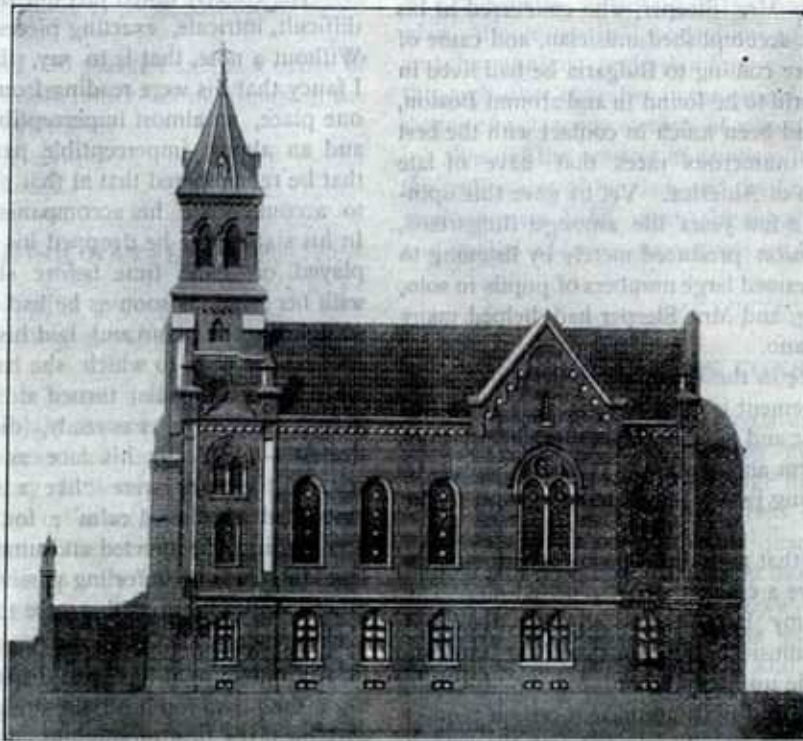


The Orient.

Vol. II., No. 18

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE, August 16, 1911.

Price, One Piastre



WORK BEGUN ON VLANGA CHURCH.

An interesting ceremony took place on Thursday, Aug. 10th, when ground was broken on the lot at Gedik Pasha for the new edifice of the Vlanga Church. In the presence of a number of people, the civil representative of the Protestant community, Hagop Eff. Boyadjian, wielded the gilded pick, while Mr. Peet plied the gilded shovel. Prayer was offered by the pastor, Rev. Kevork Demirdjian, and by Rev. A. B. Schimavonian.

The architect's mental X-ray photograph is reproduced above, of how the church will look when finished. As stated some weeks ago in our columns, the amount of about \$11,000 is at interest in America now for this building, the proceeds of a gift from the late Mr. D. Willis James of New York. The building committee has just been notified of another gift of \$5,000 from the family of Mr. James. The estimated cost of the church and a parsonage is about \$25,000. There is a plan also to erect a school building, to cost \$8,000 more. Up to this time, no effort has been made by the church itself to contribute toward this sum, owing to the uncertainty caused by governmental difficulties. Even the plot of ground itself

was purchased with funds collected largely abroad, in the main by the late Dr. T. C. Trowbridge. We now look confidently to the church and congregation to make a generous contribution toward what is needed for the building. Even then, help will have to be solicited from abroad, that a worthy and suitable evangelical place of worship may be erected on this splendid site.

It may not be generally realized that, while evangelical services have been carried on for many years in several districts of the old city of Stamboul, this will be the first Protestant church building ever erected in Stamboul, all the others being in other quarters of Constantinople.

The church which is thus obtaining a home across the street from the Gedik Pasha school is known as the Vlanga church, because when formed, sixty-one years ago, it met in the quarter known as Vlanga, down on the Marmora, near the vegetable gardens that occupy the site of the old harbor at the mouth of the Lycus. This harbor was filled up with the earth carted away when the Laleli Mosque was built, in 1760-63. It was in these gardens that hundreds of people took refuge from the devastating fire of three weeks ago, which burned up to the edge of this open space. The Vlanga Church headquarters were moved to Gedik Pasha over twenty years ago.

ON HEARING
SASHO ALEXANDER POPOFF,
 THE VIOLINIST, PLAY.

It is now some twenty-eight years since I heard with great interest the pronouncement by Rev. W. W. Sleeper of Samokov that the Bulgarians were the most gifted race in things musical that he had yet met with.

