

The Orient.

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THE WAR SPREADING IN EUROPE.

Events succeed each other with such bewildering rapidity that it is hard to know at any moment just where we stand. The war, which was limited to Austria and Servia and Montenegro, has drawn in Germany and Russia, and latterly France also. Up to the hour of writing, Italy has refused to join the other Powers of the Triple Alliance, and England is also holding off; and the Balkan States are watchfully waiting. Turkey has decreed mobilization, but declares officially that this means merely self-protection and not attack, just as is the case in Switzerland and Holland, which have also ordered a general mobilization. Greece declares that her treaty with Servia is merely for the upholding of the Bucharest treaty, and that so long as that is not menaced, there is no reason for her joining in the fight. Bulgaria and Roumania are keeping out of it up till now.

When Russia ordered her army mobilized, Germany sent her a demand for an explanation as to this step; and not getting a reply that satisfied her, Germany declared war on Russia. This surprising step was apparently taken with a view to attacking the powerful Bear before she became too well forearmed. From the telegrams that have reached us, Germany has begun a vigorous policy of attack, having crossed the Russian frontier and also bombarded the port of Libau, on the Baltic near the German frontier. A Russian patrol is reported to have crossed the German frontier, and the Russians are said to be concentrated in large force near the Hungarian frontier besides.

But the most surprising news is that German forces have crossed the French frontier between Strassburg and Nancy without waiting to declare war at all. A cavalry detachment is said to have encountered the French near Luneville, and to have been driven back with loss. On the other hand the Germans accuse the French of bombarding German outposts near the frontier. There seems no doubt that these two nations are virtually at war. Germany has crossed over into the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, ostensibly to protect her railroad interests there; but Luxemburg is guaranteed neutrality by the London Treaty of 1867, and this act of Germany is inexplicable. She has also marched into Belgium and apparently Holland, and declared war on France. It is doubtful if in these circumstances England can remain neutral.

Italy officially declared on Aug. 1st that her treaties with Germany and Austria bound her to act with them only in case of aggression against them; and that as they were the aggressors in this case, she was determined to remain strictly

neutral. It remains to be seen whether she can maintain this welcome attitude. England has thus far made no very clear declaration, but apparently will be obliged to come to the aid of France to some extent. Her immense fleet concentrated but the other day in the English Channel has to some extent been dispersed, but can easily be again united. The Mediterranean squadron has received orders, we are assured, to keep in close touch with the French fleet and hold itself in readiness to cooperate with it.

What the attitude of Turkey may be, regarding a possible demand by Russia that the Straits be opened for the Russian Black Sea Squadron, is not yet clear. It is to Turkey's interests to keep out of the conflict by every possible means; but such a demand would almost force her to take sides either with or against Russia. Her military interests would seem to incline her to the German side, but her naval connection with England forbids her to run counter to the demands of the Entente. She has mined the entrance to the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, and merchant steamers can pass through only after a pilot-boat.

The effects of the war on Constantinople are already apparent to a certain degree. Prices have gone up for provisions of all kinds, from fifteen to a hundred per cent; and of many sorts of supplies there is not enough to last the city for a month. If all the avenues of approach are cut off, what shall the righteous do? For many days there was no European mail came in; but at last the Roumanian of Monday brought in a large mail, which had been delayed by the requisitioning of the Austrian railroads for mobilization purposes. Outgoing steamers are almost entirely withdrawn. The Ottoman service to the Black Sea and the Aegean has been suspended, the steamers being reserved for possible need in transport of troops. The Austrian lines are all tied up; the French are taking only French reserves, and that only on this one trip; the Russians are going no more into the Aegean, nor the Italians or the Germans into the Black Sea; the Hamburg-American liner "Corcovado," which was to have sailed from this port for New York Aug. 9th, was summoned back from the Black Sea in a hurry, arriving here Sunday the 2nd, in order to sail the next day; but the trouble with France has held her up, and she lies at anchor in this harbor. A score or more of tramps of various nationalities lie off Leander's Tower and Haidar Pasha, waiting to see where danger lies and avoid it.

But the greatest difficulty of all has been the financial one. The Wiener Bank Verein suffered a run of four days, till she was obliged to close her doors for lack of money on hand. The Bank has plenty of funds abroad, but under the

circumstances cannot get them here. A similar run on the Ottoman Bank was begun, but yesterday morning the Government took the extreme measure of promulgating a provisional law making it obligatory for all to accept the Ottoman bank-notes at their face value, on penalty of a fine of from 1 to 15 liras or imprisonment of from 24 hours to a month. This law gives a quasi-guarantee for the notes on the part of the Government, and may ease the situation. The Government has also decreed a moratorium of a month, showing how grave was the financial crisis. The Bourses all over Europe are closed, as is the Galata Bourse; and the banks will neither buy nor sell drafts except at impossible rates.

