

No. 13

THE CELEBRATION OF
THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ARRIVAL OF

MR. AND MRS. PEET

IN CONSTANTINOPLE, TURKEY,

1st October, 1906.



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The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Peet will doubtless be glad to learn that the twenty-fifth anniversary of their arrival in Constantinople was delightfully observed on the afternoon of October 1st.

The reception took place in Mrs. Carrington's parlors in the Bible House.

After a goodly muster of friends had gathered and offered their personal congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Peet, Dr. Washburn made a brief address, at the conclusion of which he presented to Mr. and Mrs. Peet a Morris chair and a beautiful antique rug in behalf of their friends in Constantinople, the

four missions in Turkey and a few former associates now in America. Dr. Washburn spoke as follows :—

“We have met together here to-day especially to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Peet on the completion of one quarter of a century of labor in connection with the work of the Bible House at Constantinople and in Turkey generally, and I have been honored by being requested to speak as the representative of all the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Peet on this occasion. I confess that I am somewhat embarrassed, and I have been reminded of an incident that came to my knowledge when I was a boy. The most famous divine in New England was Dr. Emmons. Now there was a certain Dr. of Divinity, named Williams, who was an eloquent speaker and was very fond of delivering eloquent addresses. He had picked out Dr. Emmons as a good subject and told him he would like to preach his funeral sermon. Dr. Emmons consented, and Dr. Williams wrote his sermon. Dr. Emmons however did not die. Finally Dr. Williams went to Dr. Emmons and said, “See here, I have had that sermon ready all this time, and now I am going to read it to you.” So when he read it Dr. Emmons said, “Stop! Dr. Williams, that is not true.” And when Dr. Emmons tried to say more, Dr. Williams said, “Brother Emmons, you are dead. Keep quiet!”

“Now it seems to me that I have an excellent opportunity to eulogize Mr. and Mrs. Peet, and if I expressed the feelings of myself and the representatives who are here to day, Mr. Peet would say, “That is not true.” Dr. Emmons was not noted as a particularly modest man, and we all know that Mr. and Mrs. Peet are very modest.

“As a fact we all know, that, according to the New Testament standard, Mr. Peet is the greatest of us all. We recognize that of all the others he has made himself the servant of us all. He is the voluntary servant of each and every one of us. If anyone is hard up for money, “go to Mr. Peet;” if anyone has trouble in the Custom House, “go to Mr. Peet;” if anybody wants to know about affairs in Constantinople, “go to Mr. Peet;” if anybody wants to make friends with the Embassy and don’t know how to do it, “go to Mr. Peet;” if anybody is persecuted, “go to Mr. Peet.” Now there are other things that may not seem so particular as these that take up a good deal of time. I had the pleasure of occupying the same position for nine years, and I have very interesting memories of that time. I remember very well one day getting a letter from a missionary in the center of Asia Minor. It was a short letter, I do not think more than ten or a dozen lines at most. It said, “Dear Dr. Washburn, will you please be so kind as to buy a pair of shoes

for Sammy and for Peter, and Sarah wants a hat and my wife wants a dress. Will you buy these and send them on in the next box." I will not tell the name, for this is a true story. I never had the honor of seeing Sammy or Peter or Sarah; how old they were I did not know; what kind of dress was wanted I did not know. Such kinds of requests as these I presume come to the hands of Mr. Peet not unfrequently. Another thing that we have all noticed is that his service is always rendered with absolute cheerfulness. I have had occasion a good many times to go to the Bible House these past years when I found Mr. Peet with a pile of papers on his desk upon which he was hard at work when I came in, and though I sat and talked with him for half an hour, I never knew him to grumble, never knew him to act as though he had not all the time in the world. Now this kind of service all appreciate, and all delight to honor. I am reminded to-day of the fact that probably in the eyes of most people the greatest and most important service Mr. Peet has rendered in this country was the work he did in the time of the troubles ten or twelve years ago. Those of us who were familiar with the circumstances of those times can appreciate the immense burden that came upon him. Now others who were engaged in that work were honored for it, rightly honored for it. For instance, one of

them received a degree of LL. D. from the Edinburgh University in view of that great service. Another was made a Knight of the order of Saint Michael and Saint George. The position we are in is somewhat peculiar. We are not a university and cannot make Mr. Peet a D.D. or an LL. D. or a Ph. D. We are not a state, and we cannot make him a Knight: we are not even a part of a Republic, and cannot give him a title of Honorable; but we honor him in the highest degree. When I was called upon to make this presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Peet for the services they have rendered, and express to them our sympathy our affection and our love, I was asked to present this chair and this rug in the name of all the friends who have known and loved Mr. and Mrs. Peet through all these years. I do not know how we should present it. Among all these honors that have been rendered, I thought they might take it as being the widow's mite. In that case it was not the greatness of the gift that was cast into the treasury that constituted its value. It is said that this was not given by the Imperial Government, but it was given by their true friends as a token of love and esteem. It represents just as much of sympathy and honor as can be given by anybody."

