

# The Orient.

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## OTTOMAN HOSTILITIES.

An official despatch of the 18th says the Russian troops tried to advance under the protection of their cannon and mitrailleuses along the left bank of the Djorokh River, but after a five hours' fight, the enemy was repulsed. Also that after the battle fought in the environs of Serai, which resulted in victory for the Ottoman forces, the latter continued uninterruptedly their pursuit of the enemy. The Turkish cavalry encountered the Russians fifteen kilometres west of Kotour, and chased them, without waiting for the arrival of the infantry, in the direction of Razi and Kotour. A despatch of the 19th reports the capture of some hills in front of and dominating the town of Kotour. The latter is situated in Persian territory, southeast of Serai.

A communiqué of the 18th says a British cruiser that had been in sight for several days off the Akaba coast disembarked some soldiers there the day before; but the Ottoman troops hurrying rapidly to that place immediately attacked the enemy and obliged them to take refuge on board the warship. The fire of the Turkish troops destroyed a searchlight on the cruiser.

The official despatch of the 21st says that a hostile warship bombarded the coast north of Alexandretta, in the northeastern corner of the Mediterranean, but without causing any losses other than the killing of three camels.

On the 17th the Ottoman Information Committee printed a denial of the rumors of a double bombardment of Trebizond and its coasts by the Russian fleet, of the fall of Erzroum, Van and Bitlis, and of the march of the British from the south against Baghdad; also of a bombardment of the entrance to the Dardanelles by some sixty vessels of the enemy.

A telegram of yesterday's date says that the Turkish troops on the Caucasus front made a night attack on the Russian positions at the villages of Alageuz and Arbi, about 30 kilometres east of Keuprüküy, and drove them back with considerable losses in killed and prisoners.

## THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

**2nd session, Dec. 19.** An afternoon session was held under the chairmanship of Halil Bey. A telegram sent by the Vice-President of the Hungarian Chamber of Deputies on behalf of that body was read amid applause. Leave of absence was granted to deputies from Erzindjan, Kerkouk

and Van, and to several from the Baghdad Vilayet. A notice from the Ministry of Interior was read, announcing that six deputies had received administrative appointments during the parliamentary vacation, and had therefore resigned their seats. Among these are Azmi Bey, of Chorum, appointed Vali of Konia; Ismet Bey, of Constantinople, appointed Perfect and Vali of Constantinople, and Atif Bey, of Bourdour, appointed director of a branch of the Ministry of Interior. Several deputies had their elections ratified. Ten or a dozen proposed bills were referred to the competent committees. A motion made by several deputies, that the Chamber send a despatch to the vice-generalissimo of the army and navy, expressing the confidence of the representatives of the nation in the army and navy, which have proven their valor from the beginning of the war, was passed.

**3rd session, Dec. 20th.** The session was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by the President, and a telegram of felicitation from the Austrian Reichsrath was read. A paper from the Grand Vizierate was read, announcing the presentation of the budget for the year 1915-1916. This was referred to the special commission appointed for this purpose. The main item on the order of the day was the response to the Speech from the Throne. A new text had been prepared by the committee appointed, and this with some modifications was adopted. It refers to the successful mobilization of the land and sea forces as one of the brilliant chapters in the record of His Majesty's success; and refers once again to the attacks of those immemorial enemies of Islam and Ottomanism, Russia, England and France, which it says brought on the declaration of war, with the grace of God and the help of the Prophet, thus freeing this Government from all responsibility for breaking the peace. The proclamation of the *Jihad*, it asserts, was both the right and the duty of the Caliphate, to which God has promised an eternal existence. "This decision," it goes on to say, "based on the *fatvas* of the Sheri, should be considered as a proof of the greatness of Your Sultanate and of the future safety of Islam. The *Jihad* is an obligation for the Moslems, not to conquer and destroy countries and wipe out nations and peoples, but rather to safeguard the right. Since hundreds of millions of Moslems live on the surface of the earth, the continuance of the rule of Islam is a right of the most important kind. The defense of this right falls chiefly on the Ottomans." The Address foresees the ardent hastening of all the three hundred millions of Moslems to the rescue of the Empire. It lauds the heroism proven already by the army and navy, and predicts success for the Ottoman arms and those of their allies, Germany and Austro-Hungary.



The abolition of the Capitulations it declares to have been a wise measure for the country; and it promises that in the deliberations of the Assembly, union and concord will mark the proceedings. A telegram to be sent to the army and navy was also presented and adopted. This congratulates the forces of land and sea for having shown lion-like valor and calls upon them to push the advantage they have gained still further. The presiding officer proposed that the discussion of the new regulations of the Agricultural Bank should be the order of the day for the coming session, which was fixed for today, Wednesday.

### LEGISLATIVE EQUILIBRIUM.

Concerning the point mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, namely the need of an amendment to the Constitution securing better balance of powers in the legislative, the *Tanin* says:—

"This question concerns directly and personally the Chamber of Deputies. As is well known, the Union and Progress Congress, while arranging the details of its party program, directed its attention also to the legislative body, and decided that 'the Chamber should sit for four months per year;' and that 'in case of war, the Government should have the right to dissolve Parliament.'" The Unionist Government has naturally not had time until now to concern itself with this question of amendment. But since the State is actually at war, this the most opportune moment has arrived for this amendment. It is just this point that the Government will wish to have modified. And it may be regarded as already modified, for this constitutes one of the effects of the Unionist program.

