

The Orient.

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ABOLISHING THE CAPITULATIONS.

On Wednesday afternoon of last week, September 9th, the following note was sent to the foreign Powers by the Sublime Porte and communicated to the Press:—

Impelled by feelings of friendship toward the Europeans, the Ottoman Government in times past established certain conditions on which Foreigners coming to the Orient should be allowed to engage in trade. These conditions, which were adopted by the Sublime Porte of its own free will, were later interpreted as privileges, and in an amplified form have come down to our time under the name of the Capitulations. But these privileges, being diametrically opposed to the juridical ideas of this age, and to the principle of national sovereignty, hindered the progress and development of the Empire, while at the same time they were an obstacle to the much desired cordial relations with foreign powers because of the misunderstandings to which they gave rise. The Ottoman Empire, in spite of all obstacles, has continued to institute reforms and improvements, begun by the imperial rescript known as the Hatti Humayoun of Gulhané, in 1255, determined to adopt the principles of modern law, and to win the place to which it had a right in the family of civilized nations of Europe, and to build on these principles the edifice of state.

The establishing of the constitutional régime shows that the efforts of the Ottoman Government toward regeneration have been crowned with success. Still, certain exceptional clauses constituted an obstacle to all attempts at improving our judiciary system; as for instance the participation of foreigners, by virtue of the Capitulations, in the administering of justice, which constitutes one of the most important elements of State sovereignty; the restriction of the right of legislation by the State, because of the assertion that many laws could not be applied to foreigners; the impossibility of prosecuting those guilty of a misdemeanor that could disturb public order because such persons were foreigners; the multiplicity and diversity of legal processes necessary in bringing any case before the courts where the parties were of different nationalities, etc.

Besides this, the exemption of foreigners, also by virtue of the Capitulations, from the taxes established in the Empire, made it impossible for the Sublime Porte to secure the funds necessary for current expenses without recourse to loans. The impossibility of increasing the indirect taxes made it necessary to increase direct taxation, which crushed the Ottoman tax-payer. Yet the fact that foreigners, enjoying all

sorts of privileges and immunities and carrying on their business in the Ottoman Empire, were subjected to less taxation than the Ottomans, is an inadmissible injustice and also a blow at the independence and prestige of the Government.

While, despite all these obstacles, the Government was resolved to carry on its work of reform, the general war that has broken out has intensified the financial difficulties which the State already felt, and threatens to wreck all the reforms undertaken or projected. The Sublime Porte is convinced that the only means of safety for the Ottoman Empire is in the prompt carrying out of these reforms. It is equally convinced that the Powers will encourage the resolute measures it will take in this direction. Inspired with this belief, it has decided to suppress, beginning with the first of October, 1914, the Capitulations which have till now been a hindrance to the country's progress, and all the rights and privileges that preceded them or which have grown out of them, and to adopt, in its relation with the Powers, the principles of international law.

While I have the honor of communicating to you this decision, which will commence a new and happy era for the Ottoman Government, and will consequently no doubt be a satisfaction to Your Excellency, I consider it my duty to add that the Sublime Porte cherishes no unfriendly intentions toward any of the foreign Powers, but acts solely on behalf of the supreme interests of the Ottoman fatherland, and that it is disposed to conclude treaties of commerce based on the principles of international law.

THE COUNTRY REJOICES.

Immediately on receipt of the news that the Capitulations had been abolished, great demonstrations of joy were organized both at the capital and through the provinces. A monster gathering of perhaps six or eight thousand people in Stamboul was followed by a procession through the streets; and flags decorated the shops and houses, the ships in the harbor and the Government buildings, while bards and shouting gave vent to the feelings. In the evening many places were illuminated, and the prefecture of the city tendered a banquet of 300 covers in celebration of the event. Telegrams from Adana, Adrianople, Nicomedia, Angora, Balukesir, Damascus, Kerasoun, Konia, Malatia, Samsoun, Tarsus, and elsewhere indicate that similar demonstrations in the same spirit took place there as well. Both Thursday and Friday Constantinople was decorated; and as the Sultan's birthday was celebrated on Saturday, the city was again dressed with hunting for that occasion.

WHAT ARE THE CAPITULATIONS?

Regarding this interesting question we can hardly do better than to quote part of a most instructive chapter on the subject in Sir Edwin Pears' book "Turkey and its People." Sir Edwin, in his legal capacity and by virtue of his long residence in this country, is second to none as an authority on the foreign relations of Turkey; and his résumé of the situation is enlightening. He says:—

The subjects of European nations and of America who reside in Turkey are, within certain well-defined relations, subject only to the jurisdiction of the countries to which they belong. British subjects form a colony within Turkey and are always within the allegiance of the British king. Their descendants, no matter how remote, do not become Turkish subjects merely by being born on Turkish soil. They are justiciable before the British courts where British law is administered by British judges and British juries. In like manner, German, French, Russian, American and subjects of other civilized states form colonies in Turkey, each set of subjects being amenable to their own laws. There are thus a series of *imperia* in the *imperiū* of the Turkish Empire. Such a condition of things does not exist in any other European country. It is usually and correctly stated to be due to the Capitulations. The word belongs to mediæval Latin, and signified Treaties with the conditions given under small headings. In its modern use as applied to Turkey it simply means treaties. It is the Treaties or Capitulations which create for non-Turkish subjects the exceptional position which they possess in Turkey.