Mr. Sleeper, as also Mrs. Sleeper, who concurred in his opinion, was himself an accomplished musician, and came of a musical family. Before coming to Bulgaria he had lived in the selectest musical world to be found in and around Boston, Mass., U. S. A., and had been much in contact with the best musical talent of the numerous races that have of late poured in on the shores of America. Yet he gave this opinion unhesitatingly after a few years' life amongst Bulgarians, and not as the impression produced merely by listening to them, but after he had trained large numbers of pupils in solo, part, and chorus singing, and Mrs. Sleeper had helped many to the mastery of the piano.

A lengthy residence in the country has long since convinced me that the judgement is correct, so far as a much inferior knowledge of music and more limited experience of other nations enable me to form an opinion. It would be easy to dilate on the substantiating proofs; but I must pass on to the latest evidence of it.

The announcement that a youthful prodigy had come to our town and was to give a concert rather repelled me. The spectacular is not to my taste, least of all when displayed through the medium of music. But it chanced that I met the little fellow before I made up my mind not to go to hear him. He came with his mother and party to make a certain request of me, and I was at once greatly pleased with the perfect simplicity of the 10-year old boy. He was dressed as any boy of that age, of well-to-do family, would be; but, evidently without any thought of himself, he kept slightly in the background with the most unaffected modesty, looking about him with a shy boyish interest while we elders transacted the business. That little interview disarmed my prejudice; and the enthusiastic report brought to me from his first performance confirmed my growing intention to hear his second. I now cherish with happiness the thought that once at least I shook hands with him.

When he came on to the stage of the concert-room the favorable impression was strengthened. The most complete absence of affectation, posing, self-consciousness characterized all his six appearances. His little bows were just such as any ordinary boy of that age would have made. His playing was as completely without mannerisms or strivings to produce a sensation as that of the most sedate musician in the privacy of his own home. Indeed it was evident that, as soon as he took up his position to play, he saw no audience before him. His large dark eyes filled with the music-light that blinded out all else; and as I watched his face, occasionally meeting his unseeing gaze, I realized that

his whole soul and all its senses were absorbed in the music that possessed it. So unconscious was he, that once or twice, while his violin was lowered and he was awaiting the place to resume, he unthinkingly gently strummed, with the fingers with which he was holding the instrument, the same notes that his accompanist was playing. And so unostentatious was his manner that I did not myself notice that he played one of his pieces all on one string: my daughter had to assure me of it afterwards.

The concert lasted just one hour; and he played all the difficult, intricate, exacting pieces without a note before him. Without a note, that is to say, that our eyes could see; but I fancy that his were reading from a vision before him. At one place, an almost imperceptible glance towards the piano and an almost imperceptible pause in his playing indicated that he remembered that at that place he would have slightly to accommodate his accompanist as she turned the page. In his sixth piece he dropped his bow, and his accompanist played on some time before she noticed that he was not with her; but as soon as he had recovered the bow he went straight to the piano and laid his finger at once on the very spot on the page to which she had to return. Only once, when his accompanist turned at the beginning of his fourth piece to see if he was ready, did a smile — the faintest and fleetest — pass over his face as he responded. For the rest, his features were "like a statue solid set," yet not "moulded in colossal calm"; for if, on the one hand, there was nothing like affected and unnatural gravity, on the other hand there was no unfeeling passivity, but the strong little face glowed with emotions that were too overmastering for smiles.

The resemblance to the portraits of Beethoven was very marked, in spite of the great disparity in years. The massive head, the broad forehead, the straight eyebrows, the large deep dark eyes, the firm mouth and chin made it easy to think that such must Beethoven have looked when a boy. His hair, black and straight, was only slightly longer than is conventional, and was occasionally thrown back from his face with a little unaffected toss.

Of the performance itself I can say only this: I have heard Madame Norman Naruda (Lady Hallé), Remenjë, and many other less noted violinists; but never have I heard anything that came within measurable distance of the playing of this Bulgarian boy. To say that his technique was faultless is to say very little: it was marvellous beyond description; while as to the exquisite purity and flute-like singing of his notes, it was to me a positive revelation: I had no idea that the violin could be made so to respond to human touch.

