

The Orient.

Vol. V., No. 5

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE, February 4, 1914.

Price, One Piastre

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GREEK EVANGELICAL UNION.

The thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Greek Evangelical Union was held in the school room of the American Collegiate Institute in Smyrna on Monday, January 19, 1914. On the Saturday preceding the Executive Committee of the Union held its meeting in the home of Dr. Moschou at which meeting the work of the past six months was reviewed.

This Evangelical work among the Greeks had its origin here in Smyrna in 1883 and immediately took over the Greek work which had been begun in Magnesia. Work was later undertaken in Sparta, and a station was opened in Bayindir; Ordou on the Black Sea coast, and Semen up in the mountains of Pontus, and lastly Ak Hissar (Thyatira) were admitted to the Union. In spite of difficulties and persecutions the organization grew until over 600 persons had joined the churches on profession. Only a few years ago a woman in Ordou was forcibly divorced from her husband by the Bishop because she desired to join the Evangelical Church in that place.

Dr. X. P. Moschou opened the meeting and spoke briefly from the text, II Cor. 3:6, on the theme, "The Ministers of the New Covenant." He contrasted the New with the Old Covenant, the religion of the spirit with the religion of the law, the salvation which comes from above as the gracious gift of God and the salvation which men had tried to gain through their own human endeavors. He emphasized that which true Protestantism stands for, the personal religious experience over against the legalistic and formalistic type of religion.

Reports were read in person by the Rev. G. P. Kambouropoulos of Magnesia, and by Mr. G. Proussaevs of Thyatira, and by Dr. Moschou for the Smyrna Congregation. The reports of Rev. P. Philadelphvs of Ordou, of Mr. J. Anas-tasiades of Semen, and of Rev. A. Yphantides of Bey Alan were read and listened to with attention. After the meeting tea was served by the ladies of the church.

Two notes seemed to be struck in most of the reports given; the first and most noticeable being the fact that so many families, and especially the young men, are being forced to leave the country because of the military service, and the second that trade conditions for the small dealer at least are still in a depressed condition as a result of the chaotic political status of affairs.

Nevertheless the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Hadji Antoniou, showed an income from all sources of about Lt.915.00

for the past year and a small balance of some 127 piastres in the Treasury in addition to a small surplus left over from the preceding year. Considering their circumstances the people of these churches have given remarkably well toward the support of their work, and some even of those who have gone abroad still keep up their interest in the work.

If signs of a reformation in the older organization in this land seem to be forth-coming (and preaching and Bible reading in the Orthodox Church are on the increase), may we not attribute a part of that movement to the stimulus and inspiration which this small body of earnest Christians have been slowly instilling into the religious life and thought of their own people? If political conditions were such that the results of this leavening work could have been conserved in this land, we might have hoped for an earlier Renaissance than it is possible to hope for now.

A general meeting of all the churches of the Union is being planned for this coming May.

J. R. B.

MRS. HELEN RANDLE BARNUM.

How truly it could be said of our dear Mrs. Barnum that she "walked with God, and she was not, for God took her." Last Friday she seemed to be in her usual health, and Saturday morning, Jan. 31st, awoke in the presence of her Master and King. Nothing in her appearance or position could tell those who saw her that she was not merely asleep; and it seemed as if she must wake and speak at any moment. Apparently the great change came, just as she herself would have wished, without a pang or a struggle, while men slept. The look of peace that remained on the face was the consolation to her loved ones in their severe shock.

The funeral service was held on Monday afternoon, at the house on the Bebek quay, and was conducted by President Gates. It was a simple, sweet service, and a quartette sang her favorite hymns. The strong arms of friends bore the casket to the hearse and at Ferikeuy lowered it into the grave. The service at Ferikeuy Cemetery was in charge of Dr. Macallum, and a still larger number of friends had assembled there to testify to their love for Mrs. Barnum and their sympathy for those she leaves behind.

She was born in Winnipauk, Conn., June 12th, 1842, and was married to Rev. Henry S. Barnum March 10th, 1869, sailing for Turkey the same year. Their first field of labor was Harpout, where they stayed till the new station of Van was opened in 1872, when they were among the pioneers there, with Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds, and Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

They were in Van till 1883, when they took a well-earned furlough in America. On their return in the following year, they were transferred to Constantinople, that Dr. Barnum might take up work in the Publication Department. Their home has ever since been at the capital; and the many passing missionary friends and others who have enjoyed the hospitality of their home can testify to the rare qualities of Mrs. Barnum as a hostess. It was always a delight to visit in her "hotel," as she herself laughingly called it, and many a new missionary has gained from that point of vantage his or her first glimpses of the new life. Her recent visit in the homeland, from which she and Dr. Barnum returned last fall, she looked back upon with peculiar satisfaction, as the happiest visit of all. Dr. Barnum will now make his home with his son, Professor Harry H. Barnum of Robert College.

MRS. HELEN R. BARNUM.

