

The Orient.

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BOMBARDING THE DARDANELLES.

Last Thursday at about 11 a.m. an Italian squadron composed of four large armored vessels and twenty torpedo-boats and destroyers, accompanied by three transports, appeared at the mouth of the Dardanelles, and began to bombard the fortresses of Orkhanîé, Koum Kalé and Sid-el-Bahr, on the two shores. The forts replied vigorously. According to the Turkish official version, 300 Italian shells were fired at the Orkhanîé fort, 30 at Koum Kalé, and 12 at Sid-el-Bahr, from a distance of 10,000 metres, or about 6¼ miles; while the forts replied with 27 shots, five of which are claimed to have taken effect. The Italian version is that the ships suffered no damage whatever. After an engagement of three hours, the fleet withdrew, and has not been heard from since.

Considerable damage seems to have been done to the fortifications, but the Turks acknowledge the loss of but one sick soldier and one horse, with one other soldier wounded. Private advices of a trustworthy character, however, report the Ottoman loss as over 200.

The effect produced on the Galata Bourse was only momentarily bad, and the city soon understood the puerile character of the Italian action. But the military and naval authorities naturally took the immediate step of sowing the channel thick with mines, and warning all vessels to keep away from the straits. This has bottled up a large number of steamers in the harbor, which is fuller than ever before. It will entail severe loss on the French, Austrian, Roumanian, Russian, British and Greek lines, and also causes great business inconvenience. Prices of many articles were immediately raised, and in Pera when some bakers tried to raise the price of bread the enraged populace stormed the bakery and carried off every loaf and every bag of flour.

Press comment on this action is given elsewhere.

PARLIAMENT OPENED.

On Thursday last, April 18th, in accordance with the Imperial decree issued three months earlier, the second Parliament under the new régime was formally opened by His Majesty the Sultan. The sun beamed on the occasion, after many days of bleak, cloudy skies; and an immense crowd gathered in front of the Parliament House to see the imperial cortège. Inside the Chamber, there were far more spectators than deputies; for as yet only a little over half the members had been elected, and of these less than one hundred arrived in the city in

time for the ceremony. The various foreign embassies and legations were represented, as well as the religious communities. The whole cabinet was there, headed by Said Pasha, the invalid Grand Vizier, who appeared far from well. The arrival of Senator Ahmed Riza Bey was greeted with hearty welcomes and congratulations by his former colleagues of the Chamber.

Shortly after two o'clock His Majesty reached the House of Parliament, in a four-horse coach, amid cheers and martial music. He was followed by several of the Princes, but the Heir-Apparent, Prince Yousouf Izzeddin, was indisposed and could not be present.

The Speech from the Throne was read in a clear, strong voice by the Grand Vizier. After setting forth the reason for the dissolution of the former Chamber, in the disagreement between it and the Government as to the equilibrium between the legislative and the executive, the Speech dealt with the commissions of reforms, the railroad projects, the financial status, the state of affairs in Yemen, expressed the Imperial grief at the murder of the Prince of Samos, assured Parliament of the maintenance of Ottoman rights in Crete, spoke of the friendly relations with all the surrounding Powers, and of efforts to settle the Persian boundary question. The section on the Italian war we quote entire —

"The war provoked by Italy unjustly and contrary to international principles and treaties, continues in spite of the universally manifest desire for peace. We ourselves also wish for peace; but the only peace that can end this war is one based on the effective and integral maintenance of Our sovereign rights. (Applause) The admirable self-denial and bravery shown by my children the soldiers, sailors and noble Arab fighters (Applause) add a new and glorious page to our national history (Great applause). I pray for the souls of those who have fallen on the field of honor. I send my salutations to the wounded and those who are fighting, and I call down on them the Divine benediction.

"The nations that have preserved their existence and enjoy well-being and prosperity have attained these only by union and the spirit of mutual fellowship between the elements of which they are composed. We earnestly recommend you all to act unitedly, and to place above everything else the sacred interests of the country.

"With the prayer that the Omnipotent will bless the efforts you undertake for the good of the father-land and the nation, We declare Parliament open." (Applause.)