I have thought over a host of phrases to describe the predominant impression made upon me by the wonderful performance. Only one seems to me in any degree adequate; and even it leaves out the sense of exquisite enjoyment which underlay all. But before the boy had been playing two minutes I was overcome with a deep sense of awe; and that sense grew upon me to the end, and has remained with me ever since. It seemed to me that I was brought face to face with the Infinite Source of power. Had the performer been

full-grown, I should have wondered at the perfection to which he had attained after laborious years. Had the playing been mechanically perfect, I should have been lost in astonishment. But when that child stood up before us and rendered Beethoven, Lipinski, Bach, Beriot, and others as he did, it seemed to me that but the thinnest gauze of his personality stood between me and the Great Author of his amazing gift. I felt as though I must "take off my shoes from off my feet, for the place whereon I stood was holy ground," — holy with the revealed presence of the Almighty.

Sasho Alexander Popoff, 10 years of age, is a native of Kustendil, and has studied music four years in Vienna at the expense of the Bulgarian Government.

Samokov.

R. T.

THE NEW TURKISH BATTLESHIP.

The *Times* gives the following particulars as to the new battleship which the Armstrong group are to construct in England:—

The displacement of this vessel and of a second vessel which will also shortly be laid down is to be about 23,000 tons, and the primary armament will include ten of the largest guns yet installed in any battleship, arranged in twin gun turrets, so that all may fire on either broadside, while four can fire ahead and four astern. The secondary armament will consist of 18 guns. All the guns are to be mounted in heavily-armoured casemates arranged well above the waterline and so that half may fire on each broadside with a considerable arc of training before and abaft the beam. There will also be a large number of machine guns on the superstructure deck. All the ordnance and machinery as well as the armour will be of British design and manufacture.

The speed provided for is 21 knots. The latest type of Parsons combined impulse and reaction turbines working in series are to be fitted. These should give high efficiency, in association with the coal and oil fired water-tube boilers, not only at full power but at cruising speeds.

BITHYNIA UNION ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Bithynia Union was held June 30th to July 5th at Bardizag, Rev. A. B. Schmavonian being chairman. The reports of the home missionary committee, of the committee to communicate with President Gates of Robert College on the possibility of opening a theological school in connection with that institution, and of the committee to attend the dedication of the Afion Kara Hissar church, were presented.

The most important items of business transacted were, (1) the apportionment of a budget of annual meeting expenses amounting to Lt. 16; (2) arranging for a special day of prayer, during the Week of Prayer, for the evangelistic work in Kourdistan; (3) the appointing of Rev. M. Knadjian and Rev. H. A. Jeizian as members of the Commission on the Protes-

tant Chancery; (4) a decision that these same men be the representatives in an inter-union gathering; (5) in answer to inquiries sent to the Union by Rev. H. S. Barnum, D.D., the Union expressed itself as in favor of placing the *Avedaper* in the care of an Armenian editor, under joint American and Armenian control and support, and of making it a daily as soon as practicable; (6) the request of the Emmanuel Church of Constantinople for admission to the Union was tabled until a committee, consisting of two Americans and one Armenian, should use its good offices to bring about a complete and harmonious understanding as between the members of this and other churches in the capital. A new executive committee of seven was elected, of whom two are ordained men.

Besides the services of Sunday, July 2nd, which included the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, two public sessions were held, when the reports of the year were read, and special addresses were given on Christian education.

THE CHOLERA IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

We regret to announce an alarming increase of cholera cases in the quarters of Haskeyu and Kassim Pasha during the past week. It seems that large numbers of Jews migrated after the fire in Balat, three weeks ago, to the houses of friends in these already crowded quarters; and this unsanitary huddling of humanity has proved most conducive to the rapid spread of disease. Besides this, rumors have been scattered broadcast that the doctors were giving poison to cholera patients, to kill off the disease; and the fear of such treatment, added to the dread of quarantine, has led the poor ignorant people to hide cholera cases, — the very worst treatment possible. Add to this the terribly unsanitary state of this part of the city, and it is not at all strange that the disease has spread there. It is impossible to get at exact figures, under the circumstances; but it is safe to say that from sixty to a hundred cases a day is about the record, with perhaps fifty to sixty per cent. of fatalities. The new prefect of the city is acting with great vigor, and has isolated with a military cordon a certain portion of Haskeyu; he has appointed medical inspectors to make a house-to-house visitation: he has increased the number of doctors for that section; he has decided to relieve the congestion of humanity by transferring several hundred people to tents in the open air; most of the wells in that region have been closed up as contaminated; extra policemen have been detailed there to enforce quarantine regulations, and the prefect himself has visited Haskeyu to try to calm the people and restore confidence. He has also sent a message to the grand rabbi, Haïm Naoum Effendi, who is summering at Yakadjik, above Pendik, asking him to return to Haskeyu and help manage his people.