It has often been asserted that the Capitulations are a proof of the farsightedness or magnanimity of the Turkish Sultans, who, in their desire to foster commerce, conferred privileges on foreigners in order to induce them to reside on Turkish territory. It is more usual to describe them as concessions wrung from the Sultans by the grasping foreigner. Each view is incorrect. The first is hardly colorably true; the second is ludicrously at variance with facts. When it is remembered that the most important Capitulations to the Western nations were granted during the 16th and 17th centuries when Turkey was at the height of her power, when indeed all Western Europe was alarmed at the almost uninterrupted encroachment upon Christian territory made by the Grand Turk, it will at least be recognized as unlikely that Western Europe compelled him to make concessions which reduced his sovereign rights, indeed the supposition is at once absurd and without any historical foundation.

The key to the history of capitulations is in the fact that they are not creations of modern statesmen, but survivals to modern times of legal conceptions which were familiar to the Roman and especially to the Greek Empire. Under the Greek Empire and in Syria during the Crusades, foreigners were permitted to form colonies on Greek and Saracen territory which were governed by their own laws and administered by their own magistrates. The ruler of the territory

only conceded the privilege of residing within it. What is now regarded as at least an equally valuable concession, namely that foreigners should be governed by their own magistrates, was not considered by the emperors or sultans as a privilege. It was an obligation imposed on them as a condition upon which they enjoyed the privilege of residing in the foreign country. All ancient peoples regarded their laws as sacred. They considered them as privileges which were not to be conferred on outsiders.

The system took a wider development when the seat of the empire was fixed on the Bosphorus.

When the Greek emperors or the Saracens granted permission to reside in their territory it was on the well-understood condition that the foreigners on whom the privilege was bestowed should remain subject to the sovereign to whom they had owed allegiance before coming. They were to remain under his jurisdiction while residing on foreign territory, and he was to support the burden of governing them. One of the earliest Treaties or Capitulations known was made between the Greek Emperor and the Warings or Russians in 905. From that date to the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, there is a series of Capitulations between certain European states and the Greek Empire.

When the Turks captured Constantinople, they therefore found Capitulations in full force. Galata on the opposite shore of the Golden Horn was a walled town occupied by Genoese, who, by virtue of their Capitulations with the Emperors, elected their own mayor, were governed by their own laws, and were subjects of the Duke of Milan. The Sultan within a few days after the capture of the city, confirmed the ancient capitulations in favor of the people of Galata and the Genoese generally. In the following year the Venetian colony in Constantinople likewise received Capitulations and were allowed to govern themselves under their own mayor, it being always understood that they should continue subjects of the Republic of Venice. The Capitulations given to France in 1535 are of great importance because they formed the basis upon which all European nations obtained similar treaties.

Neither Turk nor foreigner would be content that resident foreigners should be under Turkish law. The Moslem could never consent to accord to the miscreant the privileges his religion conferred on him as a believer. The law being an advantage derived from religion, only believers can share in its advantage. Foreigners, however, could not consent to be treated as *rayahs*. It was nevertheless in the interests of the country that foreigners should live in Turkey. They could do so, but they must govern themselves. The arrangement suited both parties.

It was in the realization of the unsuitability of Turkish law either to the Turkish or foreign subject that all foreign countries received Capitulations. Then there followed a somewhat important and interesting development. Each nation sought to obtain the best possible conditions, and from an early period a stipulation was inserted in the Capitulations which any country obtained that whatever advantages

were accorded to any other nation should likewise be granted to that obtaining the new capitulation. Thus each capitulation contains the "most favored nation clause". The effect is that the subjects of all foreign nations are under the same regulations, and thus the Capitulations taken altogether form a body of law applicable to all foreigners who reside in the Turkish Empire.

In case of disputes, when one of contending parties is a Turkish subject, then under the Capitulations the question in dispute has to be decided by a special court. This consists of three Turkish judges with two assessors named by the Embassy of the nation to which the foreigner belongs, and a dragoman, or official interpreter belonging to the Embassy in question. The tribunal in question is usually spoken of as a "mixed court."

Since 1869, foreign subjects have been permitted to own land in Turkey. Inasmuch as the condition on which they hold it is that they are to be considered in reference to such ownership as Turkish subjects, and therefore judicable in purely Turkish courts where they are not permitted to have the advantage either of assessors or of dragoman, it would be out of place here to speak further on the subject.

THE EUROPEAN WAR.

