

# The Orient.

Vol. II., No. 30

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## THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

**9th Session** (Nov. 1). A motion was passed requesting the Cabinet to make a statement to Parliament as to the war. The alleged cruelties by Italians in Tripoli were denounced. Several articles of the enlistment bill were passed, and the article regarding the exemption of those with families to support was returned to committee with some proposed changes. Lively discussions took place on the article refusing exemption to those newly married if the bride is under 7 years old or over 50, but it was finally passed, in spite of an effort to make the minimum 12 years. The *Sheri* places the marriageable age at 9 years for Moslems. Article 30, which provides that formalities for the rectification of the civil status of conscripts cannot begin after the first call for enlistment, was vigorously opposed, but was at length put to vote, in the apparent absence of a quorum, and was declared passed. The disorder that followed in protest was quieted only by the reading of a dispatch from Suleiman el Baroni Effendi, from the environs of Tripoli announcing an Ottoman advance against the city; and in the applause following this, the President declared the sitting adjourned.

**10th Session** (Nov. 4). The new first Vice-President of the Chamber, Rouhi el Halidi Bey, Deputy from Jerusalem, had an opportunity to show his mettle at this his first session in the chair. Several incidents showed the high tension of the deputies, and the presiding officer rose valiantly to each occasion. First came the protest of several deputies against the passing of Article 30 of the enlistment bill at the close of the last session in the absence of a quorum. Some very plain words were spoken, and all agreed to submit the article to another vote, the previous vote being acknowledged as illegal. The result was a reversal of the previous decision, the article being lost by 95 votes to 53. Article 31 was returned with modifications to committee, and two more articles were passed. A motion of Said Bey, leader of the Union and Progress party, was adopted to the effect that the Chamber prepare and send to the Parliaments of all civilized countries a protest against the inhuman and atrocious acts of the Italians in Tripoli city. At the afternoon sitting a motion signed by 80 deputies was unanimously passed, calling upon the Minister of War to give the Chamber an explanation of the action of the Court-Martial in attempting to arrest a deputy, during the Parliamentary session, which is contrary to Constitutional guarantees. Loutfi Fikri Bey, deputy for Dersim, whose organ, the *Tanzimat*, has been more than once suppressed by the Court-Martial, was summoned by a police of-

ficer on Saturday morning to accompany him to that court, but refused to obey a verbal summons, and protested that no deputy could be arrested during a Parliamentary session except by order of Parliament. This violation of the sanctity of an M.P. caused deep excitement among all the members. The Minister of War is expected to give his reply today (Wednesday).

**11th Session** (Nov. 6). After some preliminary sparring, a message from the Minister of War was read, promising to be present in person or by delegate on Wednesday to answer the interrogation of the previous session. The deputies were roused to a high pitch of zeal for the defense of the Constitution against what they deemed an attack by Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, whom Dr. Riza Tewfik did not hesitate to call publicly a "mannikin stuffed with straw." The Chamber decided to insist on the Minister of War attending immediately to offer his explanations. During a prolonged noon recess, the Minister was interviewed, and he stuck to his guns, but sent in his place Idris Pasha, President of the Court-martial, who when the Chamber sat again at 5:15 p. m., explained that Loutfi Fikri Bey had been merely invited to appear before the Court-martial, and that there had been no intention or attempt to arrest him; that the Minister of War had been so very busy that he had not been able to go to his home for the night but once since Bairam, but had even slept at the War Department; and that with the present manoeuvres in the Golden Horn valley he had been compelled to postpone appearing before the Chamber till Wednesday. The Chamber chose to consider these explanations insufficient, but agreed to wait two days more for the Minister.

The *Jeune Turc* does not hesitate to say, regarding Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, "In short, we are perhaps coming to the close of a career. The too soldierlike manners of the general have lessened his prestige."

## THE WAR IN TRIPOLI.

We give under all reserve a despatch published as official yesterday according to which Enver Bey telegraphs under date of Nov. 3 that on Oct. 28th the troops and the Senousi Arabs attacked the Italians at Derna and reoccupied the place, the Ottoman losses being 80 killed and 80 wounded, while 500 Italians were killed and all the rest of the Italian army were made prisoners, eighteen cannon and a large quantity of arms and ammunition and food supplies being also captured.

