

The Orient.

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THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

27th Session (Dec. 20). Articles 77, 78 and 79 of the Enlistment bill were passed. The first exempts immigrants settling in the vicinity of Brousa, Smyrna and Constantinople from military service for a term of six years from date of arrival, and exempts for fifteen years such nomads as become sedentary. The second insists on the liability for service of the sons of Persian fathers and Ottoman mothers where such marriages have taken place without special permission. The third fixes the term of service of graduates of secondary schools as two years immediately upon graduation, and that of graduates of higher institutions as one year. The Grand Vizier was present in the afternoon to defend himself from the charge brought against him by Basri Bey. The formal charge was not read at all, but Said Pasha not only acknowledged having advised Abdul Hamid not to assemble a Parliament, but even read the document in question, dug out of the mass of "djournal" in Yildiz. But he explained that he had done this from the conviction that such a Parliament as the late Sultan might have summoned would in reality have changed the Constitution of Midhat Pasha to make it conform to the whims of Abdul Hamid; and that the real zeal of Said Pasha for the Constitution was abundantly shown by his insisting on the publication of that document each year in the official *salname*, by his constant insistence on reforms being carried out, and by his expressed opinion in this very document that the Constitutional régime was in every way profitable for the country. The Grand Vizier denied having received any special perquisites during his terms of office, and challenged an inquiry into his financial affairs. The President declared that these explanations were perfectly satisfactory; and not a deputy made any reply. At last Mahmud Shevket Pasha, the only other minister present, addressed the Chamber after Said Pasha had withdrawn, spoke of the embarrassing character of the *djournals*, and ended with a plea for calm and united patriotic endeavor. "Our Christian compatriots must understand that the destruction of this empire would be that of their national existence as well. As for our Moslem compatriots, they should consider the example of Persia and of Morocco, and know that with their quarrels they are provoking the destruction of the only Moslem State that remains independent, although there will always be plenty of patriotic soldiers to defend it."

Two facts regarding this session deserve notice. The accusation of Basri Bey was answered by the Grand Vizier without ever having been read; and the subject-matter dealt

with the official advice of Said Pasha to Abdul Hamid fifteen years ago. The unparliamentary and illogical character of the first is matched by the dangerous muckraking character of the second. No Minister of State should condescend to reply to a *takrir* or an interpellation till the exact contents of such is made known. And when once the floodgates of Hamidian intrigue and diplomacy are opened, where can we stop? Better far let the dead past bury its dead. Forget that nightmare.

28th Session (Dec. 23). The Minister of War was to have replied to the interpellation by the Albanian deputies, but requested a delay; and the subject was postponed till Saturday next, though not without earnest protests from the Albanian deputies, who denounced the move as an attempt to evade the question, and as treachery to the country. The dark situation in Albania was emphasized, it being stated that within the last two months there have been 28 political crimes in the vilayet of Yanina alone. The Minister of Public Works explained the impossibility of constructing the proposed carriage road from Erzroum to Bayazid under existing financial restrictions, and promised to recommend needed changes in administering funds for road construction. Two articles of the enlistment bill, treating of the military service of those in Moslem schools of theology, evoked lively opposition on the part of the *ulemas*, and their further discussion is to be in the presence of a delegate of the Sheikh-ul-Islam. Dr. Riza Nour Bey (Sinope) asked leave to question the Minister of the Interior as to the insecurity and robberies in his province, and this was put on the docket for next Saturday. The election of Tahir Haireddin Bey as deputy from Constantinople was ratified amid applause.

29th Session (Dec. 25). Routine business and the referring of bills to various committees occupied most of the session. An unsuccessful attempt was made to take up the tabled Chester project, on which the council of ministers has been asked to report. The bill imposing a tax of 100 % on all articles imported from Italy since the beginning of hostilities, was passed with the amendment exempting sulphur from such tax, inasmuch as this commodity is essential to the grape industry of the Aidin vilayet and elsewhere. The Government is left free to impose no extra tax on it, if this seems best. After considerable discussion as to the method of paying the debts of the ex-sultan Abdul Hamid, a vote was found to be impossible owing to lack of quorum, less than 80 of the 286 deputies being present.



WILLIAM GOODELL, D.D.

MISSIONARY AT CONSTANTINOPLE, 1831 - 1865

BORN FEB. 14, 1792. DIED FEB. 18, 1867.

CONSTANTINOPLE EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

It was eighty years ago last June that Rev. William Goodell, the first missionary to Constantinople, arrived in this city with his family, eight days from Smyrna. His description of his first view of the city is so interesting that we quote it, from his letter of June 11th, 1831.