Our hearts failed us for the moment, when we were told that in the early morning of the day, our beloved friend and neighbor had fallen asleep. Truly fallen asleep, for she was with us, and then gone, for the Lord took her. No suffering in body or spirit, no pain or anguish, no agony because of leaving dear ones behind, only closing the eyes after saying "good night" here, and opening them to say "good morning" to the Hosts of Heaven and her loved ones there.

So lovely and beautiful an experience for her, to behold on waking in the morning, Heaven's Portals opening wide for her home coming! The Lord Jesus welcoming her with a glad welcome, the multitude there, whom she called friends hastening to greet her, and amidst them all the little group that left her years ago to dwell in the Land of the Blest, awaiting her coming. O, the joy of the meeting, the blessedness of mother and children recognizing each other, the close embrace, the eager questionings and glad answers! All is joy and love and happiness.

Not so here. There is no joy in the hearts of us who have lost our friend and neighbor. We love her and want her presence with us. We shall miss her every day and hour.

As we entered the quiet room and saw her lying all still and quiet upon her white draped couch, it seemed impossible but that her dear eyes should open and smile us a welcome; her warm hand reach out and grasp ours; her lips open to bid us welcome with her full rich voice. So sweet and happy did she seem, could it be that her mortal body, until so lately the dwelling place of her spirit, still responded to its experiences, and reflected upon its pale face the Heavenly light into which she had entered? It may be, but our lonely hearts yearn for the expressions of love we miss so much.

She was a quiet home loving woman, shrinking from any publicity, but perfect mistress of herself in her own home as all who have partaken of her gracious hospitality full well know. She had a genius for home making. There her quiet nature unfolded, her spirit of hospitality created an atmosphere of comfort and at-homeness around her guest, and her sense of humor made her a delightful hostess.

We know that the sweet harmonies awakened in our lives by her can never be silenced. Her true womanliness bound us to her with bands that can never be broken, yet we mourn because we shall see her no more among us.

She has entered into the Heavenly Home of which the home she made here was the portal. All peace and joy is hers. There will be no strangeness, no sense of unworthiness, for her whole life here was the expression of those qualities that have fitted her to dwell in the Mansions prepared for her.

The quiet dignity, the serene unclouded faith and trust, the gentle courage, the unswerving honesty of Mrs. Barnum is a legacy to her friends as precious as it is rare.

God be thanked that such a life has been lived in the world, and that we were privileged to have a part in it.

ETTA DOANE MARDEN.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints," and there is something very beautiful and very comforting for God's children too in the death of God's saints. Seldom is this so clearly seen as in the case of Mrs. H. S. Barnum. Up to the last evening of her life on earth she continued her housewifely duties and her ministry of love, and then she closed her eyes in sleep to open them in the other world with a glad surprise. What a happy blessed memory is such a death! No sadness of farewell!

Mrs. Barnum had known sorrow and sadness more than falls to the lot of most women. As a missionary in Harpout and Van she had to meet isolation, the strain of toil and the anxieties that fall to the missionaries in the interior and she met them bravely.

At Van the Russian war crowded the city with refugees, and then an epidemic of scarlet fever broke out later which struck down three of her children at once. In the letter which told of this great sorrow her husband wrote the words of the psalmist: "All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me."

Five children have passed over before her and these experiences write lines of pain on the face and lines of strength in the character. She was sweetened and refined by suffering, not soured or hardened. And her love took a wider sweep and included many outside of her family circle to whom she ministered.

Mrs. Barnum was not a woman who crowded to the front or sought for recognition. Quiet, rather retiring, she never put herself forward, but when any service was needed she was prompt and efficient in rendering it. Her home was a model of neatness and good taste. The heart of her husband did safely trust in her, and *her neighbors loved her*. She had that reserve force of character which comes to those who have endured in Christian service a long time. She was very "dependable."

I do not wonder that the Master made the transition to the Father's house very gentle for her.

She had just come into our College circle and had made her home so cozy and attractive that every one who came

out of it spoke of it with pleasure. She had with her the companion of forty-five years. Together they had labored, suffered and rejoiced. In the same house was her son and his young wife. All was well, and she fell on sleep. There is no sadness in such a death. It is lovely. It is precious in the sight of God our Father and of us His children.

C. F. GATES.

ADANA, A STRATEGIC CENTRE.

Adana, Turkey, Jan. 19, 1914.

Dear "ORIENT":—

In the autumn preceding the Adana massacre the Y. M. C. A. was definitely organized and showed a great deal of vigor and hope for the future. The catastrophe of 1909 so crippled the enterprise that it has not been able as yet to recover itself. However the Society has maintained its organization and has lost none of its hope for the future. It is without a salaried worker as Sisag Eff. Manougian has resigned his work as Secretary. He is in the city and deeply interested in the enterprise but cannot give his time definitely to this work.

Every one who visits Adana is impressed with the hustle and drive of this busy, modern city. The streets are filled with a rushing crowd in which young men constitute the large proportion and the number of foreigners is very remarkable. Business is booming. There is a mad rush for money. Prices, values and rents have risen in an incomprehensible way. The saddening aspect is that coffee houses, saloons, gambling dens and other places of evil resort are wide open and patronized to the full. Manhood is being sapped and ruined, — especially young manhood.