The *Nakib-ül-eshref* then recited a prayer in the sacred Arabic; after which Senator Ismail Hakki Bey of Monastir offered a fervent prayer in Turkish for mercy and forgiveness

on the people, for blessings on the Sovereign, the army and the navy, and for punishment and destruction on the faithless Italian nation.

His Majesty then left the hall, and after a stay in the kiosk at Tophane, returned to the palace.

The deputies present then took the oath of allegiance in the presence of the Grand Vizier. After his departure, Hodja Ahmed Mahir Effendi of Kastemoni was chosen as temporary president, and four temporary clerks were appointed. Owing to lack of quorum, the Chamber was then adjourned, to meet at the call of the president when a sufficient number of deputies shall have reached the Capital.

In the Senate, Marshal Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha made an opening address, but further business was adjourned till Saturday afternoon.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETY IN BROUSA.

A branch of the W. C. T. U. has been organized in Brousa. The society now numbers fifty six members. During the winter four meetings were held. A prize contest also interested the girls and the best essay on the "Evil effects of Alcohol and Tobacco on the Body" was written by a member of the Oriental Orphanage.

The closing meeting of the year was held on April 19 and was social in character, music and readings made up a very enjoyable program.

A gift of money from the W. C. T. U. makes it possible to translate and print tracts which will soon be ready for free distribution.

It is hoped that Temperance work may be carried on in villages where the common practice of making and using *raki* in the homes is proving a very serious drawback to the advancement of the people.

R. G. McN.

MR. SHERWOOD EDDY IN SOFIA.

As nothing has as yet appeared in the *Orient* in regard to Mr. Eddy's recent meetings in Sofia, a few words concerning them may be of interest.

These meetings made a profound impression on the educated circles of the Bulgarian capital. Mr. Eddy spoke in the largest auditorium of the university, and it and the corridors were crowded. In one of the theaters he addressed an audience of over 600 and also had opportunities to speak to the young men and young ladies of some of the gymnasiums of the city. By special invitation he went to the State Military Academy, and his address there was enthusiastically received, not only by the cadets, but also by the professors and officers.

Mr. Eddy's appeal for the higher life had a sympathetic hearing and met with a hearty response and almost universal approval. One of the results of his visit is that over 150 new members of Bible study classes were enrolled from among the students of the university and the gymnasiums for a three months' course in the study of the gospels.

L. F. O.

ANNUAL MEETING, WESTERN TURKEY MISSION.

ABSTRACT OF MINUTES.

Bible House, Stamboul, April 6-13, 1912.

DELEGATES :— CAESAREA—Miss Loughridge, Mr. Irwin.
 CONSTANTINOPLE—Mrs Marden, Miss Jones.
 ADABAZAR—Mis Kinney.
 BARDIZAG—Dr. Chambers.
 BROUSA—Mr. McNaughton, Miss Jillson.
 MARSOVAN—Miss Ward, Dr. White, Mr. Pye.
 SIVAS—Miss Graffam, Mr. Holbrook.
 SMYRNA—Miss Pohl, Dr. Riggs.
 TREBIZOND—Miss Cole, Dr. Crawford.

Pub. Dep't—Dr. Barnum.

Treasurer—Mr. Peet.

Secretary—Mr. Riggs.

Also Present :—Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. E. Riggs, Mrs. McNaughton, Mrs. Crawford, Miss Holt.

BITHYNIA UNION—Rev. A. B. Schmavonian.

EASTERN MISSION—Dr. and Mrs. E. P. Case.

EUROPEAN MISSION—Mr. Erickson, Miss Douglas.

Chairman—Rev. H. M. Irwin.

COMMITTEES :— *Plans and Measures* :— Dr. Riggs, Mr. McNaughton, Mr. Pye, Miss Loughridge, Miss Pohl.

Finance :—Mr. Peet, Miss Graffam, Dr. White.

Press :—Dr. Barnum, Mr. Holbrook, Mrs. Crawford.

Education :—Dr. White, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Holbrook.

Religious Exercises :—Dr. Crawford, Mrs. Marden, Miss Jillson.

Daily sessions were held from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 4:30 p.m. One day there was an hour longer at noon to allow the delegates to call on Ambassador Rockhill; and Wednesday afternoon was devoted to the Annual Sermon at 3 p.m. by Dr. Edward Riggs, on Rev. 2:7, followed by the Lord's Supper, at which Dr. Barnum and Mr. Pye officiated. The sessions closed at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13th. It was a surprise to some delegates to learn that a rule of the mission prevents voting by persons who have been members of the mission less than a year.