Dr. Henry S. Barnum followed Dr. Washburn, presenting to Mr. and Mrs. Peet a richly bound

volume entitled a "Book of Friends" containing the personal message of a host of friends in Turkey, Bulgaria and other places. Before concluding Dr. Barnum turned to Mrs. Peet and handed her a five lira gold piece with the remark that it was the "left over change." Dr. Barnum's address was as follows:—

"Afflictions never come singly. I have been commissioned to follow up the attack conducted by Dr. Washburn into a second assault, and I trust that you will be resigned. And in order that you may be comfortably resigned please take, Mr. Peet, the chair that has just been presented to you. I am sure you will find it large enough. In fact it would be large enough for Secretary Taft. Only a few days ago I was reading an account of the Yale Commencement at which the class to which Justices Brewer and Brown of the Supreme Court belonged had its fiftieth anniversary reunion. Justice Brewer made an excellent speech and in it he alluded to Secretary Taft whom Yale men are already booming as the next Republican candidate for the Presidency. He said that a lady assured him that Secretary Taft was the most polite man she had ever known. She had often known a gentleman to vacate his seat in a street car to make room for a lady, but Secretary Taft was the only one she had ever known to vacate his seat for three ladies.

“I cannot speak, as Dr. Washburn has done, from the standpoint of a former treasurer, but I know, Mr. Peet, what pleasure it has been to me to receive the money which, from time to time, has been put into my hands by you or your assistants during the twenty-two years of my residence in Constantinople. And as it is more blessed to give than to receive, I can faintly imagine the aggregate of joy which must have come to you through all the money you have been permitted to give to others during the past twenty-five years, and I wish to assure you that we do not begrudge you this happiness. On the contrary we are willing to do all in our power to increase your pleasure in the future by receiving from your hands, for our personal use and for the work we have in hand, the largest sum you feel able to give us.

“I have been commissioned to present to you this volume. Like an encyclopedia it has many authors, but it differs from an encyclopedia in that all the contributors have written on one subject. And this subject they have all found congenial, suggestive and inspiring.

“I must own that the volume has not been submitted to the censor. Had it been, I know from my editorial experience that he would have made some changes. For instance, many of the writers express good wishes for your future, and the cen-

sor would have inserted the word “eternal” or “spiritual.” Otherwise, if the words were unqualified, it might be understood that the wishes were for your political future. And why should not the man who spends his leisure moments studying law, who has had the political interests of the Missions in charge for several years, and whose assistant has already secured a political office be suspected of aspiring to a political future!

“But I wish to assure the censor and to assure you that it is not for a political future that these good wishes are expressed.

“But it is not only and mainly of the future that the wishes of this book speak. It is of the past, and of the work you have accomplished during the twenty-five years just closed. We know something of what you sacrificed in order to come here. With your level head and your business ability you might reasonably have hoped for rapid advancement in the Home Land, and you might have amassed large wealth. We are sure there would have been no “tainted money” in your gains. And it is pleasant to believe that you would have been interested in our work here. Perhaps the Girls’ College, to which you have given so much of your time, would have shared in your gifts and would have a “Peet Hall” among the buildings. Or, it may be, your gifts would have been so generous that the whole College

would be called by your name, and the two institutions which Professor van Millingen once spoke of as Mr. and Mrs. College would be known as "Robert College" and "Peet College" from their most liberal benefactors. But we are glad that instead of any amount of money you have given us yourself and your twenty-five years of service. Better than your gold, however large the amount, is your counsel, your sympathy, your companionship, your love. And we hope that the Missions for which we speak, the Missions represented by the writers of this book, will continue to enjoy your services for many years to come, yes, for another twenty-five years, though perhaps for the last few years you will be Treasurer emeritus. And when, at the end of the second quarter of a century, a gold headed cane and the second volume of this work are presented to you, the contributors will not all be the same, and Dr. Washburn and I will not make the presentation speeches. But there will be another generation of workers to whom your services will be equally helpful and who will entertain towards you the same feelings of gratitude and affection. And so I present to you this book, in the name of all who have contributed to it, and I confidently hope that in the perusal of it you will take good pleasure.

