

The Orient.

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THE BALKAN WAR.

News from the scenes of conflict is this week more unobtainable than ever. Even the topic of the war appears to have been put under the ban by most European newspapers; and the local dailies seem to have an electrotype plate which they reproduce each morning to say that the situation in the region of Boulair is unchanged and that our troops are advancing from the Chatalja lines, and that there has continued a light bombardment of Adrianople. Probably the almost continuous storm of the past week and the numbing cold has interfered with military operations. We are assured that Gen. Shükri Pasha has agreed to allow the foreigners and foreign consuls in Adrianople to go to Kara Aghadj, the settlement at the railroad station, as a neutral zone. We are also told that Ottoman troops keep deserting to the besieging army by twenties and thirties, but that the garrison seems able to hold out considerably longer. The siege has now gone on for over four months, and is likely to go down in history among notable sieges of all times. Shkodra and Yanina also resist heroically, the motive in each of these cases apparently being to preserve them for independent Albania, while Montenegro and Greece respectively regard their capture as essential to their prosperity.

At Boulair, north of Gallipoli, some of the fortifications seemed to have fallen into the hands of the Allies, but by no means all. The Ottoman defenders are offering a stubborn resistance, and are not yet overcome, despite the severe defeat they suffered between Boulair and Examili. In the region of Chatalja there has been no important engagement, only brushes of outposts. In fact, all along the line are evidences of a most discouraging stalemate. Neither side can advance or make any decisive move. All eyes look to London, whither the ex-Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha has gone with a view to negotiating terms of peace. The exact definitions of his powers are not announced, but it is thought that he has a large amount of authority.

But the question which at present interests the general public here most of all is: Where is the "Hamidieh"? It is evident that she has left Malta; but where she then went is still a mystery. Like the "Flying Dutchman," this phantom ship is reported from a half-dozen different places. It is on its way to England; it is making for the Tripolitan coast; it is visiting the Adriatic Sea; and while Valona and Durazzo eagerly await its arrival, the Greek torpedo-boats are scurrying to cover, at Preveza. Its reported capture by the Greeks has not yet been confirmed; and Captain Raouf Bey is con-

sidered the most daring officer in the Ottoman navy, as well as one of the ablest.

The Lt. 400,000 received from a French company for the sale of the Taxim parade-grounds has eased the financial strain for a few days, and some of the December salaries have been paid. But the treasury bonds are not selling well, and this internal loan is not very encouraging.

Incidentally, several of the Bosphorus steamers requisitioned for the transport of troops on the Marmora have returned, among them No. 64, which had been reported as blown up. Another rumor that has not survived this recent cold snap has been that of the Greek landing at Besika Bay. Apparently the scheme was not carried out.

THE FUNERAL OF DR. RIGGS.

All nature smiled on the perfect winter day when the body of Dr. Edward Riggs was committed to the earth. The stormy weather of the previous ten days gave way to glorious sunshine; and this fitly expressed the triumphant thoughts and feelings of those who came to honor the memory of this man of God. The exercises were held in the Armenian Evangelical Church at Ajnali Cheshme, Pera, on Friday morning, Feb. 21st, and the prevailing note was one of praise and thankfulness for such a memory. Rev. F. W. Macallum, D.D. had charge of the services, and read some appropriate passages of Scripture and offered prayer. Rev. J. P. McNaughton spoke in English on behalf of his associates, emphasizing his great and worthy qualities, and speaking of the pleasure of working with him. Mr. E. D. Panousis spoke in Greek, of the value of his life and influence in the Greek community, and gave reminiscences of Dr. Riggs as a teacher and as a preacher, speaking of his remarkable humility and willingness to undertake tasks that seemed small, and do them thoroughly. Rev. A. B. Schmayonian spoke in Armenian, of the debt the Armenian people owed to those who had come to work among them, and especially of Dr. Riggs as a theological instructor. The hymns sung were "O God, our hope in ages past," and "Forever with the Lord."

The casket was completely hidden by the large American flag lent by the Consul General for the purpose, on which were a number of floral emblems from friends. Despite the cold weather and the brief notice given, a large number of friends gathered to show their appreciation of the faithful man of God who has passed on. The interment was at Ferikeuy, right next to the grave of his father, the late Dr. Elias Riggs.

