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Book Reviews

**TURKEY, THE GREAT POWERS AND
THE BAGDAD RAILROAD**

MacMillan, New York, cloth viii—364 pages, by Edward M. Earle.

This volume is, as the author and the publishers claim for it, a complete, authentic account of the "Berlin to Bagdad" railway plan in all its detail and complexity of ramification. While the story might be termed historical, or financial, or economic, or even all of these in fact, yet it reads more like a great romance. The characters, who talk and deal with one another in this fascinating political and diplomatic drama, are actors for themselves and for their respective governments, are like mythical personages strutting across the plains of mystery.

At the end of each of the twelve chapters into which the book is divided, is a bibliography and explanatory notes, which two features add materially to the value of this book, and at the end of the volume is a complete index. There are maps that aid the reader in following the thread of narrative dealing as it does with the construction of a line of modern travel across hill country, through mountain tunnel and ever parching desert for a distance of two thousand five hundred miles, or more. With all these aids to a story told by the author without marring it, the book becomes fascinating to the reader, who is at all interested in the history that has been making in the Near East during the last thirty years.

Either official or semi-official authority in finances and in diplomacy the French, the English, the Turkish, the German, the Russian, the American and, perhaps, other governments enter into the scheme of this Bagdad railroad. Other great railway undertakings, such as the Union Pacific or the Canadian Pacific in America have been successfully executed, but no other railway enterprise in the world has carried with it such political—both national and international—significance as the "Berlin to Bagdad" railroad undertaking, and, perhaps, the story will never be told more completely, or better in a single volume than has been done by Mr. Earle.

W. P. L.

THE ANVIL

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had?" said I,

"To wear and batter all these hammers soft"

"Just one," said he; then said with twinkling eye,

"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word

For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;

Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,

The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone.

—Selected.

Higher than fear and stronger than fate
Are love and faith that patiently wait.

—Anonymous.

"What is a waffle?"

"A waffle is a pancake with cleats."

—Chaparral.

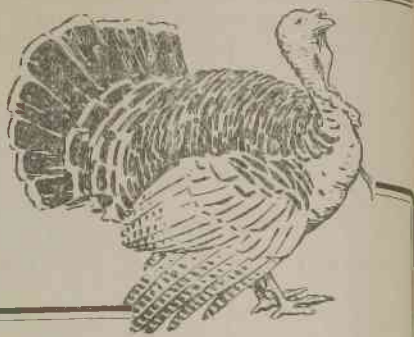
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