The mobilization decree calls out all soldiers from 20 to 45 years of age; and military headquarters are as busy as possible carrying out the measure. All the horses in the city were requisitioned for the cavalry and artillery; but most of them were subsequently returned to their owners as not needed for the present. The Anatolian Railroad has been requisitioned also for the transport of troops, so that passenger traffic and freight of all classes are for the time being held up.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION CLOSED.

44th session, July 28th. The municipal taxes bill was put through with a little opposition to one or two clauses. The slaughter-house tax receipts are to be divided equally between the municipalities and the vilayet treasuries. Another article proposed a tax on all loaded sailing ships and cargo boats (*maounas*) entering any city harbor, also on all loaded wagons or beasts of burden entering cities. This excited great opposition, and was finally modified so as to give each municipality the option of levying this tax or not as it sees fit. This amendment was at the suggestion of Faris el Houry Bey, of Damascus, who is a Syrian Protestant. Among other new methods of taxation for the municipalities, taxes are now authorized on playing-cards, dominoes, backgammon and other games in cafes and restaurants; also an annual tax of 50 piastres on pet dogs and hunting dogs; furthermore the municipalities are authorized to establish gambling houses, race-courses, bathing places, theatres and other such means of gaining an honest income. The Chamber voted a life pension of seven liras a month to the widow of the late Babanzade Ismail Hakki Bey, Minister of Public Instruction.

45th session, July 29th. Hardly more than an hour and a half was given to their stern task today by our legislators; for Ramadan and the heat combine to make ease seem sweeter than duty. The provisional law extending the rights of succession in case of *Vakuf* properties to all direct descendants, both male and female, was discussed to some extent, but finally tabled till November, as the majority did not care to decide so weighty a matter in such hot weather. The municipal taxes bill was then brought up as a whole, and passed. The prefect of the city, Dr. Djemil Pasha, who

was present, thanked Zohrab Effendi, who has been the pusher of the bill, for his great services to the city in passing it through the Chamber. The deputies from Basra and Zor were given permission to leave before the end of the parliamentary session.

There was to have been a sitting on Thursday the 30th, but no quorum could be obtained, and after waiting patiently for over an hour the presiding officer declared the session postponed till Monday. Evidently the experiment of a summer prolongation, especially during the month of fasting, is not a huge success.

46th and last session, Aug. 2nd. On Sunday afternoon the members of both houses of Parliament met in response to a special summons, and heard the reading of the Imperial Decree closing the present extra session of Parliament, and ordering that it reassemble without special convocation on the first of November next, old style. The Decree was read in the Chamber by Talaat Bey, Minister of Interior, and in the Senate by Djavid Bey, Minister of Finance. In the Chamber, the President, Halil Bey, made a short speech felicitating the Deputies on having accomplished so much in so short a space of time, and the session was closed.

SYRIAN PROTESTANT COLLEGE.

Prof. and Mrs. Brown and family, and Dr. Adams and Prof. Nickoley have sailed for America on their furlough. The following members of the Staff have completed their term of service and have returned to their own land:

Mr. J. Smurthwaite who has been the efficient Physical Director of the College for the past 4 years returns to England for training in Y. M. C. A. Secretaryship; Messrs. E. H. Hudson, M. O. Williams, D. P. Fagerstrom, E. S. Furniss, C. H. Oldfather, and G. S. Acheson; Mr. H. D. A. Utidjian who has been the President's Secretary for the past year will study Medicine next year. His place will be taken by Miss Margaret West, who has been a student at Wilson College in America. Miss Estelle Miner who has been 4 years Head Nurse in the Eye Hospital, has resigned and returns to America.

Prof. and Mrs. Day and family returned from a year's furlough in America on June 24. Miss Margaret Bliss arrived on June 28 to spend the summer with her parents in the Lebanon. Miss Bliss has completed her Junior Year at Vassar College.

The following men have been engaged for the coming year: — Mr. George H. Shea, Louis A. Boettiger, Elmer T. Wible, Alfred F. Waddel, E. D. McLean, Walter F. Greene, Ernest M. Fisher, John R. Roberts, Donald H. McGibeny.

W. B. A.

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 29 - 30, 1914.

The first Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the Union of Christian Associations in the Turkish Empire gave one a real feeling of confidence in the permanency and power of the Movement.

It was held in Henrietta Washburn Hall (Young Men's Christian Association building) at Robert College. Constantinople can by no means be said to be the center, geographically, of the Empire, but as is true in many another land, its being at the doorway of the country has made it the doorway of the Empire, the place where the organizing forces for Turkey will always center, the place where all greater organizations must make their headquarters.

It was a disappointment that many of the Constantinople members of the Committee could not change vacation plans in order to be at the meeting in the summer. On the other hand, the large number of those in attendance from the field was especially encouraging. Marash, Tarsus, Talaş, Smyrna, Brousa (substitute), Marsovan, Van (substitute), and Adabazar were all represented at large expense of time and money. The presence of so representative a group of members who cannot usually be at the meetings of the Committee made it possible to do the important business necessary. It certainly presaged well for the future of the organization that each one present seemed able to give most intelligent consideration as well to the constitutional changes as to the plans and policies for the year. To one who knows boards who have no thought as to what should be done except as suggestions are brought to them by their secretaries, it was especially refreshing to listen to the earnest opinions freely and fully discussed by all present.