Of the immediate family only Mrs. Riggs and Mr. and

Mrs. Charles T. Riggs were able to be present, also Rev. J. Riggs Brewster. A married daughter, Mrs. D. K. Getchell, is in Marsovan; Miss Mary Riggs, Rev. H. H. Riggs and Rev. E. W. Riggs are in Harpout, and Mr. T. D. Riggs and Mrs. Geo. Barnard, the youngest daughter, live in Colorado.

Owing to an error in the telegraphic message, the date of Dr. Riggs's departure was given last week as Saturday. It should have been Sunday, Feb. 16th. The day of his birth was also a Sunday.

PROF. ALEXAN BEZJIAN.

In Prof. Alexan Bezjian's death, which occurred on the 9th inst. in Aintab, we lose one of our great men. He was born on the 19th of April 1837, entered Dr. Hamlin's famous class in the Bebek School in 1852, graduated from there in 1856 and returned to Aintab to teach Sciences in the Theological School started there by the American Missionaries. He taught there till 1866 when the School was removed to Marash, and he continued his work in Marash until 1872. Then the C. T. Mission and the Cilicia Union of Evangelical Churches planned to establish the C. T. College in Aintab and Prof. Bezjian was sent to Yale Sheffield Scientific School to prepare himself more thoroughly for that College. There he graduated in 1874 with the degree of Ph.B., returned to Aintab and began his work as the first professor of the Institution, and continued in that work to the day of his death.

Prof. Bezjian was a mathematician as well as a scientist. And he thought and taught with scientific thoroughness and mathematical precision. As a teacher he was never obscure nor uninteresting. In his class room the students never felt sleepy. His scientific imagination joined with bright wit made the most abstract subject and the dullest formulas of science interesting.

Prof. Bezjian was not simply a teacher in the class room, but he was an eloquent public speaker and an efficient instructor of common people. In all the cities and villages of the C. T. Mission and many towns of Asia Minor his powerful voice has been heard and the public were instructed by his spiritual sermons and scientific lectures.

Prof. Bezjian was a devoted and humble disciple of Christ. The Bible was his daily companion, he was as thorough a student of the Bible as of nature. In his scientific studies he was like Kepler a follower of God in his footsteps, thinking after him. During the morning devotional exercises of the college his remarks were always most edifying. He had a large Sunday school class consisting of about 100 pupils, whom he taught in Bible, Sunday after Sunday; he was a frequent preacher from the pulpit and always delivered inspiring sermons. He was a leader in school and church affairs, and in all his life he has been a leader of youth, who always looked up to him.

As a man and as a Christian gentleman he lived a noble and beautiful life among us. He had a dignified manner and at the same time a very bright wit. He was a solemn looking man and yet had a very cheerful presence; his society was

most enjoyable. Sometimes when we become intimate with some great men their defects attract our attention and they grow small before our eyes. Prof. Bezjian was not of that type. We had the pleasure and the privilege of working with him in the same institution for more than 25 years, and during that period we have learned to respect him more and more as the years rolled on, and towards the end his religious life seemed to us growing deeper and deeper and the tone of his character becoming mellow and sweeter.

Over 1300 young men received instruction from him during these 57 years and his pupils have been scattered all over the world. And I am sure that wherever you meet them every one of them will express to you his admiration of Alexan Hodja and recite to you many of his witty sayings or dealings.

His life has been a blessing to our people, and we are sure that his name will be remembered in our history as "the great teacher" of the Renaissance of the Armenian nation in the 19th century.

H. K. KRICKORIAN.

BETTER MAKE PEACE QUICKLY.

The *Tanin* says:—

Since the departure of Hakki Pasha for Europe rumors of peace continually circulate. In principle, the Ottoman government is in favor of peace; so that no one can find fault with these reports that are going around. But the peace we wish is not a peace at any price. So that we must not at all believe that the government is disposed to make greater sacrifices than those mentioned in her last Note to the Powers. In our opinion it is certain that the Sublime Porte has not in the least changed its point of view since it gave in its last Note. It has said its last word. It cannot offer more conciliating conditions. On the contrary, as the days pass, each day adds to the helplessness and feebleness of the Bulgarians, and each day Turkey submits to new sacrifices. So that the longer time elapses, the more will Turkey increase her demands. Besides, since hostilities have begun again, the Note of the Sublime Porte is no longer binding.

