

The Orient.

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JOURNALISM IN TURKEY.

1832—1908.

In the *Avedaper* of September 17th an article by a well known Turkish scholar gives a brief survey of the beginnings of Journalism in Turkey, its development, and its vicissitudes up to the fall of Abdul Hamid. The writer says that the pioneer of journalism in the Ottoman Empire was an Hungarian Moslem, whose efforts proved all but fruitless through the corruption of Sultan Ahmed's Court and the bigoted opposition of the Moslem clergy. Under Sultan Selim III the reform movement gained headway but his tragic death put a stop to it until Sultan Mahmoud, the Peter the Great of Turkey, quenched the fires of fanaticism and reactionism in a sea of blood. It was in Sultan Mahmoud Second's day that the first Turkish paper was started in Constantinople, in 1832, the *Takvim-i Vekaie*. A year previous to this he had ordered to be published a paper in the French language for the purpose of setting forth the policy of the Sublime Porte. The name of this paper was the *Monitor Orientale* and the editor was the celebrated Mr. Alexander Black. The Turkish official organ at first published official documents, legal enactments, and the acts of the Government.

Sultan Mahmoud's successor, Sultan Abdul Mejid, also encouraged the development of journalism and as a consequence European ideas spread among the people rapidly, so that in 1851 there were being published thirteen dailies and periodicals in the languages of the country. Two of these were in the Turkish language. It was very largely through the influence of the press that England, France and Italy were brought into friendly relations with Turkey and expressed their sympathy with the reform movement. The Turkish press was slowly preparing the minds of the ruling race to recognize their Christian subjects as helpful compatriots, and through its influence the opposition to the *Tanzimat* (plan of reform) was very much modified from the start.

[It is interesting to note that the *Avedaper*, an Armenian periodical, began to be published in 1855 by the missionaries of the American Board and has continued without interruption up to the present time].

In the days of Abdul Aziz the number of daily newspapers increased. In 1866 in Constantinople alone the number of dailies and periodicals was thirty-six, all in the languages of the country, and the majority in Turkish. After the reorganization of the *vilayets* each province had its own official organ. The *Touna* was published in Turkish and Bul-

garian in Rustchuk, the *Bosna* in Turkish and Servian in Bosna-Serai, and the *Erzroom* in Turkish and Armenian in Erzroom. Among the enlightened Turks a broad plan of reform and national regeneration was being outlined, and the movement toward Europeanizing the country was so strong that the celebrated Liberal publicist, Kemal Bey, himself the leader of "the intellectuals," in a letter cautioned his followers not alarm the people and thus prepare the soil for reaction.

During the decade from 1866—1876 the Ottoman press worked with a fine enthusiasm. Midhat Pasha, the statesmen and Kemal Bey, the writer, were the leaders. The latter revolutionized the Turkish language by simplifying it and making it understandable to the common people. His impressive style, sometimes bitter, his sarcasm, his patriotism, and best virtue of all, his incorruptible pen, gave him an unlimited popularity.

In 1876 the number of papers in Turkish had increased to thirteen. One paper was published in Arabic and the remaining papers in other languages of the country numbered thirty-three. *Basiret* was the organ of the conservatives and *Vakut* that of the Liberals, the editor of which was Kemal Pashazadeh Said Bey, other papers were as follows,—*Istikbal*, editor, Ali Shevkati; *Sadakat*, organ of the Young Turks; *Ittihad*; *Sabah*; *Shemss*; *Tasviri Efkiar*, editor-in-chief Shinası Effendi, editors Kemal Bey and Ebouzıa Tefvik Bey; and *Ibret*, editor, Kemal Bey. The comic papers of the day were *Kheyal*, *Karageoz*, *Diozhen*, *Zungerdakluh*, *Tatar*, and *Zailak*.

