

# C I R C U L A R

OF THE

## BAGHDASSARIAN ORPHANAGE IN BROUSSA

In the days of the well known great famine in Asia Minor, in 1875, being myself in Broussa and seeing the streets full of starving and beggarly Armenian children, I felt the need of an orphanage, and at once undertook to open such a place for the orphans. This I began by putting an orphan girl under the care of a widow. This was in 1875 the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, the beginning of the Baghdassarian Orphanage in Broussa.

We began and carried on the work at first in private houses rented for the purpose. The work increased and developed from day to day, until in 1882 we found a suitable place which by repairs and additions became the present splendid and extensive establishment. The necessary sum for this was obtained not only from gifts but also from the sales of Almanacs and other publications and from the cultivation of silk worm as also from private teaching and other personal gifts.

With the erection of the building the question was raised in the minds of many, to whom will the building with its grounds belong. When we were questioned on this, we said: "no doubt to the institution, since it was bought for that purpose". Some listened to our honest declaration with suspicion and began to agitate the question "to whom shall the property belong". This was done by letters and by news-paper publications so as to keep up the agitation.

In the Avedaper of January 20, 1902 a long article was published, from which I extract the following lines. In september 1889 when the Synod met in Broussa, Rev. Baghdassarian presented a paper by which he promised the following, under the official seal of the orphanage and his own signature. "The Director of the orphanage assures the Synod that all property of the establishment, in real estate or furniture, and buildings shall always remain in the possession of the institution and will never be used for other purposes.

A little lower the writer of the article adds: "To this day the orphanage has not a bit of legal paper in its possession to show that the building and property will always remain the possession of the institution". Then he goes on to say: "We repeat here what we have said . . . we want a legal arrangement to be made, whereby the property of the orphanage remains in the possession of the institution . . . we therefore beg of the Rev. K. Baghdassarian that according to his written promise, he fulfill, as soon as possible, the necessary formalities for the safety of the institution.

In the same article in italics he has put the whole of what is demanded— Your trustees bring before the Synod the present state of things that you may do what is necessary to put the buildings and other property in a safe condition in order that they may remain the permanent possession of the institution for whose use they were bought with money collected in the name of orphans and the orphanage.

Now in conformity with this statement the Synod referred to the Vekil of the Protestant Community, who with an official letter dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1902 and under number 856 wrote to me: "The whole question lies in this: to put the Orphanage buildings legally in a safe condition, for this you have first of all to deposit with the Protestant Chancery at Constantinople a legal document declaring that all buildings and land will not be inherited by any one and that they will forever remain the property of the Baghdassarian Orphanage."

"This, says the writer of the article above mentioned, will be required of him as an ultimatum from the Synod, the Vekil requires the same and all lovers of justice and the heavenly father of the orphans require that the rights of his children be put in a safe condition."

As has already been said, we too being of the same opinion my intention was, when the proper time came, to declare the whole property to be the possession of the institution. With this object a committee presented to the Vali of Broussa, a formula sent by the Protestant Chancery in the form of a petition to his Excellency.

His Excellency refered the petition to the supreme court of justice, so that the matter should take its legal solution. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June the judge gave us a verdict (Ilam-Heojet) which was sent the next day to the Protestant Chancery at Constantinople.

A copy of the petition and the verdict will be found on the following pages in Turkish and English in which it is declared that every thing belongs to the institution. This Ilam-Heojet finally and definitely solves the question whereby I have fulfilled my promise of 1882, and given full satisfaction to the demand of the Synod, to the Vekil and to all lovers of justice; and the heavenly father of orphans looks with pleasure on this happy solution of the question. Therefor we expect more encouragement and help in our work.