Turkey, in order to show to all the world how much in favor of peace she is, has consented to a great sacrifice. She has used most moderate language, and has accepted very heavy conditions. This was all in order to avoid a renewal of hostilities. But the war was renewed twenty days ago, and the Bulgarians have been unable to obtain a single result aside from the withdrawal of the last Ottoman Note. The longer the time that passes, the harder will our conditions be for the Bulgarians. And we are authorized to say that it is an error to think that the Sublime Porte has consented to any new conditions.

The Servians, having occupied Elbasan, have not only expelled Rev. C. T. Erikson, as described in the *Missionary Herald* for February, but have kept Rev. Mr. Tsilka in prison ever since, and, according to a telegram received last week, threaten to put him to death.

ATTENDANCE AT AMERICAN COLLEGES IN TURKEY, 1912 - 1913.

COLLEGES	Attendance				Ethnic Groups										Religious Groups					
	Total	College	Preparatory	Other	Armenians	Greeks	Turks	Jews	Bulgarians	Albanians	Others	Boarders	Day scholars	Protestants	Gregorians	Orthodox	Moslems	Jews	Catholics	Others
Syrian Protestant	917	218	409	290 ^a	60	69		50	11	2	725 ^b	643	274	161	29	286	182	69		190 ^c
Euphrates	532	154	166	212	525		2				5 ^d	188	344	223	298	5	2		4	
Robert	470	192	268	10 ^e	75	204	67	14	63	25	22	345	125	15	70	279	90	12	4	
International	381	261	120		47	247	49	19			1	18	86	295	27	32	240	50	19	13
Anatolia	375	83	292		148	173	15	2		3	34 ^f	274	101	81	97	171	16	2	8	
Am. Coll. Inst. (Smyrna)	289	90	96	103 ^g	128	130	1	20			10	55	234	82	103	83	1	20		
Constantinople (A.C.F.G)	253	120	133		67	54	46	19	45	3	19 ^h	167	86	22	61	97	53	19	1	
Central Turkey	220	91	129		212		3				5 ^d	108	112	142	72		3		2	1
St. Paul's Institute	207	90	117		188	10	6				3	159	48	91	100	10	6			
Central Turkey Girls'	152	71	65	16	139	4	9					28	124	95	41	3	9		4	
TOTALS	3796	1370	1795	631	1589	891	198	124	119	34	841	2053	1743	939	903	1174	412	141	36	191

- a Medical, 158 ; Commerce, 71 ; Pharmacy, 35.
- b Syrians, 492 ; Egyptians, 199 ; Abyssinians, 3.
- c Druzes, 32 ; Behai, 21 ; Copts, 32.
- d Syrians.

- e Engineering.
- f Russians, 33 ; Persian, 1.
- g Kindergarten, 50.
- h Russians, 3 ; Persians, 5 ; Servian, 1.

The above table presents the facts regarding attendance at the American colleges in the Empire during the current year. As the figures were obtained in all cases through the heads of the institutions, they may be relied on as accurate at the time they were given, though a few minor changes are always occurring. The colleges are put down in order of number of students.

Several noteworthy facts are here seen. The total of attendance is fast approaching the four thousand mark. The American collegiate institutions are a factor to be recognized in the intellectual development of the land. Further, these colleges are training over four hundred Moslem youths. To have these young men and women under Christian training suggests wonderful possibilities. It is also interesting to see how the southernmost college draws from Egypt and even Abyssinia, and the northeasternmost similarly draws from Russia. Neighboring lands send of their youth to Turkey to secure a Christian and American training. Robert College is realizing its possibilities of service to the Albanians by securing an Albanian instructor for its twenty-five Albanian boys; and while that language has no literature, such training should be the means of starting such a literature.

We are endeavoring to secure similar figures for a table of the American High Schools; and while the returns are somewhat slower in coming in, this too will constitute a valuable record when complete.

Last Sunday was the Day of Prayer of Colleges; but we trust that the presentation of the above table of statistics, while unavoidably delayed, may call forth another volume of prayer for these young men and young women, that the present year may be one of great blessing to them all.

HADJIN HOME'S MEMORIAL SERVICE TO MRS. COFFING.

