

The Orient.

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PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AT LONDON.

The delegates of Turkey and the Balkan States held their first meeting in London on Monday. This was occupied with the necessary formal speeches, and with the formalities of organization. The chiefs of the five delegations are to preside in turn at the various sessions, in alphabetical order of the names of their countries. The sessions are being held in St. James's Palace, and Sir Edward Grey was present at the first session, and gave the delegates a welcome. The Ottoman delegation was the last to arrive in London. The list of peace delegates given in our last issue was in the main correct, but Prof. Politis is with the Greek mission as legal adviser, the members being Premier Venizelos, Mr. Skouloudis, a Chiote who was formerly a banker in Constantinople and is well known here, Mr. Gennadius formerly Chargé d'Affaires of the Greek Legation here and now Minister in London, and Mr. Streit, Minister to Vienna. Of the Bulgarian delegates, Mr. Madjaroff, whose name was wrongly given as Majoreff, is a graduate of Robert College and was Vice-President of the Sobranje till January 1912 when he became Minister in London. Mr. Novakovitch, of the Servian mission, was Minister at Constantinople from 1886 to 1891 and from 1898 to 1900.

It is clear that the Allies will demand not only the absolute cession of all the conquered territory, but also the surrender of the three fortresses that still hold out, — Adrianople to the Bulgarians, Yanina to the Greeks and Shkodra to the Montenegrins. In each case it is pointed out that the capture of the place is merely a question of time, and that as Turkey cannot possibly send relief to any one of them, her refusal to yield would merely entail the necessity of starving out the garrisons. It is equally clear that the Ottoman delegates will not yield these fortresses without great pressure. A certain element in the army at Chatalja is clamoring for resistance to the very end, protesting that they are not yet beaten, and will be able to force back the wearied and decimated Bulgarian army and regain by force of arms both Adrianople and Kirk Kilisê, and Dedeaghadj as well. If saner counsels do not prevail the negotiations may end in failure, in which case the Allies would concentrate an overwhelming force against Chatalja and convince the Turks by the logic of lead and steel.

As for Servia's insistence on the possession of a port on the Adriatic, that is a problem outside these negotiations, since Turkey has no more control there. The danger of Austro-Servian complications over this question is a real one, but up to date the relations between these two are officially and diplomatically quite reassuring.

GREECE CONTINUES THE WAR.

Most of our news this week regarding Greek activities comes from Turkish sources. A naval engagement is reported outside the Dardanelles, wherein the Turkish fleet gave a good account of itself, damaged the Greek leviathan, "Averoff", and compelled the Greek fleet to fly toward Piraeus. This battle is said to have lasted an hour and a half. The battle was witnessed at a great distance by the passengers on the Roumanian steamer "Imperatul Traian", who, however, are not agreed as to whether or not any warship was injured. A rumor of the sinking of the Turkish battleship "Barberousse Haireddin" came here by wireless from a British cruiser at Besika Bay, but has not been confirmed.

The garrison at Yanina has been reinforced by some 2800 troops, the remnants of the Turkish army at Monastir. Since that, the Greeks have pretty completely invested the town and have attacked several of the outlying forts, but according to Turkish despatches with very poor success. A Greek force landed at Santi Quaranta, and has occupied Delvino and Argyrokastro, west of Yanina. Korticha has also been captured by the Greeks, but our American friends there are reported as safe and well.

In Mitylene and Chios the Ottoman troops are apparently still resisting in the hills, but the main parts of the islands are in Greek hands.

The garrison of Shkodra under Hassan Riza Pasha still refuses to accept the armistice and fires on the Montenegrin besiegers, who, however, seem not to be responding. Both Hassan Riza Pasha and Essad Pasha, who commands at Yanina, have been granted the title of *Ghazi*, or conqueror, as has Shukri Pasha at Adrianople.

JUBILEE EXERCISES POSTPONED.

In 1913 Robert College will be fifty years old and the Faculty and Trustees of the College have planned a Jubilee Celebration for the month of April next, which should furnish an occasion for calling together the Alumni and friends of the College. But in view of the loss, suffering and sorrow which the war has brought to all the lands from which the students of the College come it has been decided to postpone the celebration. This is a year for sympathy with suffering and help to the needy rather than for festivities.