The main topic of interest this week has been the awful reprisals of the Italians in Tripoli, as a result of the Arab up-

rising in the city. English papers, as well as those of Germany and Austria, recoil before the hideous details, and even the Italian papers speak of merciless slaughter and unheard-of cruelties by the army of occupation. The *Seccolo* of Milan places the number shot or slaughtered at 3,000, including many women. The revolting methods of the conquerors have alienated what little sympathy might have been theirs hitherto; for the Italians have fallen back on the butcheries of Nero and Domitian, or have outdone those monsters. One thing this pitiless and bestial revenge has done is to destroy all hope of the Arab tribes uniting with the invaders against what Gen. Caneva called in his address to them "the common enemy." The army of occupation have transformed the peaceful city of Tripoli into a veritable shambles, and the outbreak of cholera among the Italian troops seems like a divine nemesis.

### OSMANIEH MARTYRS' MEMORIAL CHURCH.

Dear "ORIENT,"

The appeal made last spring for contributions toward the construction of "The Martyrs' Memorial Church" at Osmanieh has met with considerable response. To one and all of the contributors we desire to express our gratitude. At the same time we wish to announce that the sum contributed falls far short of the estimate made. We would call special attention to this fact and would appeal again for further contributions. This is a most worthy object and it lies very near our hearts. We who remain alive often wonder why we remain and those brethren were martyred. It is meet that we should commemorate their martyrdom and reconstruct the work that suffered so much with them. This enterprise is of general interest and it would be a great satisfaction to have many people have part in it. The place of the church remains a ruin and the people have no place of worship. We do not want to begin work till the larger part of the estimate be placed in our hands.

Will you please publish the enclosed list of contributors with this expression of gratitude. Further contributions may be sent as before to the undersigned as treasurer, or to W.W. Peet, Esq., Bible House, Constantinople. Contributions should be marked, Martyrs' Memorial Church.

Yours very truly,

W. NESBITT CHAMBERS.

### Contributions to Osmanieh Martyrs' Memorial Church.

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Miss A. Smith,	.50
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W. N. CHAMBERS. (Treas.)

## OUR SHIA NEIGHBORS.

By Rev. G. E. WHITE, D.D., of Marsovan.

(Continued.)

It is very generally affirmed that the Shias secretly observe a profaned form of the Lord's Supper, though personally I am not convinced that the ceremony of eating and drinking which is undoubtedly a part of their worship is one in origin with the supper instituted by our Lord. The Shia priests are a class of men called *Dedes* who dwell singly or in groups at shrines called *Tekyes*. Each *Tekye* has its own parish which may consist of a considerable number of villages and at some distance from the sacred center. Once or twice a year, habitually in the autumn, the *Dedes* make a circuit of their parishes and those are great events for the village communities. Their most highly prized services are held on this occasion and with great secrecy. Guards are posted sometimes in a triple line, around the village, around the house, and at the door of the building. The place of meeting is a common house, the time always after nightfall. Eye witnesses and participants at the worship say that the table is set in a sacrificial or sacramental manner with food and wine of which the congregation partake, then the *Dede* preaches, inculcating the common virtues, teaching their peculiar observances and emphasizing the points that link the communities together. Prayers are offered in which every person present is remembered, and even every article of furniture in the room has its share. For instance, one person brings forward the lamp and prayer is offered, then the attendant sets it back on its shelf. Quarrels are settled and enemies are reconciled on these occasions, and woe be to that man who is outcast by his religious representative and his community at such a time. Then a religious dance takes place, the men and the older women present going through some form of motion in time together. Such performances would naturally be viewed as scandalous or at best as very suspicious in the east and these gatherings are roundly denounced as indecent by sober minded citizens. On these tours the *Dedes* gather up abundant religious dues from their people, for they are regarded with great veneration, and they rule their willing congregations with a rod of iron.

