

REPORT OF
ST. PAUL'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
TARSUS
FOR 1909-1910



SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

1909-10

I. Synopsis of information as to the School sent to DR. BARTON,

Secretary of the American Board, in response to inquiries, May, 1910

Two departments, College and Academy. In College this year, 59; Academy, 99. Total, 158. (Boarders, 132; Day-pupils, 26). Native Teachers for College, 5; for Academy, 5; Total, 10. 81 students work with their hands to help pay their expenses. The only Americans teaching this year are the President and his wife, Miss Brewer and Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons having left us after the massacre of last year. With Professor Imer this makes three foreign teachers. We expect to welcome our Mary, Mrs. Rogers, and Rev. Mr. Chandler to the Faculty in September.

Our landed property, about three acres, worth \$3,500. Miscellaneous property as follows: horse, buggy, donkey, \$150. Utensils and dishes, \$350. Books, \$3,000. Desks and furniture, \$1,500. Telescope and apparatus, \$400. Tools, beds, safes, &c., \$750.

Our Buildings.—1. The *Charlotte Snell Stickler Hall*. This towers above all the other houses in Tarsus; can be seen from a distance of 20 miles. Height 70 feet; foundations go down through débris of six ancient cities of Tarsus 40 feet, to a solid old Tertiary sea beach; dimensions, in feet, 69 by 54; walls of foundation 40 inches thick, decrease to one foot in top story; solid Cretaceous limestone, the material of which the ancient houses were built that are found still undecayed underground; at each story the walls are bound together by iron plates bolted at the corners to each other and bolted to the stones above and below them, their whole length; strong iron girders stretch from wall to wall, on which the floors are laid; these girders rest on iron pillars; in the basement there are six of these pillars, on top of stone foundations that go down forty feet; in the chapel, above the basement, there are six more; four each for the other floors; these give great strength to the floors; the foundations of the platform in front, destined at some time, we hope, to carry a high clock-tower, go down forty feet; roof is of Marseilles tiles (for

which roof we have to thank Mr. Dorman of Upper Montclair, New Jersey); five stories, including the basement to be used as a gymnasium; above this, the chapel, that will hold about a thousand people; on the next floor, eight large recitation-rooms; above that, the library, two laboratories, a reading-room, two rooms for geological and botanical collections, and two more recitation-rooms; at the top of the building, a dormitory for 75 beds—and with such air, and such a view! A hundred miles of the snowy Taurus, the magnificent plain, and far to the East and South-east the peaks of the Amanus and the Lebanon; to the South-west a glimpse of the sea near Mersine,—it is not to be wondered at that the school produces poets. We need about ten thousand dollars with which to put the doors and windows into this fine building, the stairs, the two remaining floors, the partitions, the seats in the chapel, the things needed in the library, the recitation-rooms and the laboratories, and to plaster and paint the interior. Who will give the money? The whole cost will then have been about thirty thousand dollars, of which the first ten thousand was given by Dr. and Mrs. Frank Vanderpoel of Orange, New Jersey; they had thus the privilege of naming the Hall in memory of the mother of Mrs. Vanderpoel. All our Commencement exercises have just been held in the new chapel; never before have we had a suitable place in which to hold them.

2. *Marguerite Shepard Hall*, 73 by 45 ft. This was bought for us several years ago, together with about three acres of land, by Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard of New York, the widow of our Founder; it is named for a beloved daughter who died within a year after her father's death. It was built originally for a residence; we have made extensive changes in it, and have put a dormitory on the top of it. Three stories, (1) kitchen, dining-room, store-room, small dormitory—all for students; (2) College school-room, library, faculty-room, study of President (put up over the gate by some friends of Miss Brewer), and three small rooms. (3) Dormitory for 20 boys, and room for teacher. Value about \$7,000. The building, like the others, was greatly damaged by the crowds of refugees that occupied it for months after the massacre; I spent much of last summer on repairs, lifting up the floors with jack-screws, replacing broken boards, plastering, whitewashing, etc. The foundation (going down 30 feet) and the first story are of stone; the others are of rubble, mortar, and wood.

3. *Marash Hall*. Put up, with help from Mrs. Shepard, 14 years ago. Two stories, of rubble, mortar, and wood; 65 by 22

ft. ; basement for wood and coal ; above this, the Academy school-room and two recitation-rooms ; top story, dormitory for 20 boys, two recitation-rooms, and teacher's room ; value, \$2,500.

4. *Brewer Hall*. (Mrs. Christie put it up with her own money, and named it after her honored father, a home missionary in Illinois and Wisconsin). Rubble and wood, 20 by 40 ft., two stories quite low ; dormitory for ten boys, and five very poor recitation-rooms ; useful to us in " the day of small things ; " worth about \$800.

5. *Carpenter-shop* by the gate, one story, 15 by 50 ft., made of boards ; worth about \$250. We ought to have a bigger and a better place in which to teach our boys carpentry and cabinet-making.