The past week has not brought much sign of any speedy ending to the gigantic struggle. Victory smiles on the banners of one side or the other with such impartiality that both the great contestants are encouraged and each thinks that the final result will favor that side. In general terms, during this week the Germans have been pushed back in France and have advanced in East Prussia; the Austrians have lost considerable ground as against the Russians in Silesia and also in Poland, and have done nothing startling against the Serbs. On the sea there has been no engagement in force, but Germany has lost a converted cruiser and a small cruiser besides, and England a converted cruiser. Overseas, in various directions the German possessions appear to have been attacked and either have changed hands or will soon do so.

Last week we reported the Germans as having taken Coulommiers, which is about thirty miles east of Paris. They were occupying a line roughly speaking eastward from there to Thiaucourt, north of Toul and southeast of Verdun. They had gone as far south as Vitry, west of Toul and southeast of Rheims. The sharpest fighting was going on near the eastern line of fortresses, Verdun, Toul, Epinal and Belfort. So far the British and French on the west had apparently yielded ground grudgingly but steadily, till they were concentrated near Paris. Indeed a German airship dropped into Paris a message telling the inhabitants there was nothing for them to do but surrender, as they were surrounded. This proves to have been premature advice. The French with their British allies turned on the advancing foe and began a series of desperate battles which gradually forced back the German right wing from the region of

Coulommiers till it has retreated north of Soissons, or a distance of full forty miles north of Coulommiers. Valenciennes and Amiens, which had been occupied by the Germans, have been evacuated, as the invaders have apparently decided to concentrate to the eastward. Reinforcements from England continue to fill up the ranks and strengthen the forces of the Allies. There is a persistent rumor, not yet officially confirmed, that 100,000 Russians, transported from Archangel on the White Sea to England by British transports are joining the fighting forces in France. It seems certain however that some 30,000 to 60,000 troops from India, Sikhs and Gourkas, have landed in Marseilles and are on their way to join the French and English army. The French are also calling in their Turcos troops from Algeria, and these are excellent fighters. In the region of the Forest of Argonne, between Verdun and Chalons-sur-Marne, the Germans are putting up a strong resistance, and have held their position. But still farther east the left wing of the German army is reported to be yielding. This puts the army of the Crown Prince in a difficult position; it had advanced toward the Forest of Argonne from Metz, and is now threatened from the fortresses of Toul and Verdun. This morning's papers report that the French have reoccupied Rheims, the Germans retiring northwards.

The Belgians are attacking the German army around Antwerp, so vigorously as to drive back the besiegers at several points. They have also retaken Malines from the Germans.

All this severe fighting has cost both sides heavily. Among the Germans killed are reported Prince Frederick Wilhelm of Prussia, Prince Charles of Würtemberg, Major Ober Bey, who was formerly instructor in a military school in Constantinople; while an Italian agency telegram adds to this list Prince Adalbert of Prussia, who must be, if the news is true, the third son of the Kaiser. Prince Joachim, youngest son of the Kaiser, who was wounded in the thigh, has been sent home to Berlin where he was received by the Empress.

Over in the east, the German army under General von Hindenburg has been greatly strengthened, and has resumed the offensive, driving back the Russian army to the Russian frontier toward the south, while further north the Russians are still near Königsberg and are reinforcing their army in turn. According to the German official report, up till Sept. 11th, the Germans had taken 220,000 prisoners of war, of whom 88,000 were French, 93,000 Russians, 30,000 Belgians, and 7,500 British.

The scene of battle between the Austrians and Russians has shifted slightly to the south, for the Russians appear to have driven the invading Austrians back over the boundary, retaking Tomaszow, and driving them back at Ravaruska, which is some 25 miles northeast of Lemberg. The Russians now claim to be besieging Grodek twenty miles west of Lemberg. In the seventeen days of almost continuous fighting in this region, probably not less than a million men were engaged; the Russians say two million. According to

the Russian statement, they took prisoners 30,000 soldiers and 200 officers, with 94 cannon between the 8th and 10th of September. According to the Austrian statement, "After the Austrian success at Lemberg, where the Austro-Hungarian armies took 10,000 prisoners and 80 cannon, the south wing of the Austrians installed in very strong positions, is preparing for a vigorous offensive." Czernowitz, the capital of Bukovina, near the Roumanian frontier, has been occupied by the Russians.

The Servians have crossed the Save river into the Syrmia region of Hungary and captured Semlin, opposite Belgrade. The Austrians on the other hand claim to have beaten the Servians back again across the Save. It may be realized from these conflicting telegrams how difficult it is to get at the truth.

The White Star liner "Oceanic," which had been converted into an auxiliary cruiser, went ashore on the north coast of Scotland, and is reported a total loss. The crew were all saved. On the west coast of Africa, the converted ocean liner "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," 14,000 tons, formerly of the North German Lloyd Company, was sunk by the British cruiser "Highflyer." It had been attempting to put an end to British commerce with the Cape. The small German cruiser "Hela," of 2,000 tons, is also reported sunk, this one by a British submarine.