On Monday afternoon February 10th a Memorial Service was held in the school room of Hadjin Home in memory the one who had acted for twenty-five years as the great mother of the Home School she had founded. Not only the Hadjin Home School but most of the others in the city were closed for the day. The enlarged picture of Mrs. Coffing was taken from its place on the school room wall and set in the centre of the platform banked by the flowers she so dearly loved. The room was filled with the many graduates of the school and the many friends of Mrs. Coffing. Miss Vaughan spoke in behalf of the station, Miss Mariam Hagopian on behalf of the school, Yeranouhi Hanum Gabalian on behalf of the Alumnae and the women of the city. These were followed by Haroutine Eff. Seyahian for the Protestant community and Hagop Agha Kurkyasharian and Avedis Eff. Soghanalian for the Gregorians. Hagop Agha related as he remembered it Mrs. Coffing's first visit to Hadjin in company with her husband. The words of all were spoken out of hearts full of sorrow and affection and gratitude. The teachers and the school girls sang several selections tenderly and beautifully. The entire service in its harmony and deep feeling we felt to be a worthy one for a life of such heroic self denial and for one in which there was such a bestowal of love upon the least of Jesus' brethren. But the highest tribute after all consisted not in what was spoken or sung but in that quiet, respectful audience trained through Mrs. Coffing's rigor and love.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH IN SIVAS.

Our older pupils have had much pleasure and musical training this winter in the preparation of parts of the Messiah. The chorus of 100 voices was made up of the church choir, composed largely of teachers, the Girls' School Chorus and the Normal School Glee Club. The Overture and Pastoral Symphony were played by a string quartet and organ. The tenor solo, "Comfort ye my people", was sung by MacDonough on the phonograph. "The people that walked in darkness", was sung by Dr. Clark, and Mr. Holbrook sang "He was despised and rejected". The recitative, "There were shepherds," closing with the full chorus, "Glory to God", was very impressive, and the Hallelujah and Amen choruses were effectively sung with instrumental accompaniment.

This concert took place on the Armenian Christmas eve before an audience of 300 persons, graduates of our Schools and others who would appreciate such music. The words of the whole Messiah in parallel columns in English and Armenian, were put into the hands of the audience, and the pastor of the church read before each part, the words to be sung and the intervening parts not sung.

The impressive silence of the audience, and the reverent attention given to the music and to the reading of the scripture passages, made us feel that the people appreciated the religious significance of the Oratorio, and that the effect was more marked than that of most sermons. It is an indication of the musical and religious standard of our schools, that the pupils have entered thus heartily into the work of preparation and have shown a deep appreciation for the Messiah.

E. C. P.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SERMON.

A letter received this week from Marsovan contains the following significant information:—

"Last Friday there was preaching in the mosques of this city on the relations that should prevail between Mohammedans and Christians. A Circassian told me that in the mosque where he attended the Imam spoke very strongly, urging that hitherto the Christians of this country were a class separate and apart from Mohammedans, but that it was so no longer. Now when war summoned the Mohammedan youth to the army, Garabed and Nishan were with them in the ranks. When contributions were called for by the central government, it was very largely the Armenians who responded with their gifts. There was now really one country with one united people. All thought therefore of massacre or plunder should be put away. Instead, one should call out to his neighbor, 'Mariam Hanum, have you got any wood? If not I will send you a donkey load,' because the bread-winner was away from so many of the Armenian houses, as was the case also with the Turkish homes.

"The Imam continued that if there should be trouble between the different races and if in the course of events some of his hearers should lose their lives, they need not come to him to receive the burial of true believers: he would not bury

any such infidel as had lost his life in an attack upon their Christian neighbors. He would not read over his body, he would not give him the admission of Sons of the Faithful into Paradise. Further the preacher urged that if his congregation took any exception to his remarks, they should state them right then and there. They were not to go off to the coffee-houses and discuss these points over their glasses of tea, but if there was a difference of opinion the question should be brought to discussion and decision right on the spot. My informant said that he preached very beautifully and very strongly.

"Of course this is reassuring, but it is rather suggestive to remember that the need was felt for such preaching. I am rather surprised to learn that it actually took place, because in general things have been quiet and there has not seemed to be any special danger of disturbance or race friction. But such sermons would hardly be delivered in the mosques unless there was a good deal of thinking and talking back of them. The situation is easier now than some days ago, and nothing is apparent that gives us any immediate occasion for alarm."

NEW BALKAN RAILWAYS.