The meeting was primarily for business, only the evening of the twenty-ninth being given to a more general presentation of Association problems and activities.

The questions demanding primary action were connected with the perfecting of the plan according to which our Movement in the Turkish Empire is organized. This is the only country in which a Union including both the Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Associations has been formed. One great reason why it seems wise to try the experiment here is to be found in the existence of so many national church organizations and in the need of cultivating mutual understanding and cordial relationships with them all. There are other evident advantages in the arrangement, however, which, it is hoped, may be worked out in satisfactory detail. Such are

1. The economy of a common office and headquarters.
2. The publication of a magazine and of other literature for the united Movement.
3. The single finance appeal.

The Constitution under which the Union had been organized last year had of necessity been experimental and there were many points in it that had not proved practical. Again,

the coming of special secretaries for the Women's Department and the bringing of it up to a level at least as high as that of the men called for other important adjustments. These matters had for several months been under discussion by a special sub-committee, which presented to the Meeting its recommendations in the shape of a revised Constitution for the Union and a greatly improved scheme of organization for the General Committee. The meeting considered these recommendations with great care, made a number of changes in the interest of clearness and efficiency, and presented the amended Constitution for action to the Associations of the Union.

Two other actions in regard to organization are far reaching:

I. The decision by the Women's Department to organize as a National Board and ask for affiliation with the World's Committee of Young Women's Christian Associations. This request for affiliation goes with a statement of acceptance of the new Basis of the World's Committee. It is also explained that two kinds of membership are recommended to affiliating Associations, an Electoral Membership which requires an individual and personal statement of acceptance of this Basis or of one in no way antagonistic to it, and a Fellowship Membership which makes it possible for all self-respecting young women to be affiliated with local Associations.

II. The decision to apply to the World's Student Christian Federation for the admission of our student Associations into the Federation as one of its constituent movements.

The new budget shows a considerable increase over that of 1914. The Committee proposes to accept the direct responsibility for the support which our Movement should give to the World's Committees. It believes that the Associations will thus be more faithful than ever in sending in their gifts to the world's work. The Committee is very anxious to respond to the great need and oft-repeated demand for Association literature - handbooks, pamphlets, sample constitutions and Bible study text-books - in the different languages of our membership, and hopes for increased resources to make it possible to do so. The biggest item voted was, however, that for the office. This the Committee is very anxious to enlarge and to render really efficient by securing both a man and a woman office secretary to conserve the work of the traveling secretaries and to take from them much of the burden of the machinery of organization. It is hoped that the salary of each of these secretaries may be found in America but the running expenses of the office must come from Turkey. The courage of the Committee was equal to the prospect of this larger expense and the experience of last year shows that the comparatively slight increase in personal subscriptions will undoubtedly readily be met by those interested in having the Association work in the Empire adequately handled.

Monday evening, when some special phases of Association activity were presented, one felt introduced to the Association as a fact in Turkey. All especially appreciated Professor Huntington's inspirational message as he led the members to a vision of the mercy of God as the great cour-

age-giving element in our acceptance of this commission to help bring the Kingdom of God to young men and women. Professor Xenides, of the Western Turkey Theological Seminary, Marsovan, took up all the phases of devotional Bible study as a legitimate Association function and made his case so well that it was voted later, in united business session, to lay especial stress on devotional Bible study in all institutions as a part of the year's program. Miss Willard answered the question, "What do the schools want of the Association?" She was particularly well fitted to deal with this question for she had visited fifty-six schools of the Empire recently with Miss Gage and had been able to talk the matter over frankly with many leaders.

The Symposium was truly standard-setting in quality. It dealt with the following types:

1. City women's organizations, especially connected with the Gregorian church, as worked out by Mrs. Rogers of Tarsus.

2. Girls' clubs (after the pattern of the "Girl Guides" and "Camp Fire Girls") as worked out by Miss Orvis of Talas.

3. The great city Association in Constantinople explained by its president Rev. Marcellus Bowen. One felt after the evening was over that surely the Association had come to stay in Turkey and was even now far past its adolescent period.

A MIDSUMMER SERMON.

Rev. Charles Wood, D. D., pastor of the Church of the Covenant, Washington, D. C., preached at the service in Henrietta Washburn Hall, Robert College, last Sunday. Owing to the stormy weather not more than about fifty persons were present, but those who came were sorry for those who missed the opportunity. Dr. Wood's text was Romans 14:7,—"No man liveth to himself." This was, he said, a statement of the universal fact of influence; and blossoming out of it was that philosophy of life known as altruism. And connected with it was an exhortation,—Every pound I possess, of power and energy, should be used for the benefit of others. It is a great fact, this fact of influence. We have no difficulty in seeing the influence of ten-talent men, whether in politics, in science, in poetry, and literature, or in philosophy. But when we think of the ordinary man, with one talent, and especially when we think of ourselves,—how is it true that every such life touches other lives? Yet it is so. The ordinary men do have an influence. "The saints that are of Caesar's household salute you." We are apt to think of them as the martyrs; but they were not, they were slaves,—men almost beneath contempt. But they influenced many others.

