

# The Orient.

Sept. 28, 1910

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 24

## GREEK VIEW OF ARMENIAN CHURCH REFORM A REJOINDER.

The official organ of the Greek Patriarchate, the *Ekklesiastike Aletheia* in commenting on the proposed reforms in the Armenian Church states that the Greek Church has benefited by the Roman and Byzantine laws in the matter of regulating its internal affairs and activities, that the laws bearing on the ritual and politics may be reformed, whereas doctrines and creed should remain unchanged. Moreover, the paper goes on to say that the Armenian Church, since the schism, has remained unchanged and has been extremely conservative, whereas now, while under a reaction from the influence of tyranny, extremely radical opinions are spreading among the Armenians, opinions which would not be acceptable even in France.

An Armenian Church historian and a loyal churchman makes a critical review of the positions taken by the *Ekklesiastike Aletheia* and in substance writes as follows:

These views expressed in the official organ of the Orthodox Patriarchate are extremely interesting, but first of all we cannot agree that the laws of Rome and Byzantium are sufficient to meet all the administrative and social requirements of communities that live in the 20th century. In the evolution of life these demands have been constantly subject to change, and, naturally, the legalists of the early and middle centuries could not forecast those changes and make suitable laws accordingly. Besides this, those who stand for reform are of two kinds. The first class would have the Church revert to its primitive simplicity and be satisfied with that; the deciding line in this policy is the preservation of that which is ancient, whereas the second class among reformers of the Church have always advanced the opinion that the Church should be adapted to the conceptions and leading principles of modern life, retaining from the old whatever is not in antagonism to the modern spirit. Both of these policies have their merits and their defects. The ideas of the former class are better understood by the ignorant masses of the people and by conservatives, because, when, in the name of the Church Fathers and the Councils, broad principles are placed before them and, at the same time, the influence of other churches in subsequent periods and the confusions created in administrative matters and the ritual through chaotic political conditions are made plain, they find it easier to comprehend the plan. The defect in this policy, however, is that it is impossible to arrest human development; and to push it back ten centuries and adjust it by force to the ancient mould would be an extra-

ordinary anachronism. Moreover, those who follow this policy try to adapt themselves to the letter of the opinions and methods of the Church Fathers and not to their spirit. Take for example our own Church. If the Illuminator, Nerses the Great, St. Sahag, Pappan, Hovhan Odznetzi, Nerses Shnorhali, Simeon Chughahetsi and others felt the need of church reforms and in accordance with the demands of the time introduced certain reformatory changes into the Armenian Church, what lesson do we learn from their work? Was it to establish unchangeable laws? This would have been the height of folly, because even we would not be able to realize our wish, since a regulation fixed by one Father would be removed by another who did not regard it as suited to his age. By way of a concrete illustration let us recall that, in the 4th century, in accordance with the laws governing the Church of Armenia, the Catholikos, as well as the lowest chorister, was allowed to marry. In the 5th century this practise was abandoned and celibacy took its place. Therefore only one way is open to us, namely to follow the spirit of our Church Fathers and, just as they instituted reforms according to the needs of their day, so we should not evade the duty of introducing even radical reforms, of course paying due regard to the requirements and conditions of our environment. Is not the source of the weakness of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (the Greek Orthodox) to be seen in the petrifying of its Church life, in its lack of vitality and in its unwillingness to adapt itself to the requirements of life? Ancient Byzantine and Roman laws cannot solve the burning questions of today.

We are absolutely unwilling to accept the opinion of the *Ekklesiastike Aletheia* that there can be no changes in creed. The Christians of the first century did not have the creed of the Councils of Nicaea, Constantinople, and Ephesus and of other ecumenical councils accepted by the Greek and Roman churches. Consequently it is clear that, in the history of Christianity, creeds have changed under the influence of other religions, of sects, and especially through that of philosophical thought. In Christianity there are, in truth, fundamental and unalterable conceptions, but these are not the abstract ideas of creeds, rather they are social-moral conceptions, enfolded within the majestic glory of Religion. The love of humanity, the equality of men, the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth or the happiness of mankind, the struggle toward perfection (Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect) and conceptions similar to these will always remain the leading principles of an enlightened humanity, and every Church which strives for reform must base its structure on these fundamental principles, which are durable, and not on definitions of creed, the advocates of which



demand that the people blindly accept ideas which they themselves cannot explain. In the 20th century and in those that follow a Church founded on the truly vital principles of Christianity has nothing to fear from any struggle brought on by the currents of science or social progress, to day or tomorrow, whereas the tradition-bound Church is always in danger, either of complete destruction, or of social, intellectual, and moral bankruptcy. Contrary to the opinion expressed by the *Ekklesiastike Aletheia* the Armenian Church has not always been a straitlaced conservative; through many centuries it has adapted itself to the needs of the times, and if, in the present, it becomes invigorated through fundamental reforms, it will have the honor of serving as an example to other Eastern Churches.

### AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

Report of the Weather Bureau on data gathered during the vacation, (with the help of Mr. Allen's secretary it has been possible to take records of maximum and minimum temperatures, and rainfall at 7 A.M. daily).

During July and August there were seven days when the temperature exceeded 90° F: July 5 and 20; August 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11. The highest temperature was July 5th, 94.5° F, the lowest 56° F, on August 15, 16 and 17. During July .69 inches of rain fell, during August .11 inches and on September 15, 1.08 inches.

On Saturday evening the 24th, the Y. W. C. A. invited the members of the faculty to a reception to meet the new students. After the greetings were over, there were brief addresses of welcome on behalf of the Association and by Dr. Patrick for the College. These were followed by three five-minute talks by the Presidents of three College organizations. Miss Piroukova spoke of Student Government, Miss Terzieva of the Christian Association, and Miss Sossides of Athletics. The speeches were all as pithy as brief, and were thoroughly appreciated. The rugs were then removed and there was dancing until the time of leave-taking.

On Sunday morning, the 25th, Chapel services were conducted by the Rev. Herbert M. Allen, whose gave a very earnest and practical address on "Truth, the Path of Life".

In the evening the Christian Association met, and the new bases of organization and membership was discussed by Miss Burns. It is hoped that we shall have an increased membership and a closer fellowship than ever before. The pledges of Active and Fellowship Members are as follows.

### CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION Card of Membership.

In becoming a member of the Association, I do promise that, by the help of God, I will try to live the life of a child of God in the spirit of Christ; that I will attend regularly the weekly meetings of the Association; and that I will make it a special object of my prayers and endeavors to help my fellow students, particularly through the advancement of the spiritual life among them.

### CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION Fellowship Membership.

In becoming a fellowship member in this Association, I desire to testify to the help I have received in my daily life from the teachings and life of Jesus, and I desire to associate myself with those who are learning from Him. I promise that I will attend the meetings of the Association regularly and that I will make it a special object of my prayers and endeavors to help my fellow students, particularly through the advancement of the spiritual life among them.

A new plan has also been adopted for the Sunday Bible Classes. Hereafter the organization of these classes, (which are not to be confused with the regular courses in Bible Study offered by the College) will be in the hands of the Christian Association, which will have a list of the courses offered by various instructors. The time of meeting may also be arranged to suit leader and students.

The following courses are offered for the year 1910-11.

- I The Habit of Success. Dr. PATRICK.  
Six lessons. Open to Seniors and Juniors
- II Scientific Law in Jesus Teaching. Dr. PATRICK.  
Eight lessons. Open to Seniors.
- III The God of the Psalms. Miss BURNS.  
Eight lessons. First Semester. Open to all students.
- IV The Psychology of Jesus. Miss BURNS.  
Seven lessons. Second Semester. Open to Seniors and Juniors.
- V Social Teachings of Jesus. Dr. GREGORY.  
Open to all students.
- VI Dramatic Incidents in the Life of Christ. Miss McAFEE.  
Eight lessons. I Semester. Open to Sophomores and Freshmen.
- VII The Heroic Christ. Miss JENNISON.  
Eight lessons. II Semester. Open to Sophomores and Freshman.

### THE BROUSA GIRLS' SCHOOL

The first ten days of school have just finished and we can begin to see where we are. Every thing points to a very pleasant and very earnest year; pleasant, in the cordial and friendly atmosphere about the School, and earnest, in the spirit of all who have come. The staff of most able teachers has helped to organize the work in a wonderfully short space of time, showing the great value of the training courses for our teachers, in Adabazar and Smyrna. Three of our present teachers were graduated this last June at Adabazar, and will have charge now of our Armenian Departments in the High School, Preparatory, and Primary work, and Miss Ariadne Meimaroglou, who is to have charge of the Greek Department, took the training course this last year in Smyrna. With Miss Stansbury to assist with the English classes, Miss Borel with the French and the Music, and Hourie Hanum with the



Turkish, the prospects for the year are most promising. Miss Haiganoush Filian, daughter of the pastor in Yenije, has come for the kindergarten. She took the training course with Miss Halsey in Trebizond and is showing herself very efficient.