Attention has been called in many journals to the probability of much activity in railroad construction on the Balkan Peninsula as a consequence of the changed conditions. Certainly one of the first roads to be constructed will be that from Larissa to Salonica. It will be recalled that the cause of delay so far has been the inability of the Ottoman and Greek governments to agree on the route. The Ottoman plan was for a strategic line to go through Serfidje and Elasona; while the Greek idea was to make the road pay commercially by having it run from Larissa down the valley of the Peneus to the sea and through the coast towns to Salonica. The engineering difficulties of the former route would have made its construction very expensive. It will now no doubt follow the Greek plan. Another new road will be that from Salonica to Serres, to avoid the present circuit through Doiran and Demir Hissar. Then there will be the railroad to connect Üsküb with the Adriatic sea, wherever it is decided to run it. It will be an expensive line, whatever route it takes, for the mountains of Albania are a big barrier. And the Bulgarians will naturally run a line down the valley of the Struma from Küstendil to Serres, and connect Kavalla with the railroad; they will also connect Lozengrad (Kirk Kilisê) with Yambol and especially with Bourgas. If Adrianople goes to Bulgaria, that city will also doubtless be connected with Lozengrad.

All this railroad activity will of course need financial outlay quite beyond the powers of the war-impooverished Balkan States; and the funds will naturally be sought in the capitals of Europe. It is far more easy to get money at favorable rates for such public works than for war purposes; and we foresee no difficulties in that line. Such new roads should help these countries to recuperate, and therefore be a very paying enterprise.

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE. FEBRUARY 26, 1913.

EDITORIAL.

The unfortunate renewal of hostilities has very materially increased the suffering and destitution all through Asia Minor, especially among the families of the soldiers. Letters from all parts of the Empire tell the same tale of urgent need and appeal for immediate aid to save the lives of the tens of thousands whose supports and mainstays are either in the army or among the missing. Nor is this suffering confined to the Moslems. From among the Armenians and the Greeks as well, soldiers have gone to the front in large numbers, many of them never to return. The past three weeks have seen severe fighting near Gallipoli, with heavy casualties; and an even larger number of the troops have been laid low by disease contracted through exposure to the wintry winds and snows. And during this same time the severest weather of the whole winter has struck all parts of the country. We read of ten feet of snow at Bitlis, of the coldest spell for several years at Sivas, and of deep snows throughout the whole of the Anatolian plateau. The Constantinople Chapter of the Red Cross is being appealed to from every section for aid for these unfortunate people. Unless greatly increased funds are available very soon, the loss of life will be appalling. The innocent families of drafted soldiers, and their widows and orphans are suffering the consequences of this lamentable decision of the new cabinet to go on with an utterly useless war. But surely it is most unchristian to turn a deaf ear to their appeals for rescue because we have no more sympathy than they have for the cause of their misery. Friends of the Red Cross have now a unique opportunity to help many in all these nationalities to understand the real spirit of Him whose symbol is the Cross and whose love takes in all humanity. All contributions for this purpose should be marked "For the Constantinople Chapter of the American Red Cross."

In the conflict with the drink evil in this land, it is evident that the Greek Orthodox Church as a church cannot be counted on for active support at present. There are indivi-

duals in the Orthodox communion who are heart and soul for the suppression of the liquor traffic; but in too many instances the church is associated with the saloons and actively upholds them. On the grounds of the Greek Church of the Holy Trinity in Pera are at least a dozen shops where liquors are sold; and these are owned by that church and the revenues go toward its support. Recently an interesting incident occurred in Smyrna which shows the power of the saloon. Captain Field of the U. S. S. "Tennessee", now lying in Smyrna harbor, found that sailors from his ship were frequenting a certain grog-shop and as a result too often got into trouble. He therefore sent a polite message to the tavern-keeper, asking him to sell no more drinks to American tars. This the saloon-keeper refused to agree to; so Capt. Field was obliged to send him word that unless he complied with this request, he should be obliged to post a sentinel in front of his saloon to see that none of his men entered it. The saloon-keeper was obdurate, so the sentinel was posted there; and the dismayed representative of the liquor traffic found that not only American marines but also the men from the other war-ships in the harbor avoided his shop for fear of being reported. He thereupon sent a message in his turn to the captain, begging him to withdraw the sentinel. It was the captain's turn to be obdurate; but what was his astonishment to receive, not long after, a personal letter from Archbishop Chrysostom, Metropolitan of Smyrna, the highest ecclesiastic in the city, asking him to withdraw the sentinel, as his presence there was seriously interfering with the business of one of his parishioners! And this Metropolitan is one of the most enlightened men in the Greek Church, and is by his own people stigmatized as a "Protestant". We trust that his "protesting" was in this case of no avail.