The Young Men's Society has been unable so far to do anything to provide any counter attraction. Our rooms, for which we were paying at the rate of Lt. 20 rent a year, were burned. Could we find similar rooms now we would have to pay at least 40 liras a year. Rooms for any sort of extensive work would cost 70 or 80 liras and even then would not be suitable for the purpose.

Sisag Eff. Manougian while in England did what he could to develop interest in this enterprise. He made us glad yesterday when he handed me a letter, the copy of which is as follows:

Dear Mr. Manougian:—

I wish to let you know that your earnest and persuasive appeals and letters, as well as your conversations with me whilst you were in England, on behalf of the need for Y. M. C. A. work in Adana have not been without effect although I have taken much time to think the matter over and come to a definite decision.

I was very sorry to learn afterwards you were obliged to resign your position as Secretary from your beloved work on account of health, though I am sure you can never cease to be a true friend of the cause and to young men even if busy with something else. May the Lord reward you for all you

have sought to do for the advancement of His Kingdom among the young men of your people.

I am very glad to hear that the World's Committee of Y. M. C. A. are doing their utmost to find another Secretary. Thinking the following offer may help the sooner to find the needed man I write to say that I am willing to give £ 1000 towards a suitable building in Adana as a Y. M. C. A. centre on these conditions:—

1. That twice the amount I offer be collected in America or Europe.
2. That at least £ 200 be collected from Adana itself apart from what has already been subscribed to the cause.
3. That my name be kept *absolutely secret* (between you and the President of the Association) unless I let you know differently.
4. My offer shall be valid for a full year from the date of writing. (Should I die before the appointed time the Executor of my Will will hand over the amount offered by said conditions.)

Uniting with you and the Committee in prayer for success.

Believe me, Sincerely yours.

This letter is at once a challenge and an inspiration. The conditions are very definite and by no means unreasonable. This is a challenge to us and all friends of this enterprise to do the needful and natural thing, i. e., to do our utmost to secure this money.

A few days before this letter arrived we were made to rejoice because of a communication from the Secretary of the World's Committee of the Y. M. C. A., Mr. Sautter of Geneva. He informed us that that Committee had definitely decided to appoint a foreign Secretary to Adana and provide his salary. We have already in possession a building site.

These four things, — a definite organization, the definite decision by the World's Committee to appoint and support a secretary soon to be on the ground, the possession of a building site, and this conditional promise of £ 1000, — naturally make us feel that this enterprise is on the way to large service and that there must be many friends who would be ready to lend a helping hand to it. The large question that confronts us is that of the £ 2,000 (\$ 9,700) to be raised in eleven months. Who will help us? Contributions marked "For Young Men's Society, Adana, Turkey" may be sent to W. W. Peet Esq., American Bible House, Constantinople, Mr. Frank H. Wiggin, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., Rev. S. W. Gentle-Cackett, 392 Strand, London, or Rev. W. N. Chambers, Adana, Turkey.

We are even now celebrating the Armenian Christmas and the strains of the Angels' anthem are ringing in our ears:— "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to men". We want assistance to make this Y. M. C. A. enterprise fully serve the great message of that anthem.

Yours very truly,

W. NESBITT CHAMBERS.

The Young Men's Christian Association in China is continually emphasizing the strategic importance of placing capable foreign secretaries and up-to-date equipment in each of the provincial capitals. Such a program might well be adopted in the Turkish Empire. To a remarkable degree our vilayet capitals are real centres, —officially, educationally, commercially —of their respective provinces, and it is there that young men concentrate. They come from the villages for military service or tradesmanship. They come from other towns, and from schools and colleges, to engage in business or in the professions.

Adana is no exception to this rule. To be sure, it is not as well-known abroad as Smyrna, Aleppo or Damascus. I never heard of it until it sprang into sad fame in 1909. But three visits have branded it into my memory to stay. This energetic changing city of 75,000 is conscious of a future. Steam plows and threshing machines, cotton-mills and railroads make one feel its progressive commercial spirit. Great school buildings loom up all over the city. The Germans have put up a railway plant of which many a European or American city would be proud. Adana's needs are appalling. That a catastrophe could so dull the moral sensibilities of a city's young men, I would not have believed had I not seen it.

Vice is not only popular but respectable. Hundreds of splendid young fellows, away from home and hungry for fellowship are finding it where it spells ruin. Commercialism is running riot. Yet up to the present there has been no social centre to hold before the young men of the city the ideal of a clean, helpful life, or the attraction of warm-hearted Christian friendship.

But a modern Association Work in Adana will meet far more than a local need. This has been recognized for years by the World's Committee as it has supported the secretary there. It is recognized by the giver of the splendid sum which has already been referred to. A \$20,000 plant, ably manned, will demonstrate the usefulness of the work to those interested in young men in all the cities of the Cilician coast and of a large section of the interior. It will be a training centre for native secretaries and volunteer workers. It will give a positive message of vital Christianity to young men throughout a great region.