This influence of ours is exerted by our Conversation, our Conduct, and our Character. Conversation is ordinarily the most inane of our pursuits. All that is said in an ordinary conversation might just as well have been unsaid. Yet the words we speak unpremeditatedly often have the most value. Sometimes the opposite is true, as when a Presbyter-

ian clergyman and a Roman Catholic priest spent several days together in the Yellowstone Park, and labored hard to persuade each the other to his way of thinking. They parted apparently uninfluenced; but shortly afterwards two letters crossed each other; the Presbyterian wrote the priest that he had come to the conclusion that Catholicism was the place for him, and the Roman Catholic wrote that he had decided to become a Protestant. But ordinarily it is very true, as Henry Ward Beecher said:—"I preached and preached, and was amazed at the effect—that I didn't have." It is rather the unpremeditated word that tells. Two college mates walked often side by side, the most brilliant man in the class, and a very mediocre man who was his friend. The brilliant man was not a Christian; but the other spoke to him about his future. Fifteen years later both of them were ministers; and the brilliant man was preaching for his classmate, and confessed that it was the casual words of the mediocre man that changed the course of his life. Our lives merge with those of many others, and push them down, or lift them up.

As to Conduct, we are born imitators. We are what we are today largely because of others. The late Dr. George T. Purves said: "The best in me today I owe to my friends,—and the worst." You and I do certain things today because our parents did the same. It is the invisible and unconscious influence of life on life. Why do most boys smoke, or drink, or play cards for money? Because they saw others do so, and did not stop to see the unreasonableness of it all. It is so with the styles of dress we wear. It is often well to have fences around us. One may start a grove of trees on a moor by building a fence that keeps the sheep from cropping them down. Many things will grow inside a fence that won't grow outside because of "the little foxes that spoil the vines." We can raise a garden inside a fence. Some one has said: "Better build a fence at the top of a cliff than a hospital at the bottom."

Character is what a man *is*, or, as Mr. Moody used to say, what a man is in the dark. It is the very self of our self. It is not what a man does or says. Men often talk beautifully, and seem to act consistently, yet you cannot help doubting them. Others don't talk much, or do many things, but when you are with *them*, you can do anything noble and good. Men of the world do not ask much about what a man believes, but what kind of a man he is. Is he reliable, helpful, generous? We Americans rejoice that our flag in the Near East and in the Far East stands for a fine type of character, rather than for dreadnaughts or mines or commercial enterprise. "Ye are the salt of the world;" but if the Spirit of Christ be not re-lived in our lives, how are we to lift other men up? We must be giants in faith and hope and love, if we are to lift men high. No man liveth to himself. Try to stand erect, and lift.

Miss Minnie B. Mills of Smyrna arrived here on Thursday last and will be here a few weeks.

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Charles T. Riggs

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EDITORIAL.

Few realize the great and beneficent work the Y.M.C.A. is doing in the ports of Europe and America among the emigrants from the old world to the new. At fifteen ports on this side there are paid secretaries giving their whole time to this work; and when the army gets over to the other side, another force of ten more secretaries is awaiting them, in New York, Philadelphia, Quebec, Halifax, and other ports of entry, to help them get the right start in the new environment. On the other side stand the innumerable human sharks, eager to gobble them up or lead them astray. The emigrant owes a big debt of gratitude to these his Christian friends. From them such a warning as we publish today comes with double force, since it represents those who love these persons most truly and with the most self-denying affection. We can but pass on the warning with urgency to those of our readers who have any influence with people about to emigrate to America. An ounce of prevention in the way of proper supervision before starting will to them be worth several pounds sterling of cure, whether of sore eyes or of empty pocketbooks, when it is too late.

The Y. M. C. A. in this country too stands ready to help intending emigrants as far as possible with advice and with letters to the Y. M. C. A's of America, so that persons of this class may fall into good hands and not be in danger when they arrive on the western shores. If our many friends will communicate concerning such cases with the secretaries in Constantinople it will be a kindness to the travelers.

It has been said in some quarters that THE ORIENT is failing to live up to the purpose for which it was founded. We are well aware that the paper does not come up to the standard set for it not alone by its founders but even by its present management. But it would help us very much if we could have some frank and helpful criticisms of its attitude and policy. In case these are honest and sincere, we should

even not object to their being anonymous; for naturally they are not intended for publication. Does the paper go too much into politics? Does it give too much attention to schools? Are there not enough articles in it of permanent value? Does it fail to act as a medium for the interchange of religious and missionary experience? Should it be to a greater extent the organ of the churches? And if so, how should we go about this? Can any one suggest methods by which busy workers can be induced to write for its columns out of the richness of their experiences? What changes of policy would make for the betterment of the paper?