Monday and Tuesday afternoons were given to reports from the stations, these being very full and of more than average interest.

A suggested course of study for all the elementary schools in the mission has been elaborated and was approved and ordered duplicated for presentation to all stations.

An invitation to be represented at the Inter-Mission Conference at Hamadan, Persia, next July, was answered by asking Dr. and Mrs. Marcellus Bowen to represent this mission, of which they were formerly members.

The permanent transfer of Dr. Hoover and family to

Talas Hospital was ratified, and another physician asked for Marsovan.

At the desire of the Trustees of the Armenian Girls' High School, Adabazar, Miss Farnham was cordially invited to return to Adabazar when circumstances permit.

A new man was called for, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. Allen at Constantinople.

Other new missionary families were asked for, to go to Talas and Trebizond; also single ladies for Gedik Pasha, Adabazar, Smyrna (two) and Marsovan.

Messrs. Harlow and Brewster, now under appointment, were designated to Smyrna; and an invitation was tendered Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Fowle to go also to Smyrna for two years, thus making possible the return of Dr. and Mrs. Riggs to Marsovan.

The Board was requested to appoint Rev. and Mrs. E. F. Carey to this mission, to be located at Bardizag; and Rev. W. N. Chambers, D.D., was urged to stop at Bardizag for at least a year, on his return from America, to help out there while his brother takes a furlough.

The return of Rev. and Mrs. C. K. Tracy to Smyrna was voted. Permission for a furlough was asked for Miss Mills of Smyrna.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Kennedy were designated to Brousa, although the finances of the Board do not permit of the opening of a hospital there at present.

It was resolved to strengthen the existing Greek Evangelical school in Ordou as far as possible, and raise the course of instruction to the grade of a High School.

A committee consisting of Drs. Marden, Hoover and Clark was requested to recommend desirable changes to the Prudential Committee as to the method of reporting statistics of medical work in the tabular view.

With regard to theological training, the following resolutions were passed:—(1) That, pending action by the expected All-Turkey Conference on the question of uniting in one institution the theological education in this Empire, the Theological Seminary at Marsovan be developed and strengthened as much as possible. (2) That while we would encourage this Seminary to continue its work as vigorously as possible with such resources as are now at its disposal, we do not favor any financial grants looking to enlargement, until the question of final location has been settled. (3) That the W. T. M. learns with gratitude that Secretary Barton has opened correspondence with several theological seminaries in the U. S. with reference to their receiving, on scholarship or fellowship, certain young men with missionary recommendation from this country who have taken their courses of study here and proved their fitness for the ministry by useful work in it. We believe that this is an exceedingly valuable aim. It will give credit to the ministry in this land, tend to draw able young men to this profession, and raise up a stronger ministry for the churches. We hope the plan may be fully formulated and promptly put into effect."

A committee consisting of Mr. Peet, Mr. Riggs, Mr. Partridge and Dr. White was appointed, to confer with represen-

tatives of the Armenian Miatsial Ungeroutioun, and with other missionaries, in regard to co-operation to a greater or less extent in education, discover feasible plans if possible, and report to the next Annual Meeting.

A committee composed of Dr. White, Mr. Wingate and Mr. Partridge was appointed to attempt to standardize the course of the various High Schools.

The following were requested to act as the Commission on Education for the ensuing year:— Mr. McNaughton, Miss Pohl, Mrs. Marden, Miss Willard, Dr. Gates, Dr. Patrick and Dr. Murray.

It was resolved that the establishment of a school for boys at Brousa is imperatively needed to strengthen the evangelistic work; and we recommend the members of that station to proceed as soon as funds may be available.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"The Mission desires to put on record its grief at the death of Mr. H. Z. Longworth, long time British Consul at Trebizond, and always loyal and helpful friend to missionaries and their work.

"Also that we deeply regret the change of appointment which has removed from Trebizond Consul and Mrs. M. A. Jewett, who have for many years been warm and sympathetic fellow-workers with the missionaries in Sivas and Trebizond; and, while congratulating them on their promotion, hope that the next step might result in their return to Turkey."

