

# The Orient.

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## PRAISE FOR MAJOR FORD.

Following is a letter from the secretary of war to Major C. S. Ford, U. S. Army:

*February 2, 1914.*

Major Clyde S. Ford, medical corps, U. S. Army.

Sir: Upon your return from leave of absence I wish to express to you my sincere appreciation of the distinguished services which you have rendered in connection with the combatant forces in the field during the recent Balkan war—services which have reflected great credit, not only upon yourself, but upon the Army which you so efficiently represented. Your services are all the more creditable from the fact that they were rendered voluntarily in the cause of humanity while you were abroad on an extended leave incident to conditions resulting from a surgical operation of great severity. You organized and took charge of a unit of the American Red Cross for the extension of immediate relief to the Turkish wounded at the military barracks at Tash-Kishla.

The American chargé states in an official report to his department that in addition to your surgical work among the wounded you took charge of the cholera situation at the camp of San Stefano, and that your work in this capacity undoubtedly resulted in the saving of many lives from death by cholera. He comments upon your courageous and untiring efforts and the ability with which you conducted this whole affair.

I attach for your information official dispatches of both the American ambassador and his successor, the chargé, covering in interesting detail your services while on volunteer duty with the army of a friendly power, and I have also directed that these dispatches be filed with your official record in the War Department. I am glad to say that this high commendation of our distinguished ambassador follows in your efficiency record a number of other highly commendatory statements in your behalf of fine and humanitarian service and professional skill in the field in connection with our own army in the Philippines. It is especially gratifying to find that your services have been distinguished and appreciated by your superiors from the time of your entry in the service, and that that most precious possession of an officer—his official record—made up from the recommendations and appreciation of his superior officers and comrades, is one of which you may be justly proud.

Very respectfully,

L. M. GARRISON,  
Secretary of War.

## GREECE REPLIES TO THE POWERS.

Last Saturday the Hellenic Government at length made its reply the collective to note of the Powers relative to the Aegean Islands and the Albanian frontier. This reply states that the question of the future of the Islands now occupied by Greece is decided by the Powers, and that Greece will communicate to Turkey her acceptance of this solution as soon as Turkey is ready to accept the conditions imposed by the Powers. Greece further declares herself ready to act in accordance with the interests of the two countries concerned. She is ready to give the required guarantees both to the Powers and to Turkey that the islands in question will neither be fortified nor used as a naval or military base; and as a natural corollary of the obligations thus imposed on her, she assumes that the Powers will take steps to see that these same islands shall never be made the object of any attack or hostile operation, and that the coast facing the islands shall not be the scene of any aggressive measures. Greece is ready not only to give assurances regarding the peaceful occupation of the islands, but that she will take effective measures to prevent any contraband trade between them and the mainland, and also give satisfactory guarantees, such as the Constitution of Greece already furnishes, that the rights of the Moslem minorities on the islands shall be respected. But in return, Greece has the right to hope that the Powers will demand from Turkey effective guarantees that the Greek population of Imbros, Tenedos and Castellorizo, who are under the painful necessity of submitting to the loss of the status they now have, shall preserve their ecclesiastical, educational and other liberties as until now. It is to be noted that Castellorizo is part of the Dodecanesos, or the twelve islands now held by Italy, which have already a sort of privileged government, and will therefore naturally share any special privileges to be given to those islands in the final settlement by the Powers. The reply of Greece also calls attention to the natural conclusion that the general amnesty agreed to in the treaty of Athens will automatically apply to the three islands mentioned, as to all the rest. It adds that Greece cannot hide its grief at the necessity of abandoning these three islands.

Regarding the southern limits of Albania, the Greek note takes cognizance of the boundaries fixed by the protocol of Florence, and that the Powers wish the cession of the island of Sasseno to Albania. However much sorrow Greece has at the necessity of giving up a region that for thousands of years has been Greek in culture and national consciousness, she will order her troops to evacuate the territories assigned

to Albania within the time indicated, according to the decision of the Powers. The government makes a formal undertaking not to resist, nor to encourage either directly or indirectly any resistance of any sort to, the status quo established by the Powers in Southern Albania. Nevertheless the Hellenic Government calls the attention of the Powers to the desirability, for strategic, ethnographic and economic reasons, of incorporating in Greece certain villages of the Argyrocastro valley. In exchange for these the Hellenic Government is ready to agree to a rectification of frontier that would prolong the Albanian coast as far as Cape Paganía, and to pay to Albania the sum of 2,500,000 francs. The Hellenic Government demands also sufficient and effective guarantees that their rights of the Greek population reverting to Albania shall be respected, especially the rights of the town of Chimarra, which has always had a form of autonomy. It also expects the effective neutralization of the Corfu channel. In evacuating the territories assigned to Albania, Greece will turn them over to the Dutch officers, in order that public security may be preserved. Lastly the Hellenic Government begs the Powers to examine on the spot the frontiers of the district of Koritza, so as to make some necessary modifications in view of maintaining good relations between the neighboring States; and until this frontier line is definitely fixed, the Greek troops in the region will remain on the natural frontiers. Greece agrees to withdraw her troops from all the points occupied by or assigned to Albania. The note ends by expressing the firm hope that the Powers will in a spirit of justice and equity examine into the above considerations.