About 31 children have already come and others will arrive this week. At present there are 40 boarders, but applications have been received from about 9 others. Every day since school began surprises have come in the way of girls coming unannounced, or parents bringing children to leave without application, so that we hardly know what to plan for. Yesterday, two girls came from Cairo, Egypt, most unexpectedly—they had been given a circular of the school and came at once. It will be necessary to make some arrangements next year to regulate the matter of applications.

The number of day pupils is small as yet only about 20 or 25, but new children are coming every day. An Armenian School in the city has just closed, the teacher having gone to Constantinople, and children who have attended that school are now coming to us. Our nearness to the part of the city where these children live is of great help to us and the wisdom of those who decided to keep the school in its present place is most clearly shown. When the time comes for us to make the improvements and changes in the buildings we may be sure of marked results in the increase in attendance. All parents, who have called, have expressed their interest in a most friendly way, and from many of the villages letters of greeting have come and expressions of desire to help the school by sending pupils.

The week before school opened, the graduates and former teachers of the school living in Brousa were invited one afternoon for tea. About 20 came, among them Mrs. Baldwin, and her sister, Mrs. Umbach, who is to spend the winter with her. It was very pleasant to meet so many and realize their fondness for the school and their desire to help it.

There is not space in these notes to speak of the work in the Church, except to say that great efforts are being made to strengthen it. A choir is being organized, and Mr. Otto Bagdasarian is helping in many ways—preaching some times in Armenian—teaching the Young men's Bible Class in the Sunday School, and working with the members of the church in their plans for resuming the weekly prayer meetings. There is certainly great need for such work.

JEANNIE L. JILLSON

### FAVRE BOYS HOME

Monday evening, Sep. 19, the Favre Boys' Home was a scene of rejoicing, all the members joining together to do honour to Mr. Lawson Chambers and his bride. The boys brought in green branches from the hills and with their aid the teachers decorated very prettily the School Hall. The platform was bright with a back-ground of draped flags.

When all the happy throng were assembled Dr. and Mrs. Chambers led the way to the platform, followed by the young couple who have come to lighten their labours in Bardezag. The boys sang some hymns with great vigour and Alojjan

Effendi made an appropriate speech, reminding the boys of Mr. Lawsons' steadfast devotion to duty and quiet performance of it regardless of attendant danger. As they have been friends since childhood, in play and in earnest work for the School and the Y.M.C.A., none was better fitted to speak on this occasion. A massacre orphan then spoke the heartfelt gratitude of the boys for kindness in the past and a welcome to Mrs. Lawson, after which the Adana orphans carried up and offered to Mr. and Mrs. L. Chambers, in the name of the Boy's Home, a rug made on the premises. Then the whole school sang softly "The Lord bless thee and keep thee."

Mr. L. Chambers' answer was marked by his usual modesty and kindliness, after which Dr. Chambers dismissed the gathering with a few words of hearty encouragement. The boys all passed up by the platform to greet the guests of the evening, an interesting procession beginning with the 4 year olds and ending with the teaching staff.

### SPELLING OF ORIENTAL NAMES.

Much will be gained in several ways if the Americans engaged in educational and missionary work in Turkey can agree on some uniform and self-consistent method of transliterating oriental names and other words. Any system is open to criticism, but a system which is not self-consistent is especially so. To secure a system which will work equally well for names in all languages, is perhaps too much to hope for; the gutturals of Greek are not the same as the Turkish gutturals, nor are the Armenian vowel sounds the same as the Turkish vowel sounds. Yet in view of the hopeless confusion of the average person in America, resulting from the existing irregularities of Americans in this country, the following is suggested as a basis for uniformity. How can we expect our American friends to be able to pronounce a name correctly which is spelled successively Beyrout, Beirut, Beyroot and Beyrouth, or Harpoot, Kharpoot, Harput, Harpout and Kharpout, or Mersin, Mersine, and Mersina, or Oorfa, Urfa and Ourfa?

It is not claimed that the following is an original system; but it seems to be fairly self-consistent, and to be based on logical reasoning. Any other system which can be shown to be more logical and more consistent, would be welcomed.