Let me add to the guarantees of success mentioned by Dr. Chambers the following: —

Adana possesses a missionary force and leadership of the highest order, the Association has the cordial sympathy and support of the national churches, and the city offers to the Association great, untapped resources of educated and able young men, both native and foreign, many of whom had already come under the influence of the Association movement before they came to Adana.

E. O. JACOB.

The new Greek minister to Turkey, Mr. Panas, was on Monday received in solemn audience by the Sultan at Dolma Baghtche Palace.

CHRISTMAS VACATION ACTIVITIES AT S. P. C.

Not for years have we had such glorious weather for Christmas vacation, and perhaps never have the students spent a more enjoyable holiday recess. An elaborate program for entertainment and amusement was provided for both day and evening. Every evening there was a room open where the students listened to music, played games, and so forth. On Christmas eve Dr. Adams gave a lecture on "New York City and Environs" illustrated by the Radiopticon; the President on Christmas night told stories, and the students listened to the Victrola; the Social Committee of the Y. M. C. A. gave a "funniest" entertainment with the following program: "The funniest picture I ever drew;" "The funniest story I ever heard;" "The funniest walk I ever walked;" "The funniest language I ever talked;" "The funniest man I ever knew;" "The funniest story I ever told." Music was by the Armenian Orchestra. Sunday evening there was a special Song Service. There was a "Stunt" night with various amusing performances such as: Operating on a child, removing "A Can, Sir," etc.; drawing funny pictures; two men giving a speech, the man behind making the gestures; playing music of an unusual kind, and tricks by a magician. Students' Evening, with examples of numerous different languages, a human mandolin, an eating race, various numerical tricks and a mock trial. Students Union Entertainment: Several clever songs and speeches and a funny imitation of a trial. DAY TIME: Numerous all day excursions to Dog River Cave; Water works; the Roman Aqueduct; the snow line on the Lebanon, and other places near Beirut. Also various forms of athletics, and amusements in the game room.

Directly after vacation, the Special Services of the Week of Prayer were held. The auditorium in West Hall not being quite ready the meetings were held in the Library. Never before has the attendance been so great. The room was crowded every night. Dr. Webster was the speaker at all of the 8 Services, taking for his general subject "The Appeal of Christ to the Young Men of the Present Day." Never before perhaps has Dr. Webster spoken more forcibly, or more winningly, and he had the undivided attention of his hearers, and his addresses seemed, if possible, to grow in power from night to night. He illustrated his topics by most effective illustrations drawn from his personal and professional experience. At the outset Dr. Webster declared his object was to present from his own experience certain fundamental truths of elemental and universal importance to College students. The list of his subjects will give some idea of the scope of his addresses:

"The need of a more vivid sense of the presence of God;" "The need of a clearer sense of the meaning of right and wrong;" "The need of the sense of being right with God;" "The need of personal purity;" "The need of the spirit of Service;" "The need of the practice of religious toleration;" "Leadership;" and "The final appeal of Christ."

W. B. A.

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople.

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE. FEBRUARY 4, 1914.

EDITORIAL.

Such a report as that given in this number regarding the work of the Constantinople Y.M.C.A. is most gratifying. It is evident that the Association is meeting a felt need, and is appreciated by a large and varied constituency. There are so many dens of iniquity all over the city, — not least of all in Pera, — that it is not surprising that business houses are glad to pay the fees of their employees to keep them in healthful and helpful surroundings during their leisure hours. They may thus be assured of better service from them during the day. And the mingling and fraternizing of the many nationalities is an element in the breaking down of unfortunate and dangerous race prejudices. It vividly illustrates the Christian Brotherhood idea for which the Association always stands. And the steps thus far taken have to a large extent paved the way for cordial reception of the more strictly spiritual aims and objects of the movement. We look for a period of still greater usefulness for the Association during the ensuing three months.

The political situation does not clear up as fast as Turkey's true friends wish it might. Still we see signs of hope. From many sides come assurances of the peaceful intentions of the government. We are told that even if the proposals of England regarding the Aegean Islands should be accepted by all the Powers (as we now hear they have been), this is not expected to cause any rupture of diplomatic relations with Greece, nor any danger of war. The purchase of the Brazilian dreadnaught and the speedy readiness of the other now being built for Turkey, though it may place two units in the hands of Turkey both stronger than anything that Greece has, will not, we are assured, lead the former to attempt to retake by force the islands of Chio and Mitylene.

On the other hand Athens circles, according to the newspapers, are convinced that a secret treaty exists between Turkey and Bulgaria, by which Bulgaria agrees to give up Thrace

to Turkey in return for Macedonia, the two together to snatch Macedonia back from Greece and Servia. Reports are also current that the Turks in the region of Makri are preparing to retake the island of Castellorizo, which the British proposal gives back to Turkey, by force of arms, anticipating that the Greeks will not give it up without a struggle.