In the south seas, the Australian squadron has seized the island of New Britain, or Neu Pommern, in the Bismarck Archipelago, east of German New Guinea. The Samoan Islands have also been entirely occupied, or rather the two large islands of the group, for the others belong to the United States.

FOREIGNERS WITHOUT THE CAPITULATIONS.

Ismail Djambolat Bey, Director of Public Security, in an interview recorded in the *Jeune-Turc*, says regarding the effect of the abrogation of the Capitulations on foreigners:—

"The subjects of the foreign powers may be absolutely sure that they will continue to enjoy among us the greatest hospitality. Until now they were living under the protection of their embassies. After the suppression of the Capitulations they will be placed directly under the protection of the Ottoman Government, which will seek to make their sojourn in our country agreeable by watching over their security and their rights with more vigilance than formerly. The Minister of Interior has just sent reiterated instructions to the provincial authorities to the end that the foreigners may have absolutely no cause for complaint at the new state of affairs. The Police administration on its part will send a circular to the police authorities to enjoin them to behave with the greatest tact toward foreigners. Any police agents who fail in their duty toward foreigners will be punished with especial severity. Besides, all foreigners, who are our guests, living in this country, will be treated with absolute equality.

"You know that under the capitulatory régime misun-

derstandings frequently occurred between the dragomans of the embassies and the police agents. These misunderstandings were sometimes caused by the dragomans giving a false interpretation to the Capitulations, and sometimes by an excess of zeal shown by the police in carrying out their duties. The suppression of the Capitulations will have this good effect that these misunderstandings will no longer occur, and that the amicable relations between Turkey and the foreign Powers will not be strained by such occurrences.

"I may even say that the suppression of the Capitulations will serve the interests of the foreign Powers themselves and of their subjects. For example, take the robbery at the French Post-office in Galata. Since the investigation into this affair was not conducted by the local police, the authors of the crime were never discovered. It was the same in the Helbig murder. If from the beginning we had been put in charge of these matters, it is certain that the authors of both these crimes would long ago have received the punishment they deserve.

"I repeat that the suppression of the Capitulations should not disturb in the least any foreigner; for the police have formal orders to employ, in the discharge of their duties, the greatest tact and courtesy toward foreigners. Every infraction of this rule and every failure in their duty will be severely punished."

PROF. PANARETOFF

MINISTER TO WASHINGTON.

Robert College has been called upon to yield up one who for forty-three years has most loyally served the institution in its corps of instructors, that he may serve his fatherland in a different capacity. And while we sympathize with the College in its loss, we can only rejoice with Professor Panaretoff in the honor so deservedly bestowed on him at this time. At the suggestion of Premier Radoslavoff, he has been appointed by King Ferdinand to the new post of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to the United States, and will soon be leaving for his new home in Washington. It will not be Professor Panaretoff's first visit to America, nor his first diplomatic mission either. For in 1880 he was sent as a special envoy to England by his government, and he has made three trips to the United States, and has visited Washington.

Stephen Panaretoff was one of the earlier graduates of Robert College, taking his diploma with the class of 1871. In 1877 he received the degree of A. M. from his alma mater. Immediately on graduating, he began teaching there, and in 1875 was put in charge of the Bulgarian Department with the title of professor. In 1892 he was married to Miss Lydia Gile, then a teacher in the American College for Girls. He has been awarded the Bulgarian Order of St. Alexander. His son Cyril, a graduate of Robert College, is now in Bulgaria. Dr. Washburn says of Professor Panaretoff, "Bulgaria has produced no more distinguished scholar and teacher."

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople.

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EDITORIAL.

We wish to emphasize again one point in the Call to Prayer given in our issue of two weeks since, for it is one that calls for careful consideration. Among the subjects suggested for intercession is this: "Let us pray that the hearts of Christian people may be lifted above the tumult and strife to God, in His majesty and love." Two consequences would follow the neglect of such rising above encircling ills:— in the first place the heart that is filled merely with the din of battle and the hate and malice of war cannot remain in a right attitude to God, for thoughts of Him are crowded out to make room for the darkest and most satanic passions; and then again such an attitude merely prolongs the strife and cannot help to bring it to a close. All who sincerely desire the termination of this awful conflict must necessarily keep up the closest possible relations with God in constant communion, so as to be safe themselves from dark despair, to say nothing of being in condition to do anything for their countries or the world in the interests of peace. A few hours before He was arrested and the disciples scattered, Jesus said "My peace I give unto you." He alone can grant peace in such crises of life. He says: "And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be not troubled." Without close communion with Him, such an attitude of trust is impossible. We need the constant assurance that "Above the voices of many waters, the mighty breakers of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty." If the hearts of Christians are filled with such thoughts of the power and love of the Father, terror and darkness will give way to a peace that passeth all understanding; and the war spirit can no longer dominate such hearts. As for Christian workers in this Empire, we are confident that the war spirit has no place in their hearts; but it is not impossible that moments of weakness may assail some in which they may be troubled either for their own safety or for the welfare of the cause they love. Earnest and constant

prayer will be their refuge from the temptation to lack of trust.