Besides these, there is an Observatory built years ago by my astronomy class and myself (very small) ; a stable for four horses ; an oven ; a little building used as a hospital ; another shabby little building in which eight boys sleep, cost less than \$50 ; then there are a tennis court and wired hen-house. All these are worth about \$600. Thus we hold real estate here to the amount of about \$50,800 (real estate and movable property) ; this supposes the new Hall to have been finished. We praise God for His goodness and the goodness of His friends.

So, the first thing we need is the ten thousand dollars with which to make the new Hall completely ready for the work it is to do. Then, the two thousand for the purchase of the two acres of land to add to our campus. A thousand dollars would be well spent in the purchase of apparatus for use in teaching Physics and Chemistry. We ask for \$500 for a bath-house. We ought to have an addition of fifty thousand dollars to our endowment. Mrs. Christie and I are now compelled to spend altogether too much of our time and strength in writing begging letters ; this is just so much taken from the work here.

If our Mary can teach History here, and if Mr. Chandler comes in the fall and stays with us, we shall need no more American teachers for the present. Another man could find work, provided he brought his salary with him.

As to the native Faculty, no addition to it now is needed. In Oberlin we have a young man studying music ; him we expect next year (1911-12), when a salary of about three hundred dollars should be provided for him. We have always given importance

to vocal and instrumental music, regarding it as one of the most useful elements in a Christian education. *Owing to the massacre, and the great poverty of our people, we ought to have about fifteen hundred dollars a year as students' aid. None of this is given without an equivalent (as near as may be) in manual labor.* Were our endowment increased there would cease to be any need of special gifts for this object. The Board of Managers chosen by the Central Turkey Mission exercises a general control over our property and its uses here; the terrible massacre of last year prevented a meeting of the Managers; we look forward to having one at Aintab in June. (It was held on June 22).

Dr. Barton asks *in what way we secure that the school shall be thoroughly Christian.* Reply:—The members of our Faculty are all earnest Christian men and women; all except one are graduates of Christian colleges, and he had a special course in one; five (next year seven) have taken the full course in a theological seminary, five have been pastors; their aim in teaching is *to bring men into the Kingdom and to build them up in the Kingdom*—the same work as that of a pastor. We have a full course of instruction in the great truths of the Scriptures; every morning of the week save one each class meets with its teacher to spend a half-hour in the study of some portion of the Word of God. In the morning and in the afternoon there is worship in the chapel. On the Lord's day there are three services, attended by all. The school prayer-meeting is held on Wednesday evening; besides this there are class meetings and meetings of the Y.M.C.A. The teaching of Christian ethics, and the Evidences of Christianity, is a regular part of our curriculum. The discipline is that of a Christian home. We actually live with our boys, eat with them, play with them, talk frequently with them, pray with them, watch over them when they are ill. We believe that the heaven, to do any good, must really mingle with the lump. The teacher ought to show to his pupils in all modesty and humility, by his own words and conduct in the midst of them, what a Christian life really is. Another thing: we permit no boy whose influence is corrupting—no matter how much money he brings us—to remain in the school. I believe we may say with truth that our object in everything we do is *to produce and strengthen genuine Christian character, to prepare men to be helpers of their fellows.* It is true that we often fail; but it is not for want of earnest, prayerful effort. The influence of the Holy Spirit has been with us in the work from the very beginning; not a year has passed without conversions;

and frequently a genuine revival of the old fashioned sort has come to lift up the whole school to a higher plane and fill it with new life. A large proportion of graduates and former students are in the ministry, or teaching, or doing great good as Christian physicians (*see below*). We earnestly ask all friends of the missionary work to pray that the Institute may more and more become, in deed and in truth, a thoroughly Christian school, having the spirit of such a school and doing the work of such a school in this needy land.

STATISTICS OF GRADUATES, INCLUDING CLASS OF 1910.

One hundred and twenty-two have received the College diploma since June, 1893, when the first class was graduated. Of these 33 have chosen the Ministry; 29 Teaching; 22 Medicine; 36 Business; 2 Religious work outside of the Ministry.

Thus, 28 per cent. are preaching the Gospel; 24 per cent. are teaching; and 18 per cent. are physicians; in all 70 per cent. of our graduates are in these three professions, so greatly needed in Asiatic Turkey. Many of our former students, who did not graduate, are in these same lines of labor.

II. REPORT FOR 1909-10.

This has been a busy year. For months last summer we had three or four thousand refugees in our buildings and on the premises. Our teachers were employed in caring for them. Preaching services were held under the big tree in Mrs. Christie's garden. It required all the power of the Gospel to comfort and encourage those who had lost friends and property in the massacre. The exhortation was always, "*Sursum corda!* Lift up your hearts!" And nobly did our afflicted people respond. There were many wounded. Sickness, especially measles, broke out, and there were over a hundred funerals. Fifteen babies were born. Only the women and children could have shelter in our rooms; the men stayed outside, without beds or blankets. It was a mercy that we had only one rain in four months. Thirty or forty coverlets were made in the market each day, but these were given to women