Many will see in the reported arrangement of a marriage between the Crown Prince of Greece and a Roumanian Princess another element in the question of Balkan peace. If Bulgaria can so far forget her recent enmity with Turkey as to sign a treaty with Turkey, Roumania will almost certainly be found on the side of Greece, to again push a thorn into the Bulgarian side. However we are rather inclined to refuse to take stock in the rumored Bulgaro-Ottoman alliance, of which we as yet hear only through Athens.

ARE THEY EXCEPTIONS?

A few weeks ago while passing Tchataldja on the local train my travelling companion went into the corridor of the car to look out over the hills. At the other end of the car he noticed two Turkish bin-bashis (colonels) who, with bowed heads, stood at the window. As he looked closer he saw that they were weeping. Soon he approached them and, in a sympathetic tone, asked what their trouble was. They raised their heads, but could say nothing. Dropping their heads again they wept like little children. My friend stood by wondering what could be their trouble. After a while one of the men gained control of himself and said, "My son, we are thinking of a year ago, when we were out on those hills with the army. After the great battle with the Bulgarians we tramped about among 16,000 dead and dying men. And they were all fine, strong young men like yourself." (My companion was a fine specimen of young manhood). And now as we pass by here we cannot help weeping as we think of the horrors of those days." Then the officer proceeded to tell my friend in detail of the horrors of those days; of how the soldiers fought bayonet to bayonet; of their own fears lest the enemy should break through the lines; of how the Bulgarians were finally forced to retreat, leaving their dead and dying scattered over the hills; and of the task of collecting the wounded and of burying the dead. The speaker then added; "And how little it all seems to have accomplished!"

Constantinople,
Jan. 28, 1914.

ARTHUR C. RYAN.

CALENDAR OF ENGLISH PREACHING SERVICES.

Sunday, Feb. 8th, 1914.

BEBEK CHURCH, 11 a. m., Rev. Robert Frew.

UNION CHURCH, Pera, 11 a. m., Rev. Charles T. Riggs.

ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. Charles Anderson, D.D.

CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE, 11:30 a. m. Miss Eleanor J. Burns.

THREE MONTHS OF Y. M. C. A. IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

January 13 marked the end of the first three months of work in rented quarters. Had anyone said when we began that at the end of the first year, or even two years, we would have had as many members as we have to-day, he would certainly have been considered ignorant of the "peculiar difficulties" in this city. 481 members representing 16 nationalities and an almost endless variety of religious faiths surprises even the most optimistic. The general feeling was expressed thus by a member of the Board: "Just to think that we doubted the possibility of getting 250 members in a whole year and now we have nearly double that number in three months!" The most astonishing thing to many, however, is not so much the number as the kind of men who have come. A member of the Board to whom we had been referred by a Persian Moslem applying for membership, after certifying to the man's good character, said: "But I can't imagine why that man should wish to become a member of *this* Association." But the man did wish to and liked the Association so much that he brought several of his Moslem friends. It is an interesting fact that about one third of the Active and Student members are between 17 and 20 years of age. Only about 50 members are over thirty.

After solemn assurances by "people who knew" that no organization could influence the various nationalities to mingle harmoniously, it is a real satisfaction to see Englishmen, Greeks, Turks, Armenians, etc., playing and working together even though it often happens they have no common language.

The feature of the Association which is undoubtedly the greatest drawing card is the night school. Although we have only two small rooms for classes, there are 285 students. The demand for places in the classes is so great that men beg to be allowed to stand because there is no room for more chairs. A man absent four times without a good excuse forfeits his place. Last night a Turk who is impatiently awaiting his turn to enter a class was told that one man had already been absent three times. He quickly replied; "If God wills, he will not come next time." All but two of our 16 classes are taught by volunteers. In addition to the classes public lectures in various languages are conducted once a week.

The interest which members and friends are taking in the Association is most encouraging. Two firms offered to pay the fees of those of their employees who wished to become members. The offer was quickly taken by 18 men from one of these firms. One of the leading Catholic priests frequently visits the Association and helps us in many ways. The Greek Bishop of Pera is a Sustaining Member and not only visits the Association but also speaks warmly in its favor. A very influential Turkish friend has said that he is willing to be a member and to plead our cause with the government when necessary. The director of a Turkish school has offered to teach a Turkish class and has asked us to send a Physical Director to his school to teach games and gymnastics.

We have already had applications for branches in various parts of the city. Applicants from one suburb offer to furnish a building and athletic grounds. A strong appeal came from so far away as Piræus. Talk about opportunity and open doors!

The part that gratifies us most of all is that a growing number of men appreciate that the Association stands not only for amusement and a night school but also for character and the highest ideals of life.

January 24, 1914

D. A. DAVIS.

NON-MOSLEMS AND THE ELECTIONS.

The *Tanin* says: —

The negotiations that have been going on for some time as between the Greek and Armenian Patriarchates on the one side and the Union and Progress party on the other have not yet been concluded. It is true that within the past few days these negotiations with the Greek Patriarchate have made much progress and the end seems near. Yet it appears that entire agreement has not been reached on certain points. With the Armenian Patriarchate the negotiations have been from the very first on the well-known *takrir*, which was inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution and of the electoral law. After having for a time been conducted in a spirit of conciliation, the question was complicated by the advice of the Patriarchate. It is true that the papers have talked much about decisions reached; we know not how exact may be their sources of information. In any case, the negotiations, while they have passed the stage of conflict have not yet reached a definite agreement.

