

The Orient.

Dec. 14, 1910

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 35

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

12th Session (Dec. 7.) Several vizierial letters, and a communication from the Senate, were read and then were referred to the proper Committees. Then the speeches criticizing the policy of the Government were resumed. The speakers were Boshö Eff. (Serfide), Vlakoff (Salonika), Vartgess (Erzurum), Dalcheff (Seres), Lutfi Fikri Bey (Dersim), Hassan Bey and Fuad Pasha (Prishtina) Eftendis, and others, among whom were two who defended the Government, Ubeidullah Eff. and Aristidi Pasha (Smyrna). After the noon recess a vizierial letter was read enclosing a bill for the reorganization of the provinces. It was voted to commit the examination of this bill to a Committee consisting of fifteen members chosen in groups of three from each of the five sections. The speeches were resumed and continued till 11 p. m.

13th Session (Dec. 8.) It was voted to appoint a special Committee, two each from the five sections, to draw up a bill bearing on the protection of the rights of those owning immovable property. The criticism of the Government was resumed. The speakers were Ismail Hakki Bey (Gumuljina), Fazzul Eff. (Mosul), Sava, Abdul Vahib (Bolu), Karolidi, Boyajian (Adana), Mamapulo (Ergiri) and Daghavarian Eftendis and Essad Pasha, of Albania. At 3.45 p.m. the Grand Vizier began his speech, which lasted about four hours. Halil Bey, leader of the Union and Progress Party, announced that the supporters of the Government, would have an opportunity to speak during the Saturday session. The session closed at 9 p.m.

14th Session (Dec. 10.) After the despatch of minor business Khalil Bey of the Union and Progress Party made a speech. He deprecated the exaggerations in the criticisms contained in the speeches of the Opposition. He emphasized the real services rendered by his party, praised the course of the Government, and proposed that the discussion be closed. The President put to vote the proposition to continue the discussion. It was rejected amid great uproar. Then were read two resolutions; the first by Ferid Bey (Lazistan) deploring the mistakes and the inefficiency of the Cabinet. This was rejected. The second resolution was by Halil Bey, and stated that the explanations of the Government deserved a vote of confidence and asked that this be made the order of the day. This latter resolution was passed by a vote of 123 against 63. The Ministry then rose and left the Chamber amid the applause of the Assembly. An announcement was made that, on account of the Bairam Festival, Parliament would take a week's recess and resume its sessions on Monday, December 19th.

SPEECHES IN PARLIAMENT

BY THE OPPOSITION.

Boshö Eff. (Monastir). This Greek deputy described the general condition of the country as chaotic. The governor and sub-governors practically do as they please without any regard to mutual obligations and harmonious cooperation. The same thing is to be seen in the police and gendarmery. As to the department of education, as if the prevailing disorder were not sufficient, the Ministry tried to mix up in the affairs of the Patriarchates and interfere with the schools under their care. The Government has the right, within the limits of the law, to examine into the condition of the schools and see that they are carried on in the interests of the public, but it has no right to demand explanations from an individual teacher but rather from the manager of the school. Last year Parliament voted two million liras for the use of the Department of Public Works. What has become of this money? How has it been expended? During the enrollment of non-Moslem soldiers acts of great injustice had been committed so that the soldiers enrolled regarded their service as labor under coercion (Protests). There are more prisoners in Macedonia than ever before. The fault lies with the Government. The rights of the various nationalities, their religious and social rights, are not respected.

Forced conversions to Islam too have taken place. If persons become Moslems in accordance with certain definite regulations then we have nothing to say, but there are no such regulations and minors are accepted as Moslems in illegal ways.

Minister of Justice. There are such regulations and no illegal conversion has taken place.

Boshö Eff. There have been many cases.

Minister of Justice. If you prove a single case I will take back what I have said.

Boshö Eff. If I bring my evidences later then the Ministry must leave this hall (Great uproar).

The speaker was constantly interrupted and at one point engaged in bitter controversy with the Minister of the Interior. Uncomplimentary names were exchanged.

The President intervened and Boshö Eff. was obliged to retract what he had said.

Finally the speaker criticized the habit of borrowing in order to make up the treasury's deficit and closed by saying that what he and others had said was not aimed at individual Ministers but at the policy of the majority.

