

The Orient.

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A GREAT TRANSFORMATION IN THE OTTOMAN UNIVERSITY.

This year marks an epoch in the history of the Turkish University, that is too great to be passed by without notice. The only university in the wide Empire, it has been the source and centre of light and knowledge for the whole country, and has proved very attractive to the young men from every corner of the empire who have poured into Constantinople every year and filled up its every department. In the last years before the Balkan war, 3,000 students were enrolled in the law school, with a corresponding number in the medical, literary and other departments.

The University has justified its existence and usefulness not only by an uninterrupted history of half a century, but by giving to the empire many brilliant and promising factors in its administrative, religious, medical, scientific and literary life.

The reformation that has taken place was a failure in the past, but is now a successfully accomplished fact. The necessity for it has long been felt, and the idea has been at work in the minds of those who have had charge of directing the thought-life of the country. But so strong has been the conservative spirit that it has delayed this progressive step many years until the present. The teaching staff of the university has felt and urged the necessity of this change, and has helped on the evolution. Outside of the staff, many learned scholars have also helped by articles in the press and by public lectures. Among these liberal men of letters may be mentioned His Excellency the present Sheikh-ül-Islam, Hairy Effendi, a man of high talent and reputation. During his ministry and by his active and enterprising spirit, a Moslem Theological Seminary has been founded in this city, called "Dar-ül-Khila-fet-ül-Alié Medresesi," which is gradually extending its branches in various places in this region. So far as I know, His Excellency is the first Sheikh-ül-Islam who has succeeded in explaining and authoritatively proving that the taking of interest is not against the spirit of the Moslem religion, so that a purely Moslem institution like the "Evkaf" has been able to found a bank. It is indeed an honor to the ministers of justice and of education, Ibrahim Bey and Shükri Bey, that this ideal has been realized in the time of their ministry.

The reform steps that have already been taken affect the departments, buildings, teaching staff, curriculum, and teach-

ing methods. The theological department of the university has been amalgamated with the above-mentioned theological seminary, which has a twelve-years' course of study and a good teaching staff presided over by His Excellency the Sheikh-ül-Islam; there is a Moslem educational commission to inspect the teaching and the curriculum.

The medical department has its separate buildings, of European model and well equipped, at Haidar Pasha, connected with a government hospital. Physicians with a fine European education and famed for their medical skill in the Capital are on the teaching staff. As far as I know, this institution has not felt the need of enlisting any European or foreign teachers. Every year an average of one hundred graduates go out into civil or military medical service, supplying well enough the needs of the country.

The department of literature has been improved both in its curriculum and in the teaching staff. German professors of history, philosophy and methodology have already arrived and have begun their work. A new Faculty of Languages has been formed, with four years' courses in Arabic, Persian, German, French, and Russian, and three years' courses in the Hindi, Urdu and Chinese languages.

The reformation has been especially felt in the law school, where it is welcomed and is worth mentioning in detail. The civil school, which has had a long existence, has been amalgamated with the law school, in which a post-graduate class has been started for those wishing to secure the title of Doctor of Laws; and three new courses have been added, in political economy, administration and politics. The First Dragoman of the German Consulate, Dr. Nord, has been appointed to teach the European civil codes. He is well versed in Turkish, and with the help of an assistant he lectures in Turkish. In the curriculum, the German civil code has replaced that of Napoleon, and is more modern and satisfactory.

But all these reforms are but superficial in comparison to another, which I wish to describe in detail. This reform is a turning-point in the history of Moslem jurisprudence, and deserves to be written in letters of gold. It is the abandoning of the exegetic system in teaching Moslem jurisprudence. This is a welcome change, which we hope may ere long extend to actual practise.

Let me explain briefly what is meant by the exegetic system, and what has been the consequence of its theory and

practise in jurisprudence, as embodied in the Medjelleh, which contains 1,851 articles, divided into sixteen chapters, and was officially compiled as an authorized textbook forty-five years ago. Every article in the book is taken from absolutely orthodox Moslem jurisprudence of the Hanefi sect, which represents the official religious system of the Ottoman nation and government. The commission that compiled this book took the articles from this orthodox source, and refused the theories of other sects, preferring these to non-orthodox views. Most of the articles are of the greatest value, both because of their accurate grammatical form and because of their philosophical basis. There are articles on which have been written commentaries of hundreds of pages; and it is truly called an unbounded sea (*bir bahri bi-payan*) of knowledge. Very few even of the wisest ulemas have been great enough teachers to gain a reputation for authority by teaching the Medjelleh. Not even a teacher is allowed to publish commentaries without the permission of the government; and such a work before publication must pass a very strict inspection by a special commission from the Meshikhat, or Sheik-ul-Islamate. If approved by them, it may be published with the imperial imprimatur.

