



Pont de Galatea This bridge opens to allow the passage of large vessels every morning.

was held which closed the ceremony of the "Selemlih," the same programme being repeated every Friday.

The mosques of Constantinople are very interesting, though, as they number 480, to visit all is impossible; St. Sophia naturally ranks first, as the oldest building in the world still utilized for the purpose for which it was originally erected, first as a place of worship for Christians, now for that of Mahometans. It is certainly a magnificent pile of buildings, I was rather unfortunate in my visit, as workmen were engaged inside, and the scaffolding hid a great part of it. One's first impression on entering is the vastness, the second a sense of something crooked, for the East window and the direction of Mecca, not being the same, the carpets have been arranged to face the latter, and the result is somewhat confusing to the eye. There are no seats, as the devotions are always conducted sitting on the floor, cross-legged, kneeling, or in a standing position. Such of the carving and decorations as I could see were superb, though I must confess to a sense of disappointment as I left the place which has been the scene

of so much that is interesting in history.

The Pigeon Mosque is noted for the hundreds of tame pigeons which fly down to eat the corn from one's hand, as tame as their famous relatives at St. Mark's, Venice. After feeding them, we paid our fee, were presented with the customary shoes, so that our feet, contaminated by contact with the stones of the street, should not soil the purity of the holy carpets. On this occasion also, I was unfortunate, for my slippers slipped off at every step (not that my foot is unusually small, but the shoe was unusually large) to the great disgust of the old man who escorted us. Muttered threats reached me at frequent intervals, presumably about my wickedness. In any case, I really saw little or nothing of that mosque, owing to my unfortunate footwear.

The Seraglio, or ancient Palace of the Sultans, the grounds of which reach to the sea, and form the point called Seraglio Point, is now used as a Royal Treasury, a sort of Turkish Tower of London, and only occasionally opened to visitors. I and a friend were fortunate enough to join a party of sixteen, and after a great deal of fuss and examination