Vlakoff Eff. (Bulgarian Socialist). The Government should put into operation the law against bands in order to

protect law abiding villagers. The Constitution is to be kept strong by means of the people. Our duty is to protect the peasants against all those who make a personal profit out of them. We ought to rebuild industries destroyed by European competition. Labor unions should be permitted since we have the interests of 120,000 employers to consider. A labor law is also an absolute necessity whereas instead of that a law forbidding strikes has been passed. Women and children especially should be protected. Other countries are doing every thing to make the peasants landowners. Whereas we are doing nothing in this direction. In Bosnia and Hertzegovina from 1879 to 1907 700,000 liras were spent to help the villagers and as a result 24,000 families are land owners today. The same methods have been followed in Bulgaria and Greece.

Vartgess Eff. (Erzurum). For three days the Cabinet has been under the fire of criticism, but carefully considered criticism is rare. Some of the statements made are exaggerations. For instance Dr. Riza Tewfik says there is no Constitution, whereas our being here today is a contradiction of this claim. I too wish to criticize the Cabinet, but I am not of those who wish to see it fall.

Ferid Bey. Because in Eastern Anatolia the Cabinet is doing what you wish to have them do.

Vartgess Eff. Yes, they are trying to establish brotherhood there and not mix poison in the cup as you are doing. We should try to correct the Cabinet in its mistakes and not destroy its influence before the people. I shall point out the mistakes made. It is the duty of the Cabinet (1) to bind all the nationalities together as Ottomans, (2) to establish everywhere respect for the Government, (3) to prevent the return of the old regime, and (4) to establish the Constitution on firm foundations.

The speaker then emphasized the need of giving the utmost liberty to the nation's deputies. The arrest and imprisonment of Deputy Riza Nour was commented on.

The people are saying, we have not benefitted by the Constitution. They don't go in for fine distinctions; they want concrete results, schools, roads, railways, and lighter taxes. So far the Government has practically done nothing, but we must consider the welfare of the people. Fourteen million liras have been giving for the army, but for education thus far less than two million. As yet we have opened no schools for the Kurds. Are we going to send an army against them as we did against the Albanians in order to beat down their ignorance? If we fail to open schools for the Kurds we shall have a Kurdish question on our hands.

Vartgess Eff. after urging the need of reforms in Anatolia, of better officials, and of a thorough overhauling of the courts said that the land question was the most vital of all. When the land wrested from the rightful owners had been restored then and then only would peace and order become permanent.

Krikor Eff. Zohrab. (Constantinople.) The condition of the country gives cause for anxiety. I listened to the Grand-Vizier's speech with attention. At first I supposed that the statement was to be along broad lines, but I found

it to be some what limited in its scope. The Grand-Vizier spoke about the condition of Albania and other provinces, but these are details and not the domestic policy of the Government. It is necessary for him to explain what the policy of the Government is toward the various nationalities. The present policy of the Government shows an attitude of suspicion and harshness toward all of the nationalities. Under the old regime the same harshness was in evidence but only in the treatment of Christians whereas to day it is shown toward all. The Albanian affair is not a small matter but is connected with our foreign relations and our Macedonian problems. If we examine the geographical position of Albania we will see that it is fitted by nature to serve as a protection for Turkey. Instead of benefiting by this fact we have weakened it in two ways. Now what has been the attitude of the Ottoman nation toward the Albanians. If they had rebelled it was natural to restrain them but in political affairs no question is created spontaneously. It is the result of many other problems. Therefore it is impossible to examine this question from outside. The Government looked at this question only from one side and struck the blow in order to solve the matter. But the habit of drawing the sword from its sheath on every occasion is not good policy. Before this last affair an Albanian movement began and Djavid Pasha was sent to deal with the insurgents. On this occasion suggestions were made to the Government, but, in accordance with its usual course, it listened only to its officials and anything contrary to their statements was regarded as false. The Government paid no attention to what was said by the Albanian deputies. The Government said that it sent an army into Albania in order to institute reforms. As I understand it the declaration that roads are to be built and schools are to be opened is not a declaration of policy. The activity of the Government should manifest itself in accordance with a definite plan. The Grand-Vizier has said that there is a small appropriation in the budget but I am a member of the budget committee and have seen no appropriation for the carrying out of reforms in Albania. The reply may be made that we have neither money nor men for this purpose. This however should have been foreseen and drastic measures should not have been adopted. The Grand-Vizier says that in all seventeen persons were hung. Whereas I say that 5000 Ottomans were killed. We should not reckon only those killed in battle. Moreover the financial loss through this military movement against Albania has caused Turkey a loss of three million liras. What great things could not have been done for Albania with this money?