### POSTAL RATES TO BULGARIA.

A new arrangement has been made with Bulgaria by which from the present time letters between the two countries will be charged only 20 paras for each 15 grams or fraction thereof, and postal cards only 10 paras. Printed matter and samples will be sent for 10 paras each 100 grams or fraction thereof. Parcels up to 40 kilograms weight will be sent from offices in European Turkey at the rate of 5 piastres for each 5 kilos or fraction thereof, and from offices in Asiatic Turkey at the rate of 6 piastres. Parcels whose value is declared may be insured at the rate of 20 paras more for each 500 francs of value.

Telegrams may henceforth be sent at the rate of 0.72 piastres per word (the total to be not less than 5 piastres,) from points in European Turkey, and at the rate of 1.20 piastres per word from points in Asiatic Turkey.

### CALENDAR OF ENGLISH PREACHING SERVICES.

Sunday, Dec. 27th, 1914.

BEBEK CHURCH, 11 a. m. Rev. A. van Millingen, D.D.  
UNION CHURCH, Pera, 11 a. m. Rev. Robert Frew.  
ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. Charles Anderson, D.D.  
CONS/PLE COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. Robert Chambers, D.D.

## PROGRESS OF THE WAR IN EUROPE

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16th

The telegrams of the week would indicate pretty steady failure of the French attacks all along the line in Belgium and France. In the region of Nieuport these attacks were aided by a bombardment from the fleet, but apparently did no great harm to the Germans. East of Langemarke the French were likewise defeated and lost 200 killed, 340 prisoners. French attacks southeast of Ypres, northeast of Suippes, northeast of Ornes, which is north of Verdun, and near Flirey, all appear to have been in vain, and many prisoners were taken by the Germans. West of Pont-à-Mousson also the French were repulsed. In Alsace, the Germans have taken Steinbach, a small village west of Sennheim, with 300 prisoners.

In Poland, the Germans have taken several positions from the Russians, and have captured some 14,000 prisoners and taken between 45 and 50 mitrailleuses. They are reported as moving from Soldau southeast through Mława. The Russian story of Germans losing 100,000 troops near Lodz is denied; the German losses in the fighting there are said to have been slight.

The Austrians appear to have been pushing the Russian invaders back somewhat in western Galicia, reoccupying Neu Sandez, Grybow, Gorlice and the Dukla Pass, also Bochnia, which is east of Cracow. But the Russians are still in large numbers at Jaslo, Lisko, Krosno and in the valley of Biala. The garrison of Przemyśl is reported to have made another successful sortie, capturing many prisoners. The county of Zemplin, in northern Hungary is reported as free of Russians, but the latter still continue their advance in the valley of the Latorcza River, in northeastern Hungary. Munkacs is in this valley.

But the most surprising news of the week was the withdrawal of the Austrian forces from Serbia. They had advanced some fifty miles southwards to the vicinity of Gornje Milanovatch, and were in occupation of the whole northwest corner of Serbia, having taken also the capital, Belgrade; when they met such stubborn resistance that first their right wing and then the whole army was forced to retreat, till they evacuated even Belgrade itself. Despite this blow, the Austrian communiqué says the morale of the Austrian army is still excellent.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23rd.

The sensation of the week has been the bombardment of the east coast of England, between Scarborough and Hartlepool by German cruisers on the 17th. The towns named suffered most, together with Whitby. The semaphore station at Whitby, a gas plant at West Hartlepool and also a fort, are reported ruined, and the cathedral at Whitby damaged. Many chimneys are said to have been thrown down at Scarborough. The total of lives lost is variously stated at 50 or 82, with between 150 and 250 injured. This is said to have been



done by three cruisers, which when attacked by a flotilla of British torpedo craft, sailed off to the northeast. In the sea fight following, according to the despatches from Berlin, two British torpedo-boats were sunk. The German cruisers were damaged but slightly.

On the western battle front, in Flanders and France, the French have been attacking vigorously, though apparently without much success. The Germans acknowledge the loss of some trenches southeast of Béthune, but they took 1200 French prisoners on the Somme River, and 700 more in the Argonne region, and in a battle north of La Bassée 200 black and British were captured. West of Lens, east of Albert and west of Noyon, as well as at Soissons and east of Rheims there has been severe fighting. The Germans are bombarding Armentières and Ypres violently also. An Italian agency despatch from Rome says that 50,000 Gurkhas from India have landed at Marseilles and are being sent to the front.

The fifteenth German army corps is reported to have arrived at Mülhausen, to take part in the offensive movement in Alsace in attempting to drive the French from that region.

The Kaiser is reported to have entirely recovered from his catarrhal affection and to have gone again to the front. It is also reported that the French General Pau has been entrusted with a special mission to Russia, and is on his way thither through Sofia, Bucharest and Jassy, having gone as far as Salonica on a French warship.

In Poland, the Russians are said to have retreated steadily till they are practically all behind the Rawka River in the north and the Nida River in the south. This represents quite a substantial advance of the Germans and Austrians toward Warsaw. The Austrian armies took Piotrkow and Przedborz after hard fighting. The garrison of Przemyśl, though still besieged, make daily sorties and capture hundreds of Russian prisoners. In eastern Prussia, the Germans are reported to have repulsed a Russian cavalry attack west of Pilkallen.

While the Servians have had no Austrian enemy in their territory to encounter, an Athens telegram reports that 25,000 Albanians from the Dibra region have entered Servian territory. There is thus far no confirmation of this.

A telegram of the 16th reports the capture of the Boer rebel forces under Captain Fourié by the British Government troops. It was but a small detachment after all. A court-martial sitting at Pretoria has commenced an investigation of the origin of the revolt. Capt. Fourié was condemned and shot.