"Underneath are the everlasting arms."

It is hardly time yet to comment on the decree of the Ottoman Government abolishing the Capitulations. The measure does not go into effect till October first, old style; and the European attitude toward this step is not yet clear. The desire of the Ottoman Government to manage its own affairs is most natural; and it seems only just that the foreigners carrying on business in this country should bear their fair share of the taxes of the country. As for the administration of justice, consular courts have been deemed necessary in Turkey because the foreign Powers had not perfect confidence in the purity and fairness of the local courts. Whether the improvements wrought by the constitutional government can satisfy them remains to be seen. Japan went through the same sort of an experience in getting rid of the capitulatory rights of foreigners, in 1899; and it is interesting to read now the accounts of those days. In 1861 the secretary of the United States legation in Tokyo was murdered; and two years later in an anti-foreign riot the legation premises were destroyed. In 1868 the United States, Great Britain, France and Holland had to send a combined naval expedition to destroy the forts at Shimonoseki and compel the Japanese Government to pay \$3,000,000 indemnity for refusing to recognize the treaties made with foreign powers. Yet by 1894 conditions had so changed that Great Britain revised her treaty with Japan in the sense that on July 17th, 1899, or five years later, the Capitulations should be abolished. Other nations followed this lead; and in 1899, by mutual consent, Japan entered on terms of equality with the Western nations. The Japanese minister of war, Viscount Katsura, issued to his army on July 1st, 1899, an order in which he says:— "At last the powers having agreed one after another to comply with the demand of the country, the work of revision of the treaties was satisfactorily completed, and the date of the operation of the new treaties leaves only a few days. In other words the system of consular jurisdiction shall be abolished, while the customs tariff schedule has been amended in a way favorable to the national treasury; in short, the nation has been enabled to stand on equal footing with the civilized powers of the West, and to efficiently assert its prestige. But it must not be forgotten that at the same time grave responsibilities devolve upon it." Japan thus secured by international agreement, after several years of negotiation, the privileges that Turkey has now declared to be her own.

CALENDAR OF ENGLISH PREACHING SERVICES.

Sunday, Sept. 20th, 1914.

BEBEK CHURCH, 11 a. m. Rev. Arthur C. Ryan.

UNION CHURCH, Pera, 11 a. m. Rev. Robert Frew.

ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. C. F. Gates, D.D.

CONS/PLE COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. A. van Millingen, D.D.

FREEDOM!

The *Tanin* of Sept. 10th says editorially: —

At last we are delivered! That is the sigh of relief that will come from the lips of all Ottomans who, after reading the official proclamation of the Government can breathe easy in the assurance of full liberty.

Yes, we are freed! Freed today from the nightmare and calamity that year by year grew darker through the ages, and daily stained anew the honor and dignity of Ottomanism and that weighed us down so that we could scarcely breathe. So, as we turn our joyful eyes today toward the national glories of the past, we see but two dates, equal in glory, — one when a simple tribal chief from Turkestan founded one of the vastest empires of the world, and the other the day on which the age-long bonds of our slavery have been broken.

The Capitulations! Whenever the Ottomans who love their country and wish to see it free and independent, exalted and glorious, heard this word, their eyes were clouded and they involuntarily hung their heads. The Capitulations were to us an outrage and a humiliation and a means to the most dangerous misery, at a time when all other nations were going ahead. The twentieth century which had abolished slavery in all parts of the world, even among savage peoples, had not suppressed the Capitulations.

The Turk was a tyrant, an oppressor, he knew nothing of right or of justice; the Turk had no conscience, he was hostile to civilization, he understood nothing, his heart was indifferent to human sentiments; Turkey was the legitimate and natural property of the civilized Occident, that could exploit it as it pleased; its inhabitants were in the eyes of the Europeans taxable and fit to be made to work as hard as possible. Yes, fellow-citizens, we Turks had to submit to all this, though our only fault was that our ancestors were hospitable to their guests.

While we groaned under these calamities, when we turned at times to beg mercy, our supplications, which showed that we had begun to recognize our honor and dignity, were met by new oppressions. Every time we raised our heads, we received a blow; every time we tried to stand erect we were kicked. Such was the lot of Turks! While in their countries their own fellow-citizens coveted the bread of their brothers and the poor started revolutions to secure a larger part of the riches of the wealthy, we ourselves were not allowed to aspire to any part of the riches stolen from our country. While in their countries king and coachman are equal before the law, here an Ottoman Vizier was inferior to a foreigner's serving-man. We were doing all we could to be of use to any Occidental who came to our land; the income of all the taxes paid by this poor nation went to ensure the well-being of the Occidental; while he in return had no regard for the country, paid no taxes, found fault with our lawcourts. At times there were attacks on our citizens and our officials, attacks that made our blood boil, but we could do nothing, for there were Capitulations.