MORE FACTS ABOUT ADRIANOPLE.

From Bulgarian sources *The Near East* has gathered much of interest regarding the city of Adrianople. We print a few extracts:—

The city was founded by a powerful Thracian race called Oudriste, which dwelt in Thrace more than 2000 years B.C., inhabiting the vast plains between the Balkan and Rhodope Mountains, which were watered by the rivers Maritza, Toundja and Arda. At the junction of the Toundja and Maritza the Oudriste race founded a town which, according to Stephen Bysant, was called Goneis, according to others Amian, and was also known as Uscudama. During the Macedonian domination over Thrace (from 341 B.C.), the town was named Orestiada, bearing the name of the Macedonian colonists of the Oresti race. Later on, when the Thracian races were conquered by the Romans, the city received its present name, Adrianople, after the name of Emperor Hadrian (117–138 A.D.) From this name comes its present Bulgarian name Odrin. In 313 A.D. near Adrianople Constantine the Great defeated the troops of Licinius, the ruler of the eastern part of the Roman Empire. In 378, the great battle between Emperor Valens and the Goths ended in the terrible defeat of the Roman troops. Valens himself perished in the fight.

The Bulgarian rulers very often approached the walls of Adrianople, and in 813 the Bulgarian king Kroum the Great captured the magnificent stronghold, taking at the same time about 12,000 prisoners, together with the Archbishop. During the reign of the Bulgarian king Simeon the Great, Adrianople fell into the hands of the Bulgarians a second time; but they held it only for a short time, the Byzantine Empress Zoe at the conclusion of peace paying a very high ransom for it. During 1189 the Crusaders entered Adrianople, and in the next year a treaty was signed there between Frederick Barbarossa and the Byzantine Emperor. In 1204, when the Latins of Constantinople were busily engaged in Asia Minor and the Peloponnesus, all the Thracian towns sent to the Bulgarian King Kaloyan, offering him, if he would deliver them from the Latin yoke, an imperial crown and sworn loyalty to him. The Bulgarian king promised them help, and the war began, the Frank garrison at Didymoteichon (Demotika) being assassinated by the citizens themselves. In consequence of this the Franks promptly evacuated Adrianople. A month later Emperor Baldwin appeared before the fortress of Adrianople, and, to his great astonishment, on the walls and towers Bulgarian flags were flying. He began to besiege the town, but a decisive battle was fought (1205) which was won by the Bulgarians. Afterwards Adrianople fell into the hands of the Emperor Theodore of Epirus, but in 1230 at the battle of Klokotnitsa, the Emperor was made prisoner by the Bulgarian King Asen II., and Adrianople went to the Bulgarians without fighting, together with all of Macedonia and Albania up to Durazzo. Then the kingdom of Asen II. included Belgrade, Nish, Üsküb, Serres, Ochrida, Elbasan, and also a great part of Thrace.

In 1361 Adrianople was captured by Sultan Süleiman I., and was the capital of the Ottomans until the fall of Constantinople, 1453. In 1371 King Vukashin attempted to capture Adrianople and drive out the Turks from Europe. The Christian troops reached the old fort Tchermen, near Adrianople, but were there defeated, King Vukashin and his brother were killed, and with them the liberty of the Balkan Christian nations ceased.

In 1420 the pretender Moustafa was defeated at Adrianople by Sultan Mourad II. In 1511 was here concluded the treaty of peace between Bayazid II. and Selim I. The city was again captured by the victorious Russian troops in 1829, and peace was signed there between the Russian Tsar and Sultan Mahmoud. It was this treaty which accorded to Russia the protection of the Christians in Turkey. During the Crimean War General Bosquet captured Adrianople and held it for several days; and on Jan. 20, 1878, during the last Russo-Turkish War, the Russian General Gourko entered the city.