#### For Turkish and Armenian:—

a = a as in father	gh = the guttural ğ or ƣ
e = e as in met	ch = ch as in charm
i = i as in machine	(after a vowel, tch is allowed)
o = o as in whole	g = g in get (never soft g)
u = u as in gull	j = j as in jam
y = y as in yet	(after a vowel, dj is allowed)
ou = ou as in rouge	k = k as in koran
eu = French eu as in deux	(never use c for this)
ü = u as in vu	s = s as in silk
f = f (never use ph)	z = z as in zinc
kh = the guttural x or ƣ	



**Note 1.** Never double a letter unless to indicate a doubled letter in the original; e.g. — Brousa, not Broussa.

but, mutessarif, not mutesarif.

Kilise, not Killise, nor Kilisse.

**Note 2.** Never use a superfluous or silent letter: e.g. — Tanin, not Tanine.

Mersin, not Mersine.

**Note 3.** Some words, which have acquired an anglicised spelling, must be allowed to stand; as, Scutari, Cæsarea, (or should it be Cesarea?) Trebizond, etc., though they do not represent either the Greek or the Turkish. So also Yildiz, caique.

**Note 4.** The following modifications are urged for Greek names:

e = η or ε in the Greek	ae = αι in the Greek
i = ι	d = δ
y = υ	th = θ
ch = χ	v = β
g = γ	ph = φ

Some conference and a mutual understanding will be necessary in regard to such words as Vizier (Vezir?), Kurd (Kourd? Koord?), Keuy (Keui?), Bey (Bei), Kaimakam (Kaimmakam?); also as to whether different letters should stand for ρ and α, and for ζ and the k sound of ε.

It must also be borne in mind that, while the coast cities are very much influenced by French and German spellings, interior cities are not, and such influence counts for very little in the United States.

No more suitable medium than the *Orient* exists for the interchange of views on this practical topic. Criticism of the system here advocated will be welcomed, providing it is constructive and not merely destructive.

CHARLES T. RIGGS.

## EMPIRE NEWS.

### The Capital.

**Cholera in Constantinople.** From Saturday night to Monday night, there were nine new cases of cholera making a total of 22. The number of deaths is nine. From Monday morning to Tuesday morning there were three new cases, one of which proved fatal, in a house at Shishli opposite the Osman Bey Garden. Haskeyy and Kasimpasha at present seem to be the chief sources of contagion. Quarantine against Constantinople has been established in all directions. The Quarantine station of the Anatolian Railway is near Toozla, and all who leave the city are obliged to spend five days in quarantine. The Municipality is making great efforts to prevent the spread of the disease. In eleven Circles of the city special physicians have been appointed for night and day service.

The twenty two Greek representatives, who took part in the attempt to convene a National Assembly and were arrested, have been released without bail, by the order of the Minister of Justice.

The comic paper *Heyal* has been indefinitely suspended because of having published a picture which was intended to ridicule religion.

The burning question of the day is whether the negotiations for a foreign loan to the Ottoman Government will succeed, and on what terms. The protracted negotiations and at one time the probability that they would not succeed gave rise to all sorts of rumors. In view of the fact that Djavid Bey, the Minister of Finance, was reported to have undertaken to secure the loan in England after having failed in Paris, called out some caustic comments from the *Daily Mail*. Djavid Bey is represented as having tried to set England against France, an attempt which can not succeed. "Neither England nor France can loan money to further Turkey's military projects, which can only do harm to Turkey and endanger the peace of Europe."

The *Tanin* of Monday publishes the following. "Contrary to the evil rumors circulated by interested parties, the question of the loan has taken a favorable turn. The Ottoman Government remains firm on the ground it first took, therefore we can assure our readers that no conditions will be accepted which leave the matter of security under foreign control. The delicate and secret character of the negotiations make it unnecessary to add anything further." According to a telegraphic despatch Sir Ernest Casell has arrived in Paris, and announced that he would withdraw from completing the arrangements for a loan and from making it public in London. The Turkish papers say that the people throughout the Empire are prepared to make great sacrifices and pay ten times the amount of the regular taxes rather than to be subjected to humiliating conditions. An editorial in the *Tanin*, written in this strain, says that it is necessary to do every thing possible and not wander like beggars from the doors of one Bourse to another. It is essential to close the deficit by economy and by levying new taxes.

The fact that Sir Ernest Casell and Sir Babbington-Smith are in Paris and are taking part in the negotiations is interpreted to mean that the negotiations are proceeding favourably and soon will be completed.

In the prize competition in the Government Agricultural school at Halki three Armenians were among the successful competitors.

## THE PROVINCES.

The Ministry of Public Works has decided to extend the Moudania — Brousa Railway line as far as Kutahia. The total length of the line will be 150 kilometres.