The press enjoyed practically perfect freedom, even at the beginning of Abdul Hamid's reign. This sovereign established his monarchical tyranny by degrees. By means of his crafty cunning he succeeded in muzzling the press and in emasculating it by depriving it of all force, ideas, and spirit. Abdul Hamid first of all suppressed the *Kheyal*, a comic paper, which in spite of a suit opened against it, continued its biting tirades. Enraged at articles written by Zia Pasha and published in the *Istikbal* Abdul Hamid suppressed the paper. Soon after he began to persecute the *Vakut* and finally suppressed it. Said Bey, the editor, was then called to edit the *Tarik*, but Abdul Hamid's persecutions obliged him to withdraw from the profession of journalism. But as it was impossible for him to keep silent, and not criticize, he was exiled to Sana. For years he was imprisoned there and finally so heavy a shroud of silence surrounded him that it was feared that he had shared the fate of Midhat Pasha and his companions. But a few days after the proclamation of the Constitution the news that Said Bey was alive and well brought a joyful sense of relief.

Kemal Bey's *Ibret* and Shinasi's *Tasviri Efkiar* played the most important part of all in spreading European ideas. What infinite enthusiasm and boundless faith Kemal Bey had in the future of this country! Filled with affection for the people he loved, he criticized and ridiculed their errors and misconceptions. Enraptured by his devotion to the Constitution and to freedom, he carried on an obstinate and fierce struggle against Abdul Hamid, who finally had him arrested and sent into exile. This renowned exile died in Mytelene. The crafty Sultan had his body removed and buried in Boulaïr, and took his son, Ali Ekrem, to the palace, not to adopt him, but to stifle his instincts, and in this he succeeded. The wily Abdul Hamid crushed those writers who were incorruptible and others who were lacking in will power he won by blandishments. He was successful in reducing to servility one of the most prolific and popular writers of the day, Ahmed Midhat Effendi, who had just returned from exile, to which he had been condemned for his liberal opinions before the abdication of Sultan Abdul Aziz. Ahmed Midhat Effendi justified the disenthronement of Sultan Mourad, he ridiculed the Ottoman Parliament, and was appointed editor of the *Terdjiman-i-Hakkikat*, a paper established by the Sultan's money and there after sang his praises. Sultan Hamid gained much but Midhat Effendi lost every thing. Today might he have been the authoritative voice in the Young Turkey Party, but he is already forgotten and cast aside.

A few months after Abdul Hamid came to the throne there were Turkish papers to give some of the news and to serve as organs of flattery, but the real Press, with a consciousness of its high mission, was dead. The scissors of the censor, exile, the prison, the fear of suppression had killed journalism. The daily newspapers published were the *Terdjiman-i-Hakkikat*, *Saadet*, *Sabah*, and the *Ikdam*. Besides there were periodicals, among which the *Servet-i-Funoun* deserves mention for its services to literature and art. All these publications were condemned to be silent when they ought to have spoken and to publish that which was false and hypocritical.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

The American College for Girls entered on the new scholastic year on Thursday morning, September 14th. The special opening exercises were held on Friday morning, when Dr. Patrick addressed the students. On Sunday, the 18th, Dr. Patrick also preached the opening sermon of the year. In her clear and earnest presentation of the Golden Rule as a fundamental guide to daily conduct Dr. Patrick pointed out that our acts must be the result of right thoughts in order to be really in harmony with this principle.

The removal of the Preparatory School to Arnaoutkuey brings several changes. We miss, of course, the friendly daily intercourse with staff and students, but the relief from the crowded conditions of last year gives additional comfort to all, and the quiet thus secured will be an aid to better study as well.

Several improvements in the domestic department are welcomed alike by faculty and students and we feel that the better physical conditions will add considerably to the efficiency of our intellectual work as well as to our social life.

The faculty remains largely the same as last year, but some changes have occurred. Professor Isabel F. Dodd, who is spending the year in America, will be greatly missed. Miss Baidzar Dayan leaves us to open an Armenian Preparatory School for Girls in Scutari. We also lose the services of Herr Fuhrmann in the German Department. On the other hand we are glad to announce that the Turkish in both the College and Preparatory School will be under the direction of Tewfik Fikret Bey; also that Fraulein Ingeborg Jannasch will have charge of the German, whose presence in the College will make a German table possible, with increased use of the spoken language; that Mr. Hovhan Hagopian will be at the head of the Armenian Department this year; and that the French Department will be strengthened by the assistance of Mlle Migette. Miss Gladys Thomson and Miss Nazli Halid, of the class of 1910, return as assistants.