The oldest mosque in the place and the most sacred for prayer is the Eski Jami (Old Mosque); next to this one in sacredness comes the Ütch Sherifeli Jami (mosque with the three galleries to its minaret). There is not much of special sacredness about the Sultan Selim Mosque. The Eski Jami was built before the Turks took to copying the one-domed

St. Sophia of Constantinople, and it is roofed with a number of domes of the same size.

In Adrianople, as in all the chief centres of Byzantine rule, there was a St. Sophia Church. Ten years ago its ruins were still standing, — part of the roof and a tower, in a square surrounded by Christian houses. A great fire has since destroyed the whole quarter, and the ruins have disappeared. Whether this church was ever converted into a mosque has not been ascertained.

BOOK REVIEW.

ARTHUR T. PIERSON. *A Biography by his son, Delavan L. Pierson. Fleming H. Revell Co., 1912.*

The life that closed its earthly activities on June 3rd, 1911, was no ordinary one; and the sub-title of this fascinating biography accurately depicts Dr. Pierson as "a spiritual warrior, mighty in the Scriptures; a leader in the modern missionary crusade." While not in the ordinary sense a missionary, Dr. Pierson's spirit was as truly missionary as that of any of the heroes of the foreign field. From his first pastorate in Binghamton, N.Y., to his last in Bethany Church, Philadelphia, missionary sermons and addresses formed a prominent feature in his pulpit program. It is of interest to us to note that his first inspirations in this direction came from lectures by Dr. Schaffler of Constantinople and from personal contact with Dr. Elias Riggs, who, during his year of furlough, taught Hebrew in Union Seminary, which young Pierson was then attending. Another fact linking him with this Empire is that the late Dr. George E. Post of Syria was his classmate and intimate friend, as was also D. Stuart Dodge of New York. His subsequent power as editor for twenty-three years of the *Missionary Review of the World* and as a missionary speaker on both sides of the Atlantic, has been world-wide. He exerted a remarkable influence also in the conferences at Northfield, Mildmay and Keswick; while the World Missionary Conference at London in 1888 was largely the culmination of his planning and prayers. He ministered for some time to the congregation in Spurgeon's Tabernacle, London; and this, as well as his subsequent immersion as the result of a prolonged battle of conscience, subjected Dr. Pierson to a scathing fire of criticism. But probably the most effective branch of the ministry of this versatile man of God was his Bible lessons. His sermons were largely expository, and his Bible talks and readings and largely-attended Bible classes, at Northfield and elsewhere, were inspiring to thousands. He was the author of over fifty books, mainly dealing with Biblical and missionary topics; and in the half-century of his activity he delivered over 13,000 sermons and addresses. After he was seventy there came his first opportunity to visit the foreign field; and he went to Japan and Korea, hoping to come around the world and visit Turkey also. But failing health compelled his return to America, and there he passed away.

All this and much more is told in the volume before us with great fascination and the deep filial sympathy of a son who was his fellow-worker for twenty years.

TALAS NOTES.

Of course the thing uppermost in the minds of all of us is what is coming, what is happening in Constantinople, what has happened there in the past few days. Our news is very meagre, and we are waiting for mails.

Here, we are trying to do a little relief work for the families of soldiers at the front. Some Red Cross money has been expended in flour, and as fast as cases are investigated and absolute need is found, that cannot be met in other ways, this is distributed. Dr. Hoover has attended some cases among the wounded soldiers or their families, and, with Mr. Wingate and Mr. Irwin, has visited many homes. Some of the ladies too, plan to go in to Cesarea this week to assist in this house-to-house canvass.

For the past month Christmas and New Years festivities have been the most in evidence. Beginning with our American Christmas, the weeks, with the exception of the Week of Prayer, have been full. On New Years Day all the Americans were at home as last year, in the lower hall of the Girls School, and about two hundred and fifty people called and were served with tea and cake and candy, talked a while, and listened to the phonograph, or to vocal or instrumental selections by different ones of our company.

The small Christmas trees, obtained with great difficulty by the American families, served as decorations here, and also in Cesarea, for the kindergarten, and primary school celebration for the Protestant church school, for the Talas kindergarten, the hospital, and last of all, for the Girls' School last Tuesday, the day school began after vacation. At this last there was a simple program given by the girls and then they all received small presents and bags of candy, also giving each other presents in a "grab-bag."

