

The question being presented by the Schick-al-Islam, the Ulama reply by yes or no, like a jury, and the decision is then adopted by the Sultan. The Schick-al-Islam now offers a man of learning and moderation, but also of great firmness, and all who know him are convinced that he would not tolerate a sort of revolt in the corps of the Ulama. The body, composed for the whole empire, of about 20,000 members, is more enlightened than is generally supposed in the West, and is not systematically opposed to reforms, provided they do not touch their personal interests. It is, besides, animated by a great respect and a great confidence for their present head.







