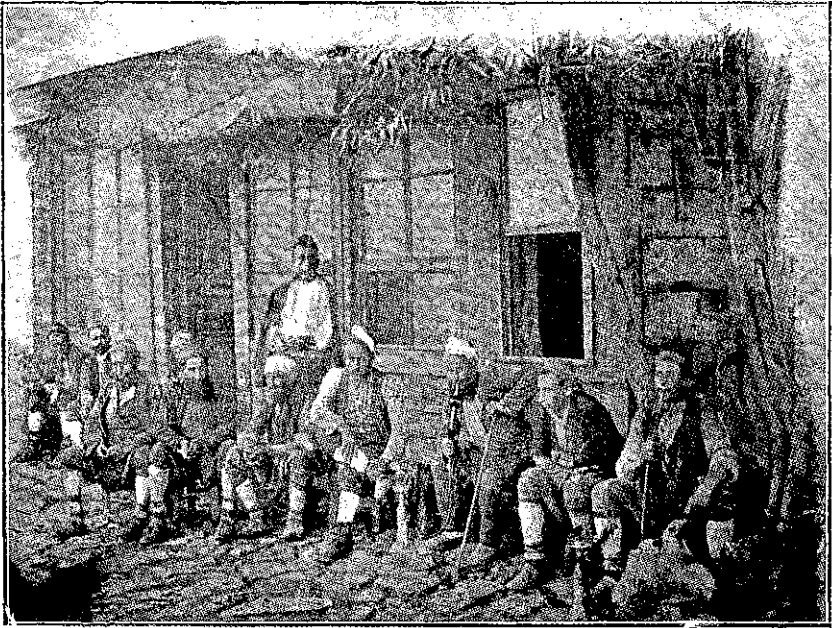


of our cards of admission, were finally allowed to enter the huge doors that guard the entrance, and walked some distance before reaching the Treasury doors which were opened with much ceremony, for the Turks are proud of their collection, and like to impress visitors accordingly. In the centre of the room first entered is a throne, its seat, arms, and back encrusted with pearls; it is not an ordinary sized seat, but large enough for a man to sit cross-legged, with feet under him, "a la Turque," so the number of pearls may be imagined. Around the

were shown the library, containing many ancient volumes, and the Prince's Kiosk, separate buildings, the latter, richly and daintly furnished with rugs, divans, gorgeous velvet hangings and carpets; there was an air of combined comfort and magnificence in this room which struck one pleasantly.

On reaching Seraglio Point, we found three of the Sultan's caiques, each rowed by ten men in Royal liveries of white, with embroidered sash, zouave jacket and fez, waiting to convey us up the Bosphorus, to visit the Palaces of Beyler-bey and



Turkish Cafe.

room glass cases are ranged, containing beautiful carvings, arms, and objects of art, and last but not least, bowls full of loose precious stones, the sight of which made Eastern fairy tales appear a reality, ancient coins, medals, and set jewels, a dazzling display. Our guides, who enjoyed our astonishment, then hurried us upstairs, where the walls were lined with effigies of deceased Sultans, each in his habit as he lived, sword in hand, the hilt of each encrusted with rubies, emeralds, diamonds, or pearls. Next we

Dolma-Bagtche. Neither of these were inhabited; great wildernesses of magnificent suites of rooms, marble bathrooms, literally marble, floor, walls, and ceiling all of the same material. In the latter palace is a long, dark, narrow picture gallery, so dark, indeed, that the paintings were scarcely visible, and a staircase of crystal—which must be a grand sight when artificially illuminated. These treasures are not often displayed, except when the exchequer is unusually low, and there is nothing wherewith to pay