



Istanbul. Edirnekapi. The Mosque of Mihrimah. Reused Byzantine Proconessian columns, one clearly showing the holes to which crosses and icons were fixed.

## IV

Just as the Byzantines began a building by buying columns for it, so did the Ottomans collect columns before starting to erect their buildings — the same



Istanbul. The Mosque of Hekimoğlu Ali Pasha, showing a reused Byzantine granite column cut roughly at the neck to fit the capital.

columns. With the imperial mosques of Beyazit II or Süleyman I — and of the erstwhile mosque of Fatih — the preparation of the pair of huge columns between the central piers had to be related to the height of all other columns, including