An Italian Agency telegram from Rome says the Paris Admiralty announces that the German cruiser "Dresden" escaped the British squadron near the Falkland Islands, after all, and reached Punta Arenas, in the Straits of Magellan, and after laying in provisions, had again left for the open sea.

### A NEW KHEDIVE OF EGYPT.

Under the title of "Those Base English" the *Sabah* quotes a Vienna despatch which says that news comes from London from the British Press Bureau to the effect that because of the action of the former Khedive of Egypt, Abbas Hilmi Pasha, in going over to the side of the King's enemies,

the Government has been compelled to remove him. The high position of Khedive has been offered to the eldest son of the household of Mehmed Ali Pasha, Hüssein Kemal Pasha, who has accepted the post. The King has bestowed on Hüssein Kemal Pasha the insignia of the first Order of the Bath; and on Hüssein Rüşdi Pasha, President of the Council of Ministers, the insignia of the first Order of St. Michael and St. George. A Reuter's Agency despatch from Cairo is quoted as saying that the city was decorated with flags in honor of the accession of the new Khedive, who is well known as a great friend of the English.

The Khedive Prince Abbas Hilmi Pasha, with his two sons, left Constantinople last week and went to Vienna; from there the two sons went on to Switzerland, while Abbas Hilmi Pasha himself went to Berlin.

Regarding this action on the part of England the Austrian papers in general appear to think it of no special importance that England has declared a protectorate over Egypt, and they say the issue of the war will decide whether Germany and Austria will not have the say as to the disposition of Egypt. The *Fremdenblatt*, however, says:— "This same England that declares she went to war with Germany because the latter had violated, as she claims, the neutrality of Belgium, now commits an act of unparalleled violence in deposing the Khedive and in trying to secure definitely to herself the robbery she committed thirty years ago. The English statesmen are playing a dangerous game. Their new act of violence may have disastrous consequences for the prestige of the British Empire the world around."

### AMERICAN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

The Young Women's Christian Association of the Institute has begun its year's work in earnest. Devotional meetings have been held every Sunday and there has been a good attendance. At the meeting on November first there were forty-nine present, members and non-members. Of these thirty-one were boarders, the other eighteen were "outside" girls.

The Week of Prayer was observed very fittingly. A leader had been provided for every one of the meetings, which were held daily. The regular Bible classes of the school were excused for the week and all the girls were invited by the Association to attend the meetings and to have a share in them. The Cabinet met with each leader ten minutes before all the meetings for prayer. The whole Association entered heartily into the plans for the week.

On October thirtieth the Y.W.C.A. girls entertained all the girls of the Collegiate department at a Halloween Party. Each guest was invited to bring twenty paras worth of any kind of refreshments with her. The usual Halloween games were enjoyed, and a program was provided by the Association members. The attendance at this party was large; the novel way of providing refreshments was so generally enjoyed that the Social Committee feels at liberty to plan for other parties during this year of "hard" times. G. R. S.



## ROBERT COLLEGE NOTES.

There is little indication at the college that we are living through dark days. The usual winter round of sociables, music, and entertainments has set in. Two receptions have been given by the faculty to the students of the four upper classes. On the occasion of the first, members of the teaching staff gave an amusing series of shadow pantomimes dealing with familiar scenes and subjects. The entertainment was especially enjoyable as it was the first one of the kind given at the college. The entertainment at the second reception, for sophomores and freshmen, took the form of a parlor field-day, and furnished hilarious enjoyment to participants and spectators. It is hard to say which proved the most amusing event, whether the vacation race, the cross-country run, the thirty-inch chew, or the gracious offices of the queen of the day. But why distinguish among such revels?

A splendid beginning has been made this year in music. A student concert by S. Tevonian, piano, H. Tevonian, violin, Tripos and Mildeff, vocal, proved a genuine musical treat. We do not remember to have heard more pleasurable student music. A piano recital of rare beauty was given by Mrs. Fritz Belart on Dec. 10. Her easy and sure technique guided by an unfailing sense of musical values made the performance a genuine pleasure to all who love the piano.

On Sunday evening Prof. Estes gave the second of his series of Vesper recitals on the organ. Although the program was colored by thoughts of Christmas, it included the singing of the hymn "Still, still with thee," in memory of Dr. Manning, and several organ pieces that although appropriate to the spirit of Christmas were not especially composed for Christmas use. Such was the brilliant Concert Overture by the American organist Fricker, the Largo from the New World Symphony, and the charming Arensky Suite. A vast audience listened throughout with unmixed pleasure. The singing of the choir was of unusual perfection and beauty.

An interesting series of inter-class basket ball games is in progress, played regularly on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at 9 o'clock. It does not yet appear that the championship held by the Junior class is in danger.

E. B. W.

## CYPRUS ANNEXED BY ENGLAND.

It is officially announced that England has decreed the annexation of the island of Cyprus.

Cyprus, whose legendary history goes back into the very remote past, and which was known in the times of Isaiah as Kittim, was early known for its extensive copper mines, the very name of the island being the same as that of the metal (*aes cuprium*). The relics of the bronze age there are numerous. It is the third island of the Mediterranean in size, and has a population of over 250,000, mainly Greeks and Turks, the latter being about 22% of the total. Nicosia the capital, has 15,000 inhabitants, and the other chief towns

are Limasol and Larnaca, both seaports. Under a convention signed at Constantinople June 4th, 1878, the Sultan assigned the island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England; and the British flag was hoisted eight days later. Cyprus was conquered by the Turks in 1570 and 1571, from the Venetians, and it has since formed part of the Ottoman Empire.

