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REPORT
OF
ST. PAUL'S COLLEGIATE
INSTITUTE

TARSUS

SEPT., 1905--JUNE, 1906



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ST. PAUL'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
TARSUS, 1905-6

School opened October 1, 1905, every place in the dormitories being filled, and several students compelled to occupy tents on the campus. We urgently need a new dormitory. In all, 158 students have been in attendance. But as some of them left at various times, the average attendance throughout the year was 149. The statistics of these 149 are here given :

In College there were 70, as follows: Seniors, 6; Juniors, 10; Sophomores, 11; Freshmen, 17; Sub-freshmen, 22; College Specials, 4. In the Academy there were 79.*

There were 115 boarders, and 34 day-pupils.

RACE.—Armenians, 126; Greeks, 21; Syrians, 2.

RELIGION.—Protestants, 74; Gregorians, 55; Orthodox, 22.

These 149 came from 38 different places scattered over a large extent of country, from the centre of Asia Minor on the northwest to the Euphrates on the southeast.

Fifty (50) of our boys are orphans; more than 100 are helping themselves through school by manual labor. Looking at the careers of those who have gone forth from us, it is plain that this is the class of boys that give the best returns for the work and money expended on them. Our Beneficiary-Fund is now very low; it must be increased if we are to keep free from debt. A young man can study here for a year, if in addition to what he earns by his hands he is helped to the extent of only \$40. It is interesting to see that two-thirds of our students are the sons of working men—farmers, tailors, weavers, carpenters, potters, shoemakers, blacksmiths, brickmakers, miners, muleteers, bakers, masons, cooks, machinists, dyers, tinmen, millers, silversmiths, watchmakers, and ordinary workmen. It is not surprising, therefore, that nearly all our boys have excellent health; and that they are always ready to work with either hand or brain. We are glad to record also that several of them are sons of teachers and ministers in our great field. The average age of those in College is just 19; of those in the Academy, 14 years and 7 months.

*The number of languages taught compels us to have a course of five years in the Academy, and the same in the College.

The regular Prayer-Meeting is on Wednesday evening. The Lord's Day is well filled with religious services. There is a Bible-lesson every morning in the week except one. The work in our mountain village (Kozolook) was never before so prosperous. One of our Freshmen is serving there as preacher, teacher, and physician. He visited us in January, gave in his report, and went back with some new books, some money, and a medicine-chest replenished by Mrs. Christie.* The Institute and the Tarsus Church have supported this work for many years. Mrs. Christie started a Kindergarten there the past summer, which is the wonder of the village. We ask all our friends to pray for that interesting field. We have four good boys from there, fitting themselves to be the helpers of their people.

It has been a year of quiet, steady work in the School. There have been no marked incidents to record. Thus we may take to ourselves the saying, "Happy is the country that has no history." The standard of scholarship and of conduct is rising steadily. In the study of the languages, especially, there has been great progress. Many of our advanced students write English and French with almost as much facility and correctness as their own language. In this country, and with reference to the work that these young men will have to do, this is a most desirable acquisition.

It is not given to us this year to report any *marked* movement in the spiritual life. Here also there has been quiet growth, the formation of good habits, earnest study of the Bible, and a general yielding to the spirit of fraternal kindness that has swayed the whole student-body. These are very encouraging things. Quite as encouraging, perhaps, as the greater enthusiasm and the deeper feeling that characterized our religious life a year ago. The spirit of brotherly love among the students, and between students and the Faculty, has been very apparent this year. There has been great interest in the study of the Scriptures. Towards the close of the year more than eighty of the young men were engaged in committing the Psalms to memory; all of them recited from 150 to 300 verses apiece. We believe that these portions of divine truth will remain permanently in heart and memory, to be a help and comfort to them in many a time of sorrow and temptation.

With all modesty, it may rightly be claimed for Saint Paul's that the School stands peculiarly for the following principles and methods: an evangelistic spirit that seeks first of all the personal

* After the above was written, I regret to say, this young man made some bad mistakes, and has been called away from the village. A better man has been sent to take his place.

salvation of every student ; the daily use of the Word of God in worship and class-room as the most honored of all systems of truth ; close personal association of the missionaries and teachers with the young men ; the maintenance of a strict but Christian discipline, that will not permit any boy who is incorrigibly bad to remain in the School ; a spirit of prayer and effort for the villages and "regions beyond ;" opportunity for the poorest, if bright and willing ; a high standard of scholarship. On these lines the work here has been carried on from the beginning, this past year being no exception.