### BEAUTIFYING ATHENS.

English architects from Liverpool have been called into service by the King of Greece to reconstruct parts of the city. The royal gardens, the grounds of the cemetery at Tatoi, and other places are to be remodelled by them. Their statement follows in part:—

"The latest commission which has been given us, and the most important one, is to prepare plans for the remodeling, development, and beautification of the city of Athens. This work has been given to us on the personal recommendation of the King and Queen, both of whom have taken an intense interest in the development of their ancient and royal city. One of the first and most immediate necessities of the city is to provide a site for the very important new Union Railway Station, which will form a worthy portal or entrance to modern Athens. This great scheme is necessitated largely by the fact that within fifteen months there will be direct communication with Paris, and this is thought to be the time—and indeed it is necessarily the time—for considering one of the railway problems as it affects Athens.

"The next work, which will be carried out in harmony with the views of the British, German, and American schools of archæology, will be the clearing away of the accretions of hovels and shanties which have grown up round the Acropolis and the ancient ruins of Athens. Some of these hov-

els date back almost to the time of the Turkish occupation. They are of no architectural interest whatever, and it has always been a matter of grief to archæologists that such magnificent ruins as those possessed by Athens should be littered up with such unworthy modern erections.

"A careful survey will also be made of all those areas over which future excavations may be conducted. Other removals will probably be the buildings which have grown up between the Temple of Theseus and the market place of ancient Athens. Following this there will be a great road constructed between Constitution Square and the Zappeion Gardens to the Acropolis and round the base of the ancient ruins. This road has already been prospected and thought out in conjunction with archæologists resident in Athens.

"Athens is growing at a great rate. This year 50,000 people have been added to the population. The reason for this is that every Greek feels that Greece should have a revival. The war has brought out an enormous sense of patriotism, and rich Greeks the world over are going back to the ancient city, and in many cases are building beautiful residences. From the newly acquired territory the rich, retired classes, who look upon Athens as their natural social centre, will come, and therefore great extensions will have to be planned in the ancient city. A great royal processional road will also be constructed between Athens and the Piræus.

"Sites have to be found for new Government buildings such as law courts and probably, in view of further growth, other Government departmental erections, many of which will be on a very considerable scale of importance.

"A great water scheme is on foot for Athens, by which water will be brought to the city in about four years' time. The provision of this new water supply will afford opportunity for the placing of many fountains and the formation of ornamental water and lagoons, all of which will add to the beauty of the city.

"Much of the existing planning of Athens is very good from a city point of view. It is the work of one of the Bavarian monarchs, or rather of a French architect working under the Bavarian Monarch, about one hundred years ago or rather less. That planning, of course, took no cognisance of the newer means of transit, such as automobiles and street cars, which necessitate in many directions the reconstruction of one's ideas as to the width of streets and other matters.

"One point on which their Majesties are more anxious than any other is that there shall be created a great public park and gardens, and a boulevard system. Anyone who knows Athens will realise that this is a prime necessity. Already the King and Queen have done a very considerable amount of planting, and some of the hills surrounding the city are completely covered with new growths of native pines and cypresses. This work is to be extended in all directions. Experimental gardens will be laid out, in which will be tested all the native trees and shrubs, in which Greece is, of course, very rich, so as to provide a stock upon which demands may be made for the adornment of the city."

## OURFA INDUSTRIAL REPORT FOR 1913.

By Rev. F. H. LESLIE.

*(concluded)*

## WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

At the beginning of 1913 we had but twelve hundred workers employed in the handkerchief industries and hardly enough work to keep them busy. During the winter there was great suffering among the hundreds of poor women who had formerly earned their daily bread in this work but whom for lack of work, we had been obliged to dismiss. Thanks to the kindness of Mrs. F. D. Shepard of Aintab, who spent four months helping us get out new designs, and to the faithful work of our efficient native manager, Mr. S. H. Knadjian, orders have gradually increased through the year, enabling us to increase the number of workers to 1771. Both Armenian and Syrian centres in Ourfa and the Garmouch centre are in operation now though not in full force. During the year 22,249 dozens of lace handkerchiefs have been made to order and £3,227, or \$15,687, have been paid in wages to the poor workers. As we were unable to employ all the old workers no new ones were taught this year. In this respect we have not been able to utilize this work as an educational agency as in the past. But the re-opening of the Syrian centre has shown its good effect in the opening of the only school for Syrian girls in that quarter of the city made possible by the regular contributions of the poor workers who pay a few pence weekly from their pitiably small wages to support this school for their daughters.

