

The Orient.

Oct. 5, 1910

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 25

THE NIGHT OF POWER.

Leilei-i-Kadr.

According to Moslem traditions their Prophet Mohammed was accustomed to retire to a certain cave for meditation and prayer. During the fast of Ramazan, and on the night of the twenty-seventh day, he received a special revelation which was brought to him by the Angel Gabriel. The divine message he communicated forms the first part of the Koran. It was on this night that the special privilege of marrying a new wife each year, at this time, was granted to the Prophet and the Caliphs who were to succeed him. This privilege took the form of a divine command and has been observed ever since by the Caliphs of the Empire as a religious duty. The Leilei-i-Kadr is undoubtedly the most impressive festival in the Moslem calendar, at least to those who look on from outside and watch the progress of the solemn ceremonies in which united prayer is the prominent feature. No one who has witnessed the ceremonies of the Night of Power from the galleries of St. Sophia has failed to be impressed by the solemnity of the occasion, when thousands of Moslems gathered under the rotunda of this noble and historic edifice, rise and fall in the genuflections of their prayers, not unlike the waves on the seashore, while the dull roar of their voices gives the scene an added realism.

The Night of Power came this year on Friday last, Sept. 30. About an hour and half after sunset, His Majesty entered a splendid boat manned by ten oarsmen with double oars, and took his seat under a canopy with the Grand Vizier at his side. Behind him was seated Khourshid Pasha His Majesty's first aid-de-camp, and Tahir Bey the commander of Imperial Yacht *Ertoghrool*. Another boat containing high officials followed. When the procession started royal salutes were fired from the warships, and the marines stood at present-arms as His Majesty passed by. The distance from Dolma Baghtcheh to Tophaneh was lined by spectators on land and on water. The great square of Tophaneh and the Watch Tower were brilliantly illuminated, as were also the Palace, the Galata Tower, and the Seraskeriat Tower. At the quay of Tophaneh the Sultan was received by the Ministers of War and Marine. The pavement of the quay was covered with carpets, and, as the royal march was played by the band, His Majesty walked slowly with his followers to the Mosque of Sinan Pasha. He was preceded by his aid-de-camp and two of the mosque servitors. On his right and left walked the Princes, the Ministers, military officers and civil officials. At the door of the Mosque the Sultan was received by the Mi-

nister of Efkar, the Governor of the city, the head of the Department of Public Safety and other high officials. After entering the Sultan and his Ministers went to the place specially set apart for the Sovereign and his suite, where they performed the ceremony of the evening, saying together the prayer known as *Tiravih*. After the ceremony light refreshments were served in another part of the building. The carriages, in which were the Princesses and the Imperial Harem, were grouped around the Watch Tower. For some time the Sultan and his party watched the fireworks on the Square. A magnificent triumphal arch erected at one point was particularly beautiful with its hundreds of light. At nine o'clock the Sultan returned to the Palace.

Y. M. C. A. CONFERENCE IN BULGARIA.

Mr. Philidius of the World's Committee visited Austria, Roumania, and Bulgaria during the summer. The monthly news circular of the Committee gives the following information in regard to his visit to Bulgaria and the first National Conference held in that country.

Bulgaria was the last and in a certain way the most important aim of this journey, as Mr. Philidius was charged to attend the first Bulgarian National Conference in Sofia. This took place on 17-20 July, and was largely attended by the evangelical circles and constituted a landmark in the history of the Bulgarian Christian Churches. Seventy-five official delegates representing twenty Associations took part in the Conference, as well as about the same number of guests. The proceedings, which throughout were conducted by Bulgarian Christians—pastors and laymen—were permeated with the spirit of prayer and the joy of work. As results of the Conference the following may be noted: the acceptance of the proposed Alliance Rules on the footing of the Paris Basis; the formation on the basis of these Rules of a National Alliance of the whole twenty-five Young People's-Christian Associations of the country, the appointment of a National Committee of sixteen members; with an Executive Committee consisting of five members living in Sofia; the creation of a monthly Alliance organ.—The President of the Conference, Pastor Setchanoff, of Sofia, was also elected President of the Alliance. Mr. Botcheff, the Bulgarian representative of the World's Committee—the real organiser, the mainspring of the Conference—was appointed Secretary of the Alliance and Editor of the Alliance organ.