Shias always claim a certain kinship with Christians. So near that they sometimes say less than the thickness of an onion skin separates the followers of Ali from those of Jesus. Too much weight, however, must not be given to such expressions, because they believe in the transmigration of souls which to a considerable extent minimizes the sense of personality. They show remarkable confidence in Christians, however, in this respect, that whereas the social customs of Moslems require that their women must be veiled in the presence of any man except the members of her own immediate family, Shia women do not wear the veil in the presence of Christian men but meet them freely with open faces. Shia women are said to eat at table with and not after their husbands. Some of these people affirm that their ancestors were Chris-

tians and occasionally say that if there were complete religious liberty they would return to the faith of their forefathers. Sometimes they say to Christians "It will not be long before you and we will be intermarrying our children." One who has lived long in the east knows that such expressions suggest the closest of social and fraternal bonds.

Their attitude toward Christians may be illustrated by the following story which is told among them. When the *Yezi-dis* cut off the head of Ali a Christian priest begged and obtained it. Afterward the assassins wished it back and offered money for it. The priest refused and having seven sons he cut off the head of the oldest and offered it instead of the head of Ali. This offer was refused and the priest then beheaded his second son and so on until all of his children had been slain. Then his wife said "Cut off my head and give it." He did so and that finally was accepted; thus the Christian priest saved the head of Ali from profane treatment and from that time forward the *Alevis* have a fraternal feeling toward Christians. It matters very little what degree of historical truth or falsehood there may be in such a story; it is indicative of an attitude on the part of the people, and its repetition is a means of establishing them in that attitude.

## MASKED SPITE AND RETALIATION.

A few months ago there appeared in this city a daily in French entitled *La Bourse d'Orient*, under the editorship of a Spanish Jew by the name of *Ximenes*. It has since been suppressed by the Government. In our issue of July 12th, we quoted an article from this sheet, wherein the editor gave to the world some valuable information about American "Methodist" missionaries in the regions of Armenia, their guilty exploiting of Kourdo-Armenian relations, and their danger to the public peace and to the cause of reform. The Armenian dailies branded his statements as lies and brought proofs against him. Lately a correspondent from Paris wrote as follows to the *Zhamanag*: "I learn through your columns that a man named *Ximenes* is publishing a paper called *La Bourse d'Orient*. Who is this man? After the terrible massacre at *Sassoun* in 1894, a cunning Jew named *Ximenes* went to London representing himself as a Spanish traveler, and gave to Reuter's agency a long despatch stating that he had traveled through *Sassoun* and never heard of a massacre there. He alleged as an eye-witness that there had been no such massacre and for this service to *Hamid's* government he was given official favor. Such papers as sympathized with *Hamid* published this despatch, adding that, as the man was a Spaniard, he would have no object in lying. But the American missionaries through the English press published a letter proving that while *Ximenes* may have gone through Armenia, he had never been to *Sassoun* nor seen it, and moreover that the massacre there had been a terrible one. Afterwards *Ximenes* published a little book unfavorable to the Armenian cause. Is this the same *Ximenes*, or another of the same name?"