## ORPHANAGE.

During 1913 we had to deny scores of petitions to receive orphans, but the distress during the winter was so great that we felt justified in receiving eleven new orphans, eight of whom are small boys. Only the brightest and most promising from among the many candidates were selected. We received the three older boys to educate and train in order to help their villages industrially. Our aim in continuing the orphanage is not merely to save a few boys from want but to help the industrial school to give industrial training to boys from other cities and villages, especially from the villages. Our orphans over twelve years old are regular apprentices in the industrial school. The boys over seventeen years old work full time in the shops but those under that age study half-time in the Armenian Protestant schools. The boys under twelve study full time in these schools. A wide territory is represented in our orphanage. We have boys from Adana, Aintab, Alexandretta, Antioch, Behsne, Hadjin, Hassan-Beyli, Kessab, Marash, Ourfa and Severeck and several small villages. Thirty-nine boys are now supported by the orphanage, six of whom are studying in the college at Aintab. Five boy students of the school for the blind also board in the orphanage. The co-operation between orphanage and industrial school requires that the boys be kept in the orphanage long-

er than otherwise they would be, for they must finish their industrial apprenticeship before leaving so as to be of real service in the uplifting of their own races, the Armenian, Syrian, Greek and Arab races. Eight boys were dismissed during the year, all but one of whom were large, well-trained and able to do good work. The small boy was taken by relatives. The night school for boys over seventeen years old is still conducted but another year will eliminate that necessity. Until this year the boarding departments of the orphanage and school for the blind were combined but the growth of the latter institution compelled the building of new quarters for the orphanage boarding department this year. The boys have their own prayer services every day and attend both Sunday-School and church regularly. The deficit of £123 10s, or \$600, in the orphanage account this year is more apparent than real, as the present supplies of grain and fuel will last for the next six months.

## SHATTUCK MEMORIAL HALL.

The quarrying of stone for Shattuck Memorial Hall will begin in January. £470, or \$2284, are now in hand, leaving but £250, or \$1200, to be raised. As the building is so greatly needed to replace the miserable, old, cold, dark, damp, half-underground rooms in which the children are now unsanitariously crowded, it has been decided to begin building as soon as the stone is prepared so that the first story may be used next year and the health of the school children saved. By building the first story in the Oriental arch style the stone roof can later be used as the floor of the second story without alteration. If our friends will loyally support this enterprise, we can within the next year raise the balance of the money necessary to complete this monument to the noble woman who gave her life in heroic service to the helpless widows and orphans.

The report of Shattuck School for the Blind will be issued at the close of the school year in June and sent to all our friends.

We are very grateful to our many friends in America, England and Switzerland for their loyal support of the Ourfa work by their gifts and encouraging letters during 1913.

Respectfully submitted

GEORGE F. GRACEY.

F. H. LESLIE.

Superintendent of Shops.

*Ourfa, Turkey, January 1st, 1914.*

Contributions for the Ourfa work may be sent through Mr. F. H. WIGGIN, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., U. S. A. MISS E. C. WHEELER, 345, East 25th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. FRIENDS OF ARMENIA, 47 Victoria St., London, S. W. COL. LEOPOLD FAVRE, 6 Rue de Granges, Geneva, Switzerland.

MR. W. W. PEET, Bible House, Constantinople, Turkey.  
REV. F. H. LESLIE, American Mission, Ourfa, Turkey in Asia.

All contributions will be most gratefully received and duly acknowledged.

### THE NEW RULER OF ALBANIA.

Last week the delegation of Albanians sent to officially inform Prince Wilhelm of Wied of his choice as ruler of the new Albanian State arrived at the castle of New-Wied, and was received with all pomp by the Prince. Essad Pasha, the chief of the delegation, made an address in the Albanian language, the essential part of which was as follows:—

"The deputation begs you to accept the crown of free and independent Albania. Our nation in its struggle for independence has had to pass through unfortunate times, but it has never forgotten its glorious past and has succeeded in preserving its national spirit and the language of its ancestors. The changes that have been brought about in the Balkans and the help of the great Powers have enabled Albania to rise to the position of a free and independent State. The Albanians are rejoicing that Your Highness, son of a great nation that is far advanced in the realm of science and culture, has consented to be our Sovereign. The Albanians will always be the faithful subjects of Your Highness. They will always be ready to second Your efforts to guide the Albanian people to a happy and glorious future. Long live His Majesty the King of Albania!"

The Prince replied in German, saying that he accepted the throne of the country which, after many struggles, had succeeded in regaining its freedom. He further stated that for the future he would belong with all his heart to his new country, and expressed the hope that all the Albanians would join him in working for the development of the country they loved. In conclusion he said he was happy to receive the assurances of fidelity which the deputation had just given him, a fidelity which is a sacred thing in Albania, and is justly celebrated in the whole world.

A tragic coincidence in this connection is the death last week of Prince George Castriot, who was looked upon as one of the chief aspirants to the throne of Albania, as heir to the ancient throne since he was a lineal descendant of the famous George Castriot, known to the Turks as Skanderbeg, or Iskender Bey, the commander who baffled every effort of Mohammed the Conqueror of Constantinople to subjugate this brave people, and with whom the Sultan eventually made a formal treaty acknowledging the independence of Albania.