"As we approached Constantinople, the most enchanting prospect opened to view. In the country, on our left, were fields rich in cultivation and fruitfulness. On our right were the little isles of this sea; and beyond, the high lands of Brusa, with Olympus, rearing its head above the clouds, and covered with eternal snow. In the city, mosques, domes, and hundreds of lofty minarets, were starting up amidst the more humble abodes of men, all embosomed in groves of dark cypresses, which, in some instances, seemed almost like a forest; while before, behind, and around us, were (besides many boats of the country) more than twenty square-rigged vessels, bearing the flags of different nations, all under full sail, with a light but favorable breeze - all converging to one point, and that CONSTANTINOPLE. When we first caught a glimpse of Top-Hane, Galata, and Pera, stretching from the water's edge to the summit of the hill, and began to sweep round Seraglio Point, the view became most beautiful and sublime. It greatly surpassed all that I had ever conceived of it. We had been sailing along what I should call the south side of the city, for four or five miles, and were now entering the Bosphorus, with the city on our left, and Scutari on our right. The mosques of St. Sophia and of sultan Achmed or Selim, (for I have not ascertained which,) with the palaces and gardens of the present sultan Mahmoud, were before us in all their majesty and loveliness. Numerous boats were shooting rapidly by us in all directions, giving to the scene the

appearance of life, activity, pleasure and business. The vessels before us had been retarded, and those behind us had been speeded, and we were sweeping round the Golden Horn in almost as rapid succession as was possible, - every captain apparently using all his skill to prevent coming in contact with his neighbor, or being carried away by the current; and every passenger apparently, like ourselves, gazing with admiration on the numerous objects of wonder on every hand. Before we cast anchor, we were visited by the health officer, a Turk, who immediately compelled us to feel, that the Turks were abandoning their notions of *fate*, and were introducing the customs of more civilized and of Christian nations, by subjecting us to several days' quarantine, in consequence of our having touched at Smyrna. This quarantine we are now passing up the Bosphorus, at the distance of a mile and a half or two miles from Galata. We expect on the 13th to get pratique, and then to be permitted to look into the interior of a city, the exterior of which is so lovely. Again and again have I found myself whispering the prayer; "O Lord revive thy work. Send out thy light and thy truth. Bless all the inhabitants of this great city, in which are so many 'thousands of persons, who cannot discern between their right hand and their left.'"

Less than two months after Mr. Goodell's arrival in this city, on Aug. 2nd, his furniture, books, papers, clothing, even the knives, forks, and bedding, were lost in a terrible fire, of which he writes: - "On the morning of the 2nd inst., we rose surrounded by our usual comforts; in the evening we were dependent on charity for a place in which to lay our head, or a bed on which to sleep. With several other individuals in Pera, we fared the worse for living in fire-proof houses, as we thereby took no measures in season for removing any of our property to a place of safety, and the conflagration was so terrible - terrible beyond description - terrible beyond all that was ever before known in what is called Pera - that only eight houses stood in the evening where many thousands stood in the morning. I have taken a house at this place (Boujoukdere), and as soon as I have a table to write upon, and ink I can call my own, I will, God willing, furnish you with a more particular account of this dreadful fire."

CRETE TRIES TO INVADE GREECE.

With a persistency worthy of a better cause, the Cretans have held to their policy of union with Greece, in spite of discouragements from all quarters. Their efforts of late have been frowned on even in Greece itself, and by the ex-Cretan who now wields the big stick in that kingdom. The Executive Committee of the islanders finally decided to send over deputies to the Greek Chamber, accompanied by enough sympathizers to make the Greeks feel the worthiness of their course. Rumor had it that these sympathizers would not scruple to use their arms if need be. Alarmed at the possible results of such an invasion, peaceful or armed, Mr. Venizelos appealed to the "protecting" powers not to allow any deputies to leave

the island. The Cretans were warned, the steamer companies were forbidden to carry any deputies to Greece, and the wily Premier put on a quarantine in Greece against all arrivals from the island. Some few deputies who did actually start, were escorted back in disgrace to Suda Bay by a French warship. But the Cretans have the obstinate persistency of a cat, and still cherish hopes. The Greek Government recognizes that to admit Cretan deputies to the Chamber would be an act hostile to Turkey, and would provoke an invasion. The Cretans, on the other hand, aside from those whom personal ambition has blinded, see that the real prosperity of the island demands not annexation to Greece but independence. There is more than one point of view from which the similarity, pointed out by *The Near East*, between Crete and Ireland is striking. And the question whether Greece wishes to take upon itself such a problem of home rule is a serious one.

