department is divided into various offices ; such as that of confiscated property, and of the property of persons dying without heirs ; that of debts to the state ; and that of the piscopos, in which the berats or diplomas of the Greek pa­triarchs, archbishops, and bishops, are drawn out. The in­tendant of the great custom-house, and of those of Galata, of the snuff and tobacco custom-house, the receiver-gene­ral of the haradz, or capitation tax on infidel subjects, and many others, are also under the minister of finance. Per­sons are frequently appointed to this important office who are ignorant of even the first four rules of arithmetic. If he be an easy man, the clerks and the chiefs of office, in order to be sheltered by his credit and protection, give him part of what they steal from the state. If, on the contrary, he is not a man to be duped, he plays with his subalterns the part of the lion in the fable, and enriches himself at the expense of the state, exhibiting at the end of the year an enormous deficit, which is supplied by anticipating the re­venues of the next year, and so on, till his wealth again re­turn to the sultan by his death or confiscation. These de­ficiencies of the treasury have at times occasioned so much embarrassment and distress, that, in order to provide for the urgent expenses of the state, more than ordinary re­course has been had to confiscations, and the government has seized all the property of condemned persons, without paying their creditors. The ministry of war is divided into several intendancies. There is the tophane-naziry, or in­tendant of the cannon foundry ; the barut-khané-naziry, or intendant of the powder-mills ; tl>e khoumbara-naziry, or intendant of projectiles ; and the dzebe-khané-naziry, or in­tendant of the ammunition. All these ministers make re­ports to the grand vizir, who presents them to the sultan. Affairs of such great importance as these, and which re­quire precise and detailed knowledge, are, like every thing else, intrusted to ignorant people, whose reports are revis­ed by one more ignorant, and decided upon by the sultan, who is usually the most ignorant of all. The tersané-emanety, or ministry of the marine, superintends the revenues of the admiralty, the purchase and provision of all that is necessary for the building and equipment of ships of war, and the payment of the naval officers and seamen. It is nevertheless almost always intrusted to persons who have not the slightest idea of affairs so complicated as those of the marine. The. revenues are received by the clerks, the ter- sané-capudani-cmini or directing minister, and the derya or grand admiral. This last-mentioned officer, who is usu­ally styled the capitan or capudan pasha, is of very high rank and importance in the state ; but, unfortunately for the successful performance of his duties, he is usually a per­son utterly ignorant of seamanship and naval tactics. The most favoured dignitaries of the palace have aspired to and obtained this lucrative and brilliant post. The late sultan Selim’s first page, Hussein Pasha, was raised to it. The admiral chosen to oppose Sir John Duckworth’s passage to Constantinople in 1806, was the mirahovi-ewal, or master of the horse, and he was succeeded by Hassan, the kassab- bashy, or chief butcher. Several bostandji-bashy, or cap­tains of the palace guard, have also been appointed, it being supposed, that as they steer the sultan’s caique on the Bosphorus, they are thereby qualified to direct the opera­tions of fleets. Even men brought up in the interior of Asia Minor and Syria, and who have never seen the sea, have been promoted to this post, and have even been as­sisted up the ladder of the flag-ship, for fear they should fall into the water. These admirals used to sail every year from Constantinople with a part of the fleet, to visit the islands of the Archipelago, which were under their special government. In their progress they used to spread alarm and desolation, plundering and annoying the inhabitants;

and, in order to show their master that they had put his maritime possessions in order, they have decorated the rig­ging of their ship, on returning to the capital, with the hanging bodies of some unfortunate islanders. The offi­cers under him are, like himself, unfit for their duties, and follow his example in committing all sorts of atrocities, de­riving their principal emoluments from extortion and rapine. The grand admiral is obliged, when he is at Constantino­ple, to appear every Friday in state at the palace, and pay homage to the grand vizir, whom he acknowledges as his superior ; but the latter, in his turn, when the admiral ap­proaches making a profound bow, and advancing to kiss the hem of his pelisse, draws back his robe with haste, and salutes him in the same manner, with a bow to the ground.

Various changes, however, have been made by the late Sultan Mahmoud and his successor, and our preceding ac­count will better apply to things as they were than to things as they are ; for Mahmoud thoroughly reformed his household, abolished all sorts of useless offices, and carried his retrenchments of expenditure to the most ra­dical limits. At the beginning of the present year, the principal officers of government were, 1. the sheikh-ul- islam, head of the clergy : 2. the grand vizir : 3. the two kadi-askers of Roum-ili and Ana-doli : 4. the ministers of the first class, namely, the minister of war and commander- in-chief of all the regular troops ; the seraskier, or com­mander-in-chief of the troops in Ana-doli ; the capudan pasha, or high admiral ; the minister of commerce ; the cap­tain of the guard ; the minister of finance; the minister of foreign affairs (formerly reis-effendi) ; the chaousch-baschi, executor of the judgments of the divan ; the chief physician ; and the president of the board of health : 5. ministers of the second class, namely, the secretary of state ; the treasurer of the sultan’s income ; the beilikschi-effendi, assistant to the reis-effendi in the executive department of his office ; the master of the ceremonies ; the director of the wakufs, or charitable institutions ; the interpreter of the Porte ; and the director of the customs. The council of ministers is called the divan, from the circumstance of their meeting in a certain room of the palace, which has no other furniture than a *divan,* or wooden bench, along the wall, about three feet high, covered with cushions. It is here that laws are made, suits decided, firmans issued, troops paid, and the re­presentatives of sovereigns prepared to be introduced to the august presence of the sultan. The imperial court itself is usually called by Europeans, in French phraseology, the Su­blime Porte, a name which it derives from the *Bιιb-huma- youn,* the principal port or gate of the outer wall of the pa­lace, from which the imperial edicts are dated.

For administrative purposes the empire is divided into provinces called *eyalets ;* the larger of which are governed by pashas of three tails, with the official title of vizir ; and the smaller by pashas of two tails, with the title of miri- miran. The eyalets are subdivided into districts, called livas or sandjaks, each under the charge of a pasha of one tail, with the title of miri-liva, or sandjak-bey ; the cities and towns are governed by mutselims. The provinces are usually called pashalics by Europeans ; *pasha,@@*’ however, is not an official title, but is merely a personal honour, like knighthood in Europe, conferred by the sultan. There are three ranks of pashas, the first or highest of which has the privilege of bearing a standard with three horse-tails ; the second, of two ; and the third, or lowest rank, of one. Un­der the old system, the pasha was invested with the full powers of absolute government within his province. All power was united in his person ; he was the chief of both the military and the financial departments, of the police, and of criminal justice ; he had the power of life and death, of making peace and war ; in short, of doing what he pleas-

@@@1 This word is spelled *pacha* in French, and is merely α new-fashioned form of the old and familiar word *bashaw.*