I agree that the new regime could not follow the policy of the old, but it might have entered into relations with the people themselves, instead of considering the attitude of a few leaders, who have been under the influence of the Hamidian regime. The same harshness was manifest in the process of disarming and complaints came not only from Albania but from all parts of Roumelia. If we attempt to disarm the population before the gendarmery is organized the importation of other arms is not difficult. I would like to ask the Grand-Vizier a question. Is the Government going to carry out the same plan of disarming in other parts of the Empire? If so, we shall have neither money nor men to accomplish it. If all this happened in Albania, I would say that the Government is waiting for insurrections to take place in order to

institute reforms. What have you gained from your course in Albania? If you have increased dissatisfaction then your policy has been of a bad one.

Can you deny that the Albanians are dissatisfied? In this way you have torn asunder the bonds which bind this people to the Ottoman fatherland. All those who love our country regret exceedingly the military movement against Albania, and I repeat that I consider the policy of the Government pursued in Albania as a very great mistake and productive of lamentable results.

I ask the special attention of the Chamber with respect to the Macedonian problem. Our position is full of danger. German and Slav, Italian and Greek influences are at work there. If we add to these domestic difficulties, it will complicate matters. Alongside of the Greeks and Bulgarians in Macedonia are Greece and Bulgaria. They will not settle down until we deal with them on the basis of equality. The Moslem colonisation of Macedonia signifies suspicion of the people of Macedonia. If the Government is just toward all, the Greeks and Bulgarians will become most faithful subjects.

The Grand Vizier.—Zohrab Eff. says that the Government regards all Greeks and Bulgarians with suspicion. Being a Greek or a Bulgarian does not prevent one from being a good Ottoman, but those who commit crimes with bombs and other similar means are worthy objects of suspicion, while others who are instigated to do wrong may possibly be good Ottomans (Applause).

Zohrab Eff.—Does the Government respect the law? I consider that it has not, as in the matter of the arrests made. The law resembles honor; when once it is violated it is difficult to restore it. Instead of harshness we ought to follow a more sympathetic policy. In Eastern Anatolia we need a railway whereas the Government has put aside the Chester scheme. The Grand-Vizier said that in case of necessity he would send troops into Asia Minor, but what is needed is not troops but railroads, just as in Albania. The Government has established law and order so far as possible, and for this I am grateful, but the need of railroads is imperative for the sake of the transportation of products and to establish law and order. The Government ought also to give a final solution to the land question.

THE GRAND VIZIER'S REPLY

TO CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

It has been stated that Hakki Pasha replied to the criticisms made on the policy of the Government in a speech lasting four hours. In the following paragraphs, only a few of the more salient points in his reply are given.

It is possible that the Government has made mistakes so that it is necessary to discuss the whole matter frankly before the Parliament.

The fact that the custom's duties for this year show an increase of 300,000 liras over last year is a sufficient answer to those who say that trade is at a standstill this year.

The land question in Anatolia is very important and a bill has been prepared to meet the requirements of the case. The Government is honestly trying to establish law and order. The people of Anatolia are learning that fraternal relations bring good results and we hope that the Government will not be obliged to adopt stringent measures.

The Government regretted exceedingly the necessity of placing Riza Nour Bey under arrest. If, as has been said, we persecuted this deputy in order to prevent the organisation of a new party, this would be a sufficient reason for our condemnation. The facts are these. Riza Nour Bey received a

card from Sherif Pasha (Paris) introducing the bearer as 19-91, that is a member of his secret organisation. Riza Nour Bey denied receiving this card. The fact of his denial increased the suspicion of the Government at a time when it was known that a secret Committee was in process of organisation. In view of the fact that Parliament was not in session, he was arrested by the Government under the provisions of the 79th article.

In regard to the objections with reference to the schools, I will reply that the Constitution lays down the principle of uniformity in education, and the aim of those opening schools is to produce loyal and practical men. We wish to have the Turkish language taught in the schools, and in fact for patriotic purposes we demand that the children of one country should be trained to have a common feeling. The requirement in regard to teachers is that their certificates shall be endorsed and surely no harm can result if an examiner is present at the lessons now and then. The presence of teachers who are foreign subjects is likely to give place to political complications.

According to the Chester Plan railroads to the length of 2000 kilometers were to be built. But if we had accepted this plan we would have given away, for a period of eighty years, all the mines in an area covering eighty thousand square kilometers. The Chester scheme, more over, infringed on the terms of Bagdad Railway agreement. If the American Government will intervene for the modification of these demands, we can bring this railroad scheme before Parliament.

We have no need of becoming socialists, because Moslems are already socialists in the sense that the showing of mercy and being mutually helpful are accepted as our duties.

