into the interior of the peninsula, where it is probably connected, not only with the ranges of Taurus, but also with die lofty mountains which under various names oc­cupy the country between the Kizil-lrmak and the Sea of Marmora. The central part of the peninsula, supported on all sides by these mountains, forms a series of elevated table-lands, nearly destitute of trees, but abounding with pasturage. Some of its valleys are so completely surround­ed by mountains, as to have no outlet for their waters, which not only overflow large tracts of country in the rainy season, but also form a number of permanent lakes, some of which are intensely salt, as those of Van and Koch-his- sar. The climate of this upland region is so severe that no plants are to be seen but such as are found in the Highlands of Scotland. The summer is of very short du­ration, and the low country along the coasts is so much af­fected by the vicinity of these cold mountains, that neither the aloe nor the cactus, nor any succulent plant, is to be seen. Orange and lemon trees are with difficulty preserved in the sheltered valleys ; the olive seldom flourishes, even in a similar situation ; and they are all inferior in growth to those of Sicily, Calabria, and Greece.

The countries watered by the Euphrates and Tigris may be distinguished, by their configuration, climate, and natural productions, into three zones. The first, or most northern, comprises the mountainous country traversed by the ranges of Taurus, where the winters are cold and the summers hot, and where the productions are forest and fruit trees, olives, wine, corn, and pasturage. The second zone consists of stony or sandy plains, the fertile parts of which produce mulberry trees, cotton, maize, sesame, tobacco, and hardy labiate composite plants. The climate is characterised by great dryness, combined with great variations of tempera­ture; and the zone comprises Northern Syria, Mesopota­mia, and the low country to the east of the Upper Tigris. The third zone, which extends from Feluja to the Per­sian Gulf, consists of low, watery, alluvial plains, which pro­duce date trees, rice, and pasturage, or saline plants, reeds, sedges, and rushes. the plain is intersected in every direc­tion by the remains of ancient canals, and is still capable of that extensive irrigation which made it in ancient times the richest country in the world. But at present it is nearly a desert, and cultivation is only found like a fringe along the banks of the rivers. For the description of the remaining parts of the empire, see the articles Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Tripoli, and Barca.

The dominant race of people are the Osmanlee or Othmanlee, or Ottoman Turks. They however spurn the name of *Turk,* which they consider as a term of contempt equi­valent to *barbarian,* while they glory in the name of Os- manlee, as expressive of valour and polish. Their language has received so large an admixture of Arabic and Persic, as to be denominated on that account Mulemmaor the Pied mare. Nor are the people themselves of a race less mixed than their language. For ages they have blended themselves with the nations that they have conquered. They are in general a tall, robust, well-formed race,of rather harsh, yet often noble phy­siognomy, a tawny complexion, dark-brown hair ; and their natural gravity of mien is aided by long moustaches, which are reckoned an indispensable ornament. With respect to their character, there is the greatest discrepancy among European travellers and writers, who, actuated by different feelings, views, and interests, and writing for opposite party purposes, have given such accounts of the Turks as can scarcely be reconciled, or be considered as applicable to the same people. But after a full consideration of these conflicting statements, we are inclined to be of opinion that the Osmanlee are scarcely, if at all, inferior in moral cha­racter even to some of the proudest nations of Western Eu­rope, while they are certainly far superior to their eastern neighbours the Russians and the Greeks; the former of

whom are brutalized by the bondage of the mass of the people, and the latter are as proverbial for wiles as the Turks are for honesty. The character, however, of the Turks is not uniform; those of Asia differ considerably from those of Europe. Scattered over a wide extent of country, they exhibit in different provinces different man­ners and customs, and some of them are certainly more bar­barous than others ; but instead of condemning them in the mass, as some travellers do, we think it is rather to be won­dered at that, subjected as they have been for centuries to the most pernicious system of misrule, they still possess any good qualities at all, than that they are not so thoroughly humanized as more favoured nations. Their religion, bad as it has been called, seems no more conducive to immo­rality than that of Spain or Italy ; and the general condi- tion of the empire at the present day, and the manners of its people, will bear a favourable comparison with those of Spain or Portugal, Naples or Sicily. The total number of the Osmanlee throughout the empire is exceedingly un­certain : but their actual number has always been small in comparison with the population of the territories which they have ruled. On the one side, they are mixed with a more numerous population of Christians, whose seeming submission is a veil to their hostile feelings ; and on the other, they hold in subjection an Arab population, who, from fearing and respecting their masters, have now ac­quired a conviction of their own superiority. the Turkish population, says the duke of Ragusa, of both sexes, and including all ages, does not, at the very utmost, exceed three millions and a half of persons, and is spread over an immense surface ; only 700,000 of them are reckoned to be in Eu­rope. The most numerous portion, indeed, of the European population consists of various Sclavonic tribes, as Bosnians, Servians, Bulgarians, who chiefly inhabit the northern, western, and central parts of Turkey. Next to them in number are the Arnauts, who inhabit Albania, and are scattered over other provinces ; and to these must be add­ed Greeks, Wallachians, Jews, Gipsies, Armenians, and Franks. No census having ever been taken of the po­pulation, the numbers of these various races can only be conjectured ; and accordingly, Europcan statists differ widely in their estimates. In the Weimar Almanac for 1840, we find the population of European Turkey classed thus :

Osmanlee, of Turkish origin and speech 700,000

Greeks 1,180,000

Albanians 1,600,000

Sclavonians 6,000,000

Wallachians of the Greek Church 600,000

Armenians 100,000

Jews 250,000

Franks 50,000

Gipsies 200,000

10,680,000

Add the population of Moldavia and Wallachia... 1,500,000

Total population of European Turkey.. 12,180,000

The population of Asiatic Turkey is still more various, but we have never seen any estimate of the numbers of the various races. The Osmanlee arc very numerous in Asia Minor, which they seem to consider as their proper coun­try ; but even there they are mixed with a multitude of Greeks, Jews, Armenians, Yezidees, and other races, while large tracts of the interior are abandoned to the wandering tribes of Turcomans, Yurukhs, and Kurds, who pasture their flocks and herds in the wide upland plains. The Turcomans are also of the Toorkee family; but being pas­toral, like the Arabs, they traverse immense tracts to pro­cure subsistence for their camels, buffaloes, goats, and