Broussa, September 1904

**K. Baghdassarian**

Founder



## اعلام شرعی صوربدر

مخروسه بروسه محلاتندن منلا عرب محلهسی متمکنلرندن و تبعه دولت علیه نك ارمني ملتندن و پروتستان صبیان دارالتعلیم و تربیهسی مؤسسسی بغدادساریان کیرقور افندی ولد بغدادسار مجلس شرعشریف انورده کندوسنک بر کونه ذمت میریه و شخصیهسی اولمدینی حقنده محلهسی طرفندن معطی علم خبری ابراز ایله اقرار تام و تقریرکلام ایدوب هربری پاکه نسبت اولنان عرصهسی چوبان بک وقفنه مقاطعه قديمه معلومهلو مخروسه مزبوره محلاتندن منلا عرب محلهسی قربنده واقع اطرافی حاجی نظمی اذنی و کیرقور بغچهلری و طرفینی طریق عام ایله محدود ایکی دونم اشجاری ملک بر قطعه دوت بغچهسی وینه محله مذکورهده واقع قورت و منلا عثمان و جانباز زاده دانه کیرقور بغچهلری و طریق عام ایله محدود ایکی دونم اشجاری ملک بر قطعه دوت بغچهسی وینه محله مذکورهده واقع اطرافی یاغجی حافظ و محمد امین افندی و یازارجی صالح زوجہسی صبریہ و ازنبود بغچهلری و طریق عام ایله محدود ایکی دونم اشجاری ملک بر قطعه دوت بغچهسی وینه محله مذکورهده واقع اطرافی چرکس علی و سالم و طرف ثلثهسی طریق عام ایله محدود بیک التیوز سکسان بش زراع بر قطعه عرصه و مخروسه مزبوره محلاتندن ولد بواب محلاسندہ واقع اطرافی شرقاً بدوریان اقبوس و غرباً صاحب سند و شمالاً بنم بغچه ایله محدود بر دونم ایکی اولک یری دخی ملک بر قطعه خراب بغچه و مخروسه مزبوره محلاتندن خواجه محمد قره مانی محلاسندہ اوزون یولده واقع اطرافی شرقاً یایاس اوغلی حاجی بدروس و غرباً یورغانجی ابراهیم و بیک و شمالاً احمد بغچهلری و جنوباً طریق عام ایله محدود بر بحق دونم بر قطعه یری دخی ملک خراب بغچه وینه مذکور چوبان بک وقفنه مقاطعهلو مخروسه مزبوره محلاتندن منلا عرب محلاسندہ واقع اطرافی شرقاً طریق عام و غرباً حاجی نظمی اذنی بغچهسی و شمالاً بنم بغچه ایله محدود اشجاری ملک ایکی دونم ایکی اولک بر قطعه بغچه وینه مذکور منلا عرب محلاسندہ واقع وقف مذکوره مقاطعهلو جانب ییمینی و یساری و جبههسی طریق عام و ارقهسی مذکور بغچهلر ایله محدود یوز زراع معلوم المشتملات بر باب ملک منزله بنم اصلا و قطعاً علاقه و مدخل اولیوب املاک محرره مذکوره نك مجموعی پروتستان جماعتی ایٹامنک تعلیم و تربیه لرینه مخصوصدر و سند خاقانیلرده اولان اسم نام مستعاردر دیدیکده ماقع بالطلب کتب اولندی . فی الیوم الرابع و العشرین من شهر ربیع الاول لسنة اثنی و عشرين ثلثائه و الف



## فدراوندگار ولایت جلدیسی جانب عالیسنه

عطو قتلو افندم حضرتلری

ممالك محروسه شاهانده متمکن پروتستان جماعتی اصحاب خیرات و حسنائی ایله ممالک سائرده متمکن فاضل ذواتک و یرمش اولدقلری اعانه آچهلریله بروسده منلا عرب محلهسنده تأسیس و دارالشفقه نامیه موسوم و پروتستان جماعتی ایتمک تعلیم و تربیهسنه مخصوصاً دارالایتم اتخاذا ایلمش اولدیغ معلوم الحدود و مع مشتملات بر باب اینیه ایله ینه منلا عرب محلهسنده واقع معلوم الحدود سکر قطعه عرصه یی پیدرینی اشترا ایدرک بعضیلرینی متوفیه حریم اما خانم نامنه و بعضیلرینی دخی کندی نامنه قید ایتدیره رک اولصورتله سند خاقانیلرینی اخذ ایتمش ایدم مؤخرأ فاملیام اوزرینه قید ایتدیرمش اولدیغ قسمی مومی الیهانک و قاتیلله شرعاً و ظاهراً بر قسمی بکا و قسم دیگرینی دخی مخدوم اولی افندی به توارث و انتقال ایلمسیلله مخدوم مومی الیه اصابت ایدن مقداری دخی بالآخره کندی عهدهمه چو یرمش ایهسده حقیقت حالده املاک مذکورنک کافهسی اصحاب خیرات طرفدن و یریلان آچهلله و ایتمک تربیه و تحصیل مقصدیلله اشترا ایدمش بولندیغدن و مذکور املاکده نه متوفیه زوجهمک نه مخدوم اولینک نه عاجزلرینک ونهده ورثه سائرهمک هیچ برکونه حق تملک و تصرفمز اولیوب املاک مذکورنک مؤسسسی بولندیغ حسبیلله کندی نامنزه عهدهمزه کجورلمش ایهسده بونلرک کافهسنک مواضعه و نام مستعار صورتیه عهدهمزه مقید بولنمش اولدیغنی اقرار و اعتراف ایتمکله برابر حین و فاعده برکونا قاریشقیلغه میدان قالماق اوزره جماعتمزک درسعادت عموم پروتستان و کالتی طرفه بسیار ایدمک اوزره مارالعرض خصوصاتک بر حجت شرعی به ربط ایدلمسی خصوصنده استدعایک طرف شرعشریفه حواله بیورلمسینی عرض و استرحام ایلرم اولیابده امر و فرمان حضرت من له الامر کدر فی ۲۵ مایس سنه ۱۳۲۰