Nevertheless for the past week the ballot-boxes for the preliminary elections have been carried through the streets of the capital; the electoral formalities are nearly all over. In several electoral districts the results of the preliminary elections have already been announced. In the provinces the elections are being carried on actively. In some *kazas* the final election of deputies has even taken place. This being the case, the indifferent attitude of the non-Moslem elements, and their illogical demands, do not make a favorable impression. The electoral right is one of the fundamental rights of the people; and any attack on it is a menace to the very principle of liberty.

Just how far can the Committee go in these negotiations without trampling on its own principles or the very clear provisions of the law? This is a point that our non-Moslem compatriots do not seem to understand. The Union and Progress party is simply a political party, which it is true supports the government, but which itself must needs be based on the laws in force so as to keep its power. The party can do no more than make some minor concessions. If the chance of joint action is allowed to go by, we shall greatly regret it. But everything has its limits, patience included; and if the chance of today is not seized, we fear that tomorrow it may be too late.

CHRISTMAS IN THE TREBIZOND SCHOOLS.

This year, our schools are fuller than ever before, although even last year we were crowded more than we really ought, for best results. But by giving up our sitting-room down stairs, we gained more seating space for the upper school. That tides us over for this winter, but leaves no room for another year whatever, for more growth, unless we camp out, and give over our own rooms.

The kindergarten too, with its triple row or semi-circle, during opening exercises, shows our great need of more room for the tiny ones.

When it came to planning for our Christmas exercises, we had to tell the children that we could not let their parents come, because there was no room! When both schools gathered in our kindergarten room, there was just comfortable space left around the tree for the exercises. Of course we had a tree, but instead of its being hung with gifts for the children, they all had prepared something for some poor person who would not otherwise have any Christmas.

The afternoon before the exercises, the tree was brought in for the children to prepare, and such a shout of delight as went up!

First the kindergarten went up, one by one, and hung up the prepared gifts, then they jointly helped trim the lower branches. Such glee as they had over it, I haven't seen before, and it was so contagious that we all felt the Christmas spirit stealing over us anew. After they had finished that, and their rehearsal, they gaily started home, to make room for the upper school to add their share.

Of course their presents were more, as they were older, and could make things beyond a smaller child. Two of these girls clubbed together, and bought material which with some assistance they turned into a blouse for a wretchedly poor woman. Most of them made gifts for other little children, showing, in their presents, their own particular interests. For example, a carpenter's little son had watched and worked with his father enough, so he made a neat little box for his recipient.

Then the oldest class felt their responsibility, in being asked to stay after the others to trim the upper branches of this their own tree. After even old Santa Claus was perched on the very tip-top, with glittering glasses bestride his genial red nose, — the children went laughing away. The exercises were held in the morning to avoid even the danger of a crowd, and to insure the children's getting home safely with their gifts for the poor. Everything went off happily, and then, all unbeknown to the children, an orange and a picture awaited each child, as he was leaving.

I heard one child, who had been deeply impressed with the giving-away idea, ask, "What are we to do with the picture and orange?" When told that she was to keep that, she gave such a little hop of delight — that everything wasn't to be carried away, but might be really truly hers!

Our Sunday School is gradually increasing until it is

not unusual to have an attendance of two hundred, packed into our close quarters.

Right here, I want to voice our sincere appreciation of those new quarterlies. Our children are beginning to buy copies of these, and the New Testament, which means more regular attendance on their part. Now, our problem is to find teachers enough, so as to break up our classes of from 25 — 60 each into workable numbers.

We have teachers' meetings, every Wednesday, as a preparation for the following Sunday, and the exchange of ideas is helpful to all. We have longed for this work to grow, for we can reach at this time many whom we can touch at no other. Now the opportunity has come, and in such increasing measure that our hands are full, and our hearts thankful!

NELLIE A. COLE.

A CHEERY CHRISTMAS.

Dear ORIENT: —

Once more the Christmas festivities in the Boys' Home at Bardizag are over, and peace and satisfaction reign amongst our small people.

First came the Show Evening, when every boy was anxious to give proof of how well he could speak English; so they stood up in rows on the platform in Chambers Hall and declaimed their little poems. One class repeated a quaint bit of advice as to how to perform "Ten little Duties," this having been the greeting sent them from over the seas by their old friend Mrs. Chambers. The higher classes sang very sweetly and with great expression a French Carol showing that M. Galley's most kind and untiring efforts to cultivate their sense of harmony had not been fruitless; their rendering also of English and Armenian Carols was very encouraging.