It is hoped that the celebration may be held in the following year.

C. F. GATES.

THE BALKAN WAR—A CALL FOR PRAYER.

(While urging the importance of immediate and private intercession, the Council of the World's Evangelical Alliance suggest that during the Universal Week of Prayer (January 5th to 11th) the following deeply important National and International matters should be given due prominence at all meetings that may be arranged, but especially on Wednesday, January 8th, the day devoted to universal prayer on behalf of "Nations and their Rulers.")

Believing that the "Lord reigneth," and that all nations of the Earth—rulers and subjects alike—are under His supreme authority, the Council of the World's Evangelical Alliance (British Organisation), at this critical period of European history, invite Christian people throughout the world to join in earnest and believing prayer that God will graciously intervene on behalf of the Nations which have been engaged in calamitous warfare, and overrule for His glory the Peace Conference to be held in London, and the events which are taking place in the Near East.

The Council affectionately invite prayers and intercessions for the Rulers of the great States of Europe and their advisers, that they may be so directed and controlled by the Holy Spirit of God that their actions may tend to the restoration and preservation of Peace; for those suffering in consequence of the war; for families and dependents, as well as the wounded and maimed and all who have been reduced to homelessness and want; and for the establishment of religious liberty throughout the countries and peoples involved in the present crisis.

It is further suggested that prayer should be offered on behalf of all Christian Churches, that they may be purified from error and ignorance, that Mohammedanism, and the evils committed in its name, may be overcome by the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that Christianity in its simplicity and purity as set forth in the New Testament, may be more accepted, and may become the vital and ruling power over increasing numbers of people.

To this end let us pray also that interest in Christian Missions in the Near East, and in Bible Lands, may be deepened and extended in Great Britain, in the United States of America, and on the Continent of Europe; that such interest may lead to personal devotion and increased pecuniary support; that Protestant and Evangelical agencies working for the extension of Christ's Kingdom may be multiplied; and that in the present hour of trial and difficulty, Divine wisdom, efficiency, and success, may be given to those circulating the Scriptures and preaching the Gospel, to those engaged in Christian Education in Schools and Colleges, and to all workers in Medical Missions and Hospitals in Turkey, South-East Europe and Western Asia.

WORLD'S EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.
(BRITISH ORGANISATION),

December, 1912.

7, Adam Street, Strand,
London, England.

CONDITIONS AT VAN.

Van, Nov. 16th, 1912.

Dear Friends:—

We are in the ruts and working on as well as we can. We greatly miss the Yarrows, and all the more because the pastor we expected failed us, being frightened from coming by the reports of the political irregularities reported in the papers. It is true that conditions, especially in the villages, are not ideal, and a good many cases of robbery and murder are occurring. A chief animus for this is said to be a desire on the part of the Kourdish Aghas to bring the Armenian villagers again into the condition of vassalage which existed under the old régime; and so they encourage irregularities, and try to persuade the people that their only safety lies in accepting the old *rayah* relation to them. We do not believe that there is special reason to fear any general massacre or disturbance. Our new vali, Azet Bey, has been here just about a month, he is himself a Kourd, and it is not yet evident what attitude he will assume towards the irregularities of his countrymen. In one instance he has imposed a fine of Lt. 60 for robbing a caravan coming from Russia.

Our schools are full, 990 being the number of pupils in our two central schools, 451 of them being in the boys' school. For the four lower grades this involves the employment of one extra teacher each, whose salary is largely provided by tuition, while in the higher grades additional numbers do not increase the number of teachers. Tuition receipts for the first half year amount to about Lt. 225. Mr. Rushdonian, a graduate from our orphanage, and high school, and Anatolia College, has just received the degree of A. M. from Edinburgh University, and we expect him to assume a position in our school faculty, and later in the college for which we are praying.

Recently two ladies from New Haven, Ct., Misses Clarke and Whittlesey, arrived here, coming at their own expense, because interested in missionary work and desiring to see it at first hand. They plan to remain at least through the winter, and are anxious to render any assistance in their power, and some of the higher English classes are being cared for by them, as well as assistance given in music. This does something toward making up for the absence of the Yarrows. So at the present we have nine ladies and but two gentlemen in our circle.