We are glad to announce that Mr. T. G. Jackson, R.A., L. L. D., Hon. Fellow of Warham College, Oxford, F.S.A., the celebrated English Architect, will lecture at the College on Wednesday, September 28th, at 2.30 P.M. on University Life at Oxford.

THE GREEK PATRIARCHATE AND THE GOVERNMENT

Affairs at Fanar have been at white heat for some days past, and have been followed with the keenest interest by Ottomans and foreigners alike. The question was at first whether the Greek Patriarch would dare, in spite of the explicit prohibition of the Government, to convoke a National Assembly on Sept. 14. The day came and the Assembly was convoked, but whether the Assembly was officially convened seems to be a disputed point. At all events the Government was prepared, and the arrest of the lay delegates followed, at least of as many as the police could secure after they left the Patriarchate.

The next step was the preparation of a *takrir* (an official document) addressed to the Government by the Greek Council setting forth the future intentions of the Patriarchate with reference to a National Assembly. The *takrir* was duly prepared and forwarded to the Minister of Justice at his residence in Prinkipo, but was brought back because of the Minister's absence. Then, in the Council, a dispute arose as to whether the form of the *takrir* should be amended and read to the Patriarchate for the present withdraws from its purpose of convening a National Assembly, instead of temporarily postpones the convening of a National Assembly. The majority of the Council and two members of the Synod favored the amendment. The Patriarch, however, supported by seven members of the Synod and six of the Council stoutly op-

posed the change on the ground that it would offend the sense of the honor of the Greek people. The Patriarch yielded to the wish of the majority and signed the *takrir* in the amended form, but announced his intention to resign. Deeply stirred over what had taken place he left for his residence in Boyadji-keuy and, contrary to his custom, sent the carriage used by him back to the Patriarchate. When later the reply of the Minister of Justice was forwarded to him he wrote on the back of the document, "In a fatherly spirit I recommend that the representatives of the people to whom this duty belongs do whatever is necessary. (signed) Joachim III, ex-Patriarch."

In view of the position taken by the Council it is thought that the Government will deal leniently with the 22 delegates who are under arrest.

THE KHURKAÏ SHEREEF.

The ceremony of the *Khurkaï Shereef* (Kissing of the Prophet's Mantle) took place on Monday. During Abdul Hamid's reign this 15th day of Ramazan was always one of terror for the people and especially for the Armenians. The Sultan's emergence from his gilded prison was characterized by the most extraordinary precautions for his safety during his brief trip to Seraglio Point. It is said that some Armenians were accustomed to give themselves up to the police two or three days before hand and ask to be imprisoned in order to escape a possible arrest as suspects in case an attempt were made on the Sultan's life.

That times have changed in Turkey was never better illustrated than last Monday when the respected Sovereign of the Ottoman Empire, without ostentation and fear, went and performed his vows in the presence of the revered relic of the Prophet of Islam.

EMPIRE NEWS.

The Capital.

According to the *Stamboul*, Talaat Bey, Minister of Interior, is preparing an extensive program of reorganisation in the provinces. When this program goes into effect ten Valis and twenty Mutesarifs will be transferred and several military governors will be appointed. It is said that the reorganisation of the provinces will be undertaken after the feast of Baïram.

A Committee has been appointed, with Riza Pasha ex-Minister of Marine as President to investigate and report on the best way of strengthening the fortifications of the Bosphorus and of the Dardanelles.

The Ottoman Navy is to be divided into two squadrons. The first will consist of the battle-ships *Torgood Reis*, *Barbaros*

Kaïreddin, and *Mesudié*, and the cruisers *Hamidié* and *Medjidié*, with six torpedo boats. This squadron is to visit, after Baïram, Beïrut, Haïfa, and Jaffa. The second squadron will consist of the cruisers, *Berku Saffet* and *Peyku Shefket*, and the torpedo destroyers, *Yadigari Millet*, *Monaveneti Miliéh*, *Gaireti Vatanieh*, *Noomouni Hamiet*, this squadron will follow the first in visiting the southern ports. The ships held in reserve will be *Asari Teffik*, *Fetti Bulend*, *Avnoullah*, *Muini Zaffer* and several others.