### RILO BY-PRODUCTS.

He who would walk or climb with Bulgarians must put his best foot foremost. — In pleasant weather, the old road to Rilo over the mountains is still preferred to the new. It is more varied and picturesque, more shady, less formal; it skirts the shore of the changing lake, and it leads through a greater part of the vast Rilo forest. — The Bulgarian scientific name for ferns, if the peasant kiradji is to be believed, is "booklook." — Travel in Albania is not without its uses. Acquaintance was first made with the old road when Albania had not yet been visited; and the steeps and difficulties of the way seemed past the powers of exaggeration. To-day Albania is a known quantity; and the worst that the Rilo road can produce now seems easy and pleasant. — How young folks delight, always and everywhere, to wade in sparkling streams! — "Up Jenkins!" is a dangerous game to play in a monastery hostel when young hearts and young voices surround the table. It may bring upon grave and innocent elders the ghostly rebuke from behind the window-curtain — "More quietly, gentlemen, more quietly!" — Since the severe earthquake of a few years ago, buttresses have been built to support the lofty monastery walls. The roof of the keep has also become dangerous, and is no more opened to visitors. — Numerous shocks of earthquake were experienced on the round trip, as they had been previously and have since, but all slight. — The full moon barely can show itself above the heights that enclose the valley. The effect of its shining upon the precipitous summits of Popova Shapka and Eleni Vurh, as seen almost perpendicularly from below through the pine forest, is weird in the extreme. — The trivial superstition that gives its name to the "Sinner's Hole" may be forgiven, since it leads the adventurer to the most heavenly spot in this most heavenly valley. Mounted on the pinnacle of the rock that tops the sanctuary where John of Rilo died, he looks down on a sea of glorious forest, its myriad leaves shimmering in the sunlight and rustling in the breeze, all nestling in a profound and narrow valley of extraordinary grandeur. With that to fill his eyes, and the song of the rapid Rilo stream in his ears, and the purest air of heaven inviting his deepest breathing, he feels that it is indeed the benediction of forgiveness upon him. — The exacting path through the mountains between the monastery and Demir Kapou is well worth traversing; and it makes a fitting preparation for the still stiffer ascent of Mousalla from the south, which no less deserves to be made. — A Wallachian shepherd's hut on the high mountain-side can prove a wonderfully good resting-place over night when a Palace Hotel is not to be had. — In one lonely valley more than a thousand stately pines lay in serried ranks on the mountain-side, levelled in one night by the storm of last spring, — a sight all the more painful because the inaccessibility of the spot rendered it probable that they would have to be left there to decay. — The Rilo group hides in various nooks and corners no less than 72 "little wee bits of lakelets" — barely

enough to make up together the one good lake which Bulgaria does not possess. Locally they are called "Eyes of the Sea." — A creditable authority states that the latest careful measurements show the height of Musalla (Bulgaria's loftiest summit) to be 2997 metres (=9832.66 feet), and that this makes it the highest mountain in the Balkan peninsula. Is the latter part of this claim disputed? — What is the Psalm of the mountains? According to the Scotch metrical version, that still sounds so sweet to prejudiced ears —

"Thy mercy, Lord, is in the heav'ns;  
The truth doth reach the clouds;  
Thy justice is like mountains great;  
Thy judgments deep as floods." (36 : 5.)

On visiting the sanctuary where John of Rilo died, there was seen on the wall directly opposite the entrance door, and just at the foot of the empty tomb, a picture of the Resurrection. This was flanked on the left by a smaller *icon* representing the departed saint, and on the right by a one-page leaflet, entitled "My Prayer," printed in modern characters and modern language on the Evangelical Press, Samokov!

Samokov.

R. T.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PRESS.

Some of our readers may wonder at the meagre treatment of the present war in these columns. As a partial explanation we quote the following orders sent out by Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, Minister of War: — "Despite the communications sent out hitherto, information continues to appear in the public press regarding the operations in Tripoli which might be detrimental to the interests of the country. Explicit notice is therefore hereby given for the last time that the following must be observed, and that any neglect of these provisions in future will be considered contrary to patriotic duty and will in consequence be severely punished.

"1st. The locations in Tripoli occupied by the military detachments and by volunteers shall not be mentioned, nor the date of departure or arrival of troops moving from place to place. Only general and vague phrases shall be used concerning the numbers of these troops; such as, 'Very numerous, numerous.'

"2nd. It shall never be mentioned that officers, ammunition or money have been sent, will be sent, or have arrived.

"3rd. Nothing shall be written as to the number of cannon or mitrailleuses, or the number of regulars and volunteers who take part in battles that have taken place or will take place, or as to the means of transport.

"4th. Nothing shall be written as to the method of correspondence as between Tripoli and Benghazi, nor shall any insinuation be made on this subject."

We shall try to be most circumspect in observing these regulations.

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### CONSTANTINOPLE CHAPTER, AMERICAN RED CROSS.