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

St. Paul's Collegiate Institute, composed of Academy and College departments, has been carrying on its regular work this fall in a creditable manner. The number of students has been decreased from 255 last year to 161 this year. The cause for this is twofold: the difficulty of securing financial aid for a large number of those boys who can only pay a small proportion of the regular charge of Lt. 12 for board and tuition, and also the lack of room and equipment. The College department has 72, the Academy, 89 students enrolled.

The faculty is composed of eight Armenians, two French and five American teachers. Mrs. Rogers, in addition to her work among the women of the city, is teaching two English classes in the Academy. Mrs. Christie, although relieved of her teaching, is carrying on her husband's administrative work in his absence.

The Y. M. C. A. under the leadership of its new president, Mr. J. F. Candy, is carrying on its work efficiently. Bible study is required of all students five days in the week. The moral tone of the school is good, and the relations between the students and faculty are very friendly and helpful.

By the doctor's advice President Christie has gone to Egypt for a time hoping to find relief in the warm dry air of the Sudan for his bronchial trouble, which has been quite persistent. Before leaving Tarsus his general health was much improved.

The new four-story building of which our College is justly proud is still in the process of construction, the work being delayed by lack of sufficient funds. With only a part of the windows and a few doors in place, and with boards filling the other openings, the building is nevertheless used for dormitory and recitation rooms. But just wait till the building is finished! Even as it is, it can be seen for a distance of 15 miles around, and when completed it will be the pride of all Tarsus.

P. E. N.

OUR SHIAH NEIGHBORS, THE NUSAIRIYEH.

BY REV. J. S. STEWART, D.D.

The Nusairiyeh are a peculiar people of obscure origin, found chiefly in the Ansairian Mountains and around the cities of Antioch, Tarsus and Adana. The lately published "Geography of The Turkish Empire and the Levant," states that they are believed to be the descendants of very early inhabitants of this region, with some mixture of Persian blood, and that they number about 120,000.* A Protestant teacher who lived among them for several years, and conducted a boarding school for the Latakia Mission, held that they are a branch of the Carmathians of Cufa and of Arab stock. They are not permitted to intermarry with other races, yet there is very probably some admixture of Persian blood, as well as of European through Crusaders. They are extremely unwilling and disloyal Turkish subjects, maintaining intact their tribal relations and government, and refusing, whenever possible, to pay taxes or to furnish soldiers. There are frequent and bloody feuds among them, in which a life for a life or the price of blood is rigorously exacted. The price of blood for a man is now 30,000 piastres. Robbery and petty thieving are common, and one of their race who does not carry sword, pistol and magazine rifle is not prepared to travel in the Ansairian Mountains. They are chiefly tillers of the soil, whence the common name of Fellahin. Their genius does not lead them to plant orchards and gardens, and only a few olive, fig, mulberry, and poplar trees are to be seen; and they are content with a meager supply of vegetables, although their lands are the best in all Syria, in respect of fertility, climate and water supply. In general, the men are the lords of creation, do the loafing and hunting birds with hawks, while the poor women are the laborers and beasts of burden. The plowing and reaping and threshing are mainly done by the men. Their houses are roughly built of stones, with or without clay, with clay roofs and without windows or chimneys. Their beds are libbads spread on the ground, and a single cover suffices for a whole family. The live stock occupies the same room as the human beings at night.

The writer spent a memorable night in the house of a sheikh or mukhtar, where there were some fourteen persons, a horse, a cow, a donkey, some goats, chickens, tibu, tobacco (the famous "Abou Riha" tobacco) curing in the smoke of a fire kindled in the middle of the room. There were two men snoring loudly, a baby crying, to say nothing of fleas biting, and eyes smarting from the smoke and foul air. As we sat on the floor next morning eating our frugal repast, a hen from away back, aiming for the door, flew over our heads but managed to leave her footprints in our plate of butter.

Polygamy is general, and woman is bought and sold, cursed and beaten. They say that she was created out of the wickedness of Satan, and that she has no religion. A proverb runs thus, "If you do not beat your wife many times a day, at least beat the place where she has sat, lest she become

*The Encyclopædia of Missions (1904) says about 300,000.

insolent and unmanageable." She knows no rest, sympathy or love when well, nor pity nor care nor prayer when sick. She knows no liberty and has no rights. Perhaps the least that is said about the utter absence of all that goes to make up true home life the better. There is no "Home, sweet home."

