at Conſtantinople together in a sort of barracks, having been educated in the ſeraglio, and trained up to the exerciſe of arms from their infancy. Beſides the janiſaries, there is another body of foot called *capis.* The whole Turkiſh army, regulars and irregulars, amounts to above 300,000 men. Beſides the true janiſaries, or janiſaries of the porte, and in actual pay, there are great numbers all over the empire, who procure themſelves to be regiſtered in this body, in order to be entitled to their privileges. The bachelors only are capable of bearing offices in the barracks or chambers at Conſtantinople. When any of the janiſaries are diſabled in the ſervice, they have an allowance for life. To diſtinguiſh them, they wear a cap of a particular make. The emperor’s guards are compoſed of them, and they are feared and reſpected everywhere, though they carry only a cane in their hand ; for arms are not delivered to them but when they take the field. The chief commanders of the army are diſtinguiſhed by two or three horſe-tails carried be­fore them. The Turkiſh navy is not ſo conſiderable as might be expected in ſuch extenſive dominions, ſituated on ſeveral ſeas, and abounding in commodious harbours. By their neglecting navigation and foreign commerce, they can never find tailors to man a great fleet ; and thoſe they have are unſkilful, as well as their pilots and officers. If they