The movement in Albania was due to the fact that practically no Government existed there. Our aim was to deliver the people from the evil influence of a few leaders. The first need was a Government and then the reform of the country. As a result of disarmament in the three months the cases of crime have been only 20 as compared with the 232 of the corresponding three months of last year. The Ottoman Government has undertaken military measures in Bagdad, in Yemen, and even in Anatolia. Why should Albania be regarded as an exception? Are not the Albanians a part of the Ottoman nation?

Djavid Bey signed an agreement with a group of capitalists in Paris, but the French Government intervened and imposed conditions which we could not accept. If we had accepted them, you would have condemned us for doing so. My journey to Paris did not affect the loan but rather the attitude of the French Press and the replies given by a section of the Ottoman Press were the factors. If in the question of the loan any one is aggrieved it is not France, but Turkey. It is not necessary to bring Great Britain into this affair. Naturally, Great Britain would not take hand in a loan which had been refused by France.

I do not agree with Ferid Bey's statements in regard to the policy of France and Great Britain. In the Lynch question we are not in disagreement with the British Government. When I say that we are in friendly relations with all the Powers I am telling the simple truth. The integrity of Turkey and the *status quo*, are guaranteed by the Paris Treaty, which is signed by the Powers in the Triple Alliance as well as those in the Triple Entente Cordiale. If there are any in Europe who are doubtful as to the outcome of our Constitution this is only natural, as always at the beginning of new enterprises.

The situation in Crete is delicate. The Powers have agreed to maintain our sovereign rights in the island. The foreign Consuls have declared that, even if the Moslem deputies of the Cretan assembly agree to the annexation of Crete to Greece, they will not give their consent. The final solution of this vexed question is near at hand.

EDWARD HENRY OZMUN

AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

It is with the keenest regret that we are called upon to announce the death of the Hon. Edward H. Ozmun, American Consul-General at Constantinople. He died on Friday morning at 5 o'clock Dec. 9th, after an illness of only four days. The seriousness of his condition was not known until Thursday, when an operation was necessary. Unfortunately Mr. Ozmun was too weak to undergo the operation. His sudden death brought a great shock to the whole community. Mr. Ozmun had won a high place in the esteem of all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a man of the strictest integrity, most courteous in all his relations, and very welcome in every circle, because of his warm-hearted and genial personality. All the Americans in Constantinople were proud of Mr. Ozmun as a representative of their Government and it is safe to say that he was accepted by all communities as a man who honored his profession and his office.

The funeral services took place at the American Embassy on Sunday afternoon. They were conducted by the Rev. Robert Frew assisted by President Gates of Robert College. The lower reception rooms were beautifully and appropriately decorated. The playing of the organ by Mr. Smith Lyte and the singing by a special choir were particularly impressive. Those who gathered to do the last honors to the memory of Consul-General Ozmun included a very large number of representatives from the American and British colonies as well as representatives from the various Embassies and Consulates, and from the native communities of the city. The interment took place at the British Cemetery in Haidar Pasha.

In behalf of all the readers of *The Orient* we would like to extend to Mrs. Ozmun and to her two children our deepest sympathy in this sudden and great loss which they have sustained.

Mr. Ozmun was born on Aug. 6th, 1856. He was educated in the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan and graduated from the latter in 1881. Then he studied law and practiced in St. Paul, Minnesota. For five years he was the counsel of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, and for seven years was the President of the St. Paul Bar Association. He held other important offices and was very active in the political affairs of the state. In 1897 he was appointed Consul at Stuttgart, Germany, and in May 1906 he came to Constantinople as Consul-General. In 1906 he was appointed a member of the Consular Reorganization Board, which was called to Washington to assist the Department of State in reorganising the consular service.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

Weather report. For the week—Dec. 3–10.

Maximum temperature	(Dec. 9)	53.5° F
Minimum	(Dec. 8)	35.2°

Rainfall:—

Dec. 35 inches
Dec. 406 "
Total for month to date69 "

On Wednesday the 7th, we had the pleasure of having Mr. W. W. Peet and Mrs. Peet, of the Bible House, to dinner and to spend the night. Through their long residence here and Mr. Peet's personal acquaintance not only with all the missions and missionaries, but one might almost say with every American who comes to Turkey, in the way of counselor, rescuer from difficulties with customs, difficulties financial, and the numerous other difficulties, foreseen and unforeseen, which one is sure to encounter, we have learned to look upon him as one who speaks with knowledge and authority on all practical affairs in the Orient.