The Prince of Wied, who has been visiting the various capitals of central Europe, and was last week in England at the court of King George, has decided to visit St. Petersburg as well before going to his new Capital. He is reported to be starting for the Russian capital before the end of this week. Everywhere the reception accorded to him has been most cordial. All the Powers will have warships to escort the new ruler when he goes, probably next week, from Trieste to Durazzo to enter his new domains.

Between Friday, Feb. 13th, and Monday, Feb. 16, New York City experienced one of the severest blizzards in its history.

### WHO OWNS ASIA MINOR?

The Turkish daily *Peyam*, commenting on the reported Franco-German agreement regarding Anatolia, says:—

"We are perfectly aware that Anatolia belongs by right and in fact to us. Anatolia and Arabia are integral parts of the Empire. But the Powers have decided to appropriate to themselves certain privileges in the line of economic enterprises, such as railroads, harbors and carriage roads. And after seizing these concessions from us in our weakness, they cannot agree among themselves. They negotiate indefinitely. At last France and Germany seem to have agreed on their respective pretensions. The Germans have obtained the construction of the Baghdad railroad, wherefore the French have demanded compensating concessions, as the English did a while ago. England, in order to give her consent in the matter of the Baghdad railroad, demanded to be allowed to participate in the Baghdad-Basra section; and it was only after having obtained from Germany satisfaction on this point, and from us on certain others, that she disarmed. France found herself in a similar situation. Not that we had bargained with her over these concessions when we gave her the railway system of the Black Sea slope. What she wished was a connection between this system and the Baghdad line. Germany, who first made difficulties, has ended by granting the wishes of France. This is the news of this week. All this is quite wounding to our national sentiments. Whose is this property that they are thus dividing up, after all? Surely it is ours. Then why do they dispose of it without even consulting us? Alas! we have voluntarily deprived ourselves of our own rights. We could not carry out these public works ourselves, so we have abandoned them to others. We cannot complain; but it is sad, none the less."

The agreement referred to in the article is described in a Reuter's despatch from Berlin:—

"A draft of the Franco-German agreement on the Turkish railway and financial questions was initialled at the Foreign Office here at noon today by representatives of both parties. It is in the form of arrangement between the Deutsche Bank, which simultaneously represents the Anatolian and Baghdad Railway Companies, and the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which is acting at the same time for the Syrian Railway Company and the railway company to be formed for the Black Sea basin. The German and French Governments, after examining the agreement, intend to take official cognizance of its contents by means of an exchange of notes. The coming into force of the arrangements is dependent upon an understanding being arrived at by the parties concerned with Turkey upon the questions at issue."

### CALENDAR OF ENGLISH PREACHING SERVICES.

Sunday, March 1st, 1914.

BEBEK CHURCH, 11 a. m., Rev. Arsen B. Schmavonian.  
 UNION CHURCH, Pera, 11 a. m., Rev. Robert Frew.  
 ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. Charles Anderson, D.D.  
 CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE, 4:30 p. m. Rev. Robert Frew.

## THE ORIENT

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**Charles T. Riggs**

Bible House, Constantinople.

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE. FEBRUARY 25, 1914.

## EDITORIAL.

The government has recently been able to borrow a few hundred thousand liras with which to make payment to its officials for one month's salary. Some of its friends seem to regard the borrowing of money as a triumph for the Government, and a sign that it is trusted. But they do not consider apparently, the resulting weight of responsibility in the way of interest to be paid on the loan. That road leads to bankruptcy, unless one walks most circumspectly; and the Government, while it is compelled to borrow or declare a moratorium, knows perfectly well that it has no reason to boast about its ability to borrow. The source of difficulty about the budget of the State is the enormous military and naval drain. Would that this could be checked, and the money expended put into productive enterprises.

A census of the Empire is announced, to be taken in the near future. Such a venture is no light matter. An accurate census has never yet been taken in this country; and when we consider the obstacles in the way, we are not surprised. Truthfulness is supposed to be indulged in when replying to the enumerators; and truth is a relative quantity in the East, to be used guardedly, especially when answering personal questions. How is the census man to know whether the *hanum* is telling him with any accuracy whatever the number of her children when he is not allowed to go in and see for himself? And as for ages, the parents themselves frequently do not know their own children's ages, much less their own. Probably in many cases the best approximate to the truth will be to number the houses and get at the figure of the inhabitants by guesswork. Still, the results of the proposed census will be more reliable than anything now at hand. And the boundaries of the Empire have so changed since the last estimates were made that even the religious communities probably have no accurate figures in their possession for their own flocks.

The ORIENT has been trying for the past year to secure something fairly accurate regarding the population of the Capital; and the difficulties have been well-nigh insurmountable. We hope now to be soon in a position to give our readers some reliable figures.

