



TURKEY IN ASIA: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC.

The coastal regions receive a very fair rainfall on account of the high land behind, the rain falling mainly in winter (see p. 17); but the interior is very dry, so that in the east even grasslands give place to the desert. The area of barren land seems, in fact, to have increased during historic times. This is partly due to the fact that, since the cedars of Lebanon and other forests which formerly covered large tracts of land have been cut down, the rains have swept away much of the soil which was once knit together by the roots of the trees, so that now water runs rapidly off the bare rock and leaves it dry, where formerly it would have sunk gradually through the soil, and perhaps have reappeared elsewhere in the form of springs.

The prevailing rock in Judæa is limestone, which is exposed in many