## THE FETVAS AUTHORIZING THE HOLY WAR.

We give herewith the translation of the historic document that was read with great solemnity on November 7th before the immense crowd that gathered at the Mosque of Mohammed the Conqueror in Stamboul. A *fetva*, as some of our readers may not know, is an official legal opinion rendered by a *müfti*, or judge of the sacred law, on questions submitted to him. The *fetva emini*, in this case, gave answers to five such questions; and both questions and answers are given.

I. If in case of an aggression against Islam, an aggression involving the pillage of the territories of Moslems and the subjugation of Moslem population, His Majesty the Padishah of Islam declares the Holy War, have all Moslems the sacred duty of taking part in it, in conformity to the Koran (quotation), and is it the duty of all Moslems, young and old, in all parts of the world, to hasten to take part in the Holy War, with their property and their persons, as infantry and as cavalry? Answer: Yes.

II. Therefore, it being proven that Russia, England and France, who are today attacking the Caliphate and the Ottoman Empire, with their fleets and their armies, purpose to destroy (God forbid!) the sublime luminary of Islam, have all the Moslems living under the administration of those states and the governments dependent upon them also the sacred duty of declaring the Holy War against these Governments and of effectively taking part in the sacred struggle? Answer: Yes.

III. Since the gaining of the object depends on the urging of all the Moslems to join the war, if (which God forbid!) some of them act otherwise, should their line of conduct be considered as constituting a great revolt against the Omnipotent, and are they liable to celestial punishment? Answer: Yes.

IV. If the Moslem population of the States mentioned as at war with the Moslem Government take part in the war against the Moslem troops, whether under the compulsion and persecution of these States or not, even if they kill them, or even destroy their families, is such participation formally prohibited by the Sheriat, and is not the murder of which such persons are guilty punished by hell fire? Answer: Yes.

V. Would the participation of the Moslems living under the administration of England, France, Russia, Servia, Montenegro, and their allies, in the war against Germany and Austria-Hungary, who favor the Imperial Ottoman Government, since it may cause injury to the Caliphate, be a great sin, involving terrible tortures? Answer: Yes.



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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople.

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## EDITORIAL.

*The Orient* earnestly desires to obtain about a dozen copies each of Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 11 of the present volume, dated respectively Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 11, and March 18, 1914. We will pay a piastre each for such as may be returned to this office, until our need is met. Please give this matter your attention, and help us as soon as possible.

The song of the angels on the first Christmas morning will be echoed this year in heartfelt longing and fervent prayer by millions of people in every country in the world, for "Peace on earth" is the deep desire of all. Yet the happy heralding of the heavenly choir did not refer to any such peace as that which follows an ordinary peace conference, samples of which pained our hearts last year and the year before. Lausanne and London and Bucharest left sore spots in the hearts of many, and nobody was fully satisfied. The peace of God passeth all understanding, and that is what the world longs for today. It can come only when bitterness and anger are melted out of the heart and when true penitence and humility and a sincere desire to fulfil the divine conditions come in their place. Let us be sure that in praying earnestly for peace, we preface our petition by putting away all malice and desire for revenge from our hearts. There is not a guiltless nation on earth; and all of us need to ask for pardon for our people and our race. Humanity has made a sorry exhibition these past five months; and if a real and lasting peace, of mind as well as of arms, is to come it must begin by confession. Self-justification, boasting, recrimination, a sincere desire for the other fellow to beg our pardon, — these are not the preliminaries to peace. Rather is it the spirit of the publican in our Lord's parable, — "God, be merciful to me, the sinner!" That man slept the sleep of a child that night, yea, and there was joy in the presence of the very angels of God who had heralded the advent of the Prince of Peace, because the sinner had truly

repented and been forgiven. We can all have this peace of heart, if we meet the conditions. Oh that the Spirit of God might lead the world-rulers of this age to such true penitence; and that they might unite to forbid any further slaughter of the innocent young men of this generation, preferring mutual concession, if it be the pathway to a lasting peace!

An extraordinarily misleading article recently appeared in the New York *Outlook*, by a Persian, with reference to possible war complications in Turkey. Some of the statements made therein may perhaps be true of Persia, but they are made to apply to Turkey, and do this country gross injustice. He says, for example, "The Mohammedan never calls his Christian neighbor by his name, nor does he ever call him a Christian." This is utterly untrue. There are multitudes of warm friendships between persons of the two religions, and under normal conditions very cordial relations exist as a rule. "A Mohammedan would not eat with a Christian nor eat bread mixed by a Christian." Another calumny. A very large proportion of the bakeries of this country are run by Christians, and no such distinction is made. And it is the commonest of sights to see Christian and Mohammedan eating together at the same restaurant. "In general the Mohammedans refuse absolutely to use anything made by a Christian." It is a surprise that a paper usually so well-informed as *The Outlook* should publish such statements. The clothes the Moslem wears, the weapons he carries, even the fez upon his head, are made by Christians, and he does not object at all.

The writer goes on to say that the Turkish Government can do nothing to curb the depredations of the Kourds. The best answer to this is the quelling of the Kourdish uprising in Bitlis last spring. The Government showed then that it can and does execute summary justice on such rascals. That entire region has since last May been wholly rid of any Kourdish menace.