In religion they profess to be Mohammedans, and the Turkish government recognizes them as such. They confess, "There is no God but God," etc., and use the Koran to some extent, but give to it their own private interpretation. They practice circumcision. At the same time, they hold that God has appeared eleven times in human form, viz. in Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Ali, etc. In reality they deify Ali, who is said by the party called Shemaliyeh or Shemsiyeh to dwell in the sun, and by the Kelazyeh or Kamariyeh to dwell in the moon. "I declare I worship Ali, son of Abou Talib; he is above all, a God almighty" (quoted from Lieut. Walpole's book). They look for a final appearance of God in some future Mahdi or Messiah. Truly they have lords many and gods many. They worship at many shrines, at the tombs of their sheikhs, on the high hills and under the green trees, and swear endlessly by God and in the name of God, by the Khudr El Akhdar, the Forty Martyrs, Ahmad Karfas, Nabi Yunis, Ja'far Et Tayyar, etc. They believe in transmigration and almost everything except the truth. They are permitted, indeed, to hold and profess any form of religion, provided that they do not deny nor reveal the secret rite or mystery of the "Ain, Mim, Sin," viz., Ali or the "meaning," Mohammed or the "Name," and Suleiman the Persian or the "Door."

This is the bond that binds fast their souls to Satan, the dark cloud that shuts out the light of life. Those who reveal these so-called mysteries, or neglect their religious duties, or deny the divinity of Ali are doomed to return as Jews, Christians or Mohammedans (Sunnites), donkeys, pigs, or dogs. "Know thou," said the Imam, "that the earth shall not receive thee in burial, if thou expose this mystery, nor shalt thou return to occupy a human skin, but at thy death shalt enter the skin (Kamsan) of an animal from which thou shalt never escape." (Quoted from the exposition by Suleiman of Adana.) Only the males of 18 years and upwards are initiated. Suleiman's initiation extended through three meetings, 40 and 17 days apart. He drank a cup of wine at each meeting, accepted the authority of the Imam, promised secrecy on pain of death, offered 12 sureties and then two sureties of those 12, all of whom promised to bring him that they might cut him in pieces and drink his blood if he exposed the rite. Finally he took an oath by all the heavenly bodies. All this reminds one of Mormon and Masonic oaths and blasphemies.

What a strange and glorious contrast is seen in the life of a youth converted to Protestant Christianity! "He was a rare young man as to talent, piety, and naturally amiable disposition, rendered doubly lovely by the sweet influence of the Spirit of Christ. He was a rare companion. Even his enemies could say no worse thing of him than that he had become a Christian. He was ready to confess Christ in any company, and did not shrink from the obloquy of the cross." There have been mission schools among and for them for fifty

years, and the boys and the girls have shown that they are not harder to evangelize than other children, and not far from the Kingdom of God, but they have been prevented by their own religious sheikhs and the Government. At present there is a little more liberty for Gospel work.

Latakia, Nov. 29, 1911.

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT THRICE A YEAR.

Perhaps the children in America wish they could have three Christmases every year, as people do in this land. But after all, there is less of novelty about the second and third, and some people even in Turkey would be glad to have only one. We of the western churches celebrate ours first; then the Julian calendar gets in its work and the Greek Christmas, Dec. 25th old style, comes thirteen days after ours, or on Jan. 7th; and then tradition has its innings, and the Armenians celebrate Jan. 6th old style, or Jan. 19th new style. As a matter of fact, the Armenians have in their favor the oldest tradition; for until the middle of the fourth century whatever celebrating of the day of the Nativity occurred, was on Jan. 6th, which was also regarded as the anniversary of the Baptism, or Epiphany. A homily of Chrysostom to the people of Antioch, given probably on Dec. 25, 386, speaks of its then being less than ten years since that date had been made manifest and plain to them. Pope Gregory XIII, in 1582, by suppressing ten days in the calendar, introduced a reformed reckoning, known since by his name, and used in all western countries. This brought about the difference between the Greek and Western Christmas dates, which difference of date has since grown from ten days to thirteen, because the Eastern churches have regarded 1700, 1800 and 1900 as leapyears. In consideration of the strong prejudice that appears to exist in Russia, Greece and elsewhere against dropping out thirteen days at once from the calendar, so as to bring the old-style date up to what the educated all acknowledge to be the more correct new-style date, it seems to us the most practical method of reform would be to legislate leapyear out of the reckoning entirely for a term of some fifty years, by which process there would be no loss of business days, saint's days or other important days, and in half a century all would be arranged.