The Committee, appointed for preparing a scheme for strengthening the fortifications of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, also has instructions to transform the harbors of Smyrna and Salonica into strongly fortified naval stations; also to report as to the military importance of other points on the Mediterranean seaboard.

His Majesty the Sultan gave a present of 15 liras to Paskal Eff. Pekmezian, an Armenian teacher in the school for the Deaf and Dumb.

It seems to be an established fact that cholera has made its appearance in Constantinople. A Greek woman in Haskeyu has died of it, and the case of a Turk in the Sirkedji quarter, who was suddenly taken ill and died within ten hours, is still under investigation.

The Ministry has appropriated 20,000 liras to meet the expenses of a campaign against cholera in the Capital.

THE PROVINCES.

It is reported that the Boycott Committee in Kosova, is levying a tax of from one to five liras on each Greek subject to help to continue the boycott. A Hellene, Aleko by name, refused to pay the amount demanded and was killed by the boycotters. Great excitement prevailed in the city and the people united to demand the punishment of the murderers.

The famous brigand Chakurdjalu attacked a caravan in the neighborhood of Oedemish and killed five people, including a woman and a boy.

Hussein Pasha, head of the Hoydeddan tribe of Kurds in the Kara Killisseh region, telegraphs to the *Tanine* as follows: "Souleyman Soudi Effendi, deputy from Bayazid, addressed us on the benefits of the constitution and awakened the interest of all of us in the devoted services of the Committee of Union and Progress. All the leaders and the clergy are becoming members. I also with my whole tribe have come to Kara Killisseh to record my name as a member."

In Erzeroum since the beginning of September there have been 164 cases of cholera, of which 112 proved fatal.

In Trebizond six cases of cholera are reported of which two have proved fatal.

The city of Monastir has been placed under military law.

The son of an Egyptian Pasha and two others in Smyrna were seen drinking sherbet during the day, thus breaking their fast, and were promptly put in prison, where they will remain till the end of Ramazan.

NOTES.

Mr. William T. Ellis of the *The Evening Bulletin* of Philadelphia, who made a round-the-world investigation of Missions a few years ago, resulting in the book *Men and Missions*, is in Constantinople en route to the Near and Far East. He is studying "The World's Unrest" for a syndicate of papers and for *The Interior* of Chicago. It is a fact worth mentioning that Mr. Ellis' book on *Men and Missions* has been one of the best selling books of the year. Mr. Ellis leaves for Tarsus this week by the overland route. He plans to visit several Missions Stations and Outstations on his way to Aleppo and from thence to Bagdad.

Rev. James P. McNaughton arrived in Constantinople last week and left for yesterday Smyrna where he will take charge of the International College during the President's absence. During his year's stay in America he gave his time from October to May to speaking in the Laymen's Movement Campaign in various parts of the United States, and during the last two months of his stay was called to serve as chaplain in the Battle Creek Sanatorium.

Rev. M. Bowen, D.D. and Mrs. Bowen, Rev. Ernest Riggs, President-elect of Euphrates College and Mrs. Riggs, who is the daughter of Dr. Shepard of Aintab, arrived in the city yesterday.

Mr. Getchell reports a large registration of students at Anatolia College. The new Girls' School building is ready for use, and the two new buildings for the College are in process of building. The new flour mill has proved to be a complete success and is turning out flour of the first quality.

A letter from Tarsus, dated September 12th, speaks of 200 boarders as already enrolled and more in sight. Among the students is a boy from Adana whose father, mother, two brothers and a sister were all killed during the late events, he alone having escaped.

A hasty word from Dr. Chambers of Bardezag states that their accommodations are already taxed to the utmost, 127 boarders having already appeared.

The Girls' School at Ada Bazar received its full quota several days ago and has sent word to Constantinople to refuse applications.

A letter from Mr. Chambers of Adana reports that the Vali announced to him the fact that the official permit for the school building has been issued but added that it is conditional on the payment of taxes on the new building. The Governor requires that Mr. Chambers give a pledge in writing that taxes on the new building will be paid. Otherwise, he says, permission to build will not be given. Djemal Bey's position is that unless such a pledge is given no permits for new buildings will be granted and that all new institutions established by foreigners must surrender the extra-territoriality privilege. Mr. Chambers will await instructions before giving the required pledge.

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