This same article shows a total failure to understand the present-day meaning of the *Jihad*, or Holy War. This has been carefully explained by the Moslem authorities here, so that it is pretty generally now well understood. The only persons against whom the *Jihad* is decreed are those who are at war with the Caliphate. Not even the non-combatant subjects of these countries now in Turkey are threatened thereby. Of those there are today quite a number peacefully pursuing their avocations unmolested in this capital, and elsewhere in the empire. Nor are the Armenians or Greeks or Syrians of the country in the least endangered by this declaration. Jews too are perfectly free. So also with those belonging to the neutral nations, like the United States and Italy, — the declaration of the *Jihad* has no reference at all to such. *A fortiori*, the Germans and Austro-Hungarians in Turkey, who are allies of the Turks in this war, are perfectly safe from any alarm. We trust that by now, in spite of such writers as our Persian friend, the true state of things here in Turkey is well understood by our friends abroad.



## ANNUAL MEETINGS OF BOARDS.

War conditions have much delayed the mails from America, so that only during the past week have we received full accounts of the 105th annual meeting of the American Board and of the 47th annual meeting of the Woman's Board of Boston. The former was held in Detroit, Oct. 13 to 16, and was the last meeting of the Board under its old organization, as it now becomes identified with the National Congregational Council, becoming as never before the Congregational Churches organized for work abroad. The opening prayer was by Professor Edward Caldwell Moore, D. D., who was later on elected President of the Board, to succeed the late Dr. Samuel B. Capen. Dr. Dan F. Bradley preached a powerful sermon from the text Gal. 4:4. Secretary Barton's review of the year's history was thrilling and challenging, as he recalled the social, political and religious upheavals all over the fields of the Board's operations. Among the special gifts raised at the meeting was one of \$1,000 as a special relief fund for Albania, in care of Rev. P. B. Kennedy of Kortcha. At one session, five veteran missionaries to Turkey, whose combined terms of service aggregated 250 years, were gathered on the platform, together with four new recruits for Turkey, for whom 200 years of labor was predicted. Mr. F. C. Lin, grandson of one of the first Christian Chinese at Taiku, made a splendid impression by his address on present opportunities for Christian education in China. The memorial service for Dr. Capen was conducted by President King of Oberlin; Dr. Nehemiah Boynton and Dr. Robert Speer were the speakers, and it was an impressive session. Dr. A. J. Lyman conducted a memorable communion service; and the daily devotional half-hour led by Dean E. I. Bosworth will long be remembered for its delightful helpfulness. At the closing session forty missionaries were on the platform, more than half of whom were to sail soon for their fields. In closing its account of the meeting, the *Congregationalist* says:—"In numbers it was not a large meeting. Only seventy corporate members were in attendance. The audience never crowded the church, though at several sessions it was well filled. The local constituency was not as much in evidence as has sometimes been the case. But there was a fine representation of pastors and laymen from the state and from adjacent states, and there was a notably earnest and loyal spirit pervading the sessions. The meeting was worthy of the crisis in which it was held. The message adopted to be sent out to all the missionaries of the Board and the native Christians, in view of this overwhelming war, reflects the temper of the Board at its Detroit meeting."

The Woman's Board for the first time in its long history held its annual meeting in Philadelphia, the date being Nov. 11 to 13. Twenty-five missionaries were there, among 197 delegates. It was a courageous, a triumphant meeting. Special emphasis was placed on the growth of the junior organizations, which now exceed 1200 in number.

The past year has broken all records in point of contributions, those for the regular work surpassing those of the previous year by \$3,000, and the total receipts being \$210,120. Of the eight young women present who had just received life appointment, four are for Turkey, — Miss Greene for Smyrna, Miss Putney for Constantinople, Miss Hazeltine for Van, and Miss Barnes for Sivas. The spokesman of the group was Miss Laura Ward, sister of Miss Mary Ward of Marsovan and of Dr. Edwin Ward of Beirut; she was to sail at once for China. Among the other missionaries who spoke was Miss Kinney of Adabazar; also Mrs. May Schaufliker Labaree of Persia, granddaughter of the late Dr. Schaufliker of this city. Mrs. Charles H. Daniels was re-elected president of the Board, and the next meeting was appointed for Burlington, Vt.

## NEUTRAL STATES DRAWING TOGETHER.

On Friday last the Sovereigns of the three Scandinavian countries with their ministers of foreign affairs met at Malmö, in the extreme south of Sweden, opposite Copenhagen, for a conference on their mutual interests. King Gustav V. of Sweden, as was befitting the host of the occasion, was the first to arrive, early in the morning; and at nine o'clock the Danish cruiser "Heimdal" steamed in with King Frederik VIII. on board. At 10:45 King Haakon VII. of Norway came in by special train; and with characteristic European promptness, the three kings began their conference by half-past eleven that same day. While they were taking their noon recess, a body of five hundred students marched in solemn array to the royal palace to present their homage to the three sovereigns. After receiving the representative of these students in the palace, the three monarchs went out on the balcony while the students gave them an enthusiastic reception and marched by.

In the evening the King of Sweden gave his royal guests such a banquet as befitted their estate, the ministers of foreign affairs being also present. The next morning the three sovereigns attended divine service, and then visited the schools of the city. The ministers of foreign affairs had a session Saturday morning, and after noon the kings and their ministers had a joint session. Later, after each king had had a private audience with his own minister, all six met together again. That evening the kings of Norway and Denmark returned to their dominions, and on Sunday morning King Gustav, with his Queen who had just returned from Germany, went back to Stockholm.

The official communication published at Malmö immediately after the close of the conference says:—"The interviews that the kings and their ministers had in the course of this meeting had as a result not only the further strengthening of the good relations existing between the three kingdoms, but also the establishing of a perfect accord on all the special questions examined in the course of these deliberations. Finally an agreement was reached to continue the common effort so happily inaugurated, and to arrange with



this purpose other interviews of representatives of the three governments whenever the necessity presents itself."