The patriots that wanted Turkey to be great succeeded by the revolution of July 23rd in saving it from despotism, but not from European oppression. But today! Today we are happy; for the Government has wiped out the ancient black stain. Henceforth we are free, we can labor and progress like the rest of the race. Henceforth the Westerner will pay taxes like ourselves; he will be amenable to the same lawcourts; in short, we can henceforth say that we too are men! The date that marks the ending of the system of capitulations should be celebrated equally with July 23rd. Our sons must keep the day, and always remember that their fathers, on September 9th, definitely emancipated the fatherland. Long live free Turkey!

JUST FOR A SCRAP OF PAPER.

An official despatch from Sir Edward Goschen, late British Ambassador to Berlin, has just been made public, wherein Sir Edward tells of his final interview with the German Imperial Chancellor. We quote Sir Edward's words:— "I found the Chancellor very agitated. His Excellency at once began a harangue which lasted for about twenty minutes. He said that the step taken by His Majesty's government was terrible to a degree. Just for a word— neutrality— a word which in wartime had so often been disregarded— just for a scrap of paper Great Britain was going to make war on a kindred nation, who desired nothing better than to be friends with her." On the Ambassador protesting that it was a matter of life and death for British honor that she should keep her solemn engagement to do her utmost to defend Belgium's neutrality if attacked, the Chancellor said:— "But at what price will that compact have been kept? Has the British Government thought of that?"

If Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg correctly represents German sentiment regarding the value of treaties and of solemn engagements, it may be somewhat difficult to know just how to bring the present war to an end. Usually a war is terminated by a solemn treaty; but if Germany regards a treaty as "a scrap of paper," what logical person, either in Germany or elsewhere, is going to have any confidence in any treaty made by the Germans at the close of this war? And if "neutrality" is only a word, which may or may not have any meaning in time of peace, but is to be disregarded in time of war, then what guarantee can the world have that there will be any such thing as a neutral nation in the future?

We are glad to note that these phrases of Germany's diplomatic representative have met with strong protest both in England and in America; and we can only hope that they do not actually represent the general feeling in Germany, but were spoken in the heat of the moment and may later be disclaimed by the German Government.

PROGRESS IN SYRIA MISSION WORK.

There are numerous indications of progress in the field of the Syria mission. From among the many, a few may be chosen as being in some respects most vital. A very encouraging feature is the fact that these are not confined to one mission alone but affect all missions and all mission work.

1. The churches of the Presbyterian mission have been for some years organized into three Presbyteries, named Tripoli, Lebanon, and Sidon. All arrangements have been made for the first meeting the latter part of September (after this article is written) of the Synod of Syria, which shall include representatives of the three presbyteries. This is a forward step towards a greater degree of independence and self government on the part of the Evangelical church of the Presbyterian denomination. May it also not prove to be a step towards the organization of one strong native Evangelical church which shall include in its number all the Evangelical Christians of Syria, of all denominations?

2. The first Christian student summer conference held in the Turkish empire, was conducted by the national Y. M. C. A. committee in the buildings and grounds of the Lebanon School for Boys (Presbyterian) at Suq el Gharb, the first week in August. Forty delegates from various colleges of the empire were in attendance. The leaders were drawn from the different missionary bodies. At the farewell sunset meeting delegate after delegate expressed in various words his feeling of the value of the conference. Without exception these words emphasized two thoughts:— personal devotion in a new way to a personal Saviour, and a desire to express that devotion in Christian service among the delegates' own people. In a land where immigration is carrying away the educated men truly by thousands, who can estimate the fruitage from even this first summer conference, and the blessing it may prove to the empire?

3. At the meeting of the Missionary Educational Union in Syria and Palestine, at Baalbek in April, it was unanimously decided to introduce Union examinations and a Union diploma or certificate into the High Schools for Boys, beginning with the close of the coming year. Instead of each school giving its own examinations and certificate, this will now be done in the name of the Union, and again all will see that all missionary bodies in the land are at heart one, with common aims and purposes, and are working in the closest sympathy.

4. At this same meeting of the Educational Union a committee was authorized to study the whole question of Bible study and Bible teaching in Sunday Schools, day schools, and High Schools for Boys and for Girls, to find out what was the present system in different missions, to draw up and recommended a course for the use of all missions, to find out what new books were desirable in English and Arabic, to the end that Bible study might in no sense be perfunctory, but that the whole course might shape itself in such a way as to bring the student face to face with the Christ, his Savior. Here is a strong indication of progress

in Syria, for a search for the best methods is always an encouraging sign.