A few weeks since our friends, largely non-Protestant friends, arranged a special service Sunday P. M. to commemorate the completion of forty years of our residence in Van, and it was pleasant to see so many ready to express sympathy with us and for the work, there being about a thousand present at the service. The chief address was by Hampartsum Eff. Yeremian, the blind teacher of the chief Armenian school and it was remarkable to see how well he remembered the incidents connected with our work, from its very commencement.

On Aug. 29th, two American gentlemen, Drs. Banks and

Gibson, gave us a week's visit, having accomplished the feat of climbing Mt. Ararat. Dr. Banks, with whose writings and work you may be familiar, went on to continue excavations in the lower Mesopotamian plain, while Dr. Gibson turned back from Bitlis to his Chicago home.

Our school building work goes on pretty satisfactorily, a third storey and gable roof having been added to the boys' building, while the wall and roof of the girls' building are in place, ready for inside work to go on during the winter. When completed, our central schools will be well housed for a good many years.

The direct effects of the war are not much in evidence here, as troops are not being sent from here to Europe, as it is considered necessary to keep a strong force on this border as well. Russia is sending many soldiers into Persia, and seems to be repressing the Kourds in those regions.

With hearty greetings to all friends,

Yours faithfully

G. C. RAYNOLDS.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES FROM BARDIZAG.

ARROW-ROOT (DELMONICO) PUDDING.

- 1 Quart milk.
- 5 Eggs.
- 3 Table spoonfuls of arrow-root (or cornflour).
- 11 Table spoonfuls of sugar.
- 1 Salt spoonful of salt.

Canned Apricots or other Fruit.

Bring milk almost to boil in double boiler. Beat yolks, add 6 tablespoonfuls sugar and beat until light. Mix arrow-root with a little cold milk. Add to eggs and sugar and stir into hot milk just as it is about to boil. Add salt, and stir until well thickened. Pour into a dish that can be sent to the table, and stand in the oven for ten or fifteen minutes until firm. Remove, and spread over the pudding a layer of canned apricots or other fruit. Beat whites of eggs stiff, adding 5 tablespoonfuls sugar (one to each egg). Spread lightly over top, and brown in a coolish oven. Wrap pudding-dish with napkin, pin on a sprig of holly and serve on a tray.

ARROW-ROOT SHAPE.

- 1 Pint of fruit syrup, vishna or raspberry.
- 1 Pint of water.
- 5 Dessert spoonfuls of arrow-root (rice flour also will do nicely).

Boil the water and syrup, then add to it the arrow-root, well mixed with cold water, let boil steadily for 10 minutes, stirring well all the time, and pour into a mould, which has been first made thoroughly wet in cold water. It may be necessary to add some sugar, if the fruit juice is not very sweet; some more water too may be needed and can be added while it is cooking. Custard or a sweet milk sauce makes a nice accompaniment to this shape, or some whipped cream.

LEMON CHEESE CAKES.

Line some patty tins with good pastry, then spread on them the following mixture:

Rub the yolks of 3 eggs with the size of a walnut of butter and 1 cup of sugar, add the peel and juice of 3 lemons and 1 cupful of curds (in place of the curds one can use cake crumbs) get it very smooth and not too thin, lastly add the whites of the eggs, beaten to a stiff froth. Bake in a moderate oven till the cakes are a delicate brown. They can be eaten either hot or cold.

WHO ARE THE KOUTZO-VLACHS?

For some days past we have been reading of meetings of protest at Bucharest and elsewhere in Roumania against alleged atrocities and murders committed by Greeks in Macedonia against Koutzo-Vlachs, as also of attempts by certain leaders of these latter to obtain a measure of autonomy for their people when the Balkan affairs are settled. Leaving for the moment the question of the facts at the bottom of these accusations, let us inquire who these people are. In his admirable book, "Turkey and its People," Sir Edwin Pears says: "The Vlachs or Wallachs are widely dispersed through Macedonia. They are of the same race as the Roumanians and speak the same variety of what may be called Latin, except for certain dialectical peculiarities. Vlach or Wallach is a word which appears as Gael, Gaul, Galatia, Wales, and Welsh. It usually signifies foreigners or foreign. Of course no native speaks of his own people as foreigners. The Vlachs of Macedonia call themselves Roumani or Armani, that is, Romans.