Mr. Pye was requested to prepare for the next Annual Meeting a helpful and stimulating course of devotional meetings.

Requests were endorsed for a grant of Lt. 915 toward the new Anatolia Hospital building at Marsovan, this being the estimated value of the old buildings now to be turned over to the station for other work; also for a grant of \$10,000 for a new building outside the city for the Girls' High and Boarding School at Sivas. The approval of the requests of Caesarea station for special appropriations was left to the Committee ad Interim.

The Treasurer was instructed to report to the next Annual Meeting a revised percentage basis for the distribution of appropriations among the stations.

The estimates for 1913, as presented by the finance committee, were approved.

The matter of the sale of the mission property at Manisa was left to Smyrna Station with Mr. Peet, Mr. McNaughton and Dr. Riggs.

Rev. C. H. Holbrook was chosen as preacher for 1913, with Rev. A. C. Ryan as alternate.

After a vote of thanks to those who entertained the delegates had been passed, with a devotional half-hour led by Dr. Chambers, this very strenuous Annual Meeting adjourned *sine die*.

CHARLES T. RIGGS.

Secretary, W. T. M.

The engagement is announced of Miss Lillian F. Cole, of the Sivas Hospital, to Dr. Levon K. Sewny.

LOSS OF THE TITANIC.

The worst marine disaster in history was the sinking of the magnificent new White Star liner "Titanic" off the Banks of Newfoundland on Sunday night, April 14, or rather in the early hours of Monday. At about 11 p.m. an immense iceberg was sighted only a quarter of a mile away; and as the steamer was making 21 knots, in less than a minute the collision came. The boats were lowered and filled with passengers; but before the "Carpathia" could answer the wireless call for help, and reach the spot, in about three hours the splendid new floating palace was under two miles of water, and from the latest reports only 705 out of 2,200 souls were saved.

The suddenness and magnitude of the disaster are so appalling that our hearts are stunned. That the latest triumph of the genius and experience of man, a veritable city, capable of carrying 3,000 people, a ship a sixth of a mile long and of 46,382 tons with all its watertight bulkheads, equipped with every modern safety device, should thus be the plaything and the prey of nature, and go down with 1500 souls, is too awful a fact to be fully realized at once.

The French liner "Touraine" had warned the "Titanic" by wireless of the presence of icebergs, but apparently little attention was paid to this. The world will never know the whole story, for Captain E. J. Smith went down with his ship.

Among the missing are Mr. Wm. T. Stead, editor of the British *Review of Reviews*, who so recently visited Constantinople, the millionaire John Jacob Astor, who was returning with his bride from a wedding trip, Mr. Isidor Straus, brother of former Ambassador Oscar S. Straus, Major Butt, aide-de-camp of President Taft, Mr. F. D. Millet, the American artist, and Mr. Benjamin Guggenheim, a millionaire. Mrs. Astor was saved but not Mrs. Straus. Most of the saved were women and children.

Had there been enough lifeboats to have contained all the passengers, this enormous loss of life might have been avoided; for the weather was calm. But in the icy water near such an immense ice-field (reported as 70 miles long), persons in the water, even with life-belts, could not survive many hours. As far as known, those rescued by the "Carpathia" are the only survivors.

RUSSIAN INTRIGUE IN TURKEY.

A contemporary gives quotations from a recent German book, "Der Erloeschende Halbmond," describing the mole-work of Russian military-ecclesiastical authorities within the Turkish domain. We extract the following:—

"Russian intrigue has aimed incessantly at the separation of the Holy Land from the ecclesiastical sphere of the Greek Church. A Russian Palestinian Society was founded under the leadership of a former Russian consul of Jerusalem. The Czar became its protector, the Grand Dukes its honorary presidents. Throughout all Russia the village popes have

pressed the *moujiks* for contributions to this crusading enterprise. Immense sums have been raised, which, as so often in Russia, have not all reached the goal set for them. The late Grand Duke Sergius is said to have spent on his personal dissipations much of the money entrusted to him.

