

ASIA MINOR AND ARMENIA.

Asia Minor is a plateau flanked by the Pontic Range on the north, the Anti-Taurus on the east, and the Taurus on the south. The western coast is fringed with islands, and much indented, the sequence of inlet and promontory reflecting the east to west direction of range and valley behind. **Armenia** is a higher plateau to the east, which culminates in Mount Ararat. This is an extinct volcano, and volcanic rocks predominate in the east and centre of Asia Minor; but elsewhere the prevailing rock is limestone.

The Euphrates, Tigris, and Kur, with its tributary the Aras, which forms the boundary between Persia and Trans-Caucasia, rise on the Armenian Plateau. The Aras drains a large lake in Russian territory; and two other large lakes, without outlets, stand, one on the Persian, and the other on the Turkish, portion of the plateau. There are also several lakes in Asia Minor, some containing saline and some fresh water. The porous nature of the limestone in Asia Minor has caused some rivers to disappear underground; while the ranges which bound the plateau have forced others to cut deep gorges through them in order to reach the sea. These ranges also cut off rain from the interior of the plateau; and thus the rivers, being shallow in their upper courses and rapid in their lower, are useless for navigation.

Cultivation is possible on the plateau where irrigation can be employed; but most of Asia Minor consists of poor grassland, on which herds of sheep and goats are reared. The wool of the former furnishes the material for Turkish rugs and carpets, while the Angora breed of goats supplies mohair. Wheat and barley are cultivated in places, but the raisins, cotton, opium, figs, tobacco, and olives, which are exported, come chiefly from the western valleys. Other exports are valonia—a species of acorn-cup used in tanning—and silk, which is produced near the Sea of Marmora and manufactured at **Brusa**.

The seaward slopes of the Pontic Range are densely covered with deciduous trees, such as oak, beech, ash, and walnut, besides being planted with groves of peach, apricot, plum, mulberry, pomegranate, etc. The southern slopes of the Taurus also are well wooded; but here the trees are mainly conifers, from which turpentine is obtained.

Animals

Crops

Trees
fruits