These articles then originated in the golden age of Moslem civilization; and they have always been taught with great reverence and care, by the method of exegesis and analysis, applied to every exigency or need of the times, with full confidence that it will satisfy every want. But there are principles, theories, views and forms, whose sources are orthodox, and which have lived and flourished many centuries, which, though wise and excellent, are not up-to-date and do not correspond to the needs of the times; and these have led the newer thinkers to urge upon the reluctant conservatives some modifications, which they have only just now succeeded in introducing into the teaching.

Neither time nor spaces allow for more than a single example. A summary of articles 417, 472, 597 and 598 may be expressed in the following words: "A usurped advantage cannot be indemnified." — *منافه مقصوب مضمون اولماز*. This principle originated with Imam-i-Azam Mohammed Ebou-Hanifé, the greatest religious leader of the third (or fourth) century of the Hegira, who lived in Baghdad. He was the founder of the great Hanefi sect, to which the Ottoman government adheres. He was the theologian and jurist of the sect, and is justly called the Great Imam. He had a famous daughter named Hanifé, and he is therefore called Ebou-Hanifé, or Hanifé's father; and the sect is known by her name.

Let us proceed to explain why "A usurped advantage cannot be indemnified." Suppose A owns a very fine house and garden. He leaves this house and takes a journey; and during this time, B by some chance or intentionally enters the house and lives there three years, till A gets back. Unless A is an orphan or the house is *vakf*, A cannot get rent from B, even by applying to the courts. The court can expel B from the house, but no more. The 'three years' rent is not collectable. Why? Because, says the Medjelleh, "a usurped advantage cannot be indemnified." And this for three rea-

sons: 1. Because an advantage, or benefit, is not a thing, an article, and cannot be a part of the thing usurped; and as it is not concrete, it cannot be taken away from its owner. 2. The usurped advantage never existed in the hand of the owner of the property or house, and therefore cannot be demanded back by one who never owned it. This advantage, on the contrary, came to the usurper through his own effort and therefore belongs to him to enjoy. "A man has an absolute right to such things as exist through his own labors," says a *hadis*, or saying of the Prophet. So that the real owner of the advantage is the usurper, not the owner of the house; and a man cannot be fined for enjoying his property. 3. Even though we took the ground that the advantage belonged to the owner of the house, still the usurper could not be fined; for advantage cannot be destroyed, since it is not a durable thing, but is lost at the moment of enjoyment, and has no further existence. And even were it possible to destroy such benefit, an indemnity would still not be imposed; for the fundamental basis of a fine must be the identity of the thing usurped and the fine levied; and as an advantage is not a thing, and has not a separate existence, it is not legally attainable, but quite the contrary, it belongs to the usurper, and him alone. The un-orthodox Shafi sect holds the opposite view, that a usurped advantage is to be paid back; and this corresponds with the modern conception of right. So it comes that after being rejected for many centuries, a non-orthodox theory is welcomed into orthodox jurisprudence, replacing theories that do not correspond with the modern idea of justice. This is of course a great reform in Moslem Ottoman jurisprudence. The exegetic system of casuistry is now to be given up, with its conception of juridical right. Till now the old logic and thinking was the foundation of right and of jurisprudence; the time has now come to accept the thesis that right is founded on social needs and social exigencies.

STUDENT.

THE ROAD FOR CIVILIZATION.

The *Hilal* writes:—

"In the remarkable speech of the German chancellor there is one point that merits special attention. Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, speaking of the opening of the Berlin-Constantinople road, expressed the thought that after the peace this road will no longer be trodden by the feet of soldiers, but will be the road adopted for the march of civilization.