On the Armenian Christmas Evening they had their long-looked-for Tree, with its dozens of lighted candles, although owing to illness in the Home the whole arranging of the Tree had to be left to the elder boys under Mr Hume's able direction. The result was, as one boy described it, "quite charming, a glimpse into Paradise." We greatly missed Mlle Maillefer who was down with influenza, but it is very sweet to have the boys themselves taking charge of the work and seeing that everyone gets his share of the fun, even the dear boy who was on a bed of suffering in the Home. The old Saint Nicholas in his furry coat and long beard did his part well and the little boys to whom he was a new friend sang and cheered with all their might. It certainly is worth while to face some fatigue in order to foster the spirit of love and good-will.

It must be confessed that the boys accorded their loudest applause to the cook who had prepared their most savoury Christmas dinner!

S. N.

PROGRESS IN PERSIA.

Urumia, Persia, Jan. 16, 1914.

Editor of THE ORIENT,

Dear Sir,

Among the interesting features of *The Orient* one is the statistics of the schools. It is a pleasure to note in one of the recent *Orients* that 38 Persians are in attendance on American Colleges in Turkey. The statistics of pupils in the boys' schools in Urumia and Tabriz, the two mission stations in Azerbaijan for last year (1912-3) were as follows:—

	Moslems	Syrians	Armenians	Others
Tabriz	118		154	
Urumia	120	119	55	7
	238	119	209	7

This includes 5 theological and 6 medical students, the others being for the most part in the equivalent of a College Preparatory Department.

Missionaries and native workers who are engaged in itineration in Moslem villages find increasing opportunities for work. The Russian domination here has secured safety for travel and there is a better opportunity than ever before. The Evangelical Church among the Syrians in the Urumia district has had unusually strong opposition from the Mission of the Russian Orthodox Church, and the statistics for last year showed a small decrease in total membership, from 2504 to 2423; but the indications are that this will be more than made up the current year.

The construction of the railroad from Julfa to Tabriz is being pushed steadily, and rail and steamboat will make connections with Urumia.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. SHEDD.

CALENDAR OF NOTEWORTHY DATES.

- Feb. 5, 1877, Midhat Pasha banished; Edhem Pasha made Grand Vizier.
- > 6, 1812, First A.B.C.F.M. missionaries ordained, Salem, Mass.
- > > 1817, Azariah Smith, Aintab, born.
- > > 1911, Sublime Porte burned.
- > 7, 1856, Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Bliss and Rev. H. H. Jessup reached Beirut.
- > 8, 1840, Mrs. Rebecca W. Hebard, Beirut, died.
- > > 1894, Rev. Wm. Clark, Arabkir and Cons'ple, died.
- > > 1904, Russo-Japanese war began.
- > > 1914, "Mevlud," or birthday of Mohammed.
- > 9, 1906, Prince William of Sweden visits Constan'ple.
- > > 1913, Prof. Alexan Bezjian, Aintab, died.
- > 10, 1822, Levi Parsons died at Jerusalem, aged 29.
- > > 1891, Mrs. Betsey Tilden, Syria, died.
- > > 1913, Germanos V., elected Ecumenical Patriarch.
- > 11, 1904, Miss Charlotte D. Spencer, Hadjin, died.

HOW TO FIGHT GRASSHOPPERS.

The government authorities at Smyrna have recently shown us the latest method of dealing with a plague of grasshoppers. For two years past the entire Smyrna region has suffered terribly from the devastating visits of immense swarms of grasshoppers, who flew up in clouds from under the feet of the pedestrian even on the quay in Smyrna city. Crops were ruined, and many farmers are this year deciding to plant nothing, since it will be of no use. The government has at last taken a vigorous measure. It has ordered a tax to be levied on every male inhabitant in the whole district, consisting of ten okes (28 lbs.) of grasshopper eggs, which each man must bring in person and receive his certificate. A money equivalent is not accepted; it must be real grasshopper eggs, — and thus the plague is to be stayed. What would not old Pharaoh have given for such wisdom! Now it is quite easy for the farmers and the villagers to collect and bring in ten okes of eggs; for the eggs are everywhere, in the fields. But for the nearly 200,000 male inhabitants of Smyrna city to leave their banks and factories and stores and desks and go out egg-hunting is too much. So an enterprising concern has opened an egg-supply-store, where grasshopper eggs, put up in convenient bags of ten okes each, are sold to the peaceful citizen for the small consideration of three or four dollars per bag. Each man thus buys his bag and passes it over the counter of the government tax-gatherer, receiving his certificate. Instead of going into the furnace, however, persistent rumor will have it that, like the busy little bee who "gathers honey all the day and eats it up at night," these grasshoppers in the dead of night spread their wings and fly, bag and all, from the government office back to the enterprising supply-store, to be sold again the next day!

This story would not be complete without recording the further rumor, for whose truth we refuse to vouch, that the person in charge of this store has absconded with Lt. 2,000 in hard-earned cash.

We respectfully recommend our Department of Agriculture to send over to Smyrna an intelligent official to learn this method of combating insect pests.

Apropos of the present situation we reproduce for the benefit of the Smyrna authorities a paragraph from the *Levant Herald* of Jan. 6th, 1875, as to a similar trouble in the Dardanelles region.