"Before I pass it over let me read a specimen page. I have not chosen the contribution of any-

one present lest blushes should betray the author. Who wrote the poem I read I shall not indicate further than to say that he is a College President and that his name begins with T. See POEM after page 14.

“Dear Mrs. Peet:—There was a little change left over, and I have been instructed by the Committee to hand it to you. I do not know what you will make of it. Robert College is getting on so fast that perhaps by next summer it will be “de rigeur” for seniors to wear silk top hats. In that case you might use a portion of the money to buy one for William. But this is only a suggestion. The money is left wholly at your disposal.”

When the hearty applause had subsided, and after a moment of silence Mr. Peet rose from the Morris chair where he had been enthroned, and spoke a few words from a very full heart. Those who had the privilege of looking into the faces of Mr. and Mrs. Peet on that afternoon will never regret that steps had been taken to show them the love and esteem in which they are held by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Peet's response was as follows:—

“You will not, my friends, expect much from me on this occasion. Unlike the interesting personage referred to by Dr. Washburn, I am not an adept in the art of making fine speeches, and even if I were, you have made it impossible to produce

anything in that line by overwhelming me with kind and generous words.

“However, I wish to say from my heart, We thank you. We thank you for the kind words you have said: they are more than we deserve. We thank you for the pleasant gathering with which you have honored us. We thank you most of all for the true friendship and interest which I know is voiced by what has been said here to-day.

“We feel richer than ever before, because of the friendship and love that have been manifested to us to-day.

“We shall go to our home to-night with a deeper sense than we have had before of the riches we possess in the love and esteem of our good friends in Constantinople and in this Mission field.”

Those present, besides missionary associates, included a few Armenian and Greek friends, Professors and Instructors from Robert College and the American College, members of the British Colony, and the Hon. John G. A. Leishman, American Ambassador to Turkey, together with Mr. Ozmun the American Consul General and other members of the diplomatic corps.

On learning of the celebration the Armenian Patriarch wrote a very cordial letter to Mr. Peet, expressing regret that he had not known of the event in time to be present. In this letter he thanked Mr. Peet especially for the kindness he had shown to the poor and suffering among his people.

It remains to fulfil a promise made to generous donors and append the following statement of receipts and expenditures:—

Total contributions	Pias. 3217
Expenses:—	
A Morris chair	493
Antique rug	1662
Stationery, binding and postage	282
Cash to Mrs. Peet	540
Refreshments and items	128
Balance for printing and postage	112
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	Pias. 3217



If there is anything worth praise, to generous minds appealing,
It is, a quarter century of straight and honest dealing,
The man who has, a thousand times, and every time refuses
The chance for selfish gain, should have attention from the Muses.
He who, for others' interests, is worker and contriver,
Who handles purses all the year, and never makes a stiver;
Who, to the tempter's «Get» says;* «Git», and makes no other answer,
Who stands up straight on mountain tops, and firm, that is a man sir.
Or who, again, down in the swim of flowing Golden River.
Has grace to gain no yellow stain, but comes out clean as ever:
Who, mid the tide that sweeps so wide, and faster flows, and faster,
Never sucks in a golden drop, nor soaks in a piastre.
In times like these, degenerate, when Christians cheat and lie too.
In this man's praise, a song we raise; this is the man to tie to.
He has no palace on the bank of this world's Golden River;
A mansion fair waits over there, where he shall dwell forever.

C. C. T.

Marsovan, Aug. 1906.

*Git is the Turkish for go!, begone!

TO THE KIND FRIENDS WHO HAVE REMEMBERED
THE 25th ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR ARRIVAL IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

We wish to thank the kind friends who have remembered us so generously at this time. We prize the tokens, the kind and generous words written and spoken, but most of all we are thankful for the friendship and love these stand for. Your love and esteem is a valuable possession, and the consciousness that we have this gives us great joy.

We know that you have given us more than we deserve, you have thanked us beyond our deserts, you have named qualities as ours which we fear we do not possess. It is like you to be generous and kind, and you have been true to yourselves in your words and gifts on this occasion.

May we take what you have said to us as the mark towards which we shall strive, as a suggestion of what we should be and by the grace of God shall be.

If year by year we can show better work, a purer life, and more consecrated service, we shall realize our conception of that to which you have called us by the remembrance of this anniversary.

Thankfully,

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Mission School Press,
SAMOKOV, BULGARIA, 1907.