On Thursday afternoon, the 8th, the first of the lectures to women in the Turkish language on Hygiene was given at the Bible House. Dr. Akil Mohkhtar Bey, member of the medical faculty of the University, and also of the Health Commission, spoke on the Cholera, and at the close of the lecture slips printed in Turkish, giving the important precautions to be taken were distributed. The audience was good considering the change of the place of meeting, and that it had been announced only through the Press, and every one paid the closest attention.

On Friday, we had Mr. Erickson, of Albania, as our guest over night.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Chambers of Bardezag also arrived on Friday and spent Sunday with us. Mr. Chambers had charge of the service on Sunday morning.

Miss Prime addressed the Christian Association Sunday evening.

Miss Baidzar Dayan, an Alumna of the College, who had been head of the Armenian Department for eleven years has opened a school for girls in Scutari this year, which fits students for Freshman class of the College.

There was great need of this school when the Preparatory Department of the College was removed to Arnaoutkeuy, and Miss Dayan has already fifty scholars and a good staff of teachers. She expects to prepare three candidates for the Freshman class for next year.

Miss Dayan has herself undertaken all the financial responsibility of the enterprise, investing for the purpose money which she had intended to use for further study. There is some hope that the Government may help this school, as under the new regime money is appropriated by the Government for schools among the Christian subjects of the Empire to a certain extent.

ARMINIUS VAMBERY, ORIENTALIST.

Arminius Vambery is a Hungarian of Jewish parentage and was born in Szerdahely in 1832. When a young man he came to Constantinople in the capacity of a private teacher and began the study of oriental languages. Later he travelled extensively in Persia and Central Asia. During one of his pilgrimages he was disguised as a dervish. On his return to Pesth he was appointed professor of oriental languages in the University. He has been a prolific writer on oriental subjects. His principal works were translated by himself into English, and have appeared in several other languages. One of them treats of the history, traditions, languages, and literatures of the various Turkish tribes in Asia and Europe.

DEDICATION SERVICE OF NEW BUILDING of the

ANATOLIA GIRLS SCHOOL AT MARSOVAN

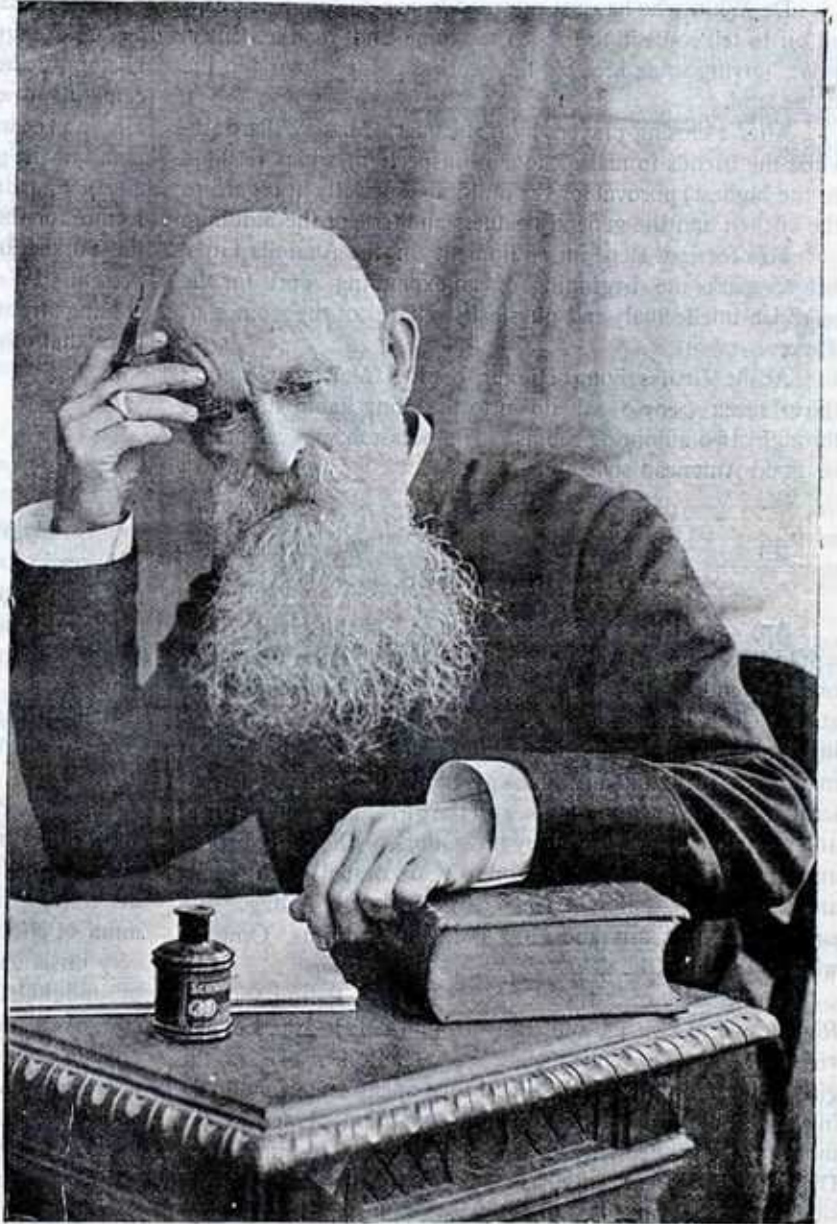
On the afternoon of Nov. 23^d there was held, in the new building of the Anatolia Girls' School, a gathering of much interest and significance. It was in the nature of a Thanksgiving and Dedicatory Service of the building where the meeting was held.