## THE ROTTERDAM TOURISTS.

Ideal weather and bright sunshine favored the 800 and more tourists on the big Dutch liner "Rotterdam" for their brief visit here. This 24,000-ton boat is the largest tourist steamer that has ever been here, and probably the largest ship of any kind yet to anchor in the Bosphorus. We understand also that never before have so many first-class passengers crossed the ocean on a single ship. Furthermore this is the largest Dutch steamer of any kind afloat. The arrangements made for the one day at Constantinople were quite complete, and the party saw as much as was possible in the time. Ambassador Morgenthau contributed greatly to the enjoyment and benefit of the tourists; for he not only greeted them on their arrival but gave an address on board that evening, describing in words of warm tribute the American enterprises in Turkey. And the next afternoon the Ambassador and Mrs. Morgenthau kept open house for the visitors, most of whom availed themselves of this boundless hospitality. With pleasing thoughtfulness the Ambassador had prepared little George Washington mementoes for the children of the party, and boxes of *locoum* for the older ones. The travelers also had opportunity, many of them, to meet the Greek Patriarch, who happened at that time to be calling on the Ambassador. Shortly after eight o'clock Monday evening the "Rotterdam" sailed for the Syrian coast.

## CALENDAR OF NOTEWORTHY DATES.

- Feb. 26, 1861, Ferdinand, King of Bulgaria, born.  
 > > 1865, Telegraphic communication with India established.  
 > > 1885, Miss Minnie Brown, Hadjin and Adana, died.  
 > > 1898, Rev. G. B. Nutting, Ainfab and Ourfa, died.  
 > > 1914, Sourp Vartan, Armenian holiday.  
 > 27, 1830, Rev. H. G. O. Dwight arrived at Cons/ple.  
 > > 1864, H. B. Haskell, M.D., Mosoul, died.  
 > > 1893, Rev. J. W. Seelye, Trebizond and Constantinople, died.  
 > 28, 1894, Mrs. J. F. Clarke, Philippopolis and Samokov, died.  
 March 1, 1833, George Washburn, Robert College, born.  
 > > 1871, Railroad, Kassaba to Alashehir, opened.  
 > > 1898, Mrs. J. Y. Leonard, Marsovan, died.  
 > > 1912, Sherwood Eddy in Constantinople.  
 > 2, 1791, John Wesley died.  
 > > 1869, W. B. M., Boston, incorporated.  
 > 3, 1878, Treaty of San Stefano signed.  
 > 4, 1814, Mrs. Nathan Benjamin, Greece and Turkey, born.

## NEWS FROM VAN.

A letter from Mr. Yarrow of Van dated Feb. 9th contains the following items:—

"A couple of weeks ago Dr. Ussher had a very severe experience and he is still confined to his bed as a result. He was coming home from a call in a village at night and the road was so bad that he could not ride his horse. The night was so dark and his path so slippery that his progress was a series of lunging ahead, falling down, getting up, and repeating the process until he reached home in an exhausted condition. His back was so severely strained that he has hardly been able to move since. Dr. Ussher's condition is especially lamentable at this time when there is so much sickness, especially among the soldiers. There is a very severe epidemic of famine typhus among the soldiers and an alarming number of deaths are occurring daily." Mr. Yarrow here describes the lamentable state of things among the soldiers, where the men die like flies without any care or attention. "Dr. Ussher tried to get permission to remove some sick soldiers in whom he was interested from the barracks to our hospital; but it was no use. They stayed and died the inevitable death that waits such a large proportion of the sick soldiers.

"After four years of search a pastor has been found for our church, the same one who left the pulpit to accept a call to Mezireh. There are many signs of renewed interest, and the attendance at the Sunday noon service shows a most encouraging increase. The Sunday morning prayer-meeting has given place to the Sunday School which formerly came after the noon service and was very poorly attended. It is too early to say what the effect will be, but personally I think it will be most beneficial. We still continue our primary Sunday School at eleven o'clock Sunday morning. We had a concert for these children at Christmas and gave out 500 bags of candy. To meet this expense the teachers took up a collection among the people and raised something over four liras. There are thirty-one teachers, and during the winter months we have an average attendance of about 350. In the walled city we have another Sunday School of about 100 pupils.

"Probably the most important step taken in our station work has been the opening of the Turkish Kindergarten. This was accomplished with the co-operation of the Turks themselves. A sort of a committee was formed, with the Mearif Mūdiri as its head, and they made all the arrangements about inviting the children, finding a house, etc. At the first session this committee of three was present and the Mearif Mūdiri formally opened the school, taking my hand, as representative of the station, and pledging their support and calling down the blessing of Allah on the enterprize. Miss Siliman and Oriort Annig make a very effective team for this work. They hold afternoon sessions every day except Friday and Sunday. The children do not pay tuition and we furnish the teachers, but the committee pay the expenses of house rent and heating. The arrangement is more profitable to us

than if we charged tuition, but the arrangement is only for one year, and the plan is later to charge a direct tuition when the people have acquired a "taste" for this sort of education. There are about twenty children enrolled and the attendance keeps up well.

"Our schools are enjoying continued prosperity. The enrollment in the Boys' School is 511 at midyears, and that of the Girls' School is 550 including the Kindergarten which has about 80 pupils, about half of whom are boys. For several years we have used the system of advance payment for tuition with uniform success. The receipts for this school year will be approximately Lt. 275 Boys' School, Lt. 200 Girls' School.