"The Vlachs in Turkey are often regarded as Greeks because they belong to the Orthodox Church. The largest clusters of their villages are found in the Pindus range, on the northwest boundary of Greece and the adjoining country of Macedonia. Metsovo is the town which has the largest proportion of Vlachs. . . . Those of South Macedonia, about the Pindus range, who are known as Koutzo-Vlachs, have been for centuries intermixed with Greeks and have been under the influence of the Orthodox Church. Further north the tendency of the Vlachs has been toward the Roman Catholic Church."

The Encyclopædia Britannica says: "South of the Danube, about 500,000 are scattered over northern Greece and European Turkey, under the name of Aromani, Koutzo-Vlachs, or Tzintzars; the last two appellations are, in fact, nicknames, *Koutzo-Vlach* meaning lame Vlach, while *Tzintzar* denotes their inability to pronounce the Roumanian *cinci* (five). . . . The Vlach *millet* (civil community) was recognized by the Porte by iradé on the 23rd of May, 1905."

La Liberté of this morning announces that the Koutzo-Vlachs of Grevena and other towns have expressed their thanks to the Greek government for the restoration of peaceful conditions in their regions.

EXTRACTS

FROM JOURNAL OF DR. ELIAS RIGGS.

[On Oct. 31st, 1832, Rev. Elias Riggs, then a young man of not quite twenty-two, sailed out of Boston harbor with his bride on their way to join the Mediterranean Mission of the A. B. C. F. M. A voyage of five weeks brought them to the island of Malta, where, after passing through quarantine, they joined the missionaries exactly eighty years ago today.]

It is our intention to give our readers from time to time brief extracts from this journal, descriptive of the times and scenes of four-score years ago.]

Malta Lazaretto, Dec. 15. For a day or two after we left the Atlantic we enjoyed very fine weather. We were however at such a distance from land as to observe nothing of any interest except the Spanish mountains, perhaps forty miles in the interior, their tops covered with snow. Rough weather occasioned a return of sea-sickness, and we were unable to write or study during the remainder of our voyage. This we were thankful to be permitted to terminate on the 6th instant. We entered the harbor in the morning accompanied by a pilot, and towed by twelve Maltese boats, as the wind was ahead. These small boats move with very great rapidity. They are made very sharp, and the bottom terminates in the keel by a very easy slope. They are usually rowed by four men, sometimes by two.

As we entered the harbor the "Captain of the port" came alongside in a small boat and made several inquiries; as, whence we came, what was the name of our captain, number of crew, names of passengers, etc. He then informed us that we should be subjected, on account of the existence of cholera in the U. S., to a quarantine of fourteen days.

We had scarcely anchored when the American Consul, Mr. Eynaud, came alongside and tendered us his attentions. A part of the cargo was consigned to him. Rev. Mr. Temple was speedily informed of our arrival and came along side. We had letters and packages for him, but according to the quarantine regulations could not deliver them to him. We carried them with others to the fumigation office, whence, after being smoked in sulphur to prevent contagion, they were transferred to the post office, and so reached the individuals to whom they were directed the next day.

In the afternoon we removed to the Lazaretto to spend our quarantine. This is an immense building of stone, some parts of it 200 years old. It was built by the Knights of St. John, as a kind of hospital. Six rooms were assigned to us besides a kitchen. The room occupied by myself and Mrs. R. would contain almost any two-story dwelling-house in America, and two other of the rooms are still larger. The walls are from four to ten feet in thickness. These as well as the floors and roofs are supported by arches. The stone is a kind of soap-stone, very soft, and the floors and outside walls are every where cut with the names of former occupants, dates, terms of quarantine, places whence they came and whither they were traveling, etc. The only furniture in the room

when we entered it was a board bedstead, a table and a single chair. We brought some chairs with us, which were now very serviceable.

Our company (nine in number) board as one family. We employed a cook as soon as possible. Our provisions we daily procure from the market-boats. Some fruits and many necessary articles have been sent in by our kind friends in Valetta. With them we have had several interesting interviews. They come in boats (the Lazaretto is situated on an island,) and meet us in a *Parlatorio* or conversation-hall. Here we may converse, but must not touch each other, being separated some two or three yards by a double railing, and both we and our friends attended by "health-guardians" whose duty it is to see that all the quarantine regulations are strictly observed. Should we accidentally touch one of our friends, he would immediately be subjected to the same quarantine with ourselves. The same would be the case if they should receive a letter from us provided it had not first been fumigated.