The guests, ushered by the girls of the school, had taken their seats in the large room opening into the central hall when at two o'clock the service was opened by the rendering of the Thanksgiving Hymn; "At all times Praise the Lord," by a mixed chorus of sixty five voices under the direction of Prof. Daghlian.

Miss Willard, Principal of the School and the leader in the work for the new building, welcomed the guests and sketched the work which this advance in equipment would make possible, making special mention of the separation of the higher from preparatory classes and the introduction of Domestic Science.

Mrs. Getchell spoke from her experience as former teacher and acquaintance with the earlier workers of "The Earlier Days of the School."

After a soprano solo by Miss Platt, "Fear Ye Not Oh Israel" from Dudley Buck, Pampish Anna spoke in Turkish. Miss Willard in introducing her said "She has touched the lives of more girls than any other woman in Marsovan, and perhaps in Turkey."



PROFESSOR ARMINIUS VAMBERY.

As Dr. Tracy spoke of the "old gold" of our memories of the work, special tribute was given to the most golden memory of Miss Fritcher, who had founded the school. The development not alone in brick and mortar, but in the spirit and life of the institution in its constant radiation of influence, was the theme of his words.

The choir then rendered Bruce Steans Anthem, "Come Ye Thankful People, Come."

Miss Ward acquainted those present with a summary of the financial struggle connected with the building and the

present efforts of girls and graduates in raising money to furnish the school.

Dr. White who has just returned from a furlough was called on to tell something of "The Home End of the Enterprise," giving some idea of the work of the Board in the home land.

After a closing prayer by Mr. Elmer, Miss Willard invited the friends to make a tour of inspection, which resulted in the highest approval for the building especially in regard to the kitchen and the general neatness and taste of the building.

This forward step in equipment in the Anatolia Girls' School marks the beginning of an expanding work for the spiritual, intellectual and physical welfare of the women of Turkey.

At the Thanksgiving Dinner of the Marsovan station thirty seven people sat down to the long table stretching through two adjoining rooms. The occasion was celebrated in good American style.

BROUSA NOTES.

Any one visiting the Brousa School, Thanksgiving Day, would have found a very happy company, and a very large one. Friends and graduates came in to the morning service at 11 o'clock. Special songs had been prepared, Thanksgiving Psalms were recited by the different classes, the Proclamation was read, and an address given by Mr. Baldwin. The afternoon was devoted to games with the girls, and in the evening an entertainment was given by the seniors. The school room and dining room were very prettily decorated with greens and flowers, the seniors having charge of the decorating. We enjoyed having Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Ombach with us through the day.

On Tuesday of last week, Nov. 29, Dr. Patton and Mr. Riggs came to visit us, and with them, Mr. Erickson. Their visit will long be remembered. Dr. Patton spoke to the girls at the morning exercises, and then spent some time looking about the property and taking pictures. Later in the morning the gentlemen visited the points of interest in Brousa. Dr. Patton was very enthusiastic over the city, its beautiful situation, and more than all, its wonderful opportunities for work. Several times, he said he wished he might live here, and he expressed the most earnest desire that the work be enlarged in every direction and that every effort be made to strengthen the work. In the evening some of the men of the church came in to meet him, and to talk over the future of the church. Dr. Patton gave them a most helpful talk, and they seemed greatly encouraged by all he said.