with children. Everybody lay on the bare floor or the bare ground, save the hundred or more to whom the students and teachers gave up their beds. It was most touching to see the spirit of patience, cheerfulness, and mutual helpfulness that ruled in that great throng. We heard no complaints, and there was no bitterness against those who had done them wrong. This triumph of the very spirit of Jesus was worth everything to see. In these circumstances of distress and need our hearts were cheered and our hands upheld by the coming of Miss Schaeffer and Mr. Schalk from Marash, of Dr. Dorman from Beirut, and of Dr. Peoples from Mersine. Each stayed but a few days at a time, as Adana and Baghché claimed them also; but they did what was needed to supplement the labors of the one or two good doctors that came to us from Constantinople. Money was sent by the central committee in Adana, by Mr. Peet, by Mr. Freyer, by "The Friends of Armenia," by the "Christian Herald," and by many friends in different parts of the world—our son Paul and his pupils at Newport, R.I., among them. The blessings of those that were ready to perish will be at least a part of their reward. Miss Brewer and her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons, Mr. and Mrs. Imer, Miss Talbot, and Mary and her baby boy left us in the early part of May. We then took up the regular work of the school and carried it on, amid difficulties, for a month. We could hold no Commencement exercises; but we gave diplomas to eleven men, nearly all of whom (we are sorry to say) left the country immediately. The writer went to England and Ireland in the middle of September, to assist in the work of raising relief funds; and returned on the 28th of January. It was good to be able to look again into the faces of our boys! We missed our martyr, Rogers; we missed our efficient and much loved Miss Elizabeth H. Brewer, who had been with us for ten years; we missed Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons; we missed Krikor Hoja Kallosdian, the poet and teacher—now on the staff of the "Avedaper;" we missed Mr. Gould, for two years the head of our Industrial Department; and we missed the young graduate who had done such good work as the leader of the orchestra. In the absence of so many former members of the Faculty, with so much relief work to do, and with the care of the pulpit of the Tarsus church upon us, all our teachers have been overworked this year. We are grateful to those members of the Senior and Junior classes who helped us in this emergency. A great loss was suffered in the death of Arsen Sinanian of the Senior class at the very beginning of the school year. He was a very

fine mathematician, and was to have taught Geometry and Trigonometry, besides carrying on his own studies. He was ill when he arrived from Everek, and died within a few days of typhoid fever. We are thankful to have to report that with this exception there have been very few cases of sickness. The work of College and Academy has gone on without interruption. In the first week of June, ten were graduated from College and eighteen from the Academy. The examinations were attended by the assistant of the Government Officer of Education from Adana, who expressed himself as thoroughly satisfied with what he saw and heard; in consequence, the College diplomas were countersigned by his superior, the first time that this has been done. The Commencement exercises of the College were held in the chapel of the new Hall, in the presence of a large audience, including the British and the American Consuls, Mr. Chambers, the Mersine missionaries, and several Turkish officers of high rank, the Kaimakam among them. The Prize Declamations, with speaking in English, French, Turkish, and Armenian, came the next morning. Before the Senior addresses there were prize contests in gymnastics and athletics. A few days after, the graduating exercises and the prize speaking of the Academy took place. I think all who attended these services, whether in College or Academy, got a very good idea of the kind of work that is done in the school. I may add, that in both departments we have some excellent material, as good as any I have ever seen in any school. The year has been one of almost perfect harmony and peace, in the Faculty and among the students. It is a joy to work under such conditions.

On the fifteenth of April, the anniversary of the martyrdom of our brethren Rogers and Maurer and of so many more, we held two commemorative services in the new chapel, attended by nearly a thousand people. The room had never been used before; it seemed fitting that these should be the first services held in it. Addresses were made by Mr. Melconian, Mr. Bagdikian, Mr. Yesayan, Dr. Nikoqosian, and the writer. Appropriate hymns were sung by the choir, under the direction of Mr. Gaizakian. The audience were greatly moved, and we believe that good was done. It is proposed that this summer a memorial volume be issued, containing English translations of the addresses; and that at some near day a tablet be dedicated in the new Hall, with the names of all our young martyrs upon it. Counting our dear son-in-law (who was acting President for a time, a few months before

his death), and Samuel Seferian, who was slain in Marash in 1895, there will be more than twenty names. Six of the martyrs were graduates, all in the ministry or studying for it. Their memories will enrich this Christian school. May their spirit ever abide in it ! I ought not to close this report without an expression of our gratitude to God for His protecting care throughout the year. How different are the circumstances of our people from what they were a year ago ! Through the efforts of our energetic Vali there is perfect security for all, and the places of the houses burned in the massacre are fast being taken by new ones ; a hundred and ten houses are in process of erection, nearly half the number of those destroyed. (More than 600 homes were looted and burned in Tarsus, but sometimes there were several of these in one large house). Our people are nearly all employed, so as to earn their living. Many widows and orphan girls are engaged in embroidery, under the superintendence of our Professor Imer and his wife. The money with which to start this work was given by the Vali. If the Young Turks continue as they have begun, nearly all traces of the fearful massacre of 1909 will soon have disappeared, and a new era of prosperity will open for this our much afflicted country.

Respectfully submitted (in behalf of the Faculty of St. Paul's College and Academy) to the Board of Managers and the Mission.

THOMAS D. CHRISTIE,
President.

Tarsus, June 13, 1910.