"We are greatly rejoiced at the prospect of having a man to superintend our outstation work. We have never had a force sufficient to do justice to this department, and it has suffered accordingly; but under the influence of Mr. MacKeeman we hope to tell a different story in a few years.

"We have a new English Consul, Captain Smith by name. He seems quite amiable and capable."

## IS THIS IMPARTIALITY?

The *Tanin* comments thus on the ways of Europe:—

Peace and tranquillity: these are words on everybody's lips since the close of the Balkan war. In connection with all political, economic or administrative questions on which we have tried to talk with Europe, or regarding which we have had dealings with her, we have always been talked to about peace, and the necessity of not disturbing the general tranquillity. In every case our good faith is doubted. As we have emerged from a long war with great losses, our army lacks many things, for its provision for defense. But we recall what a hue and cry was raised on the subject of the German military mission that we summoned here with this object. The Powers, while they admitted in their last note that our Anatolian coasts were in danger of an attack, yet seem to regard the one unit that we have added to our navy as a bugbear. They even interpret our words in every sort of false way. While the Balkan States are occupied with military reorganization or a huge scale, while Greece talks of a big naval program, and even Roumania is thinking of her fleet, when Turkey wishes to take measures indispensable alike for the safeguard of her frontiers and for her rights, the peace and tranquillity of Europe leaps into sudden prominence. When Greece tries to secure a loan in France, the condition is laid down that she must order her guns and ammunition from France. Serbia, even before she has signed the treaty of peace, signs contracts for new war materials; but when Turkey expresses her lawful desire to replace the arms and ammunition she left on the battlefield, it raises a political competition of remonstrance on the necessity of peace. Such a contrast in procedure surely cannot go unnoticed. One thing is certain: that the cries of Europe in the name of peace, which are unnatural, only increase our suspicions of her.

### RAMLEH CONVENTION THIS SUMMER.

A circular from the committee in charge announces that from August 4th to 12th there will be held in Victoria College, Ramleh, near Alexandria, what is described as a continuation of the Ramallah Convention of 1908. The circular says:—

While there has been unmistakable blessing upon our work for Christ, especially in recent years, it is evident that, so far as number and character of converts are concerned, results have not been what we could wish and what we might expect. All will be ready to confess that the failure in securing greater blessing is due in no small measure to ourselves; and that the remedy for this is to be found in God's promise:— "The nations shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I am sanctified in you before their eyes." There is a growing conviction that the great need of all God's people is a deepening of their spiritual life; and until there is a realization of Christ's life more abundant, our ideal can never be attained. We are therefore arranging this convention; and cordially invite all those engaged in the Lord's work to unite with us.

Through the kindness of the Keswick Convention Council in England, we are to have with us as a deputation the Rev. Charles Inwood, and Mr. J. D. Crosbie, whom God graciously used at the Ramallah Convention.

By kind permission of the Council and Principal of Victoria College, Ramleh, their premises and grounds have been placed at our disposal. The College Hall is well ventilated and has seating accommodation for 2,000. The services are arranged as follows:— 7 a. m., Early prayer meeting. 10 a. m., Morning meeting. 6 p. m., Sunset meeting. Ramleh is half-an-hour's ride by electric tram from Alexandria, and is situated on the sea-coast with splendid facilities for bathing. Bracing sea breezes keep the temperature pleasant, and the nights are generally cool. The afternoons have been left free to enable friends to visit the many places of interest in the district, the chief of which are the Catacombs, Pompey's Pillar, Tomb of Alexander the Great, Nouzha gardens, and Abukir; while tennis, baseball and cricket may be played in the College grounds, also rowing and sailing on the harbor.

The College authorities have also very kindly placed their steward and staff at our disposal, and the committee have arranged that each one attending the Convention will have separate sleeping accommodation at the College. Married couples will please state when writing whether they need arrangements made for children, and if so, how many, and their ages. Owing to the fact that 43 applications for rooms were received at the last Convention from persons who neither came nor sent any apology, intending visitors are earnestly requested to send final word to the Secretary of their district not later than June 1st, 1914, and thus save those in charge unnecessary trouble.

The Committee hope to be able to provide a first-class English table, free of charge, to missionaries of all accredited

Societies working outside of Egypt. Those working in Egypt will be asked to pay from 15 to 20 piastres per day. Visitors are requested to bring their own bed-linen, mosquito-nets and serviettes. The Khedivial S. S. Co. gives 50% off passage only, on presentation of credentials, and the Messageries and Austrian Lloyd Cos. 10% off passage and board. A fund will be raised to assist missionaries who could otherwise not be present.

The secretaries in charge are:— for Asia Minor, Professor C. W. Lawrence, International College, Smyrna; Syria and Palestine, W. R. Glockler, Esq., Beirut; Egypt, Rev. W. L. McCenahan, Zifta, and Rev. J. H. Boyd, Tanta; Home Secretary for the Convention, W. Bradley, Belbeis, Egypt.