In connection with the Conference, in which Mr. Philidius was able to be of service by giving several addresses, he

gave a "Course for Association Leaders", at which about forty association presidents, secretaries, and members of committees took part. His lessons were taken down stenographically in order to be made accessible to the other members through the

Alliance journal. — A further consultation with about twenty representatives of the Bulgarian association work caused the wish to be expressed that the Sofia Association should have a secretary of its own, of Bulgarian origin, if possible a University man, so that above all in the capital of the country a really living and strong Association may be formed, and that those who are studying — the University of Sofia numbers 2000 students — may be reached by its activity. In regard to the filling of this post, the Sofia Association is reckoning on the advice and material help of the World's Committee, at the same time declaring itself ready to contribute as a minimum a fifth or a fourth of the salary. The World's Committee will therefore endeavour to help to further the Bulgarian Association to the best of their power along the lines indicated, so much the more so as a suitable person for the post may already be considered as found. — The existence in large numbers of independent Bulgarian Christians, well-grounded in the Word of God, is, next God's grace, due to the more than forty years' faithful work of the American Missionaries, who have already educated two generations in the evangelical spirit in their mission schools. The beginning and the development hitherto of the Bulgarian Association cause, the Conference recently held and the subsequent formation of the Alliance are really the fruit of their activity. Let this be said to their honour.

AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

On Tuesday, September 27th, the College was glad to welcome Professor Elizabeth K. Kendall of the History Department and Professor Alice Walton of the Latin Department of Wellesley College who will spend a week or two with us.

In his lecture on Wednesday afternoon Mr. T. S. Jackson, the English Architect, gave a very interesting sketch of the history of Oxford University, telling us many things which could not be found in books, and would be difficult to learn about except from such a devoted Alumnus.

On Thursday evening a reception was arranged to give the students the pleasure of meeting our guests from America.

At morning Chapel on Saturday, Miss Kaprielian, our Alumna, gave a very interesting talk to the students about her settlement work at Chalgar.

On Sunday, October 2nd, Professor Burns addressed the students at morning service taking for her subject the words, "The kingdom of heaven is within you". In the evening at the Christian Association meeting, Miss Kaprielian answered questions about her work, and many interesting facts were brought out.

It has been a great pleasure to have Miss Kaprielian as our guest over Sunday and she was so kind as to address the Preparatory Students at Arnaoutkuey also, on Sunday afternoon.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZATION.

Of all departments of work organized by the Christian Church perhaps none has been more fruitful of results than the Sunday School. Since its inception in 1780 through the efforts of Robert Raikes of Gloucester England, it has proved itself an increasingly useful agency.

Not, however, till organization laid its constructive hand upon its development did it fulfil in large measure its highest function or impress its usefulness upon all sections of the reformed Christian Church.

The closing quarter of the last century saw this institution merge from a state of chaos to a splendidly organized force of great power and influence.

At the present time its members number more than twenty eight millions, and if the rapid growth recorded during the last twenty five years continues, it has before it a mission of usefulness that cannot be over-estimated.

In the earlier stages of reconstruction unions were organized, composed of groups of Sunday Schools within a workable radius. These unions were greatly multiplied and gradually become coordinated into larger groups until whole states and provinces were thus redeemed to system. These were further extended and elaborated in national and international organizations. This process was in progress till men began to see visions and dream dreams of world wide conquest, resulting in the "World's Sunday School Association" meeting once in three years. The last meeting was held last May in Washington D. C. This convention was marked by great enthusiasm, Advance all along the line was the watch word. \$75,000.00 were pledged for the extension of the work during the next three years.

Two men of world wide reputation in Sunday School circles were appointed joint secretaries of this splendid propaganda, Marion Lawrance of Chicago who had served with marked success as international secretary in America, and Rev. Carey Bonnar late Sunday School secretary of England.

Dr. George Bailey of Philadelphia, late secretary of the association, a man of rare tact, Christian grace and unusual consecration succeeded Rev. F. B. Meyer of London in the presidency.

With these splendid men directing and a choice committee of advisers aiding, the Sunday School organization is sure of very rapid development.

The work of the association in its foreign department is splendidly equipped. Every land must in time come under its benign influence. No better friends to the missionaries than the president and secretaries, named above, could easily be found. Their foreign policy is clearly defined and might be articulated in the sentence — "The children of the world for Christ".

The mission field represented by "The Orient" is specially marked out for attention in the near future.