"One of the favorite methods of action has been the introduction of Russian monks into Greek monasteries. The Russian government aims at establishing in the Turkish Empire concealed military centers which shall be a basis for future military operations. The most important of these is that of Mt. Athos, a high fastness at the end of the Thracian peninsula. Great numbers of Russian monks have taken up their abode here, and rich endowments have come to it from the Russian government. Its position is of great strategic importance, it being a sort of Levantine Port Arthur. Its capture by pan-Slavic hands would perhaps sound the knell of Turkish rule in Europe, since it controls the waterway between the Bosphorus and Salonica. Most of the monks are Russians, and those few Greeks still remaining live on Russian money and constitute a sort of screen for the Russian manœuvre. They are exclusively men of vigorous age. The monastery is practically administered from St. Petersburg through the agency of the Russian consul at Salonica, who spends a large part of his time on Mt. Athos. The monastery is supplied with plenteous munition in the shape of arms, money and provision. The putative monks will, doubtless, in spite of their churchly garments, be found, when the occasion demands, not wanting in knowledge concerning magazine rifles.

"In Constantinople we have the same thing. Above San Stefano lies the cemetery in which are buried the Russian troops who fell in the operations about Constantinople in 1878. In a hollow between the tops of the hills is the Memorial Church. Under both church and cemetery there are, it is alleged, deep and extensive chambers, which were excavated by Russian laborers brought for this purpose. What these chambers hold it is not necessary to specify. The mausoleum church, with its turnip-shaped cupola, is singularly well-placed from a military point of view. Water on the west cuts it off from possible storming. The railway and telegraph wires connecting Salonica with the capital run just under the hill and are easy of access to any one who might wish to cut this main artery of the Turkish Empire.

"Not far from this disguised fortress rises a large Russian seminary for training priests. A considerable Russian colony is settled in the neighborhood. The young priests have a desperately martial appearance, and some mysterious force has transformed the Russian peasants into vigorous, wide-awake, well-set up fellows. Within half an hour they would be up in the church; within two, there would be nothing left of the telegraph and railway connections. Six thousand Russian monks in various cloisters look wonderfully like them and are ready for orders. Daytime, flashing mirrors and night-time, large colored lights have been used to communicate between the Russian Embassy and the Church of the Dead."

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

On Saturday the question was raised whether the Senate had a right to sit when the Chamber was not in session ; but the decision reached is obviously correct, that the Chamber having been formally opened is technically in session, and the Senate can therefore do business. The ministers of Finance and of War raised questions regarding the application of the provisional budget, and the passing of the enlistment bill, but no decision was reached. The secretaries and committees were chosen at the close of the session. By imperial order, Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha retains the presidency of the Senate.

The Outlook of April 6th says editorially, "Americans will be surprised to learn that Cyrene, although in the tropics, is like the modern Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, a city having an enviable climate." *The Outlook* as well as many Americans will be surprised to learn that Cyrene, in the province of Benghazi, is not in the tropics at all, but in Lat. 32°, the same latitude as Savannah, Georgia, and over fifteen hundred miles farther north than Caracas. If *The Outlook* has no atlas handy, it might consult its Contributing Editor as to the geography of the Dark Continent.

A year ago today, the World's Student Christian Federation began its conference at Robert College. Those were days of inspiration. It was a privilege to meet and feel the hearty hand of men like Dr. Fries, Dr. Mott, Dean Bosworth, Prof. Allier, Prof. Cairns, and so many others. It is safe to say that not the least of the results is seen in the added zeal and ability of those who brought back to their schools and colleges in other parts of the country the message of the Conference. Moreover, the hunger for more of the same kind of spiritual food, awakened in the young men of this city, is in itself encouraging.

One effect of the state of war, and especially of the placing of mines in the Dardanelles, has been to frighten tourists away from this metropolis. Not only the big tourist steamers but smaller parties have given Constantinople the slip this year. The hotels are deserted and are losing money ; dealers in the bazaars are willing to sell their goods at almost any price, so dull is business ; and the city is less patronized

than in ordinary years. To residents here, the dangers seem exaggerated, and we wish our friends were less timid. Life moves on as quietly here as if there were no war, and as if all the roads were wide open.