The Governors of Smyrna, Brousa, Angora, Trebizond, and Kastemouni have received orders from the Minister of Interior to collect the arms of the people.



In the Fourth Army Corps four committees have been appointed to reorganise the Hamidieh Cavalry Regiments.

A severe epidemic, characterized by fever and diarrhoea has broken out among the workmen on the Bagdad Railway just beyond Boulgourlou. Forty cases are reported and three deaths.

According to news received from Salonica Abdul-Hamid is suffering from arterio-sclerosis. A story is told that one of his physicians had successfully treated a member of his harem, and the ex-Sovereign, in a moment of confidential impulse, exclaimed, "I am sorry that I did not know you while I was in power, then I would have rewarded you as your skill deserves." The physician replied, "Ah! but you knew me well because you exiled me to Tripoli in Africa."

The *Rossia*, official organ of the Russian Government, seems to be much exercised over the plan of the Ottoman Government to reconstruct and enlarge the port of Trebizond. Great anxiety is expressed lest this plan result in deflecting an important share of the trade which now passes through Batoum. The *Rossia* also calls attention at the fact that within two years marked improvements have been made in Ottoman ports on the Black Sea.

A despatch from Belgrad to the Ottoman Agency states that, according to Servian papers, the provincial authorities in Salonica and Uskub, acting on instructions from the Sublime Porte, have informed all Servian teachers in the schools that they are to leave Turkey within five days. These reports have stirred up strong resentment on the part of the Servian people.

The revenue from the realty taxes for the first six months of this year have amounted to 130,000 liras as compared with 98,000 liras of last year.

The *Nea Aletheia* of Salonica says that in the district of Seres the Bulgarians have declared to the Committee appointed to put the new law into effect, that they do not wish to take possession of the Greek churches, because they have made a vow that they will forever live at peace with the Greeks. This decision of the Bulgarians has left a deep impression on the population.

An Albanian paper published in Elbassan has been suppressed by the Government, and the editor has been banished to Brousa for life. A publishing firm in Monastir which has been issuing an Albanian paper and books in Albanian has been closed by order of the Government. All copies of the paper have been ordered confiscated and a fine of 1000 liras has been imposed.

## NOTES.

Miss Mary D. Uline of South Dakota has arrived in the city and will accompany Miss Atkins to Erzeroum where they will have charge of the Girls School. They leave on Saturday next.

Mr and Mrs Poynter, who have been spending the summer in England, have returned to their home in Nishan Tash.

Miss Susan W. Orvis, of Talas, returned from America this week and left for her station on Tuesday, going via Smyrna in order to avoid the five days quarantine of Toozla.

Miss Pinneo who has been spending the summer at Protli left on Tuesday for Smyrna.

At the demand of the Court Martial, Rev. C. T. Erickson, has been obliged to remove temporarily from Elbassan to Monastir. The American Embassy has taken up his case with the Ottoman Government.

Rev. T. Barker accompanied by his family, Mrs Nelson, and Miss Bredemus, of the Menonite Mission, is leaving Hadjin for Everek, a large out station of the American Board, nine hours ride from Talas. We learn that it is his intention to remove the orphanage from Hadjin to Everek, and also to open there an academy for boys.

The plans for the new Girls School building, at Van, have been filed at the American Embassy.

Prof. Harlan P. Beach who accompanied the Missionary Cruise Party was obliged on account of illness to return to America before the completion of the trip. We are glad to report that he is recovering.

Miss Laura McDowell, who is the daughter of a Lutheran clergyman in Springfield, Ohio, and is a trained nurse, is on her way to join the Hospital staff at Van.

Dr. C. D. Usher of Vans writes that in dealing with cholera cases he has used successfully the following prescription, — four doses of quinine, ten grains each, taken one hour apart. — He advises all travellers passing through infected regions to provide themselves with quinine. He also recommends as a good antiseptic, copper sulfate (blue stone). Miss McDowell says that one table spoonful of the powder in about a quart of water is the proper form of the solution. It may be used either in open vessels as a deodorizer, or better as a spray, and for washing the hands and face before touching food.



The *Orient* is grateful to Mr. Riggs for his excellent suggestions on the spelling of Oriental names. The article appears on another page of this issue. After the system he advocates has been thoroughly considered and a final understanding reached on all points, the *Orient* will print the result in permanent form for the purpose of ready reference.

The attention of those intending to visit the Capital is especially called to the widely patronized Hotel Bristol and to its attractive features and conveniences as set forth in our advertising columns.

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