At the Rome convention of 1907 it was decided to appoint a secretary for the Northern Levant. The lack of a suitable candidate has so far, prevented the carrying out of

this purpose. At Washington in May last the action taken in Rome was reaffirmed and I am advised by Mr. Laurence that a thoroughly trained man is being sought and we may hope that the right man will soon be appointed for this great field.

The question is are we ready for him when he does come? No doubt every missionary in the field will give him a hearty welcome, and will be willing to cooperate with him in developing and coordinating our Sunday School interests. We will probably be willing to be led by this expert and possibly we may be willing to change methods where more efficient methods are proposed. We will do all this and more when our secretary comes. But what are we willing to do to prepare the way for his coming?

I desire briefly to point out some of the things we can do and ought to do that will cheer his heart and strengthen his hands when he begins this great work.

1. We can all begin praying that God will direct the committee in the choice of the right man. We can pray for him that he may be equipped for the work; that God may fill his heart with love for the children and fit him for leadership. We may well pray for the children of this land and for their parents and teachers who are now entrusted with their development; we may also pray that God may prepare us for the coming of the secretary.

2. We might organize the field known as the Northern Levant into one or more unions. The only union now existing in Asia Minor is the Western Turkey Sunday School Union. This union has done something and can still do much more in increasing our knowledge about Sunday School work throughout the world and in keeping its constituency abreast of the times in Sunday School methods. If the proposed conference for Turkey takes place next Summer why could we not have a Sunday School day? Why could we not have reports of work from the several Turkey Missions, incorporated in a program that would be stimulating and profitable?

3. We might do more to foster Bible study in all departments of our work.

The very life of our missionary enterprise depends to a very great extent on the degree of emphasis we place on Bible study. This is true not only in the Sunday School but also in our week day schools of all grades, and in the presentation of the gospel. Bible study in regular church services has proved itself of great value where it has been judiciously done. "The entrance of thy word giveth light" is a sentence radiant with cheer to all those whose who desire to see the progressive development of those forces that make for righteousness and civilization.

The men in America and England who are burdened with the great problems that social disturbances continually present, are increasingly turning to the Bible for a solution of these difficult questions. The principle enunciated by the Bible are eternal and the application of these to modern conditions is becoming more frequent as they are understood.

The misinterpretation and misapplication of Scripture passages in the past have been fruitful of dissension and the disintegration of social forces. A more intelligent and reason-

able approach to the sacred word is proving more and more useful in bringing together different classes in society.

It is as gratifying as surprising to learn that serious men in non-Christian lands are finding that the Christian Scriptures are unique in their high moral appeals.

In China, for example, some of the mandarins have introduced into the schools of their provinces the study of the Bible, not for the purpose of propagating the Christian faith but because it is the best book of ethics known.

It would be easy to show that this trend towards a more general study of God's word is becoming more marked; but perhaps enough has been said to suggest that we might well emphasize in all the departments of our mission work biblical instruction.

In no way could we better prepare for the coming of the foreign secretary than to do this.

JAMES P. McNAUGHTON.

NEWS FROM MARDIN (E. T. M).

Last Thursday the *first levy* of Christian soldiers left this city. They numbered 85, but between 2000 and 3000 people escorted them out of the city with cheers from the men and the peculiar "Haleel" of the women, common as the sound of rejoicing at weddings. It was the first distinctively *Christian* fact of the reality of the Constitutional regime, and an epochal event in the history of this city.

These men were assembled in six days, whereas to have collected so many drafted Kourds would have taken six months at great expense to the Government.

The Y. M. C. A. of the Mardin Evangelical church distributed to the departing soldiers,

11 Tract Primers in Arabic,

38 Psalms (pocket edition), Arabic,

31 New Tests. " " " "

80 volumes among 85 soldiers.

Next Thursday, another batch will be sent off, and it is proposed to supply them also with the scriptures.

— Mr. Barstow arrived here Saturday afternoon, Sept. 17. He was accompanied from Harpoot by Mr. Alexan Khaiajanian who comes as tutor in Armenian for the Boys' High School.

— The Boys' High School and the Girls' High School open Wed. Sept. 21st. The Theological Seminary began its sessions Wed. Sept. 14.

— Miss Baldwin, the nurse associated with Dr. Ward at Diarbekir, left us today to return to him after a sojourn here of six months, while she was recovering from the effects of an operation.

A. N. ANDRUS

Mardin, Sept. 19-1910.

EMPIRE NEWS.