### GREEK ORTHODOX FUNERAL CUSTOMS.

Mr. S. Apostolides, in the *Proodos*, inveighs against the mediaeval and disagreeable funeral customs now in vogue in the Orthodox Church, especially two, the excessive tolling of the church bells, and carrying the coffins open through the streets to the cemetery. He says in part:—

In this regard we may formulate the following axiom: that the civilization of an individual or a community or nation is in inverse proportion to the number of disagreeable, annoying, hurtful or dangerous customs and practices they have in their relations with others. So that the more annoying and dangerous we are to our neighbors, the lower grade we are assigned in the scale of civilization. To disturb the whole community with tollings of the bell that last for hours, because a relative of ours has died, and to expose to the view of our compatriots and of strangers the repulsive bodies of our dead, I consider no less annoying or disgusting than the boorish and thoughtless ways of a country bumpkin or of an uncivilized person. This thoughtlessness of our Orthodox Community, with its noisy and ostentatious display of certain of its religious customs, our carelessness and callousness as to whether we are or are not disagreeable or hurtful to others, savours of the uncultured boor and does not do us much honor before our foreign neighbors. Certain customs of ours must therefore immediately be ended, which, besides being dangerous to the health, lessen our dignity and lower the esteem which we merit from other nations, even when these customs are closely connected with the external forms of our Orthodox worship. The indefinite continuing of troublesome or disgusting customs once brought in under other conditions and for other reasons and gradually fastened on to the bark of the ancient trunk of our community or church as putrefying substances, like a holy mould, whose removal we dread with a mysterious fear, becomes a *mandarinism* worthy rather of China than of our day.

It is true that the common people is fanatically addicted to its customs. And this is due to certain psychological reasons, one being the hatred of any thing new, an instinct of both man and beast; but another and deeper reason is that customs form for any people a necessary means of showing and proving their identity, and especially when they are

customs connected with the national or religious sentiment. They are the differentiating marks that distinguish them from other nations. And so if any one try to remove one, or introduce a custom of another people, there is bitter opposition because the impression is that there is danger of losing national identity, of treachery towards his own nation. So, for example, if the majority of our people, that is, the uneducated part, see our dead being buried from a covered bier, like foreigners, they will think they are being denationalized, and are no longer good orthodox Greeks, but *Franks*, that is, that something of the essence of their nationality or religion is being interfered with; whence their indignation and opposition; and it is a historic fact that peoples have often gone even to the extent of bloody revolt when an attempt was made to change their national or religious customs.

But when the example or order is given from higher up, by some one with authority, or by the more highly trained upper classes, especially if it is at the psychological moment or after due preparation, then customs are more easily eradicated either gradually or even suddenly. The initiative must then be taken by higher circles. In the case before us, the higher authority is the Holy Synod, and after it the Communities, that must act with it. And I do not doubt but that the Holy Synod and the local church authorities in our Orthodox community will take the necessary steps for completely abolishing the exposing of the bodies of our dead, and the excessive tolling of bells, for this will have better results and greater significance than the abolition of wine and oil, as forbidden by our church on certain days.

### THE COST OF LIVING.

The *Levant Herald* thus comments on the straits of residents at the Capital in these days:—

"Just as people in their hunger are protesting, oh, so humbly! that they can neither pay rent nor buy food nor get fuel, and are begging for a divine intervention to loosen the collar that is choking them, we hear that the increase in the customs taxes from 11% to 15% will soon be accomplished. And this will be a new damage to the people of this poor country. This increase in customs dues will inevitably result in raising the prices of commodities and hindering the development of international commerce. The State will of course collect its taxes; but in a country like ours, which has no industries of its own, it is the consumer on whom the heavy burden will fall,— on the poor panting consumer, who, in order to pay his taxes, will have to stop eating when hungry and drinking when thirsty, to spend less so as to make ends meet, or else to cheat so as not to die. In either case it is bad for the treasury, which is using a two-edged weapon at a time when people are asking for relief from misery. Nor let us forget that this is not all. The increase in customs dues right after the imposition of new taxes is not the only sword of Damocles hanging over our heads. There is another, perhaps a little farther off, but none the less threatening from the point of the cost of living; and this

is the series of new monopolies that are being studied, and which will result in a new increase in costs. The proprietors will find an easy way out of it, as will also the monopolists themselves, who get fat off the sweat of the poor. Both will find, in the confusion of humanity at its wits' ends, a fine chance to make money, as they always do. They, poor things will be resigned to their fate and, sick at heart, will add a little to the rents and the prices they charge. Anyhow, one must make a good living. Others, who did not know enough to be land-owners, will of course die in the process. Too bad! But then, who ever heard of the big fishes caring for the feelings of the little fishes they ate?"

## EMPIRE NEWS.

### THE CAPITAL.

Regular trolley service on the line from Sirkeji station to the Mosque of Mohammed the Conqueror began last Friday. The line is also now in operation from Beshiktash on to Ortakouy.

The American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant will give a banquet on Saturday evening next at Tokatlian's Hotel, Pera, when it is expected that the American Ambassador and Mrs. Morgenthau, the American Consul-General and Mrs. Ravndal, Talaat Bey, Minister of Interior, Djemal Bey, Minister of Public Works, Süleiman Effendi el-Bustani, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, the Greek Minister and Mrs. Panas, the Bulgarian Minister and Mrs. Tocheff, the Roumanian Minister Mr. Mano, and Mr. Pavlovitch, Servian Delegate, will all be present.