When the *Bosphorus News*, the predecessor of THE ORIENT, was started, now four and one-half years ago, the first issue contained this platform: - "The need of some form of regular communication between those engaged in educational and missionary work in the Ottoman Empire and adjacent countries has long been felt. The interchange of news, the passing along of helpful suggestions, the sharing of condensed reports of annual meetings and conferences, and the speedy circulation of important announcements will go a long way toward federating the work of the missions and quickening the pace all along the line. It is under this sense of our common need that we venture to make a modest beginning by the issue of the first number." It is for its constituency to say whether it has lived up to the platform or not.

OLD COINS TO BE WITHDRAWN.

As was announced in this paper six weeks ago, the small currency in copper is soon to be taken out of circulation. The Ministry of Finance has sent to the press the following circular as to this step: -

"In conformity with Article 1 of the law of March 25, 1330, the *altılık*, which pass for five piastres, also their halves and quarters; all the silver pieces below the two-piastre piece, as well as the fractional *metalik* or copper currency, will lose their face value beginning with March 1/14, 1331 (1915) and will be withdrawn from circulation. Beginning with that date all fractional currency below two piastres will be nickel.

"In order to call in all these old coins, the State treasury offices, the Municipal Circles, the official departments and the counters in the departments of finance and public works will receive these pieces but will not issue them again. The collectors on the bridges, steamers, railroads and tunnel will do likewise. But since the trolley-car conductors cannot carry in their moneybags a sufficient quantity of nickel coins aside from the amount given them each morning, the public will accept the old coins from these employees. On the other hand the public is justified in refusing such coins if offered them at the places mentioned above, and to report to the police department any employees who try to pass off such, in order that they may be dealt with according to law."

SHATTUCK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1913-1914.

The story of the past year begins with nine new students and enthusiasm in every direction. The school has been rich in material, hence a profitable year, the close of which brings credit to our pupils, and our hopes are realized if they pass on to others what they have acquired. All have had an opportunity to learn that which was impossible for them last year, situated as they were. With the supervision of Vartouhi the matron, the girls have done all the household work except the sewing and part of the washing. "Practical Progress and Never an Idle Moment," is our motto. To quote from the experience of a person who has had many years of experience with the blind, "they must learn to do by doing," and in this way the year has passed, each student in turn learning something of responsibility, without which their education is not complete. It is gratifying to know what the partially and totally blind can accomplish when they have a chance. A knowledge of household work is invaluable to a girl who will never become a teacher or Bible-woman. She can help in her own home and never feel that she is a burden.

We are trying to make dependable young men and women by assigning them certain daily duties. Not all do their work well at first and for some it is exceedingly difficult, but they try hard. Not all remember to do the same work every day and for some it will be "line upon line" for years. The hardest and by far the most important lesson for every one is to learn to be saving of food and clothing. To mend much and waste nothing insures success, for "a penny saved is a penny earned" is truer in Turkey than in almost any other country. The very poor-seeing people as well as the blind do not know how to save. If we can teach them to waste not they will want less and perhaps not at all.

We have had a year of perfect health. One little girl became ill in the summer and did not return to school.

The exercises of the graduating class of six were enjoyed by all. Songs, recitations and examinations were given in Turkish, Armenian and English, and the reading from the Armenian Braille by the little ones was much appreciated. All, both pupils and teachers, did well and deserve credit. Some of the graduates will rank equally well with the seeing and we have high hopes for their future usefulness. None had been here for less than five years and one had been here eight. Two girls go to Diarbekir, their home, where with the help of friends we hope they will open a school for the blind. Three live in the Cesarea region. Marash is the home of one who we trust will be of assistance in the little school for the blind there. One graduate remains another year in this school to take special work, after which we hope to give her Bible work in Jibin, her native village. In America a girl needs some assistance in getting started after her graduation, and that is doubly true in Turkey. Who will help this well educated, sweet-voiced girl who is so

anxious to work? She wishes to help her people, but her home is one of darkness — her mother and little brother are totally blind and her father sees but a little. Our students are brave and many show courage and determination that is splendid to see — hence the necessity of teaching them self-reliance and rigid economy to fit them for just such hard places.

All regular students study English, Armenian, and Turkish Braille. The classes in physical geography, Armenian and general history deserve special mention. Bible study is taken throughout the year. Physiology is much enjoyed. The little ones have made better progress because of having had more time given to them by the graduates. Their knowledge of number-work and Braille is gratifying, and the kindergarten songs and games taught by a new student from a Jerusalem school have been greatly enjoyed. All students learn to knit, and in summer stockings for winter wear are knit. Different patterns of laces are made throughout the year. Owing to our inability to get *hassier* material that work is deficient. Tent weaving is taught only to the older and stronger students. During their last year the students are taught chair-caning. This year hammock-making has been taught for the first time. Articles made in the school — mittens, gloves, baby-coats, and shoulder shawls were exhibited and many sold on graduation day.