Mr. Baghdasarian and his sister are certainly doing all they can for the church. The choir has grown to between 25 and 30. The Young Men's Christian Association is meeting regularly, and there is a plan to form a Young Women's Association. The Sunday School is increasing in numbers. Mr. Baghdasarian is preaching now in Armenian, but is studying Turkish that he may use that also. A young men's orchestra

has been formed and the young people all seem much interested.

On Friday night of last week, Dec. 2, a very interesting lecture was given at the School, by Vehby Bey, teacher of History in the Turkish Military College. A number of friends came in to enjoy the lecture, as it was given in Turkish. His subject was the Progress of Civilization, and taking up many of the great countries of the world, he pointed out the advance made in many directions. It was a most instructive lecture for the girls and very interesting to all. Several of the Turkish officers and their wives, parents of our girls, were present. We regret that the quarantine will prevent friends coming from Constantinople to lecture at present, but we hope that other lecturers will be found in Brousa.

AN ARMENIAN PAINTER.

If only as the first Oriental lady to give an exhibition of pictures in London, Miss Zabelle C. Boyajian would receive a welcome, and, fortunately, the quality of some of her work—at the Elysée Galleries, a few doors from the Queen's Road 'Tube' Station—makes that welcome deserved. Miss Boyajian, whose father was an Armenian and acting Consul for Great Britain in Diarbekir escaped from the massacres of 1896, and came to this country, where she studied at the Slade School of Art. Her most mature work is in landscape and in water-colour. "A Farm in Cumberland" (1), "In the Pyrenees" (4), and "Street in Villefranche, Aveyron" (12), to name only three, are quite brilliant little things. Miss Boyajian does not waste her colour; she uses it frugally and directly, getting the maximum of effect out of white paper, so that her drawings are very brisk and alive. Her oil landscapes, notably two studies of sunlight in Savoy, "Les Fontaines, Hte. Savoie, Autume" (7), and "Au Café de Vallon" (23), are interesting, but they have not the same personal expressiveness of technique as her water-colours. Her figure studies, including several portraits and interiors, are inclined to be weak in drawing, particularly in the hands, but they are very sincerely painted. It is interesting to learn that Miss Boyajian writes as well as paints, having described her Armenian experiences in a novel entitled "Yesther."

ST. JAMES GAZETTE.

Miss Boyajian is a cousin of Rev. A. B. Schmayonian, pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Constantinople, and of Mr. A. K. Schmayonian, Legal Adviser at the American Embassy.

EMPIRE NEWS.

The Capital.

The Military Tribunal has suppressed the *Kibar*, the *Insaniet* and the *Hur Memleket*.

The Custom's Department announces that beginning on the 19th of Dec. there will be an auction in the Sirkedji Custom House of unclaimed goods. With the exception of Friday, Saturday and Sunday there will be a sale every day at 10 a.m.

The Supreme Court of Leipzig has decreed that Abdul Hamid's deposits in the German Imperial Bank must be turned over to the Ottoman Government. The sum amounts to eighteen million marks.

A telegram from St. Petersburg reports very severe weather in Central Asia. Near Tashkend one hundred peasants and a large number of cattle were frozen to death.

On Friday the Armenian National Assembly met and, as a result of the organisation of the new Central Party, the long postponed question of the Patriarch's resignation was taken up. His resignation was accepted and a new executive council was chosen. The Tashnagists refused to vote and withdrew from the Assembly.

The newly ordained Armenian bishops returning from Etchmiadzin, report that His Holiness the Catholicos is in the best of health and has begun the work of reconstructing the affairs of the Monastery.

The principal of the Nersessian school in Tiflis Mr. Stepan Lissitzian, the son of the well known Armenian General in the Russian Army, gave an interesting lecture in Pera last Sunday on the origin of the Armenian people. He has no faith in Prof. Jessen's theory that the Armenians are the descendants of the Hittites. The lecture laid special emphasis on what Christianity did for Armenian Civilization.

The fact that the Parliament passed a vote of confidence in the Cabinet was telegraphed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior to the Ottoman Ambassadors in foreign countries and to the governors in the provinces.

The Minister of the Interior has sent a circular to the provincial authorities stating that in many cases injustice has been done to non-Moslems and that he calls on all officials, who have been guilty of such a course, to change their methods and be absolutely impartial and friendly in their relations with Christians.

Great preparations are being made to give a very cordial reception to the French Deputies who will visit the Capital soon to return the visit of the Ottoman Deputies in Paris.

The *Jeune Turc* has been suppressed. The *Osmanischer Lloyd* thinks that the reason for this action was the appearance of articles criticising the Italian Government in the Hodeyda affair. In place of the *Jeune Turc* a paper named *L'Orient* has appeared.

