

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

MID-YEAR REPORT.

Our last Report was dated June, 1906. In that month Miss E. H. Brewer of the Institute staff left for America, expecting to return in October. Greatly to our regret she has been prevented by the state of her health from doing so. We hope to have her with us at the beginning of the next school-year. She may be addressed in care of her brother, Justice David J. Brewer, the Supreme Court, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Christie and the writer spent nearly all the summer in Tarsus. The heat and the sandflies drove us sometimes to a vineyard three miles out, to sleep. All through the summer the stones and other materials for the new Hall were being brought to the campus.

On the first day of October the College and the Academy opened. In the same week we began to dig for the foundations of the Hall. The work continued for several weeks, taking all the spare time of teachers and students. The building is sixty-five feet by fifty-two. The trenches dug were five feet wide, and ten feet deep. Then, from the bottom of these trenches fourteen pits were sunk, to contain the supports of as many arches. These pits were five feet square, and were carried down to a total depth from the surface of thirty-three feet; one went down to forty feet. This was necessary in order to reach a good solid foundation, as our modern city of Tarsus stands on top of the ruins and débris of several ancient cities. Our students in their digging came to many an ancient wall, to fragments of marble pillars, to water-pipes, water-jars, old lamps, Greek and Roman bricks, human skeletons, a few ancient coins, and other relics of long vanished peoples (Is. lxi. 4). It was a great labor, to break the big stones to pieces, and haul them and the earth up to the surface in baskets by rope and pulley, then to carry the baskets to some distance and empty them. But nothing could damp the energy of our brave workers. They thought of the building that was to be — and cheered on each other to the work with song and laughter. One night will not soon be forgotten. The masons were to come next day, and some of the pits were not yet ready for them. About sixty of the students volunteered to work in the night. Shortly after midnight they were aroused, a score of candles were lighted, teachers gave aid and encouragement; down went our stoutest boys into the deep dark pits with pick-axe, sledge-hammer, and shovel — and merrily the good work went on. It was a weird scene, and an inspiring one; reminding an old soldier of many a similar one at Vicksburg and Atlanta (only the work of digging *there* was not helped by the light of even a candle!)

By breakfast time the pits were ready for the masons. We feel that young men showing qualities like these are worthy of all the help that we can give them, while they are educating themselves for future Christian service.

The beautiful new Hall is now up to the first storey. It is a pleasure to

look at the fine solid walls. An immense amount of material has gone into the foundations; there is, indeed, a large building wholly underground. Iron beams and pillars for the floors are now on the way from Smyrna. There will be three storeys above the large and commodious basement. On the first floor, the Chapel, or Assembly-Room, to hold six or seven hundred people. Above that the Library, and six Recitation-Rooms. On the highest floor, the Laboratory for Chemistry and Physics, rooms for Geological and other collections, and three or four Recitation-Rooms. Friends can easily fancy our joy and thankfulness at the prospect of having these long-wanted facilities for the proper doing of our work.

The new missionary residence also has been going up at the same time, and is now ready for the roof. It will contain rooms for two families, and is close to the present school-building. If, now, we had only a Dormitory for the boys; and two acres more of ground!

Prudential considerations forbid us here to give details; but our friends ought to know that this building has not been done without many difficulties. Indeed, for the past three months we have been living over again the first chapters of the Book of Nehemiah. Owing to the danger of arrest and imprisonment if they ventured out, the workmen have been obliged to remain night and day upon the premises. The feeding of so many men, and the giving them places to sleep, have greatly increased our expenses, and the overcrowding to which we were already subject. We are glad to say that through the earnest efforts of Mr. Leishman, our Ambassador in Constantinople, the persecution in its worst forms has now been put an end to. We owe the Ambassador for this our most hearty thanks. Thanks are due also to Mr. Antoine Mavrommati, Acting Consular Agent in Mersine, for his tireless efforts in the same direction. His Cavass stood for weeks at our gate, to protect the workmen busy inside. During these most trying times we have felt ourselves always sustained and cheered by God's own help, given in answer to the prayers of our friends. May He richly reward and bless all who sympathise with and help on this mission work!

The work in College and Academy has gone on as usual, though the absence of Miss Brewer and the serious illness of another teacher have thrown unusual burdens upon us. A Turkish proverb says very truly that "It is hard to hold two water-melons in one hand." The erection of two buildings against persistent opposition, the occupation of dormitories and class-rooms by strange workmen--so that students sleep in tents, and recitations are heard out under the trees, — these things have made the ordinary work of teaching, accounts, administration, preaching, and letter-writing seem very light by comparison. If it is hard to hold two melons in one hand, what shall we say of holding five or six! But the Master has always given strength according to our need; let us again bear our thankful testimony to that. And we are greatly helped by a united, hard-working Faculty, and such a body of energetic, faithful and obedient students as it would be hard to match anywhere.

There are nearly one hundred and sixty of them, over eighty in the Col-

lege Department ; one hundred and twenty-three are boarders. They come from forty-three towns and villages. We ask friends to pray for these interesting Armenian, Greek, and Syrian boys, over fifty of whom are orphans ; and for the places from which they come. Most heartily do we thank the good friends who have helped by their gifts to keep these orphans in school. We thank our graduates also for the scholarships and prizes that they are establishing. From forty to fifty dollars a year, together with what he can earn, will enable one of these future ministers, teachers, or physicians to fit himself efficiently for service to God and man. Money should be sent through Mr. Frank H. Wiggin, Treasurer of the American Board, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. If we are notified at Tarsus immediate acknowledgment will be made, and further information given. We owe thanks to Miss Emily C. Wheeler, herself born in Turkey, but now residing in Worcester, Mass., for much valued aid in this regard. It is a pleasure here to acknowledge also the uniform kindness and courtesy of our friends in the American Press at Beirut, Mr. Freyer, Mr. Glockler, and Miss Thom. In many ways they have assisted the workers in Tarsus.

We continue to get good reports of the work done by our graduates. One, Mr. Dadoorian, is an Instructor in the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale. The Tarsus men now studying in the Theological Seminary at Marash, and in the School of Medicine at Beirut, are winning excellent reputations for themselves and their Alma Mater. In many a city and village the preachers, teachers, and physicians who studied here are centers of blessing to the needy people around them. As we hear reports of their work we thank God and take courage.

Among the many visitors who have been with us of late we can mention here only Prof. Caspar René Gregory of Leipsic University ; a Captain belonging to the General Staff of Japan—who made special examination of the passes of the Taurus ; and our very welcome friends, Secretaries Creegan and Hitchcock, of New York and Chicago ; they were able to spend only a few hours with us, and were kept about as busy as they could have wished to be. Our prayers and best wishes accompany them as they go on around the world to visit other missions of the American Board.

This hasty report must not close without mention of the numerous deaths that have saddened us since the middle of November ; two of them were by accident. At Aintab, Mr. Sanders ; at Beirut, Prof. West and Instructor Barnes ; at Sidon, Mr. Eddy ; at Hajin, Miss Brunk ; in Tarsus, Mr. Garabed Marashlian, for many years a strong supporter of the church here—all these have left us within the past two months. If we had been before lazy, selfish, and slow in the Master's service, these deaths of fellow-laborers would alone have startled us into activity. We have been reminded anew of the urgent necessity of our working while it is day ; for the night cometh, when no man can work.

In behalf of the Faculty,

THOMAS DAVIDSON CHRISTIE,
President.

TARSUS, ASIA MINOR,
January, 1907.

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