"With the agricultural population, and even with the higher classes of Anatolia, it is an article of faith that the swarms of locusts which frequently visit the country cannot be destroyed by any human exertions, and that it is only upon the appearance of flocks of rosy starlings that a devastated district can be relieved of the scourge. The rosy starling, though undoubtedly a mortal enemy to all the grasshopper tribe, is not indigenous to the country; but it is said that the bird can be attracted to any particular locality by means of water obtained by holy persons from a holy well near Angora. A few drops, it is asserted, of this miraculous water, cast into the principal rivers and lakes, suffice to insure the

arrival of the birds. Two venerable dervishes have just arrived here, bearers of some bottles of the precious liquid; but fortunately the Government has of late trusted more to the timely and wholesale destruction of the eggs and of the young insects than to any other specifics, however great may be their pretended efficacy. The result is that as there are no locusts to destroy, we have no need of rosy starlings, nor consequently of holy water. Sceptics have remarked that after a district has been devastated by locusts for some years in succession, the rosy starlings are sure to make their appearance, even without the intervention of holy water, which, like the traditional policeman, is never to be found when wanted."

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

Mr. A. L. M. Gottschalk, U. S. Inspector of Consulates, arrived here last week for a brief stay in this city.

The Y. M. C. A. announces the following lectures in its course on Tuesday evenings at Keller's Hall, Pera, at 9:15: Feb. 10th, Shakespeare's "Tempest," to be read by Professor Watson of Robert College: His Excellency the American Ambassador will preside. Feb. 17th, Dr. Basil Khan, Physician to the Persian Embassy, will lecture in Armenian on "The First and Second Greatest Enemies of the Constantinopolitans." Feb. 24th, M. R. Négrié, formerly professor at Galata Serai, lectures on "Daudet, l'homme et son œuvre."

Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, wife of the American Ambassador, and her daughter Miss Ruth, arrived in Constantinople the day before yesterday.

THE PROVINCES

According to an official telegram from Beirut, the Government has seized a consignment of 15,000 cartridges which had been landed from the Messageries Steamer "Saghalien" between Haifa and Jaffa, and has arrested the persons who had received them.

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. George L. Robinson and family of Chicago spent a few days in Beirut the middle of January. Dr. Robinson preached to the Anglo-American congregation. He is this year Director of the American Archaeological School at Jerusalem.

The *Near East* says that Mendel Beiliss, the Jew whose trial and acquittal in Russia last year caused such comment, has left for Jaffa with his family, as Baron Rothschild is said to have bought an estate in Palestine for him.

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NOTES.

A son, Curtis, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Luther Fowle of Aintab on January 22nd.

We regret to learn of the illness of Miss Campbell, the American nurse at the hospital at Mezireh (Harpout), as well as of one of the Armenian nurses, from typhoid fever, contracted after nursing some eighteen or twenty other cases.

In the January number of *Al Kulliyeh*, Dr. W. B. Adams tells of some very successful results from the use of carbon dioxid snow in certain forms of leprosy. While he does not yet claim that the cure of this dread disease has been accomplished, some of his patients do. "Hakim Iddames", as he is known in Arabic, has certainly greatly benefited them.

Dr. E. St. J. Ward assumed his hospital and college duties with the New Year. He convalesced in Damascus and is in robust health.

Dr. Graham returned from his furlough in good health on Jan. 11th. The fall and early winter he spent in work in the hospitals in Berlin.

We are requested to state in regard to the paper on "The Educational Outlook of the Ottoman Empire," presented by Dr. Patrick at the Conference in Smyrna last month, that the paper had been prepared by Dr. Ellen D. Ellis and Miss Florence Palmer of the faculty of Constantinople College. This was so stated by Dr. Patrick when the paper was read.

OTHER LANDS.

Queen Eleanore of Bulgaria has returned to Sofia after a visit of two weeks to Vienna.

The Americans residing in Sofia have organized an American Relief Committee of Bulgaria, with the Queen as honorary Chairman, and the American Minister as an honorary member. Mr. Holway is the chairman, Dr. Count treasurer, and Mrs. Hadji-Mischeff (nee Miss Pansy Brown), Secretary. In connection with the work of this committee Mr. Holway has gone to the Strumitza district, with clothing for the suffering.

An arrangement between the Krupp firm of Germany and the gun factory of Putiloff in Russia, by which the former was to come into a controlling interest in the plant of the Russian company, has just been divulged in France, to the consternation of the French and Russian governments.

The death sentence passed on Bekir Agha, leader of the attempted uprising at Valona, Albania, has been confirmed.

NOTICE.

Not long before Christmas there turned up in Trebizond most mysteriously a parcel addressed to a Miss Nellie Hadley in San Francisco, Cal., and with an Austrian Levant one-piastre stamp on it. Whoever sent it, if this notice attracts his or her attention, will do well to communicate with the American Mission, Trebizond, with reference to this stray parcel, which contains some articles of more or less value.

Dr. C. F. MALBON

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