Notwithstanding the various kinds of work, ample time is given for the spiritual development of each child. Morning and evening prayers are never omitted, neither is weekly prayer-meeting Friday afternoons, when they are taught the value of the Bible and the all-importance of being Christians. "Take time to be holy" is the foundation-stone and many are building thereon. Two of the little girls came to the teacher one day and asked, "Where can we go to be alone a little while with Jesus." The Sunday evening hymns and Bible verses have been much enjoyed by traveling missionaries and occasional visitors from the city. A lady in London has sent the entire number of Bible verses in English Braille, required by the Berean Band. The students appreciate this gift and are always ready to learn new verses.

We call 1913 our new year because we have made successful new beginnings in many ways. Our aim is to make this the best School for the Blind in Turkey, and with the aid of our missionary and other friends we hope to. We cordially thank all who have given us sympathy and have helped to make a hard task somewhat easy. We grieve because the school has such unattractive equipment to show the passing traveler: no good tables, desks, chairs or sitting-room. The low tables now in use were originally beds and now after ten years they are nearly worn out. The school-room has a bare stone floor and the other rooms have less desirable floors. We hope that before our visitors have forgotten us they will tell someone how badly we need painted wood floors and comfortable equipment. The three sleeping-rooms for twenty-eight pupils get little sunshine and less fresh air. A few pounds would provide us with new windows, but most of all we need wood floors and iron

bedsteads. We hope that someone who reads these lines may be glad to help us.

Missionaries and native pastors are co-operating with us to secure the brightest and most desirable pupils for the coming year. Where all who apply cannot be received this method seems the wisest. But it grieves us to turn any poor sightless little ones away.

Recognizing the standard of this school — the mother school for the blind in Turkey — and appreciating what it may become, the head teacher, Miss Mary Haroutunian, has been granted a year's leave of absence. She intends to further perfect herself in normal training at the Perkins' Institute in Boston. This will give her a much needed rest and the school will profit by her contact with people who have made a life-long study of educating the blind in the best possible way. Other schools for the blind in Turkey will also be benefited because she intends on her return to make a tour of them. After her return greater attention will be given to practical teaching and the course of instruction will necessarily be longer. The pupils who come at five or six years of age and remain until they are fourteen are too young to be successful teachers and therefore more practical teaching and more mature students are necessary to insure success. When students enter the school later in life and prefer to perfect themselves in hand-work, a shorter period is spent in literary study and they are well equipped to earn a living.

IDA VERRILL,
Superintendent

Ourfa, Turkey.

A RUSSIAN COLONY IN ASIA MINOR.

Dr. Nakkashian writes in the *Rahnüma* a description of a colony of Russian Cossacks on the islands and shores of the lake near Ak Shehir, between Afion Kara Hissar and Konia. He says: —

"These people migrated here fifty or sixty years ago from Russia and Roumania, and live by catching fish from the lake, which they salt down and send to Russia. The government receives Lt. 2,000 annually from this fishing concession. The environs of the lake are marshy; so while foreigners eat the fish, the millions of mosquitoes and the malaria are the portion of the local inhabitants. I have been unable to calculate just how many fever-stricken men are gained by this trade, nor how much business is lost. These men are strong of frame, large of head, with yellowish-green eyes, a very dirty and hairy race, and they are Orthodox Christians. Since according to the Christianity of these people, cutting hair or beard is a sin, they have come to look like Yezidis. When their hair is well mingled with fish, dust and dirt, it is a lovely composition. With them there is nothing quite so sinful as smoking tobacco or cigarettes. You cannot find one among them who smokes; and if you go there as a guest, if you smoke they will not receive you. If however a Government official or a person of great dignity goes there and disregards their rule and smokes, that house is immediately evacuated and given a

thorough re-plastering. But they will drink brandy, wine, cognac, etc., whenever and wherever they can get it. If you give them *raki*, they are much obliged to you; but they will even drink alcohol, and that too in big glasses. They drink so much that every one carries his own cup for brandy or water in his own girdle. Members of the same family will not drink out of the same cup. On certain days men and women all get gloriously drunk; but they never lose their Christianity thereby. Every time one of them takes a drink of water, *raki*, wine or alcohol, or goes out or comes in, or sits down or rises, he makes the sign of the cross, be he never so unclean. They keep two or three days' Easter each year, and keep it strictly, too. In a small village there will be two churches. On Sundays and Easter days they dress up in their best. They are not dismayed by swamps or mosquitoes. While the men are busy fishing, the women do the plowing and threshing. They keep their homes fairly clean, but their morals according to their neighbors and those who know them, are not extra clean.