"It is now a century since the Ottoman people decided to enter the circle of civilized nations, in the modern sense of that word. During all this time, it has gone through many crises, political and social; its purpose has been to reform and regenerate itself, to undertake to live according to the new principles dictated by reason and by the spirit of the times. A disinterested study of this period of reforms will convince any impartial historian that the Turkish people are far from being as conservative and immovable as they are

reputed to be. Neither the Janizaries of the time of Mahmoud nor the court intrigues of the days of Medjid nor the *Sheriatjis* of our own day have been able to stop this reform movement, which is the characteristic trait of our national history in the last hundred years.

"And yet we are forced to acknowledge that all these efforts have not yielded corresponding results. Why? Among many other causes, there is one which has not depended on our own will, and of which we wish to speak apropos of the speech of the German Chancellor. It is the ill-will and even at times the open opposition of those who themselves accused us of barbarism and forever reproached us as incurable. At no point in the history of our reforms have we had from the powers, even from those who called themselves our friends, the aid we needed in carrying out the work of reform. As for other powers like Russia, they have used every means to wreck our enterprise.

"By our geographical position we are the foreordained intermediary, the bond of union between the East and the West; it is through us that western civilization can and may be carried across into Asia and Africa. And our position in the Mohammedan world and the moral influence of the Caliphate over the Moslem masses in Asia and Africa make us alone the ones who can transplant there the culture of Europe without inflicting on the peoples of these regions the moral and material sufferings that would otherwise be inevitable. Having ourselves well assimilated the principles of European culture, we are in a position to inculcate them, easily and without any shock, in the oriental world.

"But in order to carry this task through successfully, we needed the material and moral help of Europe; and it is just this that Europe has obstinately refused us. To mention but one case, we recall the vicissitudes of the Baghdad Railroad question. This colossal enterprise was actually to unite the Orient and the Occident and serve as a direct road to Asia for European culture. But think of the innumerable difficulties encountered by this superlatively cultural undertaking, on the part of those powers that considered themselves as in the van of civilization! What wranglings and what difficulties it has cost us!

"Europe would not get accustomed to the idea of a rejuvenated Turkey, mistress of her own destiny; she had pronounced her verdict on the Sick Man and considered him incurable. This auto-suggestion deprived Europe of the power to think justly in regard to us; and the thought of partitioning our remains occupied their minds rather than anxiety for our existence. But Turkey had no idea of dying. Quite the contrary, her aspirations were always for more life, activity, occupying among the civilized nations the place due her on account of her history. It was to assert her will and claim her right that she decided to enter this struggle of the nations. And she has sufficiently proved, we think, that she does live, and that she has the right to that brilliant future to which she aspires with such youthful zeal.

"We are happy to note that the vitality shown by Turkey during this war has begun a radical change in the opin-

ions held regarding us before the war. The newspapers have recently spoken of a conference held in Berlin where German professors and statesmen have spoken on the theme, "Turkey for the Turks." And certainly, in our opinion, it cannot be otherwise. It is with profound faith in the reality of this conception that the whole nation has entered the fight with the resolve to do or die. Never have the Ottoman people renounced their right to live; they have always been conscious of the grand mission of civilization that they have to fulfil in the Orient.

"The alliance with Germany will guarantee to us the accomplishment of this mission. Her overflowing culture, that seeks space for expansion, will go over into the Orient by our channel. The Berlin-Constantinople road, united with the Baghdad line, will put the Persian Gulf in direct touch with the North Sea, and a strong and independent Turkey will be the bond of union between Occident and Orient."

BIOGRAPHIES OF EARLY MISSIONARIES.

XIX. J. E. FORD.

Fifty years ago the Orthodox Greeks of a village west of Mount Hermon quarreled about their church revenues. The income from the church properties was much larger than usual; and after their village priest had been given his pittance, there was enough left to make quite a bone of contention among the laity. They therefore wished to deposit the fund with some one they could trust implicitly. There was no bank in the vicinity; and so, as they could trust neither priest nor rich man, they finally came to an American missionary and gave up into his hands their store. This man was Joshua Edwards Ford.