Malta, Dec. 20, 1832. Day before yesterday we obtained pratique and left the Lazaretto. We were much favored in having a kind and judicious friend in Mr. Temple to make necessary arrangements for us. The scene of landing I cannot describe. Were Paul and his companions here now, I verily believe they would call the Maltese, (at least, those of them whom we met on landing) *barbarians*, in the strictest and most modern sense of that term. Scores of idle vagabonds, of all ages and of both sexes, were standing in groups or strolling about, apparently without any object unless to beg or steal something from those who might land. We should not have known how to get along with them, without some friends acquainted with their manners. The power of their lungs is unusual. Malta is so noisy that all respectable families live in the highest rooms of their homes; and this noise is occasioned almost entirely by the cries etc. of the people in the streets. Carriages there are few.

Malta is a pile of rock. The houses are all of stone from top to bottom. The roofs are flat and afford very fine places for retirement or for conversation. The view from the top of Mr. Temple's house is very fine, both of the city and of the water. There is no country scenery on the island.

We are lodged in the house of Rev. Mr. Temple; Br. and Sist. Dodge* in the house of Rev. Mr. Schlienzen, German missionary, and Br. and Sist. Thompson in the house of Mr. Weis, a printer attached to the same mission. These friends are *friends indeed*. The Lord reward them!

Yesterday we made some small purchases. The Italian is the language of business. Found myself able to understand the shopkeepers tolerably well, and to speak a little.

* Asa Dodge, M.D., and Mrs. Dodge, were on their way to Syria, and were located later in Beirut and Jerusalem. Dr. Dodge lived but two years there, and died Jan. 28, 1835.

Rev. and Mrs. William M. Thomson also went to Beirut, where Mrs. Thomson died July 22, 1834. Dr. Thomson was a missionary 62 years, living to the age of 87 years 3 months. He was the author of "The Land and the Book."

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BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE. DECEMBER 18, 1912.

EDITORIAL.

It is too early as yet to comment on the peace negotiations in London. Many a prayer is going up that there may be no set-back nor rupture in these negotiations, and that a just and lasting settlement may be reached very speedily. Compromises may be necessary, but should be agreed to only for the sake of avoiding further bloodshed, not only tomorrow, but the day after tomorrow.

The last part of the letter begun last week concerning work among Moslem villages is printed today. It will come as a glad surprise to many that there are found persons in almost every place ready to listen and listen eagerly to the cheering message of God's love. These poor thirsty souls have heard of God the Creator and Judge and Ruler, the Just, the Omniscient and Omnipotent; but of the loving Father their religious system does not tell them. No wonder the tactful presentation of this truth attracts. Yet it may be many years before there are found any bold enough openly to renounce Islam and own their acceptance of the Master who loves them. Conditions are not ripe for expecting great results to show themselves. Just as years of patient sowing were required before any visible results came in the case of many another people, so among these Moslems, while official obstacles and individual intolerance continue to be so strong and bitter, we must bide God's time.

The Balkan war affects the European Turkey Mission of the American Board more than it does all the others put together. And it renders that name for the mission henceforth impossible. It has long been an inappropriate one, for Sofia and Samokov and Philippopolis are in Bulgaria with most of the outstations belonging to them, Philippopolis having been in what was Eastern Roumelia till 1885. And now Salonica is in Greek hands and Monastir in Servian, while Kortcha is recently captured by the Greeks and El Basan is reported as occupied by Servia. Whatever be the outcome of peace negotiations, these the remaining stations of that mission will no longer be in the Turkish Empire. This makes it emi-

nently probable that our sister mission will change its name at its next Annual Meeting, if not before that. The name "Balkan Mission" is suggested as an appropriate title for it now, since its probable future expansion as well will in all likelihood be within the limits of the Balkan States. And if now the Servian language must be added to the stock-in-trade of the missionaries of that mission, it will have become probably the most polyglot of the missions of the Board, — with its Bulgarian, Greek, Albanian and Turkish as well.