It is believed that questions regarding the economic effects of the war on the states concerned were the main topic of discussion at this meeting, as well as the measures necessary to maintain their neutrality.

Simultaneously with this interview, there have been taking place communications between the Roumanian and Italian Governments which have brought out a large amount of latent enthusiasm in each country for the other. On the occasion of the accession of the new Roumanian King, the Italian Parliament sent the Roumanian a message of sympathy on the death of King Carol; and this was the occasion of quite an unexpected manifestation in favor of Italy in the Chamber at Bucharest. The papers have since then been fostering this cordial feeling, and the bonds between these two Latin countries appear to be stronger than ever.

Finally, the *Dnevnik* of Sofia announces with joy the conclusion of an understanding between Bulgaria and Roumania, which guarantees the national interests of the two countries. This Bulgarian paper says that probably Italy will also join this combination, and that these three States, with three million bayonets to back them, can accomplish what they have never yet been able to bring about. It says that this entente gives in particular for Bulgaria the prospect of being able to secure reparation of the injuries she has suffered. With the retrocession of the Dobrudja district lately ceded to Roumania, and the settlement of that question, Bulgaria can, it says, occupy Macedonia by a peaceful invasion without violating its own neutrality, and that the Triple Entente appear to be ready to approve of this step.

While this news is not official, it seems established that Bulgaria and Roumania are engaged in a diplomatic attempt to come to a complete understanding as to the interests of both; and it would not be a surprise to see such another Triple Arrangement that will unite these States in a common effort for the good of all.

### THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The committee to examine the proposed amendments to the Constitution has been constituted as follows: — President, Hüssein Djahid Bey; Reporter, Younous Nadi Bey; Secretary, Ferhad Bey. The amendment to article 7 as originally proposed is as follows: "The sacred prerogatives of His Majesty are: . . . the opening and closing of Parliament at the set dates; *the convoking of Parliament, under exceptional circumstances, before the usual date*; the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, in case of need, conformably to Art. 35; *the adjourning and the prorogation of Parliament, on condition that the combined duration of the adjournment and prorogation shall not be more than half the length of an annual session, and that it be completed in the course of the same session. . . . etc.*" The Government now proposes to modify the bill so as to read: . . . at the set dates; *the convoking of Parliament either before the usual date or in*

*special session; the prolonging of the session; the dissolution. . . . . prorogation of Parliament, on condition that its duration shall be completed in the course of the same session. . . . etc.*"

The text of the proposed amendment to Art. 43 as offered is: "The two Chambers of Parliament shall assemble, without waiting for a special call, at the beginning of the month of November of each year, or at the end of the period of adjournment, if there has been such; they shall be opened by imperial *iradé*. The length of the session is six months.... etc."

There is a proposal now to modify this so as to read: "If there has been no adjournment, the two Chambers of Parliament shall assemble at the beginning of the month of November of each year; they shall be opened by imperial *iradé*. The length of the session is four months. . . etc."

### NEW LAW REGARDING FOREIGN SCHOOLS.

The following has been communicated to the Vilayet of Constantinople and published in the local dailies:

"As a result of the abolition, by decision of the Imperial Government, of the foreign privileges known under the name of the Capitulations, and of the rights and immunities resulting from them, an ordinance has been elaborated concerning the formalities which are to be applied to foreign religious, educational and benevolent establishments, schools and hospitals. By virtue of the second chapter of this ordinance, the schools regarded as recognized, and holding firmans, are given two months to apply to the ministry of public instruction for the registration of their firmans. The firmans thus registered will be regarded as authorized. The schools that have no firmans must also apply within the two months to secure the necessary permission. They are required moreover to present, within this period, the name of the responsible director to the ministry of public instruction. They must also present to the administration of this department their programs of instruction, in which shall figure the teaching of the Turkish language and of the history and geography of Turkey, taught in Turkish. Turkish must therein be taught to the same degree with the chief language of the school. If the books used are printed, the titles, the names of the authors, and the date and place of publication must be specified, and a copy of each sent to the administration of the department. Religious knowledge and history and the teaching of the creed of the denomination to which the school belongs shall not be given to the pupils who do not profess this religion. Nor must such pupils be made to attend prayers. Special functionaries will be invited from the department of public instruction to be present at the examinations of the classes. Lists showing the names and nationalities of the instructors shall be presented, also their diplomas and certificates. The professors of Turkish must be provided with certificates given by the ministry of public instruction. Sanitary inspectors and inspectors of public instruction shall be



admitted at any time; they shall be allowed every facility for performing their duties; the details they require shall be furnished them without delay. The schools of all those who do not conform to the above rules within the time indicated will be closed. The two months' time given for this purpose begins the 18th November (old style), 1330, and ends the 17th January, 1330. The rule is brought to the attention of those interested, that they may immediately apply to the department of public instruction of the vilayet and comply with the necessary formalities."

### THE EVACUATION OF SERVIA.

The *Tasfiri Efkiar* says of the Austrian move to the rear:—

"The latest moves in the war on the Austro-Serb theatre of fighting are without doubt such as to astonish us, and not us alone but the whole world. The Austro-Hungarian forces which beginning with Valievo, had succeeded in piercing the Servians' second line of defense, and on the other side in capturing Belgrade, have now, just as the last hour of the Servians seemed to have struck, retreated, first on the right wing, then along the whole front, and have even been obliged to evacuate Belgrade. As a result of abandoning this city and Valievo, the Austrians appear to have almost entirely retired from Servian territory. It is undeniable that this event is an incident in the general war which is not calculated to rejoice the Austro-Hungarians. Still, the game of nations called war cannot be made up of continual success; checks may follow victories, and vice versa. What counts is the final result. No exaggerated importance must therefore be given to the retreat of the Austro-Hungarian forces, which will not really stop the speedy effacing of Servia from the map."