Mr. Ford was a native of Ogdensburg, N.Y., born August 3rd, 1825, and graduated from Williams College in 1844, and Union Theological Seminary in 1847. He was married and ordained and sailed for Syria that year, reaching Beirut early in 1848. He was appointed to Aleppo first, where he was stationed for seven years. One winter he spent away from his family, at Mosoul, then without a resident missionary. During his life at Aleppo he learned Turkish and preached in that language very acceptably; but Arabic was his chief missionary language, and he spoke it as a master. In the fall of 1855 he was transferred to Beirut, where by the death of Dr. Eli Smith he was left as the only missionary in the city for a short time, till he was joined by Drs. Thomson and Van Dyck, a year and a half later. Mr. Ford was then sent to the Sidon and Hasbeiya station, to labor with Mr. Eddy. With the exception of a couple of months spent at Beirut in 1860, Mr. Ford and his family stayed in Sidon till 1864, when the increasing demand for work in the Hasbeiya region induced him to take his family to Deir Mimas in the summer of 1864. This place is very near Lake Huleh, a region badly contaminated with malaria; and during that winter they all suffered the deleterious effects, so much so that Mrs. Ford was dangerously ill when in the spring they mov-

ed back to Sidon. By the advice and urgency of the mission he was persuaded to take his family to America that summer, as the only way to restore their normal health. He spent most of the autumn in visiting many of the churches of New England, and then made his headquarters in Geneseo, Illinois, so that he might visit the western churches as well. Here he frequently preached, and taught a Bible class, and spoke many times in neighboring places. On one of these trips, in March, 1866, he rode on horseback six miles out over the prairie of a bright Sunday morning, to preach. As it was so mild, he wore no overcoat; but as he was returning a fierce northwest blizzard sprang up, and by the time he reached home he was so chilled that double pneumonia set in, and in nine days, April 3rd, he passed away. As his disease lay heavy upon him, he suddenly roused himself and said with great emphasis, "I have a testimony to give, and I had better do it now. Tell the Christian young men of America that the responsibility of saving the world rests on them."

The mission work was thus deprived of one who was among their strongest and ablest and most efficient men. Well versed in Arabic, a powerful preacher, a commanding personality, indefatigable in labors, of an iron frame and with great physical vigor, he seemed capable of doing anything without fatigue and carrying it successfully through. His mind was logical, his judgment sound, his views broad and deep. He was preeminently a man of prayer, and entirely consecrated to Christ and his work, ready to do anything or go anywhere if it be in the service of his Master. He was a wise counsellor, and his opinions, though modestly expressed, were well weighed and of great value. He was besides greatly beloved by the people, for whom his labors were unremitting, and who knew that his life was devoted to their good. During his last illness, his mind wandered back to his beloved field where he had hoped to be that autumn; and he seemed to be among the native fellow-workers in whose spiritual progress he felt such keen interest. The seventeen years he had spent in Syria had counted more for the work of the Gospel than many more spent by others. A son, Dr. George A. Ford, has followed his father in the work in Sidon.

THE GENERAL WAR.

On the western front of battle there has been apparently a lull, save in the activity of air-craft. German airships have been bombarding Poperinghe, in Flanders, and French airships have done likewise to Metz, in Lorraine. Aside from feeble Russian attacks in the region of the lakes north of Smorgon, very little is reported from the Russian front. Only a telegram from Bucharest indicates a great movement of troops in the Bukovina region, where military trains are constantly bringing in German troops, and where Field-Marshal von Mackensen has arrived. No change of any moment is reported from the Italian arena. Against the Servians and Montenegrins, progress has been made by the capture of Struga and Bielopolye; and the Austro-Hungarian troops

are now fighting along the Tara river, the former boundary between Montenegro and the Sandjak, near Mojkovatch.

On the sea, the sinking is reported on the 17th of the small German cruiser "Bremen," 3,200 tons, and a torpedo-boat by a submarine in the eastern Baltic. The American government has sent in a strongly worded protest to the Austro-Hungarian government as to the sinking of the Italian steamer "Ancona," by which several American lives were lost. The Austrian reply calls for further specifications.

It was announced that the Venizelists would abstain from voting or putting up candidates in the Greek elections, which took place on Sunday last.