The Capital.

Aziz Bey, a captain in the Navy, has been appointed president of the new Mahsousseh Company, which is to be known hereafter as the General Management of Ottoman Steam Ships.

Forty two criminals tried to escape the other day from the Central Prison in Stamboul. Most of them were under heavy sentences. Two of their number, one of whom had been condemned to death, for more than two months succeeded in working on a tunnel under the thick walls. They had made good progress, and the tunnel was about complete, when the efforts of the prisoners to turn some of their belongings into cash, attracted attention and the sound of digging underground was heard. The warden of the Prison was informed, the matter was investigated, and the prisoners confessed.

On Thursday of last week the Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha returned from his long absence in Europe. He was met at the station by Prince Medjid Effendi, all the Ministers, and a large number of high officials. After the greetings were over the Prince invited Hakki Pasha to take a seat in his automobile and they drove direct to the Palace of Dolma Baghtché, where Hakki Pasha paid his respects to H.M. the Sultan.

The Greek Patriarchate, having received a communication from the Government to the effect that teachers who are foreign subjects were not to be allowed to serve in the schools, will reply that there are not enough Ottoman teachers to supply the need and that they are therefore under necessity of employing foreign subjects.

Indignant at the admonitions given by the *Morning Post* not to loan money to Turkey unless the object for which it is to be used is known, the *Tasviri Efkiar* says that this is an evidence of the attitude of Christianity toward Islam, and adds that Moslems ought to decide on their policy in view of the fact that civilized Europe cherishes a strongly fanatical spirit toward Islam. The *Osmanicher Lloyd* reminds the *Tasviri Efkiar* that the *Morning Post* does not represent Christendom and that public opinion in Europe is too much enlightened to entertain fanatical sentiments toward Islam.

The Organ of the Democrats the *Hakimeti Millieh* says that, according to recent statistics, the number of men killed by the sentries of the Tobacco Regie amount to 35,000. The Regie has held the monopoly of the tobacco trade of Turkey for over thirty years and these casualties have taken place during brushes between the sentries and tobacco smugglers.

This far the spread of cholera in Constantinople has not assumed alarming proportions, and in fact during the last three days the number of fresh cases reported is less than those reported for the four days previous. From Sept. 27th to Oct. 5th the total of new cases officially reported is 44, of which 11 proved fatal, and of those previously reported 16 terminated fatally.

On Saturday a telegram from Paris to the Ottoman Agency states that the only obstacle to the loan to Turkey is in the fact that the Ottoman Government refuses to allow the Ottoman Bank to act as collector for government funds. Djavid Bey, the Minister of Finance, felt that it would be dangerous to commit this work to a banking institution and so refused to accept the condition.

The agreement between the Gantz Company and the Ministry of Public works for the lighting of the Capital by electricity has been signed and forwarded to the Council of Ministers.

The decoration of the Medjidieh of the First Order has been given by His Majesty to Mr. Crawford, legal adviser at the Customs Department.

Mouhieddin Bey, Governor of Pera, has prepared a plan for the repairing of the historic Castle of Roumeli Hissar on Robert College hill. According to his plan the houses within the enclosing walls will be purchased and the land converted into a public park, also a building will be erected to serve as a museum.

According to a telegram from Paris the final decision with reference to the Turkish loan will not be announced until Oct. 14th.

Great preparations are being made in Adrianople for the reception of His Majesty the Sultan, who will visit the city during the manuevers of the 2^d Army Corps.

A British Company has signed a contract with the local government of Eski Shehir for the lighting of the city by electricity.

THE PROVINCES.

In Marash the Armenian Gregorians and Protestants have organised an educational union, the object of which is to develop the schools of the city on a systematic basis and to provide popular lectures. First of all 28 electors were chosen, 14 Protestants and 14 Gregorians, who met and elected an Educational Board of Managers, five of whom are Gregorians and four Protestants. The Protestants are the Rev. Aharon Shiradjian, the Rev. Garabed Harutunian, Dr. Kalust Nadjarian,

and Dr. Karekin Vartabedian. Among the Gregorians are the Rev. Sahag Bedrossian, Patriarchal Vicar of Marash and the Rev. Humayak Vardzabedian. The Patriarchal Vicar is a graduate of St. Paul's Institute of Tarsus and the Theological Seminary at Marash. In this connection it is interesting to note that Mrs. Lee, during years of service in Marash, has been very active and successful in bringing the teachers of city together in the form of a regular teachers conference.