The kindergarten in Cesarea celebrated in a novel way this year. Every year the children have invited in some poor children and given them presents before receiving their own. This year, instead of doing that, they made scrap books and other things for the children at the Talas hospital, and coming up, dropped the presents one by one into a box, which was, at the hospital entertainment, formally presented.

The entertainment at the Protestant church in Cesarea was quite a formal affair, for which the church committee, with Miss Orvis's help, took great interest in decorating the church, and which was attended by a large audience.

The meetings of the Week of Prayer were well attended, both here and in Cesarea, the leadership being divided between the members of the churches and the Americans.

The Winter term of the schools has begun with good health on the part of teachers and pupils, and the lengthening days bring us new courage.

A. S. D.

The Russian Admiral Petroff-Tchernichin arrived in this city on Monday and has raised his flag on the Russian cruiser "Kagoul".

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

The law authorizing the requisition of any or all such supplies from private houses as may be needed for the army, will not be applied in the city of Constantinople. Assurances have been given to the foreign representatives that no articles belonging to foreigners will be seized.

The German warship "Geier" and the Austrian "Kaiserin Elisabeth" have arrived to join the international squadron in the Bosphorus.

The heaviest snowfall of the winter thus far at the capital came on Sunday last, when more than six inches of snow fell, though the mercury was not low and most of the snow has now disappeared.

The receipts of the two bridges over the Golden Horn, which were formerly about Lt.130 per day, suddenly increased to Lt. 400 per day when the management was taken over by the prefecture of the city. Following this there was a gradual diminution till the average recently has been only Lt. 170. This has led to investigations which point to extensive misappropriations, and reforms are being instituted in the administration.

THE PROVINCES.

An Armenian daily learns from Rodosto that strict order is being maintained there by the Bulgarians, whose troops are quartered in the school buildings in the city.

The plans and estimates of the National Bank of Turkey for the building of harbors at Samsoun and Trebizond, have been submitted to the department of public works.

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An attractive illustrated report of the Talas Hospital for the year ending Aug. 31, 1912, has just been issued. It shows a total of operations of 787, with 616 in-patients and 3832 out-patients, the numbers being the largest in the history of the institution.

NOTES.

Miss Anna B. Jones of Gedik Pasha sails on March first with the Zurich S.S. Convention party from San Francisco by the Japanese steamer "Tenyo Maru" to go via Japan, China and the Siberian railroad, coming back to Constantinople from Switzerland after the convention.

We are glad to learn that President J. E. Merrill of Central Turkey College is making a good recovery in the Aintab hospital after a serious operation. He has been laid aside for nearly three months.

Mr. Hoffman Philip, 1st Secretary of the American Embassy, who has been very ill with pneumonia, is at last accounts still in a critical condition.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Bedell of Robert College left last Friday for Patras, whence Mrs. Bedell will proceed to America, returning here in the fall.

Miss Ida Richter, who has for some time past been assisting Mr. Peet in his office work, left yesterday for Constanza on her return to America.

OTHER LANDS.

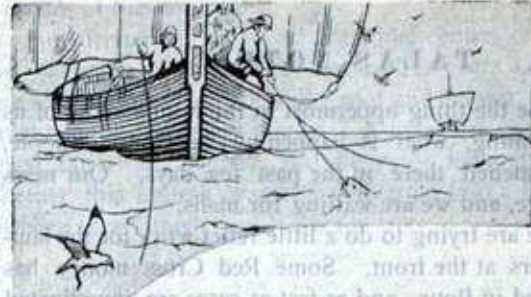
President Madero and his Vice-President were both killed last week in the course of the revolution in the city of Mexico. They had been arrested and an attempt was being made to rescue them. Gen. Huerta has assumed the presidency.

A telegram from Peking announces the death of the ex-Dowager Empress of China.

There is still much excitement among Indian Moslems over the events of the Balkan War, and the situation in Bengal is not reassuring.

A St. Petersburg despatch states that Roumania has asked Russia to act as arbitrator in her contention with Bulgaria over the Silistria district.

Professor Henri Bergson has been elected president of the Society for Psychical Research, London, for the year 1913.



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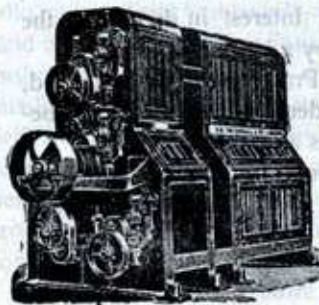
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