"But this is not our point. According to the law of the realm, everybody must be vaccinated for smallpox. But when it came their turn, they resisted with all their might; for according to the religion these people profess, vaccination is a very great sin. Impossible, not a single person would be vaccinated. The Government insisted; and finally they begged for a little time, and they would all migrate again. They would forsake their home, their houses, their work, and go away to seek another home elsewhere. They would migrate, but they *would not* be vaccinated!"

The writer goes on to draw a lesson from this as to the evil effects of a false view of religious obligations, which is very interesting and to the point.

WARNING TO EMIGRANTS.

Dear Sir,

In view of the large number of Armenian and Syrian Emigrants who have in recent years found their way to Liverpool in the hope of getting into North America, we shall be grateful if you will use your influence in warning intending emigrants of the evils to which these are exposed and the unmerciful way in which they are robbed and duped.

Practically all these emigrants are suffering from Trachoma, a disease of the eye which makes it quite impossible for them to enter the United States or Canada, and in consequence, during the past few years many hundreds of them have been stranded in Liverpool, without knowledge of the language, unable to find employment, and a ready prey to unscrupulous persons — usually their own countrymen — who take advantage of their ignorance, and helplessness, to impose upon and defraud them.

The shipping company which has hitherto carried most of these people to the United States when cured, now declines to book Armenians or Syrians owing to the proportion being rejected at the American ports and there is now practically no chance for them sailing from England.

Most of these people who come to England are persuaded to come here after being rejected by the doctors at Marseilles. Owing to the reasons just stated, such a course is now worse than useless and we are endeavoring to arrange for those already here to return to their homes in Asia Minor. Numbers of them have been in Liverpool for 10 and 12 months and even longer periods. They have spent or lost all their money and are no nearer their goal than when they came.

In order to assist in preventing to some extent this wholesale exploitation may we have your co-operation in making this condition of things as widely known as possible and in urging on intending emigrants the importance of the following points.

- (1) All emigrants should, before leaving their homes, be examined by a reliable Doctor in order to ensure that they are thoroughly free of Trachoma and other eye diseases.
- (2) Passages should be booked through to the Emigrants' destination in America, and with a reliable agency, as frequently in re-booking en-route excessive charges have been extorted from the helpless emigrant.
- (3) Each emigrant should have in his possession sufficient money for landing in America (at least \$ 25.) as well as the address of a friend already settled there.

With thanks in advance for your kind co-operation in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

ADAM SCOTT.

Emigration Secretary, English National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations.

JNO. SUMNER.

Immigration Secretary American International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations.

13, Russell Square,
London, 18th July, 1914.

MILITARY STRENGTH OF AUSTRIA AND SERVIA.

That the newly declared war must have been a onesided one, if the belligerents had been left to themselves, seems evident from a glance at the following comparison:—

	Austro-Hungary	Servia	Monten.
Area	• 261,035 sq. mi.	33,630	5,411
Population	51,463,571	4,167,000	515,000
Army, peace footing	397,000	137,500	30,000
War	880,000	400,000	50,000
War budget	£ 18,719,252	1,060,000	7,500

It must however be remembered that Austria cannot place by any means all her war strength in the field against Servia, since she must prepare for the contingency of Russia attacking her. Moreover she cannot reckon on the unquestioned loyalty of her Slavic population in the present conflict, since it is against Slavs. Further, the Servians are

not fighting on their frontiers, but prudently retiring into the mountainous interior, where a few Servians may keep at bay quite an Austrian force. An invading army is always at a disadvantage, in keeping up her line of communications as well as being in a hostile territory. In addition we may recall the fact that the Servian and Montenegrin troops are seasoned veterans, with all the prestige of a successful war back of them. So that after all the Austrians have no easy path to march and no easy task to accomplish.

A GENERAL WAR.

The Turkish daily *Terjeman* said July 31st:

A general war seems certain. Those who think that since the Balkan war did not bring on a general European war, the Austro-Servian war will be as localized, are fooling themselves. In fact the Balkan war itself presented all the symptoms of a struggle between Slav and German. But the question had then an entirely different color; and we must first of all recognize that that war did not actually have that character. The little Balkan States had invaded Roumelia and were trying to divide up those territories. Germanism tried to profit by this division. If in compensation for the territory won by the Slavs the Teutons had not been given an indirect advantage by the creation of Albania, a general war would have resulted.

Austria-Hungary will now go on till she brings Servia to terms. It is certain that this state will be beaten; and this means the complete ruin of southern Slavic prospects, and aspirations. If Russia does not intervene, she will not only not get any territorial compensation, but will lose all her moral prestige, her dignity. This is why it would be a great damage to national honor for Russia to remain quiet to the end of this war. The defeat of Servia means that of Russia as well. The fall of Russia would be the moral defeat of the Triple Entente, which would be worse than a bloody defeat. If this group of powers does not now make its voice heard, it will hereafter be forced to observe the same passive attitude, and will become the plaything of the Triple Alliance. The mobilization of Southern Russia corroborates our view that Russia will intervene now rather than see Servia crushed completely. If the mobilization is not in Northern Russia as well, it is simply because the St. Petersburg government wishes to get secretly to the frontier the troops she is recruiting, and deceive Germany and Austria. The question is whether Russia will succeed in doing this.