In the rest of the city, the number of cholera cases is not large. The official record for the city for the week ending Monday noon, Aug. 14th, is 263 cases and 139 deaths.

LEÏLE-I-BERAT.

The night of the fifteenth day of Shaban, which this year fell on Aug. 9th, is known among the Moslems as Leïle-i-Berat, or Berat Gedjesi. This was the night on which the prophet Mohammed is reported to have received from heaven the *berat*, or notification that the sins of his followers were forgiven. On that evening this year, according to the usual custom, special prayers were said and certain portions read from the Koran, at the Imperial Palace; the heir-apparent, Prince Yousouf Izzeddin, and a number of other imperial princes were present with the Sultan. All the mosques were illuminated.

This is the day on which the *Sürre*, or Imperial gift for Mecca, is sent from the palace. This consists of money and a new covering for the Kaaba, an annual gift from the Sultan. It is sent on a gaily caparisoned camel, and the expedition is commonly called the Sacred Caravan. Originally it was supposed to be a camel-journey all the way to Mecca; but nowadays the caravan is ferried across to Scutari, and after quite a stay there, is conveyed thence by steamer all the way to Jeddah, the port of Mecca.

This feast-day serves as a reminder also of the near approach of Ramazan, which month of fasting begins about two weeks later, or at the following new moon. As stated in our issue of March 22nd, Ramazan does not begin till two credible witnesses have testified before the *kadi* that they have seen the moon. From then till the following moon has been similarly "sworn in", the faithful must abstain from all food and drink, and from smoking, by day, but may feast all they wish by night. Children are not expected to keep the fast; so for them it is a happy time indeed, with all the food they want by day, extra fine meals by night, and Sheker Bairam in prospect.

Y. M. C. A., BROUSA.

The twenty-first of July was a red letter day in the history of the Y. M. C. A. in the city of Brousa.

A building adjoining the Protestant Church, formerly used as a parsonage, was converted into a most attractive room for the uses of the above mentioned organization, at a cost of Lt. 150. The opening of this large hall was made the occasion of bringing to the attention of the citizens of Brousa the splendid work inaugurated by the young men of the Evangelical Church.

A program of unusual attractiveness was prepared and rendered with surprising ability. An orchestra, composed wholly of local talent, supplied the music. These young people acquitted themselves with much distinction. Mr. E. O. Jacob, of Constantinople, Travelling Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. for Turkey, and Professor Krikorian, Editor of the *Rahnuma*, gave most interesting and inspiring addresses. Besides these visiting speakers, a local physician showed his deep inte-

rest in young men by giving an address of a very practical character containing sentiments of sound wisdom. The closing speech was made by His Reverence, Vartan Vartabed, who is temporarily filling the responsible position of Bishop of this diocese. He spoke with much feeling and eloquence of the need of just such a rendezvous for young men. He pointed out that in all Brousa there was not a place where young men could safely meet for mutual benefit. Every resort for Christian young men in the city presented a variety of temptations of an alluring character, such as intoxicating drinks and gambling. He congratulated the Y. M. C. A. on their enterprise, high ideals, and most praiseworthy motive and urged the large number of young men of all nationalities present to spend their spare time within the walls of this attractive place.

The room is well furnished with marble covered tables, chairs and other necessary requisites. On the large table in the center of the hall is a good assortment of English, French, Turkish and Armenian papers. Books too, of a useful character will be supplied. Refreshments of a harmless kind as well as games will be provided.

The purpose of these earnest young men is to supply a much needed temperance resort where young men of a serious turn can find entertainment and amusement without the objectionable features that almost universally prevail in places where young men resort.

J. P. McNAUGHTON.

THE CABINET CHEMICALLY ANALYZED.

