stantinople which had defied the power of Chosroes, the Chagan, and the khalifs was irretrievably subdued by the arms of Mohammed the Second. Her empire only had been subverted by the Latins ; her religion was trampled in the dust by the Moslem conquerors.” Constantinople was taken by the Turks on the 29th of May 1453, two thousand and five years after the foundation of Rome, and eleven hundred and twenty-three after Constantine had removed the seat of the empire from Rome to Byzantium.

Three years after the taking of Constantinople, Moham­med laid siege to Belgrade, from which, after an obstinate resistance, he was at length repulsed with the loss of his large ordnance and forty thousand of his best troops. Aban­doning his attempt upon Hungary, the sultan undertook an expedition into Greece, and about the year 1460 suc­ceeded in subduing the whole of the Morea. In 1466 the famous Scanderbeg, who for twenty-three years had resisted all the power of the Ottoman empire, was finally compelled to take refuge at Lyssa, in the Venetian states, where he died. Mohammed had now extended his sway over the whole of Asia on this side of Mount Taurus, and over all the provinces in Europe which had formerly belonged to the eastern division of the Roman empire. Not satisfied with these conquests, he had despatched his most able ge­neral, Achmet Pasha, to invade Italy ; and the capture of the strong city of Otranto had laid open that country to him, and spread universal consternation, when the danger was averted by the death of the sultan in the fifty-first year of his age, a.d. 1481. Mohammed was succeeded by his son Bajazet II., whose claims to the vacant throne were however disputed by his brother Djem or Zisimes.@@1 but the claims of Bajazet were supported by the janizaries ; and his competitor, after various unsuccessful struggles, was compelled to seek shelter in Italy, where he was assassinat­ed at the instigation of Bajazet. The infamy of the deed is ascribed to Pope Alexander VI., who is said to have re­ceived 300,000 ducats for his reward. Bajazet, after a reign of thirty years, intimated his intention to resign the crown to his son Achmet ; but his youngest son Selim, having secured the assistance of the janizaries, compelled his father to abdicate, and then put him to death. Selim was a successful prince, and during his short reign of nine years con<∣uered Egypt, Aleppo, Antioch, Tripoli, Damascus, and Gaza, and defeated the Persians. On the death of Selim, Solyman surnamed the Magnificent, one of the most accomplished, enterprising, and warlike of the Turkish princes, ascended the Ottoman throne. Having quelled some insurrections in Asia, he commenced hostilities against the European princes, and entering Hungary, made him­self master of Belgrade, then reckoned the chief barrier of that kingdom against the Turkish power. He next turned his victorious arms against the island of Rhodes, then the seat of the knights of St John of Jerusalem. After incre­dible efforts of valour and military skill, the knights obtained an honourable capitulation, and retired to the small island of Malta. Solyman next advanced into Hungary and at the bat­tle of Mohacz (a.d. 1526) defeated and slew the Hungarian monarch, with 20,000 of his men, and took possession of the capital and the chief fortresses. Three years later he formed the siege of Vienna, but was compelled to retreat with the loss of 80,000 of his soldiers. In 1541 he again invaded Hungary, and taking advantage of a civil contest between two rival claimants of the vacant throne, he annexed the disputed kingdom to the Ottoman empire. He entered into a destructive war against Persia, and eventually suc­ceeded in obtaining a considerable increase of territory between the Araxes and the Tigris. During the reign of this prince, the political and military administration of the

Ottoman empire reached its highest state of perfection ; and the arts and sciences, literature, and commerce flourished under his enlightened and munificent policy. His domi­nions extended from Algiers to the river Euphrates, and from the farther end of the Black Sea to the extremity of Greece and Epirus. The latter years of his reign were imbittered by domestic dissensions and cruelties. During the siege of Sigeth, a city of Hungary, before which the Turks lost 30,000 men, Solyman expired, in the seventy-fourth year of his age and forty-first of his reign.

His son and successor, Selim II., besieged and took Cy­prus ; but in the famous sea-fight at Lepanto, in 1571, the Turkish fleet was utterly destroyed by Don John of Aus­tria. Selim afterwards invested and took Tunis by storm, putting the garrison to the sword. On his death, Amurath III. ascended the Ottoman throne, and extended his do­minions on both sides by the addition of Tigris in Persia, and of Raab, one of the strongest fortresses in Lower Hun­gary. His son, Mohammed III., has no claim to notice, except on account of his barbarity. He began his reign by strangling nineteen of his brothers, and ordering twelve of his father’s wives whom he suspected to be pregnant to be drowned. The war with Hungary was carried on through­out the whole of his reign, which lasted about nine years. During the inglorious sway of his son Achmet I., the affairs of Turkey underwent a material change for the worse. Peace was concluded with Hungary ; but the sultan was involved in a disastrous war with Persia, in which the Turk­ish troops were entirely defeated. On his death, his bro­ther Mustapha ascended the throne ; but his actions hav­ing clearly proved his incapacity and imbecility, the jani­zaries and the divan compelled him to resign the govern­ment after a reign of five months, and threw him into prison. His nephew, Osman, the son of Achmet, a boy of twelve years of age, was then proclaimed emperor. This prince having formed the design of curbing the power of the janizaries, these turbulent soldiers rose in insurrection, deposed and murdered the sultan, and recalled his uncle Mustapha from his prison to the imperial throne. These atrocious proceedings, however, excited general indignation throughout the Asiatic provinces ; and Abasa, the power­ful pasha of Erzerum, took up arms to avenge the murder of Osman. After the lapse of a few months, the janizaries themselves abandoned the cause of Mustapha, who was again deposed, and was soon afterwards strangled. Under Amurath or Morad IV., surnamed Gasi, the Intrepid, affairs assumed a new appearance, and the glory of the Ottoman empire was in some measure restored. He put to death great numbers of the janizaries, and by his energetic and ferocious measures reduced these mutinous and formidable troops to a state of subordination. He took Bagdad from the Persians, and massacred the greater part of the inha­bitants, after an obstinate resistance, which cost him the flower of his army. A debauch of wine put an end to his life, in the thirty-first year of his age and the seventeenth of his reign. His brother Ibrahim, who succeeded him, was a weak and imbecile prince, deformed in body, and destitute of courage. The administration of the govern­ment was wholly in the hands of the vizir Mustapha and the sultana Valide, the widow of Achmet I. ; while Ibrahim gave himself up entirely to the prosecution of his pleasures, till at length his vices rendered him so odious that he was deposed and strangled. During his reign, a bloody war broke out between the Turks and the Venetians, which, after being carried on with great fury for the space of twenty-four years, ended in the extinction of the Venetian power in the Egean Sea. The alleged ground of quarrel was the reception into a Venetian port of six Maltese gal-

@@@, Historians differ in opinion as to the pretensions of these princes. Some affirm that Djem was the eldest son, others that he claim«! the crown because he was the son of a sultan, whereas Bajazet was born before his father ascended the throne.