The *Tanin*, speaking of the inexplicable evacuation of Belgrade, says this war justifies the saying of General von Hindenburg, that it is a war of nerves. "We are sure that our allies, who in the battles in Poland and Galicia have proved that they are in every respect superior to their enemies, possess nerves that no force can shake. Till now the Austrians have had many great battles with the Russians. This army, that retired when it needed to retire and advanced when it should advance, and what is most important, executed these two movements with equal calm, order and coolness, has given the final blow that broke the Russian offensive, and has taken during the past month alone, a hundred thousand prisoners from the Russians. This army will undoubtedly take satisfaction from the Servians, and it has never for an instant had any doubt of this."

"As for ourselves, we find ourselves in the same sort of a position. The war will last a long time, and during this period we shall write the most glorious pages of Ottoman history. It is possible that we too will sometimes be exposed to our adversaries. We note with much regret that certain rumors are again beginning to circulate in Constanti-

nople, — this city that is not yet cleansed, and which it is so difficult to cleanse. The purpose is clear, — to shake our nerves. But let our enemies be sure that not one of us will lay down our arms at such a measure."

### CALENDAR OF NOTEWORTHY DATES.

- Dec. 23, 1789, Daniel Temple, Smyrna, born.
- " " 1833, Daniel Temple arrived in Smyrna.
- " " 1876, Ottoman Constitution proclaimed.
- " 24, 1826, Mrs. Eliza Harding Walker, Diarbekir, born.
- " " 1911, Archbishop Izmirlian, Catholicos of the Armenians, died.
- " 25, 1812, Mrs. John B. Adger, Smyrna, born.
- " " 1914, CHRISTMAS DAY.
- " 26, 1905, Mrs. Lora G. Carey, Harput, died.
- " 27, 1826, Elnathan Gridley and Josiah Brewer arrived in Smyrna.
- " " 1854, Mrs. Joel S. Everett, Constantinople, died.
- " " 1902, Mrs. Mary P. Ford, Sidon, died.
- " 28, 1856, President Woodrow Wilson born.
- " 29, 1894, Mr. George C. Hurter, Beirut, died.
- " 30, 1905, Miss Henrietta West, Aintab and Ourfa, died.
- " 31, 1806, Rev. William M. Thomson, D.D., Syria, born.

### TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Ottoman Committee of Information has sent the following communication to the press:

We note with the greatest astonishment that the American papers have for some time been inserting news items that are wholesale inventions; for instance that the British Embassy has been pillaged, that foreign buildings have been destroyed, that an American warship which had approached Smyrna harbor has been fired on by the Imperial fort and that the Ambassador of the United States upon this demanded an apology from the Sublime Porte. Instead of denying at length malicious assertions of this sort, doubtless invented and spread through English influence and money, with the purpose of destroying at all costs the good relations that exist between the Imperial Government and the United States of America, it would be better and more effective to refute them by declarations from authorized sources. We therefore reproduce below, as a conclusive reply, a telegram addressed from Constantinople to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United States and published by the most honorable journals of America:

"The Ambassador of the United States receives in the exercise of his functions cordial facilities on the part of the Ottoman authorities. All the affairs follow their normal course as if there were nothing extraordinary in the situation. The missionaries and the religious establishments are absolutely safe. You may reassure public opinion on this subject."



## THE WAR AND MISSIONS.

Mr. J. H. Oldham, the Editor of the *International Review of Missions*, in the current number of that valuable quarterly, after speaking of the baneful results of the European war on the work of the Church, goes on to give some encouraging facts as well, which it is well for everyone to ponder and take courage. A few extracts from his excellent paper are here given:—

Great though the calamity may be, there is no reason to despair. Above the noise of contending hosts and the tumult of passion, God reigns. Human folly and rage dash themselves in vain against His immovable truth and goodness. Jesus is the reality that abides. The brotherhood of humanity is an unalterable fact. When the storm has spent its fury, mankind will have again to find its bearings and steer its course by the eternal lights of faith, hope and love. The real foundation of confidence in Christian missions therefore remains unshaken.

Hebrew faith knew a God who could cause waters to break out in the wilderness and make the desert blossom as the rose. It is in His power to make even this calamity a means of advancing His purpose. Nothing less, perhaps, would have sufficed to break up the ease and contentment of the Church and make it truly alive. It is not all loss that the deep-seated reliance on numbers, money, organization and traditional policies and methods should have to give way to trust in something deeper and stronger. It is wholesome to be brought up against things that are real.

If the shock of the war should awaken the Church to a new appreciation of the Gospel with which it has been put in trust for the world, the advantage to the cause of missions will be incalculable. The missionary witness of the Church has been disastrously prejudiced by the unchristian character of social and national life in the West, and by the absence of an adequate and telling Christian protest. The strength of every missionary will become as the strength of ten when the testimony of the Church is unequivocally Christian. This mighty volume of fresh moral energy can have its springs only in a living repentance at the foot of the cross of Christ.