The *Zia*, commenting on an article in the *Tanin* on the change of color in the Hakki Pasha cabinet, says:—

"The *Tanin* of the day before yesterday spoke of the color of the cabinet, and this has aroused much discussion in certain scientific circles. The druggists and the chemists have gathered to see whether the air or the water had tarnished it somewhat; and this is their report:—

"The cabinet is composed of twelve elements. Chemical properties: it is heterogeneous, exceedingly subtle and elastic, but absolutely unbreakable and unexplosive. According to the statements of the well known chemist *Tanin*, its color has not yet been precisely ascertained. When, at the opening of Chambers and at interpellations, it becomes fused, it loses one or two of its component elements. This drug, in the form of a dodecahedron, sometimes presents the facets of *Union and Progress*, sometimes others. At ordinary temperatures, especially in winter, it softens, and threatens to completely disintegrate; while in summer, because of the rise in temperature, it liquefies, becomes viscous, and remains stuck wherever it happens to be.

"*Source and Manufacture*: Like other metals, the cabinet is found in certain mines. Though veins of it exist everywhere, the chief ones are at Funduklu*, and especially

* The quarter where the Parliament house stands.

THE ORIENT

A weekly, English paper published at the American Bible House, Constantinople. Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

Terms, Annual subscription for Turkey, Bulgaria, Egypt, and Persia 20 piasters gold.

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in the mine called Majority Pit. Though this mine is regarded as public domain, no private individual can obtain a concession to work it, and it is worked only by the government. In the course of recent excavations, the lode has been found to divide into two branches; it was at first thought that the metal was exhausted, or that its value was divided between these two; but a minute examination reveals the fact that the bifurcation was due merely to a divergence of view, and that the vein again united and was more solid and of better quality than before.

"Application: It is used in nearly all industries. It is employed equally against internal and external complications; it is useful also for the progress and union of the country as well as to nourish the governmental and opposition organs. It is especially efficacious in every ailment which breaks out among us. However, its application in cases of fire is difficult, and it is utterly ineffective against the cholera."

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

Rifaat Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been nominated as Ambassador to France, to succeed the late Naoum Pasha.

The Ministry of Finance on Wednesday last paid over to the Armenian Patriarchate the sum of Lt. 10,000 voted by the Chamber last year for the benefit of the widows and orphans in Adana and Aleppo. This is the last instalment of the entire sum of Lt. 22,000, and a portion of it is to go to the Protestant and Catholic communities in Adana.

Hüsein Kiazim Bey, former vali of Aleppo, has been made Prefect of this city; and Soubhi Bey, formerly Prefect, has been made Vali of the new Vilayet of Constantinople.

The *Levant Herald* has been authorized to resume publication.

Ambassador Rockhill was to have been received in audience yesterday by the Sultan, but was prevented from so doing by a slight illness.

As a consequence of recent losses by fire in this city, the insurance companies included in the syndicate have decided to raise the rates of insurance in the city by 50%. This ought to benefit the companies outside the syndicate.

A number of cavalry horses were made to swim the Bosphorus the other day, between Roumeli Hissar and Candilli. The experiment took only fifteen minutes, according to the local press.

THE PROVINCES.

His Majesty has conferred on Sherif Hüsein Pasha, Emir of Mecca, the medal of the order of the Imtiaz, set in brilliants, in recognition of his military successes in Assir.

There has been an extensive reassignment of the governors-general in the provinces of Aleppo, Adrianople, Erzeroum, Trebizond, Tripoli (Africa), Diarbekir, Kastemoni and Basra. The expediency of such a shifting about seems very doubtful.

According to a despatch from Ourfa, a panic occurred in that city as a consequence of a quarrel between two shopkeepers, an Armenian and a Turk, which quarrel became a small-sized race-riot before the police succeeded in restoring order. Eighteen of the rioters were arrested.

Nedjmeddin Bey, Minister of Justice and Religions, and Ahmed Mahir Effendi, Vice-President of the Chamber, left on Saturday evening for Kastemoni, their electoral district, for a brief visit.

A detachment of Ottoman soldiers are reported to have occupied a point on the frontier of Tibesti, south of Tripoli in Africa, claimed by the French to be in French territory. Following the representations of the French government, the Sublime Porte has ordered an inquiry to be made.

Nearly all the Albanian refugees have now returned from Montenegro. The Turkish soldiers are reported to be fraternizing with them, and sharing with them their rations of bread and tobacco. The government promises to rebuild their ruined houses. A school for gendarmes has been opened at Shkodra.

The leader of a Greek revolutionary band, named Perdogos, made his escape from prison at Salonica on the night of July 23rd, while under sentence of death, and has not yet been recaptured. He and his followers have since had three brushes with the gendarmes sent after him, and he seems to have been wounded in the last encounter, as he was at the time of his capture, six months ago.

