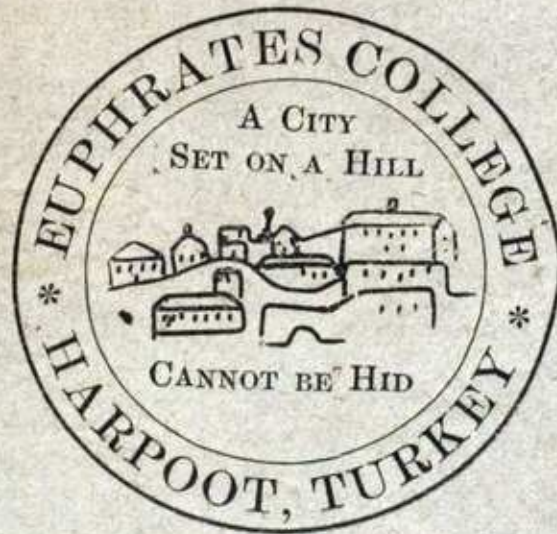


PA 20-36

# EUPHRATES COLLEGE

AND THE

## NEW ERA



IN THE

OTTOMAN EMPIRE



EUPHRATES COLLEGE  
and the  
NEW OTTOMAN ERA

*A city set  
on a hill* Harpoot stands on the brow of an upland 1200 feet above the plain. From the College windows to the west, south and east the eye sweeps over 400 square miles of plain and hill country, thickly dotted with villages; and people in these scores of villages daily look up, figuratively as well as literally, to the city set on the hill that cannot be hid. During the day they see the glint of the group of College buildings that dominate the city, and at night the lamps of the study halls gleam out like a beacon over the dark miles below.

The location of Euphrates College is symbolic of its commanding position of influence and opportunity.

*The College* Thirty years ago the founder, Dr. Wheeler, opened the "Armenia College," the only one in that section of 60,000 square miles from which it took its name and from which its students are mainly drawn. Other schools have grown up around it in the

past quarter century, but Euphrates College, as it is now called, retains the leading place among them, and is the only college of evangelical aims and standards in this whole field.

During its history this College has graduated 228 young men and 138 young women. These are now the leaders in the religious and intellectual life of this region, or are filling important positions all over the world. There are at present 151 male and 83 female students in the four College classes, besides 600 in the preparatory and primary departments. These pupils come from widely scattered cities and districts, from Macedonia to the Persian frontier, but a large majority are from the Harpoot province. With few exceptions they are all Armenians. A goodly proportion are children of our own Protestant communities, but the majority are from Gregorian (old church) homes.

The teaching force of 21 women and 25 men includes eight American and two Swiss teachers and 36 Armenians. Of the latter 32 are graduates of our own College. During the past year one of our teachers returned from two years of study in Edinburgh. Another is now studying in Germany, and a third has been granted leave for study abroad and will go next year.

The College buildings are for this city quite an imposing array. As compared with American College buildings they are decidedly shabby, and *Its Equipment* extremely crowded. The library of 4500 volumes is a good working library for students and teachers but very much cramped for space at present. For library and laboratory a new building is imperatively needed. Cf laboratory equipment there is very little and lack of space prevents any laboratory work by students. A very meagre equipment is provided for classroom demonstrations. Much of the apparatus was made here, including a four-inch astronomical telescope, a static electrical machine, and a modern seismograph. In connection with the College, shops for cabinet-making, stove and locksmithing, tin work and fruit canning, printing and book-binding, furnish employment for needy pupils.

The Euphrates College press was for 27 years silenced by the Government censorship. The new Constitution grants freedom of the press, and last *The Press.* summer the seals of the censorship were removed and the press set to work. A magnificent opportunity for service awaits this College press, and funds only are lacking to begin an important publication work. The Faculty intend soon to publish a College periodical, and text books and religious literature should follow.

The work done here is college work. Compared with an American college the curriculum in some lines may seem rudimentary, but it aims to do and does for the youth of this land what an American college does for its students, and day by day it is raising the standard for itself and for the people. And it is a Christian college. The whole purpose of the work is Christian, and that purpose pervades the workers and their work. In connection with the self-help department the shops give manual training to many of the pupils, and thus the College sends out men who can use their hands as well as their heads.

The almost miraculous dawn of the new constitutional regime has opened a new era before the college.

*The New Ottoman Era.* Under a liberal constitutional government the country looks forward to an era of hitherto unknown prosperity. Progressive ideas are abroad and intelligent men are beginning to realize that this marvelously rich land offers opportunities that might be coveted by citizens of any country. Those who had gone to America are flocking back to share in the glory of the new era. The air is full of new hope, of new determination, of practical patriotism.

In the midst of this new hope and opportunity the newly-awakened Ottoman nation is looking about for men of intelligence and character to be leaders in the

*A Limitless  
Opportunity.*

new enterprises that are to make this a progressive land, and in answer to this demand the College stands ready. Our students had hitherto looked to America as the land of opportunity, and many of them were already planning to follow so many of our graduates thither; but now they realize that their own is the land of promise for them and the spirit of confidence and ambition is transforming them. *They* will be the leaders in the new growth of their Fatherland.

But to those who think of the work of the College in its deeper meaning the new opportunity brings a deep sense of responsibility. The purpose of the College cannot be served merely by doing for these ambitious youth what they demand. The College has a positive purpose which it must impress upon every one who comes within its influence. This purpose is to prepare Christian leaders. Never was there greater need to keep this purpose clearly in view. The pressure to draw us away from this aim will hereafter be tremendous. The temptation for the Christians to yield their religion for the sake of harmony with their non-Christian brethren will be very strong, and the work of this College is more than ever before to prepare *Christian* leaders in the new Ottoman Empire.

Is the College ready to meet this opportunity and responsibility? Never did a college stand in greater need than Euphrates College feels today. *Great Need.* It is first of all a spiritual need. Every worker here needs more spiritual power and deeper consecration in the face of this unparalleled opportunity. And it is a material need as well. The College needs to progress in advance of its constituency. A better course of instruction, larger teaching force, teachers of broader training, these are already being demanded of the College, and in order to hold the best class of students the demands must be met. The College will hereafter have to compete with Government schools which are strong in everything but the Christian purpose, and to hold its place and fulfil its mission Euphrates College must offer the best of everything.

At this time of opportunity and of need the College finds itself handicapped by serious financial difficulties. Its endowment, amounting to less than \$100,000, yields an annual income of about \$4,600. As the College has grown, expenditures have necessarily increased, while the endowment has remained practically the same. During the past few years expenditures have exceeded regular income by amounts varying from \$500 to \$1,000 a year. The deficit has been made up by drawing on reserve funds, and by special gifts.



The reserve funds are now exhausted and only the occasional gifts of friends stand between the College and disastrous retrenchment. Advance cannot be made on such a precarious basis. Euphrates College *must have a larger endowment*, else it cannot meet its present splendid opportunity.

This leaflet goes for the most part to those in the home-land who can aid the College by their prayers and by their gifts. To such may we add this personal word? This is a time of crisis for the missionary work and especially for the College. It must either advance or lose ground. The workers on the ground are all enthusiastically for advance. What say you?

Henry H. Riggs.

President.

December 8th, 1908.

## FORM FOR BEQUESTS

I give and bequeath to The Trustees of Euphrates College Funds, a Massachusetts Corporation, formerly known as Trustees of Armenia College Funds, and formed in 1878,....., to be used for the purposes of the college.

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