

'THE CAMELS OF THE EMPIRE'

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Travel writer Edmondo de Amicis, who visited Constantinople in the late 19th century, wrote: "The Turks call them 'the camels of the empire,' and the Europeans say that every Armenian is born shrewd: these two sayings are largely justified by the facts; for thanks to their physical strength, and their agile mental acuity, they not only furnish Constantinople with a large number of architects, engineers, doctor an ingenious an patient artisans of many kinds, but also most of the porters and bankers: porters who carry extraordinary weights and banker who amass fabulous treasures

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