

OMER PACHA.

OMER PACHA is a native of Croatia. He was born in 1801, at Vlaski, in the circle of Ogulini. His family name is Lattas. His father was Lieutenant-Administrator of the circle; his uncle was a priest of the United Greek Church. Admitted, when very young, into the School of Mathematics at

Thurm, near Carlstadt, in Transylvania, after having completed his studies with distinction, the young Lattas entered the corps of the Ponts et Chaussées, which in Austria is organised on a military footing. In 1830, in consequence of a misunderstanding with his superiors, he left for Turkey, and embraced Islamism. Khosrew Pacha, who was then Seraskier, took him under his protection, procured him admission into the regular army, and attached him to



OMER PACHA.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER FENTON.

his personal staff. He even gave him his ward in marriage, who was one of the richest heiresses of Constantinople, and the daughter of one of the Janisaries whose head he had caused to be cut off in 1827, when that corps revolted against the Sultan Mahmoud. In 1833, Lattas, who had taken the name of Omer, was chief of battalion, and was appointed aide-de-camp and interpreter to General Chhrzanowski, who had charge of the instruction of the Ottoman troops, encamped near Constantinople. Omer was thenceforward actively employed in the reorganisation of the Turkish army, and, still protected by Khosrew Pacha, obtained successively important missions and command in the army. The troubles of Syria and the Albanian insurrection of 1846 gave him occasion to distinguish himself, and attracted to him the attention of the Sultan. He was sent to Kurdistan, and succeeded in obtaining the submission of that province, which was nearly independent of the Porte. He was named in 1848 to the command of the army sent to the Danubian Provinces, which were then under the double protection of Turkey and Russia. The year 1851 was the most brilliant period of the military career of Omer Pacha. Named Commander-in-Chief of Bosnia (the principal chiefs of which had refused to recognise the Tanzim t—that is, the new organisation of the empire), he combated successfully, though with an inferior force, the Beys of that country. At last he was sent to Montenegro, where he found himself commanding an army of 50,000 men.

The following account (by the Danubian Correspondent of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS) of Omer Pacha's simple mode of living at Schumla, and of his affability to strangers, will be read with interest:—"We visited to-day

the Marshal (Omer Pacha), to whom we had before written a letter, begging an audience. He sent us word that he would receive us at eleven o'clock. We went on horse-back to his house—a very humble one, much more like a farm-house than a villa. It is situated in a narrow muddy sort of street—two sentry-boxes at the open gate. The guard presented arms. We went upstairs and entered his room, with our travelling-boots on; the curtain hanging over the door, according to the Turkish fashion, having been raised by a soldier so very quickly on our having ascended the stairs, that we had no time to conform ourselves to the usual formalities—viz., the taking off of our boots (these boots are large ones, and admit of small boots inside)—the door was open, and the Marshal, who stood inside, advanced to meet us, and invited us in at once. We immediately were asked to take our seat near him on the divan; coffee and pipes were brought in, and conversation began. Omer Pacha speaks Italian fluently, and French tolerably: in fact, well enough to render uncalled for the apologies he generally prefaces his conversations with. He is evidently revered by everybody here (not only in the army, but also by the peasantry, &c.), not on account of his rank alone, but really for his supernatural genius. The people know that he does everything himself: he is his own Quartermaster-General, his Chef d'Etat Major, &c.; and, as Governor of Roumelia, he is almost worshipped by the Bulgarian peasantry. He is the first (I should say the only) engineer of the Turkish army. The fortifications of Schumla, Varna, &c., and all those along the Danube, have been erected from plans drawn by himself. Every military establishment has been organised by him, or according to his plans."