The projected changes in the prices of tickets on the Bosphorus steamers will go into effect on March 14, which is the first old style.

The secretary-in-chief of the Chamber of Deputies has sent out a circular to all the newly elected deputies, as far as known, asking for their names and exact addresses, so that he may find out how many have already reached the Capital, and ascertain as soon as may be when a quorum is available.

According to a decision of the Prefecture of the city, made a year ago, beginning with March first, old style, of this year all milk sold in this city must be put up in corked bottles, and the use of the old-fashioned cans is absolutely prohibited. All dealers have been notified and were given a year in which to make the necessary change.

The general annual meeting of the Union and Progress Committee began its sessions yesterday in the Nouri Osmanié Club house.

Mr. Gryparis, formerly Greek Minister here, is visiting Constantinople with his wife.



Professor Watson will read in the Robert College Chapel on Monday evenings at 8:15:— Henry V. on March 2nd; Twelfth Night on March 9th; Hamlet on April 6th, and Strife (by Galsworthy) on April 13th. Friends of the college are invited.

Constantinople is entitled to ten deputies, who will, it is said, be chosen this week.

### THE PROVINCES

A general census of the empire is announced, to be taken soon, for the expenses of which a sum of Lt. 1,500,000 will be asked from Parliament.

Captain Butterworth, an Englishman in charge of a river steamer on the Shatt-el-Arab near Basra, was recently murdered on his steamer, and the British Embassy has asked the Porte to send instructions to the Vali of Basra to arrest the guilty party.

In an interview with an English journalist in Paris the other day, Boghos Nubar Pasha expressed himself as believing that if, as he was confident would be the case, the reforms just granted are actually carried out, there will be no longer an Armenian question.

An announcement was made to the students of the International College at Smyrna on Friday the 13th inst. that, owing to some recent unpleasant relations between the students of different nationalities, it had been deemed expedient by the Administration to suspend temporarily the meetings of the Greek, Turkish and Armenian Societies. It was made clear that, as soon as a spirit of fraternity and co-operation again manifested itself, authority would be given for the resumption of the regular meetings of these societies. On Monday morning at about 10 o'clock, the President of the College was handed an ultimatum, signed by about one hundred Greek students, containing a demand that on the day following the Greek Literary Society be given formal permission to continue its meetings. In the event of this permission being refused the signers of the ultimatum would leave the College at once. The Administration, of course, declined to accede to this demand and on Tuesday morning a large number of Greek students left the institution.

During the past year seven books by various graduates of Central Turkey College have been published by different presses. All but one, a treatise on Armenian Grammar, are in Armeno-Turkish.

The aviator Nouri Bey has arrived at Aleppo, and Fethi Bey is still trying to reach Damascus.

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## NOTES.

A son, Wilfred M., Junior, was born to Dr. and Mrs. Post of Konia on Saturday last.

Dr. Floyd O. Smith was on February 13th operated on successfully by Dr. F. D. Shepard for appendicitis.

The British Postmaster and Mrs. Ferguson are the happy parents of a 12-lb. boy, born yesterday morning.

News has been received of the death of Miss Ellen M. Pierce, at Hanover, N. H., on January 24th. Miss Pierce was 81 years of age and had been for over thirty years a missionary at Aintab. She sailed from New York Feb. 7th, 1874, arriving in Aintab March 26th; and returned in poor health to America in the summer of 1904.

## OTHER LANDS.

Last week Tuesday the King of the Belgians had a fall from his horse and had the misfortune to break his left arm. His condition is reported as satisfactory.

Subscriptions in Salonica for the statue to the memory of the murdered King George I. have reached the figure of 50,000 drachmæ (\$10,000), and will probably amount to double that sum. To this the municipality of Salonica adds another 50,000 drachmæ, and 60,000 more to purchase the scene of the murder and turn it into a public park.

Queen Olga of Greece, who had been to Egypt on a visit, has returned to Athens.

Queen Elizabeth of Roumania (Carmen Sylva) has undergone a successful operation for cataract in the left eye.

Severe storms during the past week in Italy and France have caused much damage at the Simplon Tunnel and in Lyon, Dijon, Nancy and elsewhere.

An attempt was made a few days ago by persons unknown to wreck the train on which the Khedive of Egypt was riding, not far from Cairo. The German and French diplomatic representatives were also on the same train. Fortunately the engine was stopped before they reached the spot.

During the graft investigations in New York state, Mr. John Kennedy, the State Treasurer, committed suicide.

Work has begun on the railroad line between Larissa and Salonica which is to connect the Greek system with Europe.

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Cunard sailings from Patras:—

CARONIA	(30,718 tons displacement)	Feb. 25th. 1914
CARPATIA	(23,243 " " " )	March 6th. "
FRANCONIA	(24,421 " " " )	" 20th. "
SAXONIA	(25,100 " " " )	" 26th. "
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