reality the Balkans, from Sophia to the Black Sea, are in general only a range of small heights. The central part of the chain may be crossed anywhere in a day, or in some parts even in a few hours. The principal chains of moun­tains may be enumerated in the following order. 1. The Tchar (ancient *Scardus),* a high and extensive range, which forms the western part of the central chain. 2. The Des- poto-dagh (ancient *Rhodope),* which begins near Dubnitza and Djumaka, and runs in an east-south-east direction, di­minishing in height till it terminates rather abruptly about six leagues south-west of Adrianople. Its loftiest summits are towards the west, and reach an elevation of 8000 feet, or probably more. 3. The group of hills which occupies a large and very wild tract of country between 42° and 43° 30' N. lat. and 19° and 21° 20' E. long, and is but little known. 4. The chain of Pindus, which extends from Met- zovo (39° 60' N. lat.) to the north-west, beyond the lake of Ochrida, where some parts of the chain reach an elevation of 6000 or 7000 feet. Its southern extremity is connected with Olympus by a somewhat Iower chain, which separates Thessaly from Macedonia. 5. The true Balkan (ancient *Haemus),* which extends eastward from the neighbourhood of Sophia, to Emineh Burun on the Black Sea. It is a much lower chain than the Despoto-dagh ; the southern slopes are generally very steep, but on the north side it is only the highest ridge which is much inclined, and on that side also the country falls by a series of parallel ridges di­minishing in height towards the Danube, which flows past a series of small hills on the Bulgarian side, while on the Wallachian side the country is flat. The western part of the Balkan probably reaches an elevation of 4000 feet ; but, near the sea, the summits are only from 1800 to 2000 feet above its level. 7. The preceding chains are connected by a large undulating high country or plateau, extending from east to west between Sophia and Pristina, and forming the upper part of the basin of the Morava. From this plateau ranges of mountains extend in every direction into Servia, Macedonia, Albania, and Thrace, some of which attain the elevation of 5000 or 5500 feet. 8. South of Adrianople, between the Maritza and the Dardanelles, are the low ridges and plateaus of the Tekir-dagh, which rise only to the height of about 900 feet; but to the south-east of Aimadt- schik there is a somewhat higher range, which, near the Sea of Marmora, is probably 300 or 400 feet higher than the Tekir. 9. Along the south-western shore of the Black Sea, a very low chain extends from the Bosphorus to the north-west, forming the water-shed between that sea and the basin of Adrianople. It is not in immediate connection with the Balkan ; while, on the other hand, towards the Bosphorus it becomes divided into a number of small hills situate on low- lying plateaus. 10. Between the lower Strymon and the lower Vardar, on the coast of Macedonia, there is a group of low bills, of which the almost insulated ridge of Athos may be considered as the south-eastern extremity. A pro­minent character of the orography of European Turkey is the presence of vast cavities or high plains at the foot of the mountains, and the number of extensive cross fractures in the latter. The plains may be regarded for the most part as longitudinal valleys, and some, if not all of them, ap­pear to have been once the beds of lakes. Only a few lakes however now remain, as those of Ochrida, Kastoria, Joanina, and Scutari, and even these are rapidly filling up.

The only river of any importance is the Danube, which has been already described. (See Danube.) It now forms the northern boundary of the territory under the immediate government of the Padishal>, and is navigable for steam­boats upwards from the Black Sea to the interior of Ger­many, excepting only at the Irongate, on the borders of Hungary, where the navigation is effectually interrupted by rapids. The navigation of the Danube being of essential importance to the commerce of the Austrian empire, and the lower part of it being not only circuitous and obstructed with shallows, but also exposed to interruption from the fiscal and sanatory regulations of the Russian government, which has got possession of the river-mouths, a convention was some years ago entered into between the Austrian and the Turkish governments, the latter of which undertook to form a canal from the Danube near Rassova, to Kustendjil on the Black Sea ; but the work is not yet begun, and it has been proposed, more recently, to substitute a railway.

In a country consisting of so many high plains, and inter­sected by so many lofty mountains, the climate must neces­sarily be very various. Along the western coasts the cli­mate partakes somewhat of that of Italy, though colder, owing to the vicinity of the mountains ; but the maritime regions along the east coast are exposed to the north-east winds, which blow frequently, and firing intense cold and thick fogs and rain from the Black Sea. At Constantino­ple the climate is extremely changeable; the temperature will sometimes fall 31° in a single hour. Indeed it depends upon the north or the south wind, whether one is shiver­ing in the cold of Russia, or luxuriating in the balmy air of Greece. The winters are extremely long and severe; the roads are often blocked up with snow, and the wind on the Bosphorus is often so violent, that all communica­tion between the city and the villages far up the channel is cut off. Upper Macedonia and Thrace (the modern Ru- melia) were considered by the ancients to be cold countries; and it was in the former that they placed the residence of Boreas. The country nevertheless is rich in corn and woods, and well adapted for the vine. For the climate and natural productions of the other provinces, see the articles Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldavia, Wallachia, and Servia.

*Turkey in Asia.*

This large and important part of the empire is situate between 31° and 42° N. lat. and 26° and 48° E. long. Its greatest length, measured diagonally from the mouth of the Dardanelles to the mouth of the Euphrates, exceeds 1400 miles ; and its greatest breadth, from the southern border of Palestine to the north-eastern extremity of the pashalic of Akhalzik, exceeds 900. Its area may be about 500,000 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Black Sea and a part of the Russian territory ; on the south by the deserts of Arabia ; on the east by Persia and Russian Ar­menia ; and on the west by the Mediterranean Sea, the Archipelago, the Dardanelles, the sea of Marmora, and the channel of Constantinople. It consists naturally of four very distinct portions, namely, 1. the peninsula of Ana-doli or Asia Minor, situate between the Black Sea and the Levant part of the Mediterranean ; 2. the high table-land of Armenia and Kurdistan to the north-east; 3. the low countries of Assyria, Babylonia, and Mesopotamia, traversed by the Euphrates and the Tigris ; and, 4. Syria and Pales­tine, which together form the eastern shore of the Mediter­ranean Sea, and extend between it and the Arabian desert.

Armenia and the northern part of Kurdistan form an elevated table-land, or series of plains and valleys, some of which are 5500 feet above the level of the sea, inter­sected and overtopt by ranges of mountains. This is however a fertile corn country, and abounds also in pas­tures, though the climate is cold, and in winter the whole re­gion is covered with deep snow. From Armenia two ranges of mountains proceed westward. One of these, the anci­ent Taurus, runs parallel to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, and then dividing into a number of branches, which intersect the western part of the peninsula, forms as many fertile valleys watered by fine rivers, and terminates on the shores or in the islands of the Archipelago. The other chain, Anti-Taurus, extends in a south-westerly direction