The war with all its evils has been a means of quickening forces of good. It has released unexpected moral energies. The spirit of sacrifice has sprung to new life. Peoples have been awakened from dreams of pleasure and material ease, and brought up against real things. Theories, empty phrases and catch-words have been brushed away. A world that was in danger of thinking that things could be brought about by writing and talk has been aroused to the supreme significance of action. The new spirit that is abroad is a soil favorable to the growth of the missionary idea.

Another real gain has been the clarifying of issues. The war has disclosed like a search-light the yawning gulf which exists between the Gospel of Jesus and the principles by which western society has allowed itself to be governed. A penitent and converted Church will find itself possessed of undreamed-of powers for missionary service. In

missionary work in the past we have in practise proceeded on the assumption that our primary requirements were more missionaries, more money and better organization. We may yet learn to our encouragement how much more potent than any of these things is the moral power of the naked truth, clearly exhibited and intensely believed.

The fortunes of missionary work are not bound up with outward national prosperity. Missionary societies can prove from their records that in periods of national crisis their incomes have increased instead of diminished. A number of the larger missionary societies had their birth amid the convulsions of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. It is often in days of adversity that men's hearts are most open to the claims of the eternal, and that they are found most ready to give largely to the work of God. The present need cannot be met except through unwonted sacrifices. But by the grace of God those sacrifices can be made.

Finally, as the sure and unfailing anchor of our souls, we know that God is working for repair. From the moment that the blow fell, all the divine energies have been at work to put things right. Those who, undaunted by scenes of destruction and waste, set their hands to the task of building and repair have God wholly on their side. Failure is not to be thought of. The only possible danger for missionary work is that those engaged in it should have too small a faith in what God's love and power can do. Planting our feet firmly on the revelation of God which Christ brought to us, we lift up our eyes again to the great task seen by the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, and while deep is calling unto deep, and many waves and billows may pass over us, we are able to say confidently with the psalmist: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him who is the health of my countenance and my God."

## THE END OF MOLLAH SELIM.

As a consequence of the battle on April 2nd last between the Government troops and the insurgent Kourds, at Bitlis, on May 6th eleven prominent Kourds who had taken part in the uprising were hanged in that city. Mollah Selim, one of the ringleaders, fled at the time to the Russian Consulate, and the Russians, for reasons best known to themselves, gave him asylum. The place was surrounded by watchers, and the doomed old man could not escape. But he stayed there until, in consequence of the outbreak of hostilities, the Russian Consulate was closed up last month. Then he, with a companion, Halil bin Hamo, was captured by the Ottoman authorities, and in accordance with the sentence already passed on him, was hanged the following Wednesday in Bitlis. His last words are reported by the official despatch to have been: "The Russians will wreak vengeance on you for me." Accounts of this uprising appeared in our issues of April 8th and 22nd and June 3rd.



## EMPIRE NEWS.

## THE CAPITAL.

General Zeki Pasha, who has been appointed by the Sultan as special Aide-de-camp to the German Emperor, just as Marshal von der Goltz Pasha has been appointed to a similar office here, was received last Friday in audience by His Majesty after the ceremony of the Selamlık.

We regret to announce the death last evening, of Hagop Effendi Boyadjian, Civil Head of the Protestant Community, who passed away in Pera from uræmic poisoning, aged 77.

The imperial princes Abdul Halim, Abdurrahim and Osman Fouad Effendis have been authorized by the Sultan to wear the decoration of the second order of the Iron Cross, conferred on them by the Kaiser on their recent trip to Germany.

Admiral Suchon, who is in command of the "Yavouz Sultan Selim," has been decorated with the order of the Imtiaz by His Majesty the Sultan. Baron von der Goltz, son of the Marshal, and German Military Attaché at Sofia, has received the fourth class of the Osmanié.

Seventeen men have been condemned by the court-martial here to terms of from a month to three years in prison and to fines of from 5 to 50 liras, for having circulated false and malevolent rumors, subversive of the public order.

Mr. Tosheff, former Bulgarian Minister to the Sublime Porte, left by train on Monday last with Mrs. Tosheff and their children for Sofia. The usual honors were accorded them as they departed.

A mad dog went on a rampage last Sunday in Hissar, and bit six persons, five Turks and a Greek, before it was despatched. The injured were all sent to the Pasteur Institute.

The Austrian and Hungarian Red Cross have each given 25,000 crowns for the use of the Ottoman Red Crescent. The Budapest municipal council has voted 10,000 crowns for the same purpose.

## THE PROVINCES

The dailies announce the completion of the Bilemedik tunnel, in the Taurus Mountain section of the Baghdad Railroad. This tunnel is 1626 metres, or just over a mile, in length. Two other of the tunnels in this section are still longer.

## NOTES.

Rev. and Mrs. John Kingsley Birge of Smyrna are the parents of a son, Robert Bowen, born in Smyrna, December 5th. Mother and child are reported as doing well.

We regret to hear of the serious illness of Miss Gladys Thomson, formerly of the American College for Girls. Her mother, Mrs. Thomson, is starting to go to her.

## OTHER LANDS.

The *Tasfiri Efkiar* learns from Genoa that the new Khedive appointed for Egypt by the British has decided not to accept the post till he receives assurances that the will be recognized by all the Powers.

Harvard carried off the honors of the football season in the Eastern States this fall, by defeating Princeton 20 to 0 and Yale 36 to 0. Yale won from Princeton 19 to 14.

The French armed cruiser "Ernest Renan" visited the harbor of Dede Aghadj for a few hours the other day: and this seems to have given rise to the rumor of an Anglo-French blockade of that port, which is indignantly denied by the Bulgarian *Kambana*.

The vice-president of the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies, Emir Ali Pasha, has arrived in Berlin.

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