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

9th session, Dec. 16th. A number of bills were sent to committee, among them one concerning the compulsory use of the Turkish language by all railroad companies and the like, and by all Ottoman or foreign societies registered in the Ministry of Commerce. A bill regarding the method of proceeding in investigations ordered by court martial during the continuance of martial law, in places where there is no council of investigation; also a bill referring to various sums advanced to the Prefecture of the City by the Ministry of Finance, were passed. When the bill to exempt from customs duties cereals imported from abroad for the use of the Capital, was brought up, Talaat Bey, Minister of Interior, made a speech, describing how in the first stages of the war extensive requisitionings had been necessary in order to supply the needs of the army; but how at the beginning of the second year of the war the government had received more money from its ally, and that so far as possible the supplies needed for the army were now to be paid for as taken. But he added that the passing of this measure would tend to secure the populace its legitimate share of supplies. After this speech, the bill was passed, under the urgency clause.

10th session, Dec. 20th. A bill to add a sum to the budget for 1332 for the ministry of foreign affairs, for the purchase of residences, one for the Embassy in Vienna and one for the legation in Berne, was referred to committee. A bill to add supplementary credits to the budget of the ministry of commerce and agriculture for the purpose of assuring the harvests, and another to grant extra sums to the Department of Public Health for the fighting of epidemics, were passed. A bill to allow the ministry of war to employ, for securing order in the interior of the country, men who are not liable for military service but are capable of bearing arms, was sent back to the committee for them to fix an age limit to those who may thus be called to arms. Some other bills were also passed.

CALENDAR OF ENGLISH PREACHING SERVICES.

Sunday, December 19, 1915.

BEBEK CHURCH, 11 a. m.,
 UNION CHURCH, Pera, 11 a. m., Rev. Robert Frew, D.D.
 ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. Charles Anderson, D.D.
 CONS/PLE COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Miss E. I. Burns, Ph.D.
 There will be a service in the Dutch Chapel on New Year's Day at 11 a. m.

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople.

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE. DECEMBER 22, 1915

EDITORIAL.

Lest some may have overlooked the notice in our issue of a fortnight ago, we repeat that it has been decided to give THE ORIENT a respite for a while, beginning with the first of the coming year; and that therefore the number for next week will be the last number for some time. We trust that all our present subscribers may renew their patronage as soon as financial circumstances make it feasible for us to start in again; and we take this opportunity to assure them that we shall do whatever lies in our power to make the paper then better than ever. We are indeed grateful to all who have so faithfully taken and read the sheet, many of them for the whole six years of its existence, and who are still fond of it. We even feel lenient toward those who have got tired of us and quit, and we hope they too may give us a fresh trial a little later on.

We are requested to announce that all subscribers to the *Avedaper* who have paid their subscriptions for 1915 to the publishers have the option of receiving back the proportionate part of the price for the time since it ceased publication, or having that amount put to their credit when the weekly shall resume publication.

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE NOTES.

The opening weeks of the College year have been in many respects much as the corresponding weeks of other years; occupied largely with the reorganization of the many activities of the College, particularly the extra-curriculum activities. But there has been a very general feeling that never before has the College had so seriously minded, earnest, and unified a student body, nor so deep a spirit of devotion to

the highest interests of the institution on the part of both students and staff.

In accordance with a policy announced about a year ago, the College has discontinued all cup competitions in football with outside teams. Friendly matches are arranged from time to time with various clubs and school teams, but the greatest interest centers in the cup competition between the Boarders and the Day Students. Two cups are offered, one for boys under sixteen, and one for the older students. As both Junior teams and Senior teams have proved very well matched, the competition is keen. Already the new policy seems to have proved its wisdom.

The Students' Y.M.C.A. began the year under the strong stimulus of the June conference, and its work has surpassed the best hopes of its warmest friends. In response to the urgent appeal of day students, a number of the meetings have been arranged at a time when they could be present, and a large attendance has been recorded for each meeting. The Bible Study Committee has organized several voluntary Bible classes, the Social Committee is continuing the monthly socials in homes on the campus, after the plan of the Canton Christian College Association; and all the committees are active. Perhaps the most noteworthy advance however, is the work of the Social Service Committee, which is carrying on extensive relief and social service in the village of Prophetia, within ten minutes' walk from the campus. The Student Volunteer band is growing in numbers and its members growing in enthusiasm.

Morning watch readings are posted each week on the Association bulletin, and a considerable number of students are keeping the morning watch.