Last Friday week a meeting was held at the American Embassy in Constantinople of the officers of the Constantinople Chapter of the American National Red Cross. His Excellency Ambassador Rockhill had previously given his consent to act as Chairman of the Chapter, and there was a strong feeling prevailing in the Committee that in view of Mr. Rockhill's acceptance, it was now time to go ahead. Consul General Ravndal, Vice-Chairman, and Miss Barnette Miller, Ph. D., Secretary, at the suggestion of the Committee exchanged offices, and Mrs. Etta D. Marden was elected the seventh member of the Board, the remaining officers being W. W. Peet, Esq., treasurer, Dr. Bowen and Dr. Gates. Americans residing in European Turkey and in Asia Minor will soon hear from the Secretary and will no doubt promptly respond to his appeal to join the Chapter. It is the aim of the Chapter (1) To encourage and support the American National Red Cross, to whose endowment fund the membership dues will be applied in toto, (2) To represent the American National Red Cross in the event of great calamities in the Ottoman Empire requiring relief from abroad, (3) To assist in the campaign against the "white plague" in Turkey. The membership fee is \$1.00 per annum (minimum) which carries with it subscription to the *American Red Cross Bulletin*, an illustrated quarterly. Americans interested in this movement, which has the heartiest endorsement of *The Orient*, should address themselves to Mr. Ravndal, American Consul General, Constantinople.

### TRIPOLI AND PANAMA.

More than one person has recently given expression, even in this city, to the sentiment voiced by the *New York World*, "Italy evidently intends to get what she wants before the Powers intervene or mediate. Perhaps she learned her lessons by watching the American process of taking Panama." Or, as otherwise expressed, America's mouth is stopped as regards any protest against Italy's high-handed action by her own duplicity in the Panama affair. To one who studies the history of the two cases, the injustice of any such insinuation is apparent. The ultimatum of Italy was a bolt from the blue. Italy had had no rights nor special privileges whatever in Tripoli. All that she alleges as a pretext for picking this quar-

rel is some cases of neglect on the part of Turkish officials to facilitate legitimate Italian trade, and of restrictions placed on Italian enterprise. The well nigh universal outcry against the bandit attitude of Italy has been met by no plea that can justify this aggression. But look at the other case. In 1846, the United States made a treaty with New Granada, as Colombia was then called, agreeing to guarantee the neutrality of the isthmus of Panama. But the Colombian governments superseded each other with kaleidoscopic speed, for there were revolutions and civil wars every few years and frequently the name of the country was changed; so that treaties needed frequent renewal. In 1880, President Hayes said "The policy of this country is a canal under American control. It will be the great ocean thoroughfare between our Atlantic and our Pacific shores, and virtually a part of the coast line of the United States." Secretary of State Evarts said the same year, "The paramount interest of the United States in these projects of inter-oceanic communication across the American isthmus has seemed quite as indisputable to the European powers as to the states of this continent. The question involved presents itself distinctly to this government as a territorial one, in the administration of which, as such, it must exercise a potential control." In 1881 President Garfield said, "It is the right and duty of the United States to assert and maintain such supervision and authority over any inter-oceanic canal across the isthmus as will protect our national interests." And his Secretary of State, Mr. Blaine, said the canal must "be as truly a channel of communication between the Eastern and far Western States as our own transcontinental railways." The Hay-Herran treaty of 1902, which gave to the United States substantial control, subject to the paramount rights of Colombia, over the area on both sides of the canal, and all rights to construct, maintain and control the canal, failed to pass the Colombian legislature in 1903, because the latter stood out for a bigger financial compensation. The State of Panama thereupon seceded from Colombia and declared herself independent. One of the highest Colombian officials then told the American Minister at Bogota that if only the United States would land troops at Panama to preserve Colombian sovereignty, the Colombian government would declare martial law and approve of the treaty. But it was too late. The United States could not be expected to land troops to aid a government that had thus scorned her offer. There were two courses open to her. One was to stand by and allow Colombia to use force to bring Panama back if possible. The other was to forbid Colombia to make such an attempt, by recognizing and protecting the new republic. Now the isthmus had experienced fifty-three armed uprisings within fifty-seven years. Once civil war lasted nearly three years. On four different occasions, at the request of Colombia the United States had landed troops to maintain order for her. Colombia had thus acknowledged herself incompetent to manage the isthmus, though the fact was too plain to need such acknowledgement. To allow Colombia to try to regain Panama by force would have meant carnage and anarchy, perhaps prolonged. By adopting the other course, the United States