— Since the above was in type, news has come of the appearance of some Italian warships at the mouth of the Dardanelles, and of the consequent closing of the straits to all navigation by the sowing of many mines in the narrow channel. Even this does not affect materially the position taken above. The newspapers here and the populace in general receive this bombardment with scorn. And though the sea route westward is temporarily blocked, the other routes are all still open.

We have received from Dr. M. G. Michaelides of Robert College a second lengthy communication about the relationship of the Macedonians to the Albanians. Were we to publish this article entire, we have no doubt our valiant champion of his race, Mr. Dako, would favor us with an equally voluminous reply, fully as weighty in its turn. For it is a topic on which the most learned of German historians and ethnologists are not agreed. Our readers have had an opportunity of hearing from some of the most learned of modern Greek and Albanian ethnologists as well, and it is clearly a question on which there are two sides. We therefore beg leave to decline to give further space to this question of the racial connections of Alexander the Great, not out of any lack of respect for either side, but merely because the question is an endless one. Dr. Michaelides contends that the Epirotes and Macedonians were genuine Greek tribes, but were called barbarians in the 5th and 4th centuries B. C. because of their lack of culture. Moreover he quotes from Xenophon, Plato and Isocrates to prove that the term *philhellen* is often used of the Greeks themselves. He also says that though the Macedonians sided with the Persians against the Greeks, this does not prove that they were not Greeks ; for the Ionian, Aeolian and Archipelago Greeks also fought with the Persians against the Greeks. He cites Curtius, Fick, Beloch and Ed. Meyer as well as Ulrich Köhler and Käerst as of the same opinion. This is a formidable array of authorities. And with this we leave the subject, grateful that our attention has been thus directed to so virile, interesting and promising a race as the Albanians, especially at a time when their present and future relation to the Ottoman Empire is a matter so much under discussion, and when the American Board is putting so much energy into establishing evangelistic, educational and medical work among them.

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"THE CHRIST THAT IS TO BE."

It is interesting, and is matter for great thankfulness, to observe that there are signs of a commencing reaction against the unreasoning opposition to creed and dogma that has been so generally prevalent throughout Christendom for half a century or more past. It would be justifiable to speak of that opposition in stronger terms were it not that the churches had only themselves to blame for its having been roused. The bitterness of creed strifes, the fatal emphasis laid on belief as compared with practice, and the hostile rivalry that divided church from church in the earlier days could hardly fail to arouse disgust and contempt in those onlookers who were unable to see, through all that human frailty, the desire to fight for truth and for the honour of Him whose truth they believed it to be. In fact it is almost a wonder that Christianity itself survived this wounding in the house of its friends.

But the condemnation of the abuse of dogma became itself an abuse when it sought to fling all dogma to the winds, or, at the best, to tolerate it only in such ethereal form as deprived it of the possibility of bringing home to men as a power the truth of God's revelation. Were the counter charges to be written up, the mollusc faith that has sought to replace the creeds would have as heavy an indictment against it for the laxness, the defections, the Samson-shorn impotency that have been the wail of the churches for so long.

But there are signs that the much needed reaction is setting in. For a good while past the religious press of America and Britain has echoed with the cry — "Back to Christ!" Theological literature has of late largely centred round the cross of the Redeemer and that mystery, so blessed because so practical in its mysteriousness, the atonement. And now come voices proclaiming still more definitely the Church's need. Perhaps as significant as any is that of one of the foremost of British Congregational clergymen, — a man who has lately been asking whether the great city in which he has been labouring is becoming pagan. This man, when preaching in London the other week, made publicly this confession — "I have been preaching all my days that Christianity is a life, not a creed: now I see that it is and must be both." Hardly less remarkable was the stand taken by a Presbyterian clergyman in a paper he read before his ministerial club in Dundee, — a stand, by the way, which brought him a praise which carries with it a world of condemnation for the church to which he belongs, — praise for his courage! He told his brethren that, with their anxiety for perfected sermons, well-phrased prayers, and dignified services, they were accomplishing nothing. The church needed to remember its commission, and to set itself, heart and soul, to carry that out, — the commission to preach the gospel of redemption, — regardless of what needed to be sacrificed as the price of faithfulness. As if to supplement that "bold" appeal, a prominent Methodist clergyman has just had an article in his church's magazine on "The Evangelistic appeal." He says: — "I heart-