The same paper writes Aug. 3rd:—

The situation urges us to be cautious. Russia had secretly begun mobilization, while England and France by their mediation were trying to gain time for her. But German diplomacy, which is very patriotic, sharp-sighted and discreet, understood the truth of the situation, and informed its government of it in time, so that Germany declared war without loss of time. Nobody thinks of blaming Germany for this course. Speed is one of the fundamental factors in overcoming an enemy.

In the war that has commenced, the vanquished will be completely crushed and will disappear from the map. Europe is face to face with a new period in her history. In view of such momentous events, it is no wonder everybody trembles for his existence, and each nation concentrates its forces so as to strike as big a blow as possible at its enemy.

We welcome with all our heart the decision of our government to remain neutral and to order a general mobilization. This act is a proof of its foresightedness. As we have already said, the course of events does not depend on us. The day may come when events shut us in on all sides and drag us along in spite of ourselves. Especially at this moment we must be strong so as to be able to remain neutral. Nobody can say whether those who today give us assurance may not tomorrow be compelled to adopt a different attitude, and one hostile to our interests. Our duty is to concentrate all our forces and prepare to face this eventuality.

CALENDAR OF NOTEWORTHY DATES.

- Aug. 6, 1908, Kramil Pasha made Grand Vizier.
- 7, 1914, *Khurka-i-Sherif*, or ceremony of the sacred mantle.
- 8, 1900, Cyrus Hamlin of Robert College died.
- 9, 1851, Daniel Temple, Malta and Smyrna, died.
- 1912, Severe earthquakes around the Marmora.
- 10, 1913, Treaty of Bucharest signed.
- 11, 1913, Dr. John Patterson, Constantinople, died.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

Miss Clark and Miss Whittlesey, who have been at Van for nearly two years past, have come by way of Trebizond, visiting Marsovan on their way, and are at present in Hissar.

Rev. Ernest J. Weeks and Mr. P. Carter Speers, arrived in town Monday and left Tuesday by Khedivial for Alexandria, the former on his way as a missionary to Canton, China, and the latter to teach in Forman Christian College, Lahore, India. Mr. Speers is a nephew of Mrs. Dr. Dodd of Konja. His father, Mr. James M. Speers, is chairman of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, in succession to the late President S. B. Capen of the American Board.

The rumors rife for some days about a cabinet crisis are emphatically denied by the *Tanin* yesterday morning.

It is said that the Greek Patriarchate will reopen the churches and schools in a very short time.

The wife and two sons of the Khedive of Egypt have arrived here to be with His Royal Highness.

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THE PROVINCES

Our attention has been called to an unfortunate omission in the article on the Anatolia Hospital, in the Anatolia Number of *The Orient*. The sentence reads "Large water reservoirs at the top of the building will provide power for the laundry, pumps and electric dynamo." It should have been "Large water reservoirs at the top of the building will provide an abundant water supply. A 10 H.P. steam engine will provide power," etc.

The washouts on the Anatolian and Bandurma-Soma railroads, caused by the great rains of the first week in July, have been completely repaired, and traffic has been resumed on both lines.

President A. H. Haigazian, Ph. D., of Konia College, and Mrs. Haigazian have returned from America and have gone on to Konia.

A son, Frederick, was born to Mr. & Mrs. Elmer of Marsovan on Friday, July 24th.

Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Dodd of Konia arrived here Saturday from Konia to spend a month at Arnaoutkey with Miss I. F. Dodd.

Miss Bedell, sister of Mr. Bedell of Robert College, has arrived from America for a stay of a few months.

Mr. Cyril Panaretoff and Messrs. Charlie and Evelyn van Millingen have returned to their homes at Robert College for visits.

OTHER LANDS.

The cruiser "Helli," recently purchased by Greece from the Chinese Government before she left the American shipyard, has arrived in Greece; and the battleships "Mississippi" and "Idaho," re-christened "Kilkis" and "Lemnos," are expected in about ten days.

The Russians are said to have captured the German steamer "Atlas" in the Black Sea. Other German steamers have taken refuge in the Danube.

The land forces of the European nations are placed at 9,000,000 men in the first line, and 22,000,000 men in all. On the sea, the Triple Alliance has 19 dreadnaughts, 57 predreadnaughts, and 4 battle cruisers; while the Triple Entente has 28 dreadnaughts, 131 predreadnaughts and 9 battle cruisers.

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PANNONIA	(17,490 " " ")	Sept. 10th. 1914

Cunard sailings from Patras:—

PANNONIA	(17,490 tons displacement)	July 18th. 1914
IVERNIA	(24,789 " " ")	" 30th. 1914
CARPATHIA	(23,243 " " ")	August 8th. 1914
ULTONIA	(18,036 " " ")	" 22nd. 1914

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