From Vienna comes official assurance of the renewal of the Triple Alliance, for a further term of twelve years. As this treaty did not expire till May or June 1914, the announcement is unexpectedly early, and was probably made in the interests of Austrian diplomacy. While the terms of the agreement are not made known, it is stated that there has been no change from the former basis of the Alliance, which was the treaties of 1882, renewed in 1902. The relation of the Triple Alliance to Turkey was naturally strained by the Italo-Turkish war; but as Italy's allies, Austria and Germany, declared their neutrality, peaceful relations with them were not disturbed. Toward the end of that war, the Turkish papers commented very fully on the rumor that, owing to their disapproval of Italy's action in bringing on war, Austria-Hungary and Germany contemplated admitting Turkey into the Alliance in place of Italy. The absurdity of this is apparent when we remember that the alliance treaty does not expire for a year and a half more; and in all probability the idea of such a shifting never occurred to the Allies. For it is now credibly affirmed that the eventual assigning of Libya, or Tripoli, to Italy was agreed to by Austria as a compensation for Italy's agreeing to the appropriating of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. The mere statement of this suffices to show that the Triple Alliance has not had as its object the preservation of the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire. We are not yet enlightened as to the "compensation" that Germany intends to obtain as an offset to Libya and Bosnia-Herzegovina. But in these days of territorial readjustment, when international morality shows alarming symptoms of necrosis, or gangrene, it would be a delightful surprise if she had no demands to make. If, as we devoutly trust, a general European conflict can be avoided, we may now see a period of reconstruction wherein the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente may vie with each other in commercial and general development, each acting as a preventive on the other when it becomes a question of diplomatic strain or an overweening political ambition. May we also hope for a permanent Balkan Alliance, for the development and commercial prosperity of this torn and bleeding peninsula?

After three days of unusual severity, with over 100 cases each day, the cholera has again diminished to about 50 cases daily. During the week ending Sunday, Dec. 15th, there were recorded 506 cases and 248 deaths, making the totals since Nov. 5th, 1857 cases and 901 deaths.

OPENINGS FOR WORK AMONG MOSLEM VILLAGES.

(Concluded.)

Six hours' ride among bare and very lonely hills, brought us to the village of Tel-beshir where most of the people are Arabs, although there is some mixture of Turkish blood and all can speak Turkish. The men are a lawless set, brawling and stealing, but ever since several badly wounded patients had come to us from there years ago, I had always wanted to visit the place and look them up. There are good trees and water outside the village but the village itself is one of the most dreary I had seen. The poor women live and work in indescribable wretchedness, harshly treated by their husbands, without comfort in the heavy sorrows that must come. After a little rest in the village guest room, the Bible-Woman and I went out to sit with some women in the shade of a wall. The poor things were not unfriendly but in the most pitiful need. It made one's heart ache to hear the continual oaths, the vile abuse given the children, the loud, hard talk. We spoke a little of the sins of the tongue that came from the sin within, of the need of forgiveness, of God's love in Christ. One noisy young woman, who was holding a sweet little baby girl, laughed and said in a mocking, scornful tone: "You believe in Jesus. We believe in God and on Mohammed," then, almost fiercely, "Look at us. We go about in bare feet in thin, miserable clothes. We work hard all day long in heat and cold, and are beaten and abused by our men. Do you not think God is going to forgive us for all we suffer? We sin, but we can't help it." But here too God opened some hearts. One quiet woman begged us to come to her house, when I learned that she was just the one I wanted to find, the sister of a poor young *gelin* who lived in Aintab and was living a very unhappy life and had been disowned by her brothers. As we sat together in the dark Arab room, she told the story and spoke of her sister with affection and pity. But when I urged that the two brothers should forgive the poor girl and at least count her again their sister, she looked at me with the saddest eyes and said: "Hanum, they don't forgive here" and again after one more entreaty "They don't forgive here." The words kept ringing in my ears long after. After a little, other women came. Among them was one who had just the day before lost her little one. I think I can never forget her look. She too was friendly, but so sad and hopeless, nothing we could say touched her though we tried to show the love and comfort God was waiting to give. The pain was like a fire always in her heart; but afterwards as we talked again out in the quiet evening fields, something of the message seemed to sink in. We were taken to see a young orphan girl who had suddenly been taken very ill in the harvest field and was lying in a very dirty bed in an open space. Many were ready to stand and gossip about her but for a long time no one could be found to care for her. Later on I tried to send her some medicine by our host, the head man of the village, an old patient, a tall black-bearded, black-cloaked Arab, but he refused to touch it, saying "It would destroy (defile) my ceremonial purity";—as he had washed for prayer.