ily believe that to appeal positively and directly to the conscience, and to let form, literary and other, go to the winds, is the most effective way, not only of winning souls, but, incidentally, of preaching good sermons." And the very first point that he makes in his article is that "evangelism must be *dogmatic*: it must be confident, and not hesitant: it must believe in men's real need, and a real gospel to supply it." And, to refer to only one other voice, — the letter from Brousa recently published in these columns, — it is there stated that the Armenian evangelist owed his remarkable power to his "unbounded confidence in the old gospel, stripped of all modern accretions" — not overlaid and smothered by modern substitutes; which can mean little else than that he was dogmatic, confident in his belief in his hearers' need, confident in his belief that the old gospel would meet it.

All this is welcome. It seems to indicate that the church may be about to "put on its strength" once more. "Creed and life," — creed with the firmness of profound conviction, held in charity and taught in love, — such creed joined to the Christlike life points the way to renewed success.

Of all places in the world, it is on the mission-field more than any where else that this charitable dogmatism is imperatively demanded. There, if missions mean anything, truth and error come to grips. And though the spirit of the century demands, and rightly demands, that the encounter be not of the nature of offensive attack or contemptuous disparagement, it emphasizes all the more urgently the claim that the force to win must lie, so far as human agency is concerned, in the strength of the belief in the message. "Not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation." To seek to find common ground for approach and for agreement with the opponent, that unnecessary misunderstandings may not hamper the fray, is wise and is Christ-like: to be content with the agreement and to avoid the fray is to give up all, even though the common ground reached be universal brotherhood and fellowship with the all-Father. There is a sublime exclusiveness about the gospel that permits no rival; and that exclusiveness faces inwardly upon Christianity itself, and outwardly upon the non-Christian world. "There is none other name," it says, "whereby we must be saved." Inwardly, the Name — the Person — the Living Person — excludes the ritual, the sacrament, and all else. Outwardly, it excludes everything. To respect the belief of another, whether within or without the pale of Christianity, may mean to treat it with courtesy, but at the same time to let loose upon it in love all the forces of intense conviction with the aim of correcting its aberration, — an aim which the faithful preaching of the whole counsel of God is infinitely more likely to attain than argument or controversy. To respect the belief of another may also be interpreted as considering it a sacred thing, by no means to be meddled with; but of that respect the gospel knows nothing. The Christ claimed also to be the King; and there can be but one King. And to serve in His ranks without that deep conviction and without the grasp of all that flows from it, is to go with blank cartridge and with tin bayonets that can accomplish nothing. And so, whether

it be to meet the needs of men with a specific message or to point the one way to those who are trying others, the ambassadors of the King must speak with conviction the truths that He has committed to them.

Moreover, there is the further consideration: the creed makes the character. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." William Arnot, in his famous sermon on Romans XII: 1, commenting on the "therefore," points out that it connects chapters I—XI with chapter XII as cause and effect. That is to say, the profound dogmas of the eleven chapters are the soil, the "therefore" is the surface line, and the twelfth chapter is the fruit. And the dogmas have this moulding power because they are the expression of the character and will of God. In the last analysis, the character of the man depends on what he believes to be the character of the God he worships. Here, then, is a further demand for creed and dogma: it must give the elements out of which to form character; and it must do so because it gives the conception of God. Consequently, as a writer in the first number of *The International Review of Missions* points out with great force on p. 55, if the attributes ascribed to any god be not the true attributes, that god cannot be the true God; and it therefore becomes the loving duty of creed and dogma to seek to rescue his worshipper alike from his false god and from his own false self.

It is the Christ, — Himself and His work the great dogma, — and the Christ the great example, That has won for Christianity all that it has won. And "the Christ That is to be" can be nothing less if His church is to be finally victorious. Christ the God become man, the sinner's Substitute, the atoning Sacrifice, the risen and ascended Mediator, Christ of the regenerating Spirit, Christ the Bread of life and the living Water, Christ the Judge of all, Christ the Light both of the world and of the heavenly city, — this Christ, in these things revealing God, and in these things making possible the Christian character and life, — this Christ and this alone can win to Himself an opposing world.

Samokov.