The Festival of Kourban-Bairam began on Monday. H. M. the Sultan attended in state the service in the Noursreddin mosque at Tophane. Afterward he held a reception at the Dolma Baghtché Palace which was attended by the ministers, high officials, deputies, senators, officers, the heads of religious communities, and the representatives of foreign Embassies.

A group of individuals have presented a plan to the Minister of Public Works for the construction of a tunnel from Yeni Djiami, at the Stamboul end of bridge, to the Great Bazar.

The sheep brought from Anatolia and Roumelia to Constantinople for the Kourban Bairam Festival numbered 240,000.

Cholera in Constantinople. From Dec. 7th to Dec. 14th there were 97 new cases with 55 deaths.

THE PROVINCES.

La Turquie announces that M. Miron, the civil engineer, and his assistants have arrived in Erzurum and that work on the construction of the road from Erzurum to Harpoot has begun.

A telegram from Uskub to the Ottoman Agency says that the news published in the foreign papers about the Albanian movement gives a greatly exaggerated impression and adds that Albanian refugees are returning from Montenegro and quiet is being restored.

For more than a week there have been no cases of cholera in Rodosto.

After the bomb outrage in Koumanova, the Committee of Union and Progress, issued a circular for distribution among the various clubs. It contains an appeal for the closer union of the various nationalities and reads as follows. "Love your compatriots as yourselves. Do not foster a spirit of enmity. All the children of the fatherland are equal. The greatness of our country will consist in the closer union of all citizens. By criminal acts some have tried to destroy fraternal

harmony. It is wrong to condemn a whole race for the faults of a few. On the contrary, it is necessary to show that the friendly relations between compatriots are above such dastardly crimes. The Government is awake; sooner or later those guilty will be caught, and will atone for their sin, for which the innocent shall not be tortured, although this is the plan of the criminals. Fellow patriots, be magnanimous."

The election of the municipal council in Cesarea resulted in the choice of six Armenians and one Turk.

Military law has been declared in Damascus. *La Turquie* infers that this is due to the decision to disarm the population of Syria. Damascus is a city of 300,000 inhabitants.

On the occasion of Bairam a large number of prisoners in Adana were granted an Imperial pardon and have been released.

Affairs in the Hauran have again assumed a grave aspect. The insurgents in large numbers have attacked the Hijaz railway. Several stations have been destroyed and some of the officials killed. These events have been taking place largely between Karana and Seifieh. On the day that the attack was made the mail train from Damascus was seized. The engineer and conductor were killed and the passengers were held as captives. The city of Herk has been completely surrounded by Bedouins. The reason for this sudden attack on Kerk is not known but probably has a connection with the sending of Government officials to that city to take a census and to institute reforms. It is said that the War Department will send twenty five regiments to this district for the relief of Kerk and the protection of the railway.

Mihran Eff. Zohrab, brother of the member of Parliament Krikor Eff., has been appointed Governor of Gumshikhane.

La Turquie publishes the following explanation of the rebellion of Seid Idris. The nephews of this Arab chief graduated from the El-Azhar university at Cairo, and started to go on a visit to their uncle. At Hodeyda they were stopped by the government and imprisoned. When finally by the intercession of friends they were released and reached their uncle, they told him of their experiences in prison. Seid Idris was so enraged that he ordered Seid Moustafa to collect 5000 men and surround the city of Ibha in Asir and take possession of the person of the Mutasarif.

The last dispatches from Hodeyda indicate that all communications with the province of Asir have been cut off by the Arab rebels, whose numbers are given variously from four to ten thousand.

A number of Albanians concerned in the recent movement have been pardoned by H. M. the Sultan.

The Vali of Aleppo has issued a very emphatic and courageous proclamation against men of position and wealth throughout the province, who have become notorious for their oppression of the poor. In very strong and direct language, and supporting his statements by frequent quotations from the Koran, he warns them that their present course of oppression is both wrong and contrary to law, and declares that henceforth it will be the special business of the provincial government to secure equal justice for all. The proclamation has been officially posted in the different cities of the province, and has made a profound impression.

Prof. L. H. Babikian of Central Turkey College, prospecting on behalf of a local company, recently formed in Aintab, for the development of the natural resources of the surrounding country, has discovered considerable deposits of bituminous coal about twenty miles west of the city, and rock formations bearing mineral tar, about forty-five miles south-west of the city. The company has already made application for permission to work the coal deposits.

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