he was long obliged to act only on the defensive. He was at length joined by a body of Russians under General Solti- kof, and preparations were made for commencing in form the siege of Choczim, which was surrendered to the allied armies on Michaelmas day 1780, after a defence which would have done honour to the ablest general in Europe. Still, however, success seemed to lean to the side of the Turks. The grand vizir made a sudden incursion into the Bannat, and spread consternation and dismay to the very gales of Vienna. The Austrian affairs seemed approaching to a very alarming crisis. Not only the splendid views of conquest, which were beheld in the imagined partition of a tottering em­pire, had totally disappeared, but had left in their place the sad and gloomy reverse of a discontented and impoverished people, an exhausted treasury, and an army thinned by pes­tilence and desertion. In this situation of affairs, Marshal Laudohn was with some difficulty drawn from his retire­ment to take the command of the army in Croatia ; and under his auspices fortune began to smile on the Austrian arms. He quickly reduced Dubicza and Nevi, though they were both defended with the most obstinate bravery. He then sat down before the Turkish Gradisca ; but the au­tumn rains ensuing with such violence that the Saave overflowed its banks, he was compelled to raise the siege. During this period the war in the Bannat raged with the utmost violence. Much desperate valour was displayed on the one side, and many brave actions were performed on the other ; while a great part of that fine but unfortunate country suffered all the desolation and ruin that fire and sword, under the dominion of vengeance and animosity, could inflict.

In the midst of these military operations, Selim III., the only son of the sultan Mustapha, mounted the imperial throne. The new emperor did not want either courage or prudence, and he continued the war with Russia and Austria with great spirit and resolution. Marshal Laudohn renewed his attempts upon Gradisca as soon as the season would per­mit, and, after a brave defence, it fell into his hands. This with some other successes roused the emperor from his state of inactivity, and made him seriously determine on the at­tack which he had long meditated on Belgrade. The enter­prise was intrusted to Laudohn. who, with his usual good fortune, made himself master of the place in less than a month. The rest of the campaign was little else than a series of the most important successes. While one detach­ment of Laudohn's forces took possession of Czemitz in Wallachia, another made itself master of Cladova in Servia. Bucharest, the capital of the former of these provinces, fell without opposition into the hands of Prince Coburg, while Akerman, on the Black Sea, was reduced by the Russians, and Bender surrendered to Prince Potemkin, not without suspicion of sinister practices.

Soon after this the emperor Joseph died, and his successor Leopold showed a desire for peace. After the reduction of Orsova, therefore, which happened on the 16th of April 1790, the war was carried on with languor on the part of Austria, and in the month of June a conference was agreed on at Reichenbach, at which the ministers of Prussia, Aus­tria, Britain, and the united provinces, assisted, and at which also an envoy from Poland was occasionally present. After a negotiation which continued till the 17th of August, it was agreed that a peace should be concluded between the Austrians and the Ottomans ; and that the basis of this treaty shoιdd be a general surrender of all the conquests made by the former, retaining only Choczim as a security till the Porte should accede to the terms of the agreement, when it also was to be restored.

In the mean time the empress of Russia persevered in hostilities, and carried on the war with great vigour and success. In the campaign of 1790, the Russian general Suwaroff carried the strong fortress of Ismail by an assault, which for violence and bloodshed has no parallel in modem times. The Ottoman empire seemed on the verge of de­struction, when the empress at length, induced by the darkening aspect of European affairs, concluded with the Porte a definite treaty of peace at Yassy on the 9th of Ja­nuary 1792. The stipulations of the treaty of Kainardghi were renewed. The river Dneister was recognised as the boundary of the two empires. Oczakow was ceded to Rus­sia, with the territory between the Bog and the Dneister; and the cession of the Crimea, of the isle of Taman, and part of the Kuban, was again formally confirmed.

It was evidently the desire and endeavour of the Otto­man government to keep aloof from the terrible wars and changes which accompanied the French Revolution ; but the invasion of Egypt by the French compelled the sultan to abandon the system of neutrality which he was anxious to maintain. (A full account of this event will be found under the article Egypt.) On the recommencement of hostilities with France, attempts were made to induce the Porte to take part in the war against that country. “ Russia and England united their strength against France in the divan, and the sultan was the sad spectator of a contest of which he was himself the unwilling umpire, the ostensible object, and the proposed prey. The victory of either party alike menaced him with ruin, he had to choose between the armies of France and the fleets of England. Never was sovereign so situated between two negotiators, one armed with the power of the land, the other with that of the sea; both to all appearance able to destroy, but neither capable of protecting him against his antagonist. The precipitate flight of the British ambassador had scarcely relieved him from the embarrassment of making a selection between the menacing parties, when his capital was alarmed for the first time by the presence of a hostile force, and the last of calamities seemed reserved for the reign of Selim.@@1 The good fortune which interposed to save the seat of empire was not extended to the sovereign, and the evils which were inevitable from the triumph of either party gathered fast around him from the day that saw the city of the faith­ful delivered from the insults of a Christian flag.”@@2

The year 1807 witnessed one of those sanguinary insur­rections which have so often convulsed the Ottoman em­pire. The cause of this revolt, which cost Selim his throne, was an attempt to introduce the improved system of Euro­pean tactics into the military and naval establishments. The sultan had evinced, at an early period of his reign, a determination to attempt some changes in the organization of the military force, and for this purpose new regulations were issued in 1796. The chief arrangement was the levy of 12,000 men, who were to be disciplined according to the principles of European tactics, and armed in every respect like British or French soldiers. The new troop were to wear a uniform, and were to be taught the manual exercise ; and, in order to detach them as much as possible from the janizaries, it was resolved they should belong no­minally to the corps of bostanges. For these bostange fusileers, as they were called, were erected handsome bar-

@@@1 About three weeks after the departure of the British ambassador from Constantinople, Admiral Duckworth, with eight sail of the line, two frigates, and two bomb-vessels, passed through the straits of the Dardanelles, and advanced within two leagues of Cape St Stefano. Hot a sudden calm having rendered the English fleet stationary, the fortifications of the capital were so strengthened that it was soon rendered perfectly free from danger, and the Brilish admiral war under the necessity *of* hastening from the Propontis before his return was rendered impracticable.

@@@2 Hobhouse'a Letters on Albania.