In a large village in that region I was asked to see a fine young woman who was lying helpless, apparently paralyzed in the lower limbs. She was very unwilling to have any examination made or to answer any questions. The mother and another woman seemed nervous and afraid to have me stay; said the girl was all right or would soon be, had fallen and hurt her back a little. Soon the girl began begging me to go, calling out as I stood in the porch talking with the mother, to know why that woman was not sent off. We learned afterwards that a cruel brother in anger over a property quarrel, with a heavy stick had struck her back as she was bending over her work, saying he wished he had killed her. The women were in terror lest he hear of our visit and come to finish his dreadful work. In the same place I was taken to the home of one of the wealthiest and most influential men, a fine house with large nicely furnished rooms, wide porch and court. The patriarchal old man had recently lost a young son, a bright fine boy whom everyone loved. Many Armenians there had attended the funeral and sincerely grieved over the loss. I had been asked to talk with and try to comfort the broken-hearted mother but for some time the old father gave me almost no chance to speak, as he read and explained in rather a lordly fashion passages from an old Moslem book about the glories of the different heavens. Then he said he read these things to his wife but she was "so ignorant, like the animals, she could get no help from them." When a nice lunch was served and we were left alone with the women to eat, the opportunity came to give the blessed Bible comfort. The poor mother poured out her grief; she was in a sort of agony of longing. "I would drive a knife into my breast if I were not afraid of going into punishment as an unbeliever. If I could only go too, to be with him. How can I bear to live on alone?" Then she went over the story of her boy's virtues and charms and then again came the refrain of her sorrow. At last she quieted down and willingly listened as I read of the widow of Nain and the raising of Lazarus and told of Jesus' power now as a living Savior, why we trusted in Him and loved Him. Mohammed was dead. "Yes", she answered, "what use is he to us?" She said she understood *these* words and asked us earnestly to come again.

An old patient, a thoughtful attractive man, had had a Turkish Testament given him in the fall and on a recent visit I found a hearty welcome ready from his nice wife; and though I could not see him as he was away, harvesting, I found that he had been reading the Book and often read it to her. They both liked it very much. The bright faced boy had been put into our Protestant school though taken out later because of threats. The mother was quick to understand and ready to believe the truth. She said her son said: "Jesus Christ my Lord and my God." ***

Mr. Werndell, Reuter's agent here, left on Saturday last for London, as special correspondent for the peace negotiations going on there. His intimate knowledge of Balkan and Ottoman affairs led to his choice for this work.

SYRIAN PROTESTANT COLLEGE.

President Bliss began the course of public lectures with an eloquent address on Abraham Lincoln to a crowded house.

The foundations for Rockefeller Hall and for a recitation hall not yet named are being laid. These buildings will be for the Preparatory Department. The masonry on West Hall, the Y. M. C. A. building, is nearly finished.

The various foot ball teams are getting splendid practice playing against the teams from the British war-ships in the harbor. And the British do not always win, either.

Volume IV. of *Al-Kulliyeh*, the journal of the University, has put forth its first number in a tasteful new cover and in a new dress of type. The English part is printed at the College Press. Prof. Joy's article on Earthquakes is illustrated with a picture of the seismograph in the observatory and the record of the Marmora earthquake. The Press has been moved to new quarters in the Assembly Hall.

Nov. 11th was the tenth anniversary of the coming of President and Mrs. Bliss to the S. P. C. At prayers Prof. Porter in behalf of the faculty made a fitting speech in commemoration and briefly sketched the remarkable growth of the University during the decade of his administration. Dr. Bliss feelingly responded.

In the evening the faculty gave a reception in honor of President and Mrs. Bliss, to which were invited all the college and missionary community, American, British and German, and the Beirut alumni and their families. Over 200 passed a delightful evening in the beautifully decorated assembly room of Daniel Bliss Hall.

W. B. A.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

In a game of Rugby football at Moda last Saturday, a team representing the British Red Cross Mission defeated representatives of the British cruisers "Hampshire" and "Weymouth" by 11 points to 8.

