

CONSTANTINE

OR

THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE BY  
THE TURKS



CONSTANTINE, THE LAST EMPEROR OF THE GREEKS.

# U CONSTANTINE

The Last Emperor of the Greeks

OR

THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE BY  
THE TURKS

(A.D. 1453)

*AFTER THE LATEST HISTORICAL RESEARCHES*

BY

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WITH PROFOUND ADMIRATION OF THE HEROISM DISPLAYED

BY

CONSTANTINE PALÆOLOGOS

**Dedicated**

MOST RESPECTFULLY AND BY SPECIAL PERMISSION

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE CONSTANTINE

DUKE OF SPARTA

HEIR TO THE THRONE OF GREECE

## PREFACE.

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THE German Emperor Frederic III. in a letter written June 1453 to Pope Nicholas V., lamenting greatly the catastrophe on the Bosphorus, calls Constantinople "*the capital of the Eastern Empire, the head of Greece, the home of arts and literature*" ("Orientalis imperii sedem, Græciæ caput . . . veluti domicilium litterarum artiumque").<sup>1</sup> And indeed, from the time of Constantine the Great to the time when the dawn of Renaissance aroused Italy to her noble task, Constantinople was the capital of Christian civilization. Its place in the history of the world has been always a most remarkable one,—Rome being the only city which can successfully bear comparison with it.

When in 1453 it passed into the hands of Mohammed

<sup>1</sup> The whole text of Frederic's long and interesting letter in Raynaldi, *Annales Ecclesiastici*, vol. xviii., Coloniae Agr. 1694, p. 408.