The Ministry of Mines, Forests, and Agriculture has just published the agricultural statistics of the Roumelian Provinces for the year 1907. This work is said to be very thorough and one of the best reports thus far issued by the new Government. The Agricultural report of the Anatolian Provinces is about to be published. Those who desire to secure these reports should apply direct to the Ministry.

According to the *Times*, in the next Parliament a proposition will be presented for the building of a narrow gauge railway in Mitylene. A British group of capitalists are ready to back the undertaking. Mitylene is 709 sq. miles in area and is well cultivated and exceedingly fertile.

The local papers report that in Shileh, a town on the Black sea, the Moslem population adopted a novel way of punishing three of their number who had broken their fast during Ramazan. They were made to ride backward on donkeys and to hold their tails. They were taken through all the streets, accompanied by a dense crowd of people, who jeered and abused them. They in turn would reply, "we are perfectly comfortable, while you are walking". When the crowd reached the Government House the officials looked on with indifference and did not interfere. After being photographed, the men were allowed to alight, then they turned to the people and cried out. "We did not keep our fast, we ate food, we are going to do it again and you can do nothing to us".

Among the Armenians in America a society has been organized with the purpose of establishing and supporting primary and intermediate schools in that section of Turkey which has been somewhat inaptly called Koordistan. This region is not extensive and lies south of the Taurus range and extends from Diarbekir to the north east. It contains two towns and a number of villages, the Christian inhabitants of which, mostly Armenians, have lost their language and speak only Koordish. This field has always appealed to missionary instincts and has been cultivated, unfortunately with diminishing success, by the evangelical churches of Turkey as a home mission. The newly organized "philo-educational" society proposes to start its schools on a non-sectarian basis and give a thoroughly national education, opening the doors not only to Armenians but to Koords and Yezidees as well. This enterprize of reclaiming an all but lost portion of the Armenian people and make a beginning in the planting of common schools in close proximity to Koordistan proper will be watched with genuine interest.

In the *Times* it is stated that Germany has advised the Sublime Porte not to diminish the military forces along the Russian frontier and not to consider the plan of disbanding the Hamidieh Cavalry regiments, thus reducing its military strength. A local paper adds, Germany loved Hamid and is still fond of his Hamidiehs!

The spread of cholera in Trebizond continues. On Sept. 29 there were 13 new cases reported and 4 deaths. In Erzingan cholera has broken out among the troops of the 4th Army Corps. In 24 hours 16 cases were reported among them and 3 deaths.

In Monastir Military law is still in full force. Even the Greek Metropolitan of the city was placed under arrest and remained in prison for about six hours.

The arrest and imprisonment of the clergy except by the knowledge and consent of the Patriarchates is claimed to be a violation of the special privileges granted to Christian communities. Doubtless the local authorities would justify themselves on the ground that Military law holds all other laws in suspension, for the time being, in case the exigencies so require.

NOTES.

On Sunday Oct. 16, under the auspices of the Evangelical Union, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed in the Bible House, at 3 p. m.

Prof. Charles Anderson D. D. and Rev. Herbert M. Allen will conduct the service. Contrary to the usual custom a Sunday has been chosen for the service in order to coincide with a similar service to be held on that day in Boston in connection with the Centennial meeting of the American Board of Missions.

The Rev. P. B. Kennedy, missionary of the American Board in Kortcha, Albania, has been ordered by the local government not to teach in the American School of that city. Indications increase that the Ottoman Government is not inclined at present to grant freedom in education in Albania.

Mr. J. R. Mott writes that Mr. E. O. Jacob the newly appointed travelling Y. M. C. A. Secretary for Turkey, and Mr. D. A. Davis, General Secretary for Constantinople, also recently appointed, will reach the Capital about the 15th of Oct. Mr. Jacob is a graduate of the University of Illinois and Mr. Davis of the University of Syracuse. They are both men of conspicuous ability and are thoroughly trained in Association work. They have received instructions to confer with the Presidents of Colleges and others with reference to holding the next Student Federation Conference in Constantinople during the coming spring.

Mr. Mott is planning to spend the months of March, April, and a part of May in visiting the Colleges in the principal cities of the Empire.

Miss Cold has just been appointed by the Woman's Board of the Interior to Hadjin, where she will be associated with Miss Vaughn in the Girls School.

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