NOTES.

The most hearty congratulations are in order on the occasion of the golden wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Herrick, which comes today. They are celebrating the day in Champex, in the mountains of Valais, where the weather, according to a letter from Dr. Herrick dated Aug. 9, is superb.

Our attention has been called to an unfortunate blunder that crept into last week's issue. In the extract quoted from the announcement of the "Anorthosis" society, the words, on p. 4, "Which condemn our Orthodox Church," should be changed to read, "Which our Orthodox Church condemns", giving a very different sense.

Mr. Jordan, formerly instructor in Robert College, arrived on Friday last from America on his way to Teheran, whither he goes as private secretary to Mr. Morgan Shuster, the Persian Treasurer-General.

Rev. and Mrs. E. W. McDowell, Rev. and Mrs. E. T. Allen and three children and Mrs. Van Hook, passed through here on Monday last on the Messageries steamer on their way to Urumiah. With them is traveling Miss Ussher, sister of Dr. C. D. Ussher of Van, who goes via Persia to Van.

Mr. John H. Kingsbury, of Albany, N. Y., has been secured as instructor in the Bithynia High School, Bardizag, and will arrive next month.

Rev. H. M. Irwin and family reached Constantinople yesterday on their return from America, and left by rail today for Talas.

We would express our sympathy with Miss Agnes Fennenga, of Mardin, who expected to leave America last Saturday on her return, but is detained by the serious illness of her father.

Quite a party sailed from Boston last Saturday by the steamer *Bohemian* of the Leyland line, for Liverpool on their way to various points in Turkey. These were Miss Virginia Allen, going to Gedik Pasha, Constantinople; Mr. Franklin Candy, to St. Paul's College, Tarsus; Rev. and Mrs. W. P. Clarke and two children, returning to Monastir; Miss Isabelle Darrow, going to Marsovan; Miss Isabelle Harley, to Harpout; Mr. Walter N. James, to Anatolia College, Marsovan; Mr. Clarence Johnson, to Robert College, Constantinople; Rev. Fay E. Livengood, to Euphrates College, Harpout; Mr. Paul E. Nelson, to St. Paul's College, Tarsus; Miss Nina E. Rice, returning to Sivas; Mr. A. P. Savvides, returning to Robert College, Constantinople; and Misses Ida and Ina Verrill.

OTHER LANDS.

The Hon. John G. A. Leishman, formerly Ambassador to Turkey, and since April, 1909, American Ambassador in Rome, has been transferred to Berlin, to succeed Dr. David Jayne Hill as Ambassador to Germany.

Baroness Marschall von Bieberstein, wife of the German Ambassador, met with an accident while motoring in Berlin, last week. Fortunately her injuries, though serious, were not fatal.

The Italian cruiser *San Giorgio*, 10,000 tons, struck a rock in Naples harbor on Saturday night and sank. The crew were rescued.

The Pope is suffering from arterio-sclerosis, as well as gout, and his condition causes considerable anxiety at the Vatican.

The Zionist Congress, now in session at Basle, has sent 5,000 francs for the Stamboul fire-sufferers. In his inaugural address, President Wolfsohn took pains to refute the accusations now quite common in Turkey as against the Zionists; he declared that Zionism did not desire the creation of an independent Jewish state, but an asylum guaranteed by the state, and that they were satisfied that these guarantees were furnished under the Ottoman Constitution.

Serious strikes are reported among dock-hands and other laborers in London, Liverpool and Glasgow, resulting in rioting with a large number of wounded among the police as well as among the rioters.

The ex-Shah of Persia is still on the war-path and is reported as about 85 miles northeast of Teheran.

Rev. George Robson, D.D., of Scotland, who was prominently connected with the World Missionary Conference in June, 1910, died Aug. 2nd at Edinburgh, at the age of sixty-nine. A son and two daughters are missionaries.

Relics of the stone age, supposed to date back to 3,000 B. C., have been discovered in a stone coffin in a cave in the Aland Ids., which lie at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia, between Sweden and Finland.

The Parliament Bill, taking away from the House of Lords the veto power, was passed last week by the House of Lords, on the principle that amputating one's own limb is preferable to decapitation, or as the *Kansas City Star* puts it, it is better to be dehorned than abolished.

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Printed by H. MATTEOSIAN, Constantinople.