The Boy Scout movement, which was introduced here two years ago, is still as popular as ever. New patrols have been formed and while a smaller range of activities is being encouraged than before, the boys are keen for scouting. Already word has come of the introduction of scouting in several new places by scouts trained here, so this year the Scout Master is carrying on a special patrol of prospective scout masters, of older fellows who are pledged to organize the movement in their own homes. There are many evidences of the real value of Scouting in building up real character among the boys.

Prof. C. Wakefield Lawrence has given a large amount of time during the summer and fall as a member of a committee of Americans invited by Consul-General George Horton to supervise the administration of relief funds for foreigners under the supervision of the Consulate.

Founders' Day, October 25th, was celebrated quietly this year, the usual address being delivered on the preceding Sunday, by Dean Cass Arthur Reed, from the text, "Other foundation can no man lay . . ." (I Cor. 3:11). Mr. Reed referred fittingly to the Christian ideals which had made the college possible, and outlined for what the college stands, and how the purposes of the founders can be realized.

Thanksgiving Day was fittingly observed on November 25th with the usual program. President Alexander MacLach-

lan, D.D., was the preacher at the morning service. After the Thanksgiving dinner, football and basket ball games filled a happy afternoon.

The College pulpit is becoming a factor of increasing power in the life of the College. While the services are in charge of the Chaplain, Mr. Harlow, all the ordained members of the faculty share in the preaching. On December 5th, a series of sermons on three great maxims was begun with a sermon by Dean Reed, preaching on the Greek maxim, "Know thyself." The succeeding sermons will be by Prof. Birge on a Roman maxim, "Control thyself," and by Mr. Harlow on a maxim by a great Hebrew, "Deny thyself."

THE OTTOMAN CAMPAIGN.

The despatch of the 14th says:—

"Mesopotamian front:—The activity of the enemy's artillery is gradually becoming weaker by reason of our vigorous reply. Our troops by well-executed attacks are getting very near the main position of the enemy.

"Caucasus front:—Nothing important, only insignificant outpost encounters.

"Dardanelles front:—Our artillery effectively bombarded the enemy's positions at Anafarta, as well as the hostile ships in Kemikli harbor, upon which the enemy's vessels withdrew. At Aru Bournou a heavy bomb-throwing and an intermittent artillery duel. At Sed-el-Bahr the night before last the enemy fired at our right and left wings bombs and land torpedoes. Our gunners hit with a shell the ammunition store of a hostile mortar, which exploded. Yesterday the enemy threw bombs with great frequency at our central trenches. Our guns bombarded the mortar positions of the foe and destroyed a block-house at Kereviz Valley as well as two bridges."

The despatch of the 15th says:—

"Mesopotamian front:—Part of the houses of Kout-el-Amara, situated on the right bank of the Tigris, were captured by an attack that we made on Nov. 30th. Of two motor boats of the enemy that tried to flee eastwards, one was sunk by our artillery and the other was forced to get back to its moorings.

"Caucasus front:—No change.

"Dardanelles front:—Local firing of all sorts, especially of bombs and land torpedoes, continues. The enemy's boats that tried to find shelter in Kemikli harbor, were driven off by our gun-fire. At Aru Bournou a counter-mine of the enemy caved in as a result of a mine we exploded on the right wing. A cruiser fired ineffectively for a while at our positions in this section, and then retired. At Sed-el-Bahr our gunners by their effective fire compelled a cruiser and a torpedo-boat to withdraw when they drew in to fire on our right wing. Our gunners also silenced several hostile batteries."

The despatch of the 16th says:—

"Mesopotamian front:—At Kout-el-Amara there was an intermittent artillery duel. Our troops got near the wire entanglements in front of some of the enemy's positions and

saw some hostile mines, and by explosion rendered them ineffective. On Dec. 14th we captured from the enemy four rowboats full of building-lumber.

"Caucasus front:—Nothing important.

"Dardanelles front:—The intensity of the infantry fire and of the bomb-throwing has lessened, compared with the preceding days; only at Sed-el-Bahr, at the centre, the enemy threw about 3,000 bombs without any important result. On the night of the 12th, by the fire of our artillery we compelled two transports that were discharging their cargo at Aru Bournou to withdraw from the landing-stage. A hostile cruiser bombarding our right wing at Sed-el-Bahr was hit by four shells and had to retire. By our anti-aeroplane guns we brought down into the sea a hostile aeroplane."