5. The Presbyterian mission in Syria has voted to begin again a custom that has fallen into disuse in connection with the annual business meeting of the mission, namely "to devote one afternoon to a conference to discuss in a devotional spirit topics of more general mission interest," the session also to be open to invited visitors. It has often been found that these devotional discussions of questions of mission methods and mission policy have been exceedingly valuable. They may well prove of immense value to the younger generation of missionaries, who have studied the theory of missions to some extent in America, but who need the practical experience of the older missionaries, to guide them as they enter upon their life work in the mission field.

These are a few of the numerous indications of progress. But are they not sufficient to inspire all with new courage and a new zeal? Do they not show that Syria is not lagging behind at all, but is alert to her opportunities and responsibilities?

This is written as the Great War is just beginning. No one can estimate its possible effects upon the Turkish empire, and mission work among Turkish people. For the present, active Christian work is at a standstill in Syria. This then is the time to review forces, strengthen the weak places, and be ready as soon as opportunity offers for a new, determined effort to proclaim the true doctrine of Christian love, and peace to all men.

THE COST OF THE WAR.

It is estimated on good authority that the nations of Europe are expending the sum of ten million pounds sterling per day on this war. Nearly twenty million troops are on a war footing now in all the countries of Europe together; and it costs on an average about ten francs per day per man, everything included. The war has now been progressing for six weeks. That indicates an expenditure of over four hundred million pounds sterling already. As the population of the states involved in this war is estimated at 336,000,000, this makes an average cost already of over a pound apiece, for man, woman and child. But the war shows no sign of being yet near its finish; and the cost as estimated does not include anything for the losses in business, the losses by bombardment or by the devastation of fields and crops through which the armies pass, or losses of several other kinds resulting directly from the war. Nor does it take any account of the losses of families through the killing of the wage-earners. But these are among the most serious of all losses, and those least easily repaired. Who can estimate the loss besides to neutral countries, even far from the scenes of battle?

SYRIAN PROTESTANT COLLEGE.

The Syrian Protestant College will open at the regular time stated in the Catalogue, Wednesday, October 14, 1914, at four o'clock p. m.

The registration of students will begin on Saturday, October 10th, at two o'clock p. m. Inside students will be received on Saturday afternoon, October 10th.

Students must be prepared to make their payments *in cash*. Tuition Fees and Incidental Fees will remain the same as last year and it is hoped that no increase will be necessary in the charge for board. But should prices so rise as to make it impossible for the College to furnish board at the usual charge, the College, as stated in the Catalogue, reserves the right to make an extra charge.

• For the year 1914-1915 the College will probably be able to admit to the Preparatory Department a number of boys who are younger than the prescribed age of twelve. But the College cannot promise that there will be room for these younger boys the year following, namely the year beginning October, 1915.

The College Representative will visit Egypt as usual in order to escort students to Beirut. His headquarters in Cairo will be the Grand Continental Hotel.

It will be esteemed a kindness if the information contained in this notice is extended as widely as possible.

HOWARD S. BLISS,
President.

Beirut, Syria, September, 1914.

RETURN OF HALIL BEY.

Halil Bey, President of the Chamber of Deputies, who had gone to Bucharest with Talaat Bey and remained there after the return of the latter, reached Constantinople on his return on Sunday night by train. The negotiations between Greece and Turkey, which were taking place at the Roumanian capital, have thus been discontinued; but we are assured that they are not broken off, but merely postponed. Though the postponement is indefinite, this does not indicate any rupture of relations between the two powers. The indications are that the negotiations may be resumed after a short time. We are not in a position to state how much progress has been made.

CALENDAR OF NOTEWORTHY DATES.

Sept. 17, 1814, Mrs. William C. Jackson, Trebizond and Erzurum, born.

- > 1912, Battle of Derna, Benghazi.
- 18, 1882, Golden wedding of Dr. and Mrs. Elias Riggs, at Constantinople.
- 19, 1870, Siege of Paris by Prussians begun.
- 21, 1870, Temporal power of the Pope ceased.
- > 1914, Hebrew New Year, 5675.

HOW WILL FOREIGNERS BE AFFECTED?

The *Tanin* of last Saturday writes:—

The senseless publications of European writers and newspapers regarding us had so accustomed all Westerners to the principle that it was impossible to live in Turkey without the Capitulations that people believed that, from the day that it should be announced that the Capitulations were abolished, the lives of all Europeans who were receiving the hospitality of Turkey would be in danger. But the outcome has completely proved how erroneous was this idea. Each day that passes, each hour that rolls by, will bring new proofs to show how great was this mistake. It is true that civilization has not reached in Turkey the level of the West. But fair-minded foreigners acknowledge that the national intelligence of the Turks is higher than that of many Occidental peoples. On the other hand, to think that the Turk has not attained the degree of civilization at least of a Servian, a Greek, a Roumanian or a Bulgarian, is to be guilty of a mistake so grave and so unjust that the point that pains us the most is that people have so far refused to recognize it as a mistake.