As a sign of the world-wide interest felt here in outside affairs, it may be mentioned that substantial contributions went this year not only to Kozolook, but also to Courrières, San Francisco, and the proposed Christian Endeavor building. Among the many kind visitors to the School during the year, none helped more the growth of this truly cosmopolitan spirit than Dr. MYERS of Cincinnati, the well known Historian. His two stimulating addresses on "the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World" will never be forgotten by our teachers and students. We have to thank him, as well as many other good friends, for the substantial gifts that have enabled us to keep so many beneficiaries here. As before, all such gifts should be sent through Mr. F. H. WIGGIN, Treasurer of the American Board, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. ; designated "For the help of students in Saint Paul's Institute, Tarsus."

Rev. Mr. GENTLE-CAKETT, of the Turkish Missions Aid Society, came in the last week of May. His stay was all too short. But in the talk that he gave in the school-room he brought us the salutations of our English friends, and moved all hearts by his earnest and suggestive address.

Friends of Miss BREWER (honored among our teachers), built for the writer last summer a room which serves as study, business office, and recitation-room, as well as for other purposes. This has been a great relief to us in our over-crowded condition. I may repeat that we still need a new dormitory ; a missionary residence ; sick-room ; bath-house ; and the two acres of ground joining us on the northwest, to give us a campus of five acres. The stones and other materials for our new College building (chapel, recitation-rooms, library, and laboratory), are rapidly being brought together. This gift was mentioned in the report of last year. It will meet a long-felt want. We hope that it can be finished in time for the Commencement of 1907.

The coming of our new teacher, Mr. VICTOR E. MARRIOTT,

Beloit College, class of 1905, has been a great help to us. He takes hold of the work most cheerily and efficiently. There are now 14 teachers in the College and the Academy. The presence of our daughter Mary this year has been of service to the Institute in many ways. One of our graduates, BENIAMIN GAIZAKIAN, was appointed, last September, the acting Pastor of the Tarsus Church. His well prepared sermons are highly appreciated by all the members of the Institute. He also helps in the teaching of vocal music in the School. Our teacher of Chemistry and Physics, ARAM EFF. BAGHDIKIAN, B.D., has been in Beirut during the year, taking advanced work in his department in the Syrian Protestant College.

We are grateful to our heavenly Father for the excellent health enjoyed by teachers and students throughout the year. In this connection, however, we have to express our sympathy, and call for that of our friends, for a member of our Staff, Rev. SAMUEL MELKONYAN, and his wife. The second and last of their two sons, the much beloved KARNIG, died this spring. He was a beautiful child, of exceeding great promise. A few weeks before this a very near relative fell into a long continued and very severe illness. And soon after his child's death the mother of Mr. MELKONYAN followed the little one into the spirit-world. These afflictions, bravely and patiently borne, have greatly endeared to us all our excellent colleague. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth."

Friends may be interested in the statistics of our graduates. There have been 80 in all. Of the 74, besides the 6 of this year, the Ministry has claimed 28; Teaching, 17; Medicine, 10. So that these three professions, needed the most in this country, take 74 per cent. Sixteen (16) are in business; one is an engineer; one is the Bible Agent for this large province; and the occupation of one is unknown. It should be noted also that several who are now in business have taught from one to four years. A large number of our students, who did not graduate, are now preaching the Gospel, teaching, or practicing medicine. Very few, comparatively, of our men are in America. The great purpose of the School is to prepare those who shall be of service to the needy people of *this* land.

The Commencement Exercises of the Academy took place on the 1st of June. Twenty-two boys were graduated. School closed June 8.

The Annual Meeting of the Central Turkey Mission was held this year at Adana, near Tarsus, in April. For this reason we had our College Commencement at that time. Friends from

Aintab, Marash, Oorfa, Hajin and Adana were present. Rev. C. S. SANDERS of Aintab presided at the Prize Declamation; speeches were made by fifteen young men in five different languages: English, French, Turkish, Armenian, and Greek. The speaking was pronounced excellent by all the auditors. In the afternoon the exercises were presided over by the President of the Central Turkey College, JOHN E. MERRILL, Ph.D. Our six Seniors acquitted themselves well. Their subjects were: "Play as a Factor in Mental Development;" "The Influence of the Fine Arts;" "The Need, the Importance, and the Adaptedness of Agriculture to our Country;" "The Joy of Service"; "The Geology of the Tarsus Region." One member of the class was excused from speaking. The orchestra and choir, we may truly say, delighted our visitors. The choir, among other pieces, gave us some fine selections from "The Messiah," and "The Creation."

Of the Graduating Class, it is expected that one will study medicine, two will go into business, and three will devote them- to the work of the ministry and teaching.

Deeply grateful to the divine Master, and to generous Christian friends, for the privilege of working in this Missionary College for another year; and humbly commending the results of the work to Him who delights in forgiving the faults and mistakes of His servants,

I sign myself in behalf of the Faculty,

THOMAS DAVIDSON CHRISTIE,

President.

Tarsus, Asia Minor, June, 1906.

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