The despatch of the 17th says:—

"Dardanelles front:—At Anafarta and Aru Bournou there was only cannonading. At Anafarta our gunners by their reply silenced a mountain gun, destroyed a mitrailleuse, and started a conflagration in the enemy's camp. At Sed-el-Bahr, because of the effectiveness of a mine that we exploded two days ago on the left wing, the enemy opened fire on our positions with all sorts of guns. As we replied so vigorously with our artillery, the enemy could not keep up firing. Our gunners fired on a transport near the mouth of Sughun Dere and forced it to withdraw."

The despatch of the 18th says:—

"Mesopotamian front:—Our troops continue to destroy all the secondary obstacles that the enemy has placed before their main position at Kout-el-Amara. Our heavy artillery is effectively bombarding the trenches, and the works situated in the town. The enemy has begun again to use on this front dum-dum bullets and hand-grenades and machine-thrown bombs.

"Caucasus front:—Nothing but patrol encounters.

"Dardanelles front:—At Anafarta an intermittent cannon duel. Of two mines set off by the enemy, one exploded in their own trenches, doing damage there, and the other had no effect. Our patrols sent out from this wing captured in the enemy's trenches a quantity of bayonets, cartridges and other war supplies. At Aru Bournou, the enemy fired at our right wing a large number of bombs. Their batteries, a cruiser, three monitors and a battleship fired for a while in various directions. Our artillery made a good reply. At Sed-el-Bahr on the afternoon of the 16th, one of the two hostile tugs that were discharging soldiers and supplies, was sunk by our coast guns, and the disembarking was thus suspended. Our land batteries did damage in the trenches of the foe and in their mortar positions, and silenced their guns. The firing of a cruiser and a monitor against Altchi Tepe and vicinity did no damage."

The despatch of the 19th says:—

"Mesopotamian front:—At Kout-el-Amara the battles for position keep up at short intervals to our advantage.

"Nothing important on the Caucasus front.

"Dardanelles front:—At the Anafartas and Aru Bour-

nou, an intermittent duel of guns and bombs. The night before last a conflagration, started by our gunfire in the region of the dock at Aru Bournou, kept up till morning. At Sed-el-Bahr the enemy as usual fired a great number of bombs and land torpedoes against our centre and left wing. Our gunners effectively bombarded the enemy's mortar positions and artillery, reducing them to silence, and destroyed some of their trenches. A cruiser and a monitor bombarded in various directions for a while and then retired."

The despatch of the 20th says:—

"Dardanelles front: The enemy, so as to stop the preparations for the attack that we made the night before last and yesterday morning at the Anafartas and Aru Bournou, first by a violent fire against the enemy's trenches, made an attack at Sed-el-Bahr with all their forces, but this failed. Seeing the impossibility of escaping our attack on the north, the enemy hastily embarked part of their troops last night, and yet could not escape the pursuit of our troops, in spite of the thick fog. The last report received today says that at the Anafartas and Aru Bournou not a hostile soldier remains, and our troops have advanced clear to the shore, capturing an enormous amount of booty, ammunition, tents, cannon, and have brought down a seaplane by their fire, taking the pilot and passenger captives. The attack that the enemy made at Sed-el-Bahr yesterday afternoon was as follows: first the enemy opened an intense fire of all sorts for a while, on our positions, their monitors and cruisers also taking part, and then they made a general attack on our right, centre and left. But this attack failed completely; the enemy suffered enormous losses and were driven back to their former positions.

"No important news has come to us from the other fronts."

NOTES.

Miss Frances C. Gage, of the Y.W.C.A., has taken up her residence at the American College for Girls, and is to have charge of the Association work there and of the curriculum Bible instruction. She expects soon to give half of her time to Y.W.C.A. work in the city in addition.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Riggs of Harpout, who have been called to part with their only child, Annie Barnum, who passed away on Saturday, December 18th, aged nearly eight years.

Miss Grisell McLaren and Miss Myrtle Shane have arrived in good condition in Harpout.

Rev. Kavme Ablahadian and family left Constantinople December 16th on their way to America.

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., is in the city on a visit to the Ambassador, his father.

Dr. Caroline F. Hamilton of Aintab is making a good recovery after her recent illness.

We regret to learn of the serious illness of Dr. F. D. Shepard at Aintab.

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