Henceforth not only the Government but every Ottoman, from the most educated to the most ignorant villager, will find occasion, even without any compulsion, to prove the respect they have for foreigners. They will show the whole world that foreigners can live here very well without capitulations.

As to how the interested powers will regard this abolition, for a long time negotiations have been going on looking toward the suppression of the Capitulations; certain ones of the Powers had even accepted in principle this abolition; and we are convinced that the step will not meet with serious opposition, especially at a time when terrible battles are being waged in the name of national independence.

The Ottoman Government has abolished the Capitulations. To protest against this decision would be to misunderstand a basal principle. And in this humanitarian age, no one will be found to do this. Besides, those who have suppressed the Capitulations have thought this all out, and have considered every possible consequence.

MOSLEM WOMEN'S DRESS.

The *Tasfiri Efkiar* writes:—

"We regret to learn that certain of our women, not appreciating the exceptional gravity of the general situation and of our present national situation, and in spite of the reiterated and energetic orders of the military authorities, dress themselves in an unsuitable way, and one calculated to seriously offend the religious sentiments and national customs. In the name of the well-being of the country we call upon the military authorities to put an end to such a state of affairs by a few exemplary punishments, for this method of dress is neither fashionable nor artistically beautiful nor does it comport with feminine prestige."

EMPIRE NEWS.**THE CAPITAL.**

Since His Majesty Sultan Mehmed V., Reshad, was born on the 20th of Shewwal, 1260, and last Saturday was the 20th of Shewwal, 1332, it follows that he is now 72 years old. These, however, are lunar years; and by the solar reckoning, 68 lunar years are only 66 solar years; so that His Majesty is actually not 70 years old till November 3rd next.

The German passenger steamer "General," which took refuge in this harbor a month ago, has changed her flag and now flies the Ottoman star and crescent.

Several more of the corps of instruction at the two American colleges in this city have returned, and the institutions are opening their doors today with a fair attendance.

A fire which at first bid fair to be very serious broke out in the upper floor of the custom-house, last Saturday evening. Fortunately by the prompt and energetic action of the fire department the blaze was confined to that floor containing the records of the department; and even of these quite a few were saved.

NOTES.

Mr. Harry G. Dwight, the well-known writer, has returned from an extended visit to Persia, arriving in this city last week Saturday.

Mr. Walter David Knight, of Marlboro, N.H., a graduate of Dartmouth, has been secured as tutor at Mardin for a term of three years, in place of Mr. Jahn, who has recently returned to America. He is supported by Dartmouth College.

THE PROVINCES

The High School for Girls at Adabazar plans to open on October 1st. Only full-pay pupils will be received, with the exception of the Senior class.

OTHER LANDS.

The Emperor Francis Joseph has conferred on Mr. Penfield, the American Ambassador at Vienna, the star of merit of the Red Cross, and the first order of the Red Cross on Mr. Grant Smith of the same Embassy.

Prince Albert, second son of the King of England, who was serving in the British navy, has been successfully operated on the past week for appendicitis.

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The first encyclical of the new Pope, Benedict XV., was issued last week, and is an earnest entreaty to all the nations engaged in the present war to lay aside their differences and avoid the further shedding of blood.

Holland has forbidden the export of all cereals, flour, hay, straw, vegetables, fuel, beasts of burden, vehicles, etc., during the general war.

Vice-Admiral Lympus Pasha, and the British Naval Mission under him who have been reorganizing the Ottoman navy, have been recalled by the British Government and will shortly be leaving Constantinople to return to England.

The headquarters of the army of the German Crown Prince, which were at St. Menchould, in the Argonne region, have been moved back some thirty miles to the northeast, to Montfaucon, twelve miles northwest of Verdun, owing to the advance of the French armies.

Mir Noel Buxton of the British Parliament is in Sofia on a special diplomatic mission.

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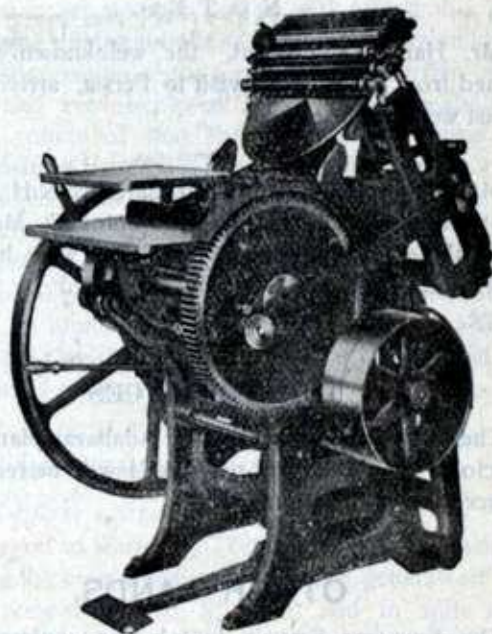
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