The three Christmases play havoc with the school programs in this country; for Dec. 25th ought to be a holiday, *à la* American, so to speak, while the Greeks demand Jan. 7th and the Armenians must have Jan. 19th. New Year's Day, old style, or Jan. 14th, is also an important holiday; so that the "Christmas vacation" usually comes so as to include in its twelve to fifteen days both Jan. 7th and Jan. 19th, or at all events the latter, which is also the Greek and Armenian Epiphany. And the hard-worked Christmas-tree, which has borne one crop in the home of some American family, is, by judicious hot-house culture forced to bloom once more for Greek pupils in the school and yet again for the Armenians, till the poor teachers are ready to collapse from the strenuous task of their Christmas holidays.

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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THE BEIRUT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Arabic-speaking workers in the Levant will be interested to learn that the Syria Mission are perfecting plans for reorganizing their theological seminary on an interdenominational basis. Instruction will be predominantly in Arabic and the course will cover three years. The main subjects will be Systematic Theology, Biblical Interpretation, Church History, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, Biblical Geography, History of Religions, Rhetoric and Elocution, and both instrumental and vocal music. Courses in English, Hebrew and Greek will be added when necessary. The American members of the faculty will consist of Rev. F. E. Hoskins, D.D., President, Rev. O. J. Hardin, Rev. F. W. March, Rev. G. A. Ford, D.D. Mr. Ibrahim Haurani and other Syrian scholars will also be on the faculty. The faculty of the S.P.C. have voted to cooperate in every way possible by opening the various departments of instruction, the library and the museums to the students. A new building will be erected in the Mission Compound at Beirut for the Seminary and a class will begin in 1912.

IS THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES A MENACE?

The *Tanin* writes of the Parliamentary situation:—

"The talk these days is of dissolving the Chamber. Who are the ones who today are doing the Ottoman state the greatest wrong? Is it the Italians, who have attacked Tripoli? Or the revolutionary committees, who are throwing bombs in Macedonia? The reply is in the negative. A great nation that is tenacious can easily bear up under these difficulties. We repeat: it is neither the Italians nor the revolutionary committees that can do the greatest harm to the fatherland. Our greatest injury today comes from the fact that we are not left free to apply ourselves to the war in Tripoli or to the Macedonian question. At this crisis there is not a single Ottoman patriot but cries out 'God save us from this Chamber!' With all the millions they have spent, the Italians have not thus far succeeded in doing the country the injury that this Chamber is inflicting. The Macedonian committees may blow up a few trains; but the committees in the Chamber, by the bombs they are placing, are capable of blowing up the country.

"We met an Opposition deputy after yesterday's scandal in the Chamber. The tears in his eyes showed his intense

feeling, as he said, 'I was not in favor of this.' 'Tell that to your party,' was our reply; but he said, 'Who would listen to me?' So it is not reasonable to accuse the whole Opposition. There are those among its members whose heart bleeds. But these unfortunates are carried away, swept on by the flood of evil. The motto of these opponents is, 'After us, the deluge.' See the incendiary article in the *Teesisat* by Riza Nour Bey, attacking Said Pasha: he says the Government is on the point of taking from the Kourds the lands they possess, and giving them to the Armenians! This news will be carried to Kourdistan where people's spirits are already over-excited. The misunderstanding will increase. The ignorant population will be exasperated at seeing themselves about to be dispossessed for the benefit of the Armenians. Who can foresee the possible tragedies! And the one who has done this is a deputy.

"Nothing good or useful for the nation can any longer be expected from those whose judgment is so inflamed by ambition or hatred. The members of the Union and Progress party, understanding this, were of opinion the other day after the session, that the greatest patriotic service they could render the country would be to deliver it from this Chamber, or, at least, to resign in a body, so that the assembly might be dissolved."

THE TRIPOLI CAMPAIGN.