R. T.

THE OTTOMAN PRESS ON THE BOMBARDMENT

The *Tanin* says:—

"We can call the Italians all possible names, — cowards, robbers and assassins, — but we cannot accuse them of impoliteness. Yesterday was the day for the opening of the Chamber. The Ottoman Empire was celebrating, and the Italians decided that courtesy imposed on them the duty of helping in the rejoicings. So they fired off several salvos of artillery at the Dardanelles in honor of the opening of Parliament. Anyhow, they hadn't the courage to fire this salute at Constantinople, in front of the Chamber. They retired from the concert, getting enough Ottoman shot to satisfy them in exchange for their courtesy. We excuse this on the ground of their poltroonery, and thank them, all the same, with all our heart for not forgetting us on this joyful day, and for thus contributing to the éclat of the official ceremony at the opening of our Parliament."

The *Stamboul* says:—

"The ridiculous cannonade is an aberration which covers its perpetrators with ridicule. Still it had its little effect. Oh, no! not here, where the Bourse had only a little flutter and where a few trembling people quickly laid in a stock of provisions, foreseeing a siege! But at Rome the impression must have been different, where the crowd was better pleased with the grandiloquent display of opera bouffe. Doubtless there was an illumination on the *Corso* last evening, to celebrate this new triumph: one hundred and eighty great shells spent in killing . . . one horse, who was probably a Russian or a Hungarian.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

Owing to the blockade of the Dardanelles, the Khedivial steamers are running from Piraeus and Smyrna to Dede Aghatch, and a special train carries passengers and mails thence to Constantinople.

M. de Giers, the Russian Ambassador, was formally and very cordially received by the Sultan on Saturday last.

Dr. A. E. Dunning, former editor of the *Congregationalist*, and Dr. A. F. Cross, associate pastor of the Old South Church, Boston, with other members of the Dunning tourist party, visited the Bible House the day before yesterday.

It appears that the Westminster Bridge in London is 110 feet broad, which puts the new Galata bridge in the shade.

THE PROVINCES.

It is officially announced that the channel at the Dardanelles will again be open tomorrow.

The Italian fleet has blown up a powder magazine on the island of Samos, destroyed a wireless telegraph station near Smyrna, and cut nearly all the Ottoman cables.

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The Court-Martial appointed to try the instigators of the massacre of Bulgarians at Ishtib last December, has been dissolved without sentencing a single person.

A train between Oushak and Smyrna the other day was brought to a standstill near Philadelphia (Ala Shehir) by a swarm of locusts, crushed under the wheels.

Djavid Bey, Minister of Public Works, is leaving for Adana, to be present at the opening of the section of the Baghdad railroad between Boulghourlou and that city.

NOTES.

The many friends of Rev. F. W. Macallum will be glad to learn that he is this week the recipient of the degree of D.D.

Rev. O. P. Allen has just been through an attack of appendicitis, from which, we are glad to report, he is making a good recovery without an operation.

Mrs. Alfreda Post Carhart has an article in *The Continent* of April 4th on "Under Italian Guns at Beirut." In the *Congregationalist* of April 6th, Dr. William Allen Knight describes the last homeward voyage of Miss Corinna Shattuck, of Ourfa.

Miss Eastman, the Registrar of Smith College, Mass., is spending the week as the guest of the American College for Girls.

OTHER LANDS.

The Irish Home Rule bill has passed its first reading by the substantial majority of 360 to 266.

The Khuen Hedervary Cabinet has resigned, and Dr. Lucaks has been called to form the new Cabinet.

A serious mutiny at Fez, in Morocco, has just been quelled, after four French officers had been killed.

The new Campanile at Venice is to be dedicated tomorrow.

A letter from Samokov dated April 18 says, "We are having frigid weather up here, with snow and hard freeze-ups."

Miss Harriet Quimby, an American, flew across the English Channel last week Tuesday in a monoplane, and after luncheon flew back to England the same day. This is the first cross-Channel flight by a woman.



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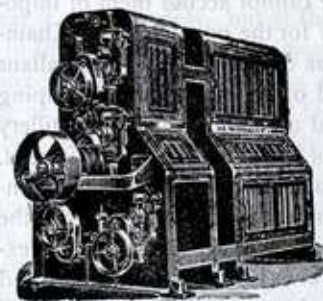
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