The new Italian Ambassador, Marquis Garroni, held a reception last Saturday, the 14th, at the Embassy, for the Ottoman ministers and other high state officials, which was very largely attended. The next day, Sunday, His Excellency received the members of the Italian colony.

The local papers announce that the Imperial University, which was closed to enable its attendants to go to the war, will be reopened about Dec. 28th.

About 1500 refugees have already been installed in the barracks erected for them outside the city walls at the Seven Towers.

The Italian warships "Benedetto Brin" and "Emmanuele Filiberto" and the German cruiser "Vineta" have left this harbor; and it is expected that the British cruiser "Hampshire" will soon depart, as she is to go to China.

THE PROVINCES.

The Turkish troops from Tripoli embarked last week Tuesday on two Italian transports and under the escort of an Italian cruiser, sailed for some Asiatic port.

Prof. Rendel Harris of Selly Oak, Birmingham, after two weeks spent as the guest of President Gates at Robert College, left yesterday for Adabazar and beyond, to investigate the needs of the refugees along the line of the Anatolian Railroad.

Dr. and Mrs. Watson Smith have returned to Beirut from a furlough in Great Britain. Dr. Smith is the superintendent of the Lebanon Hospital for the Insane at Asfuriyeh, near Beirut. The executive committee in Beirut report that Mr. Green of England has given the money for a new pavilion for men patients, to be called "The English House." This charity meets a greet need and is a blessing to the country. Theophilus Waldmeier, formerly of the Friends' Mission, was the founder, and for a number of years the superintendent.

NOTES.

Rev. J. K. Greene, D.D., was one of the daily speakers to the crowds at "The World in Baltimore," last month. He also gave addresses in several churches there; and at the First Congregational Church in Washington and at Howard University; also before the students of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa.

Mr. E. O. Jacob, of the Y. M. C. A., left yesterday for Salonica to assist in the relief work among Turkish refugees.

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Mr. E. G. Freyer, who has been the efficient manager of the American Mission Press at Beirut and Treasurer of the Syrian Mission for 17 years, has resigned, his resignation to take effect in April.

The *Congregationalist* announces that Rev. Charles K. Tracy, of the Smyrna station, has accepted a call to the Congregational church of Strafford, Vt., and has begun work there.

Mr. and Mrs. Glockler, Miss Glockler and Mr. Henry Glockler have returned to Beirut from a furlough in England. Mr. Glockler has many years been the efficient foreman of the American Press; Mr. Henry Glockler is the assistant to Mr. Freyer, and Miss Glockler is the teacher of music in the American Seminary for Girls.

OTHER LANDS.

Prince-Regent Luitpold of Bavaria, died at Munich last Thursday, Dec. 12th, in his 92nd year. He was the uncle of King Otto, and was appointed Regent in 1886.

English traffic has been seriously affected by an extensive strike on the North-Eastern Railway, especially at Newcastle-on-Tyne. A wireless to the "Hampshire" reports that the strike is now ended.

A 14-in. gun that was being tested at Sandy Hook, N. J., last week, burst and was completely wrecked, but miraculously no lives were lost.

A Belgian inspector of the Persian Customs has been murdered by Kourds between Lake Urumiah and the Turkish frontier. Eight Persian members of his party shared his fate.

The Austro-Hungarian War Minister, General von Aufenberg, has resigned; also General Schemna, chief of Staff. Their places have been taken by men of the military party.

The New York *Sun* announces that President Taft will on his retirement accept the Professorship of Law at Yale, whose last incumbent was the late Edward J. Phelps.

The British proposition for a meeting of Ambassadors of the Powers at London "for informal and non-committal consultation" has been agreed to by all the Powers signatory to the Berlin Treaty.

On the retirement of Dr. Simitch, the Servian Minister to Vienna, the Austrian Emperor has conferred on him the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Leopold.



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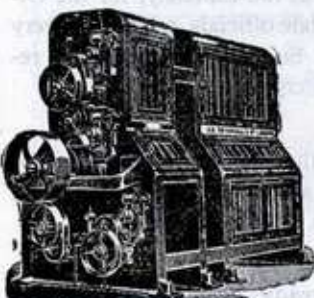
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