The sensation of the week was the cession of the bay and harbor of Solloum by Turkey to Egypt. This is labeled as "temporarily ceded till the close of the war." Italy is naturally incensed at the acceptance by Egypt of this fine harbor on the Tripolitan frontier, a scant hundred miles from Tobrouk, after Italy had declared the annexation of the entire territory, — as if that bombastic and premature declaration bound the hands of all neutral powers, or as if it had been recognized by a single power! As a matter of fact, this cession merely terminates a dispute between Turkey and Egypt which goes back to 1841. Turkey claimed that her Tripolitan territory went some 150 miles farther east than Egypt was disposed to allow; but Hunter Pasha, representing the Anglo-Egyptian government, has been in Solloum for some time, and now the place passes definitely into Egyptian hands. Another move that has caused needless surprise has been the occupation, a month ago, just now announced, of the oasis of Djanet, not far from Ghadames, by French Sahara Police. This oasis was occupied by the French in 1905, by the Turks in 1908, and by the French again in 1909 and 1910. It is unlikely that the Italians will demur at this French move, which is said to have been foreseen in a Franco-Italian agreement in 1902.

Sharp fighting is reported this week at Ain Zara, both sides claiming the victory. Engagements are also reported at Benghazi and Tobrouk, the Italians in each case repelling an Ottoman attack.

Italy has now about 80,000 troops in North Africa. Before commencing the weary march to the interior, she needs many more camels, which must be brought from Eritrea and Somaliland. Only about 1,000 are now available.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

The increase of smallpox in this city has led to extra vigilance on the part of the medical authorities.

His Holiness Joachim III., Ecumenical Patriarch, presented his resignation last week, but at the urgent request of the ecclesiastical and lay councils, has withdrawn it, intimating however that he must soon resign on account of old age.

Negotiations between the two parliamentary parties on the subject of the cabinet crisis have failed. The Opposition stoutly insisted on the withdrawal of the Grand Vizier, which the Union and Progress party would not swallow. The proposed Constitutional amendment is to come up in today's session for a battle royal.

The Greek dailies *Tachydromos* and *Ameroliptos* have been suspended for quoting an objectionable article from the already suppressed *Tesisat*.

THE PROVINCES.

A strong band of Greek revolutionists was exterminated ten days ago in a fight near Elassona by the Ottoman forces sent against them.

The Khedivial steamer *Menzaleh* was stopped last week by an Italian warship and Lt. 30,000 destined to Hodeida was confiscated, together with some packages sent from Constantinople.

The German steamer *Stamboul* has grounded on a sand-bank near Smyrna.

Cholera is reported to have broken out in a virulent form at Habousi, a village on the Harpout plain.

The first section of the Hodeidah-Sanaa railroad has been completed, a distance of three kilometres.

According to despatches received by Kegham Effendi, M.P., the situation in the Moush district is far from satisfactory, murders and other crimes being frequent.

The mail-coach between Yozghad and Medjidié was robbed a week ago and the driver killed and a gendarme wounded. Three mailbags were stolen and money to the amount of 517,410 piastres.

NOTES.

Sir Richard Crawford has by imperial *iradé* been appointed Financial and Economic Adviser to the Ottoman Government. He will still be connected also with Customs administration.

Rev. and Mrs. Charles K. Tracy and their two children left Smyrna Dec. 16th for America, via Naples.

Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Martin and their children, Miss E. M. Blakely and Rev. F. H. Leslie arrived in Aintab Nov. 27th; Miss Blakely went on to Marash, and Mr. Leslie is designated to Ourfa.

Mrs. Stephen v.R. Trowbridge is making a good recovery in Brooklyn after a severe operation. She will probably not return to Aintab for a year.

We print today the third of our series on the less-known communities of this Empire. Several more articles are promised us, on the Druzes, the Maronites, the Yezidi, the Behai, etc. Each of these will likewise be by a specialist. Dr. J. S. Stewart is of the Reformed Presbyterian Mission at Latakia.

OTHER LANDS.

Congress having by vote abrogated the treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia, President Taft has undertaken to secure the drafting of a new treaty.

The revolution in China proceeds quietly, but there seems little doubt that the Manchu dynasty must go. Yuan-Shih-Kai is named as possible president of a Chinese Republic.

The assembly gathered at Etchmiadzin for the election of a Catholicos of the Armenians has not yet arrived at a decision. Mgr. Ormanian, former Patriarch of Constantinople, is the most popular candidate.

The American Board Almanac for 1912 has just made its appearance. It contains several photographs taken by Dr. Patton on his recent tour through Turkey, India, Ceylon and Africa. A welcome addition this year is a table showing the medical work of the Board. The catalogue of missionaries is arranged as a prayer-calendar.

Persia has accepted *in toto* the Russian ultimatum, and has informed Mr. Morgan Shuster that his services are no longer required. The incensed Persians have attacked the invading Russian troops at Tabriz, Resht and Enzeli, with loss on both sides.

The British Parliament has been prorogued till Feb. 14th next.

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