MY PETITION  
TO HIS EXCELENCY, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF BROUSA.

Sir,

With the money contributed by benevolent persons among the Protestant community of Turkey and those of other lands, I have purchased, at different times, eight lots of ground in the quarter of Moulla Arab of Brousa, and founded in this premises an orphanage for the training and education of orphans of the Protestant community. I had some of these premises and lots of land registered in the name of my deceased wife Mrs. Emma and some in my name and took their titledeeds from the Government. Later upon the death of my wife, the lots, which had been registered in her name, were, by law, inherited by me and by my son Mr. Willy. Though, finally, I procured the transfer to myself of that portion, which my son had inherited, it should, nevertheless be remembered that all the above mentioned property was bought with money contributed by pious and benevolent persons with the object of educating orphans. Therefore neither my deceased wife, nor my son Willy, nor myself, nor any one neither had at any time nor have now any rights to this property to own or appropriate it, though by reason of my being the founder of the institution, those premises are conveyed and registered in my name and are in my charge, yet I avow and declare that all of these said premises are registered in my name in trust. And in order that there should remain no cause of confusion and trouble, after my death, I request that the above mentioned facts should be turned into a legal document by the Supreme court of justice to be sent to the Protestant Chancery at Constantinople.

25 May 1320 (Turkish).

*Signed Krikor Baghdassarian*

LEGAL DOCUMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE.

Know all men by these presents that **KRIKOR EFFENDI BAGHDASARIAN**, a resident of Moulla Arab quarter of Brousa, an Armenian Protestant Turkish subject and the founder of the institution for the education of Protestant children, has presented the certificate, given by his quarter, to show that he has no public or private debts, and has made a full avowal and public declaration that he had, absolutely, no real ownership in the lots and premises, which are described below, and that all of them pertain to the training and education of orphans from the Protestant community and he holds the title in the Imperial titledeeds in trust. The said lots and premises are as follows: A mulberry garden, two dunums in area, enfeoffed (Mouqataalou) to Choban Bey Vakuf and situated in the vicinity of Moulla Arab quarter of Brousa, with known borders, and whose trees are freehold. Again in the same quarter a mulberry garden two dunums in area, surrounded on three sides with gardens and on the forth with highway and whose trees are freehold. Again a mulberry garden, bordered on three sides with gardens with known details and on the forth with highway and whose trees are freehold. Also in the said quarter, a lot of ground 1685 arshins in area, surrounded with tracts of land and with highway and whose trees are freehold. And also a desolate and uncultivated garden, one part of which, one and a half dunum in area, is freehold and is situated in the Veledi Bevvab quarter of Brousa and surrounded on four sides with the known limits. Again a desolate garden, situated in Hodja Mehmed Qaramani quarter of Brousa on Ouzoun Yol, bordered on three sides with the gardens of known persons and on the forth with highway and whose one and a half dunum is freehold. Also a garden, two and a half dunum in area, enfeoffed to Choban Bey Vakouf, situated in the Moulla Arab quarter of Brousa, surrounded with gardens and whose trees are freehold. Again a freehold premises, with known appurtenances, built on an area of one hundred arshin, situated in the said Molla Arab quarter of Brousa and enfeoffed to the said Vakouf, surrounded on the right and left and front with highway and on the rear with the said gardens.

Written on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Rebiul Evvel in the year 1322 of the Hegira.



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