



Redrawn from D'Ohsson's *Tableau Général de l'Empire Othoman*.

MOHAMMED CLEANSING THE CAABA OF IDOLATRY.

In ridding Mecca of its idolatry, Mohammed accomplished the chief ambition of his life. The homeless and persecuted refugee, once forced to cover the plot of ground where he prayed that he might not be stoned to death while performing his devotions, returned to the city of his birth as its conqueror. Tradition describes the Prophet, "whose name be praised," as above middle height, with fair skin, and of handsome and commanding appearance. His head was unusually large, his neck exquisitely molded, and his curly hair fell in waves over his ears. He had piercing black eyes of great size; his eyebrows were arched; his nose was high and slightly aquiline; and his heavy beard reached far down upon his breast. While his hair is said to have been black, the probabilities are that it was auburn. No authentic likeness of the Prophet is known to exist, since the very teachings of Islam are opposed to the perpetuation and consequent deification of personalities. Mohammed's impersonality complex was undoubtedly due to the imbroglio existing in his time among the various Christian sects which were engaged in determining the actual relationship of Jesus, the Son of Man, to God. Considering these theological dissensions as indicative that the Christianity of Jesus had already lapsed into idolatry, the Arabian Prophet is reputed to have said: "Jesus of Nazareth was verily a true prophet of Allah and a grand man; but lo! his disciples all went insane one day, and made a god of him." Even in the delirium of his last illness Mohammed was so impressed by the Christian practice of erecting shrines over the bones of its saints and martyrs that he cried out: "O Allah, let not my tomb be ever an object of worship."