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Armenia: Travels and Studies by H. F. B. Lynch

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## REVIEWS.

## ASIA.

MR. LYNCH'S 'ARMENIA.'\*

IN two large well-printed volumes, Mr. Lynch gives an account of his visits to Russian and Turkish Armenia in 1893-94, and in 1898. The volumes are illustrated by 197 excellent reproductions, some apparently French, of the author's sketches and photographs; by special maps and plans, made in Germany; and by a general map of Armenia and the adjacent country, compiled by Mr. Shawe, and published also separately by Stanford. The first volume deals with Russian Armenia, and contains a minute and, here and there, slightly tedious description of the route followed from Batum on the coast to Kutais, Akhaltsyk, Alexandropol, Erivan, Ararat—which was successfully climbed on September 19, 1893—Edgmiatsin, Ani, Kars, Kagyzman, and the Turkish frontier; accompanied by geographical, historical, statistical, and political information. The second volume carries on the route from the Turkish frontier to Van, Bitlis, Mush, Erzerum, and Trebizond; and gives the details of the second tour in Turkish Armenia, during which much good topographical and geological work was done. In each volume a chapter is specially devoted to geography, and another to statistics and politics; and in the second there is a very useful bibliography and an index.

Mr. Lynch followed no untravellered routes, but in several instances he has added to our knowledge of the districts which he visited; and his descriptions of Akhlat, Nimrud Dagb, Sipan Dagb, and Bingöl Dagb, illustrated as they are by maps compiled from his own surveys and reproductions of his photographs, are both interesting and valuable. It is the first time that the great crater of Nimrud Dagb, nearly 5 miles in diameter and  $14\frac{1}{2}$  miles in circumference, has been thoroughly examined and described, and all that is said of it is of special interest.

The volumes give much information with regard to the condition of the people, and to the vast tracts of fertile land which lie uncultivated on the Armenian tablelands. Mr. Lynch finds little to admire in the methods of government in Russia and Turkey, or in the policy adopted by those states towards their Armenian subjects. He writes enthusiastically of the Armenians, but apparently regards all Kurds, whether of Kurdish or Armenian origin, as parasites and long-beaked birds of prey. This is not the place to dwell upon the rival merits of Armenians and Kurds, or upon the fascinating history of the land and its people from the time when Tiglath Pileser I. defeated the confederate princes of Nairi on the plain of Melazkert to the present day. To that history Mr. Lynch scarcely does justice. He has given a good account of the Vannic empire, and has dealt with the kings of Ani; but a more continuous history is needed to bring out the various causes which have led to the present condition of the country. It may be observed that the mediæval kingdom of Lesser Armenia was not "overwhelmed by the Turks" (i. 367), but by the Sultan of Egypt; that Tsamentav, which is placed near Amasia (p. 364), and in the Cilician Taurus (p. 395), has been identified with Azzieh, on the Zamanti Su, eastward of Kaisarieh; and that the great battle in which the Seljuk Sultan of Rum defeated the Kharezmians was fought near Erz'ingan, and not at Akhlat (ii. 296). In writing of Lake Van, it is remarked that "the most obvious explanation of this gradual rise in the norm of the lake-level is furnished by a cause which must be constantly operative, namely, the increase of sediment deposited upon the bottom" (ii. 52). The rise due to this

\* 'Armenia: Travels and Studies.' By H. F. B. Lynch. 2 vols. Longmans, 1901.

cause must be extremely slow, and it would be safer to attribute the fluctuations of level to alternate periods of excess or deficiency in the snow- and rain-falls.

Mr. Lynch's book is full of information, but from a geographical point of view, it is somewhat disappointing. In the descriptions of scenery there is occasionally such a flow of words that the reader is apt to be wearied and lose the impression which the writer intends to convey. And in the two chapters specially devoted to geography, which are based on the researches and theories of Abich, Naumann, Suess, and the author, close reading is sometimes required to grasp the meaning. The series of really beautiful photographs, illustrative of the scenery, the monuments, and the people, which are reproduced with much artistic taste and technical skill, are valuable additions to a work which is something more than a mere record of travel.

C. W. W.

EARL PERCY'S 'ASIATIC TURKEY.'\*

Lord Percy, who has travelled in Asiatic Turkey on two previous occasions, here describes a visit to the wild Alpine district near the Persian frontier, which Chaldean and Kurd intrigues and forays keep in a perpetual state of turmoil. From Konia, which was reached by rail, the author's route lay through Nigdeh, Kaisariyeh, Geuksun, Kharput, and Mush to Bitlis, crossing Anti-Taurus, and crossing and re-crossing the Taurus range. From Bitlis the Chukh Dagh was crossed to Kochanes, and the journey was continued by Julamerk, the Jelu Dagh, Diza, Neri, and Rowandiz to Altun Keupri, where a raft was constructed for the sail down the Lesser Zab and the Tigris to Baghdad.

Readers of the author's interesting and suggestive 'Notes from a Diary in Asiatic Turkey,' will find the present volume equally attractive and deserving of attention. The vivid pictures of daily life amongst the hardy mountaineers who dwell on the mountain slopes and in the deeply cut valleys of the Alps of Hakkari, throw much additional light on the religious and political differences which convulse the district, and illustrate, as it were, the more reserved language of the official reports. The work should be studied by every politician who wishes to understand the relations between Turk, Kurd, and Christian in a district which at any moment may give birth to political questions of grave importance. To the geographer its value lies in the clearly worded topographical remarks on the various localities visited during the long journey eastward, and especially in the descriptions of the grand scenery of the truly Alpine district, of which the Jelu Dagh is approximately the centre. The illustrations of scenery, etc., reproduced with great technical skill from excellent photographs, are as beautiful and remarkable as those in the larger work of Mr. Lynch. It is to be regretted that the author has not always adhered to the R.G.S. system of spelling place-names. In some instances the French *dj* and *ou* have been used instead of the simple *j* and *u*; and there are uncorrected printer's errors, such as *Meviana* for *Mevlana*, *Zu* for *Su*, *Adaya* for *Adalia*. On p. 24 *Isnik Geul* is clearly an error for *Sabanja Geul*, as the railway does not run near the former.

C. W. W.

DR. MCCRINDLE'S 'ANCIENT INDIA.' †

The comparatively small world of Indian antiquarian scholars, no less than the larger world of intelligent travellers, owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. McCrindle for having placed within easy reach of them a compact and handy series of references

\* 'Highlands of Asiatic Turkey.' By Earl Percy, M.P. 1 vol. E. Arnold, 1901.

† 'Ancient India.' J. W. McCrindle, M.A., LL.D. A. Constable & Co., Westminster. No. VI.—DECEMBER, 1901.]