prevented bloodshed. As Col. Roosevelt says, "In consequence, Panama has for eight years enjoyed a degree of peace and prosperity which it had never before enjoyed during its four centuries of troubled existence." We do not press the point that the United States has transformed the Canal Zone from a pest hole to a health resort, nor that she is spending hundreds of millions to open a highway for the nations. But we do insist that her act in stepping in to prevent bloodshed and to carry out, in a place where she had already been assigned police duty, a scheme that had already been the subject of three treaties, and had been expressly approved by the Colombian government, and in thus stepping in to recognize a *de facto* government only after all other means had failed, — such an act ought not to be insulted by being compared to the embarking by Italy on a selfish and bloody war of conquest in defiance of the recognized rights of Turkey when the only discontent in the province of Tripoli was of Italy's own making.

## EMPIRE NEWS.

### THE CAPITAL.

The *Tanin* announces a gift of £1,000 from the Emir of Afghanistan for the sufferers from the Stamboul fires.

By imperial *iradé*, Mahmoud Moukhtar Pasha, the former minister of marine, is appointed chief of the special mission which will start in a few days to visit the Tsar at Livadia.

Large numbers of refugees from Tripoli have arrived in this city, and are being cared for by the prefecture.

The Turkish dailies *Merikh* and *Zeuhre*, the Armenian *Lousin* and *Arevelk* and the Greek *Neologos* are all under the ban for indulging in ill-considered views; also the *Tenzikat*, successor to the *Zeuhre*.

Kiamil Pasha has left the capital for Egypt, where he plans to spend the winter.

### THE PROVINCES.

Miss Cole received a warm welcome, on her arrival in Trebizond, Oct. 19th, and immediately found herself surrounded with a merry company of children. She has already begun preparations for a Kindergarten Teacher's Training class to open in Sep. 1912, and will be glad to receive letters of inquiry and proposals for candidates for the course.

Address Miss Cole, American Mission: Trebizond.

The *Osmanischer Lloyd* announces that Hassoun Pasha, the mayor of Tripoli, who took sides with Italians, has been assassinated by a *fedai* from Fezzan.

Cholera is said to be spreading to an alarming extent in Tripoli, among both civilians and Italian troops.

Another Montenegrin frontier incident is reported from near Gossigne, the casualties being fortunately limited to one Turkish shepherd wounded.

The body of the Abbot of the Greek monastery of Prodromos near Serres has been found hanged to a tree. The Greeks not unnaturally connect this with the murder of the Archbishop of Grebena and the Bishop of Koritza.

In 1890, 55,000 tons of British coal were sold in Smyrna, and no Turkish coal. In 1910, again there were 55,000 tons of British coal sold, and 75,000 tons of Turkish coal from Heraklea, or Zongouldak. The quality of the latter is said to be steadily improving.

## NOTES.

Miss Effie M. Chambers, who in 1893 came out to Erzurum, and has since then labored also in Trebizond, Ourfa, Aintab and latterly in Kessab, passed through Constantinople last week on her way to America.

Rev. Edward Riggs, D.D., and Mrs. Riggs arrived last Thursday from Marsovan and left on Tuesday for Smyrna, where they will spend several months.

The *Literary Digest* of Oct. 14th gives a long quotation with reference to the linguistic abilities of the late Dr. Elias Riggs, from the last book of the late William E. Curtis, "Around the Black Sea."

A certain missionary lady has found that the following mixture has saved her a good many piastres, during the past few years, which she used to spend for boxes of Baking Powder: — 3 oz. Tartaric Acid,

4 " Bicarbonate of Soda.

Mix repeatedly with one pint fine white flour.

And they who have tested the results are more than satisfied.

## OTHER LANDS.

The ex-Shah has again appeared in Persia, and is reported to have gained a victory over the government troops at Gumesh Tepe.

A great monument commemorating the independence of Roumania will soon be erected at Bucharest. It will be 70 feet high, with an emblematic group at the summit.

Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, editor and proprietor of the *New York World*, died in New York Oct. 29th.

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