

The Orient.

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REMODELING AN EMPIRE.

As a result of the two wars of the past two years, the Ottoman Empire is forced to adjust itself to new conditions and modify its administrative work as well as its military arrangements. It has lost its African provinces. Economically this is a gain to the Empire, for the administrative expenses, including the upkeep of an army, in Tripoli and Benghazi had always exceeded the income from local revenues. This drain on the imperial finances will now cease. The Empire has also lost practically all its European possessions. Here is a much more serious loss; for Macedonia, and especially the valleys of the Vardar, Kara Sou and Maritza rivers, is a rich and fertile region. And the revenues of Salonica, Monastir, Üsküb and other cities constituted no small item of income. In the adjustment that will now take place, that portion of the revenues of the Public Debt Commission thus alienated will probably be guaranteed by the victorious States, just as Italy has undertaken the amount due from her new Libyan possessions. So that the Debt bondholders will lose nothing.

Turkey also loses her Slavie population, and a very large portion of her Greek subjects, together with all her Albanians. While this makes her racial problem a simpler one, still the moral effect of such a stupendous loss is bound to be to the disadvantage of the Government. More than this, her Parliament will suffer the loss of many of its ablest orators and statesmen, who represented the districts now conquered. Indeed, the question has been raised whether the Chamber of

Deputies has not proved its own undoing, and whether some other form of body could not wisely be substituted, — for example, an enlarged Council of State.

The Empire appears also to have lost many if not all of its insular possessions, though perhaps this problem may be left for a general European Congress to settle. Some of these islands, such as Chios and Mitylene, have been very productive and a source of income. The fact that all have had a population overwhelmingly Greek has given rise to no small amount of administrative difficulty; and strategically Turkey has never been in a position to defend them, with so insignificant a navy. If the islands are now also lopped off, the Empire will become more homogeneous and its management easier. Very little will be left save the Asiatic provinces, and the Government can then devote undivided attention to the settlement of its Armeno-Kourdish, Lebanon and Arabian problems, and the question of the Persian boundary, meanwhile doing what it can to introduce reforms in Anatolia. If it has the grace to call in experts from England or Switzerland or elsewhere to aid in healing the body politic, the results will certainly be more happy and more lasting.

The problem of the commercial development of the country is no less important, and hardly less complicated. If one could depend on all under-officials being as truly progressive and unselfish as the Grand Vizier, things would be easier. One does, however, occasionally meet government officers who are past masters at blocking things; and the wheels of progress must wait while these Effendis drink their coffee and smoke their nargilehs.

On the Nativity.

Rorate coeli desuper
Hevins, distil your balmy schouris!
 For now is risen the bricht day-ster,
 Fro the rose Mary, flour of flouris:
 The cleir Sone, quhom no cloud devouris,
 Surmounting Phebus in the Est,
 Is cumin of his hevinly touris: —
 Et nobis Puer natus est.

Synnaris be glad, and penance do,
 And thank your Maker hairtfully;
 For he that ye nicht nocht come to
 To you is cumin full humbly
 Your soulis with his blood to buy
 And loose you of the fiendis arrest —
 And only of his own mercy;
 Pro nobis Puer natus est.

Sing, hevin imperial, most of hicht!
 Regions of air mak armony!
 All fish in flud and foul of jlicht
 Be mirthful and mak melody!
 All Gloria in excelsis cry!
 Heaven, erd, se, man, bird and best, —
 He that is crownit abone the sky
 Pro nobis Puer natus est!

— WILLIAM DUNBAR. 1465 — 1520.

Ask the Telephone Company of this city, or the Chester Railroad Company, or the introducers of electric traction and lighting for Constantinople, about dilatory tactics.

Some patriotic Turks have laid the present calamities of the Empire to the deposing of Abdul Hamid; others to the declaration of equality for non-Moslem subjects; others to the efforts for the emancipation of Turkish women; others to the inhuman treatment of the Constantinople dogs on that barren island in the Marmora. Still others have laid their finger on the actual open sore, as did Prince Sabaheddin in his famous open letter to the Sultan. The reformation of the Empire must begin in the hearts and consciences of its people.

TALAS NOTES.

The anxiety lest trouble should come at the time of Kourban Bairam has passed, and everything is quiet here. Only two wagon loads of wounded soldiers have come back as yet; no refugees have appeared, and only by letters and by the daily bulletins issued by the enterprising "Argaens" press, do we realize that a great war is going on in our country. The bulletins give mostly information about the foreign powers and what is said to have been said in Rome or Berlin, so that we have very little real information.

On Wednesday, Nov. 27th, was held the dedication of the new building for the Girls' School at Talas. The program was as follows:—

Organ Voluntary.
Doxology.
Invocation, Rev. Mibar Muncherian.
Scripture Reading, Ps. 145.
Anthem.
Address:—Education of Girls. Haigazoun Eff. Yakoubian.
Talk:—Early days in Talas School. Miss Burrage.
A Word from the Alumnæ. Miss Nellie Dakesian.
The New Building. Miss Orvis.
Anthem.

Prayer of Dedication, Rev. Mr. Wingate.
Hymn and Benediction.

After the program an informal reception was held, and we had an opportunity to meet the teachers of some of the outside schools, who had been invited. A pleasant surprise was the gift to the school of four young trees, given by the father of our Armenian doctor. They have a beautiful garden, and these trees are kinds that do not ordinarily grow around here.

On Thanksgiving morning before our own festivities, a meeting about the Red Cross society was held in the Girls' school, and the Thank-offering taken amounted to over three liras. A similar offering was taken at the church service on Sunday and the whole sum has been sent to Constantinople for use in the work there.

Thursday was a holiday in the schools, and all the Americans had a delicious dinner and spent the rest of the day at the Irwin home, after a Thanksgiving prayermeeting at Dr. Hoover's. This meeting was made more enjoyable by the

songs and recitations of the children, who also performed for us in the evening. Altogether the day was one that gave us a respite from the war, and started us off with new hope for the winter.

Dec. 2, 1912.

A. S. D.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE BALKAN WAR.

- October 8.—Montenegro declared war.
- 13.—Græco-Serbo-Bulgarian Note to Turkey.
 - 14.—Montenegrin capture of Touzi.
 - 15.—Peace signed between Turkey and Italy.
 - 16.—Berane captured by the Montenegrins.
 - 17.—Turkey declared war on Bulgaria and Serbia, who accepted the challenge.
 - Greece declared war on Turkey.
 - 18.—Moustafa Pasha captured by Bulgarians.
 - Elassona occupied by Greeks.
 - 20.—Bulgarian advance on Adrianople.
 - 21.—Greek landing in Lemnos.
 - 22.—Prishtina captured by Servians.
 - 23.—Novi Bazar captured by Servians.
 - Dedeaghadj captured by Bulgarians.
 - Heavy fighting at Adrianople.
 - 24.—Capture of Kirk Kilisè by Bulgarians.
 - Capture of Koumanovo by Servians.
 - 25.—Bombardment of Adrianople.
 - 26.—Capture of Üsküb by Servians.
 - 27.—Capture of Ishtib by Servians.
 - 28.—Capture of Veria by Greeks.
 - 29.—Battle in Thrace begun at Bunar Hissar.
 - 30.—Capture of Thasos by Greeks.
 - 31.—Rout of the Turks, at Lüle Bourgas, by Bulgarians.
 - Capture of Ipek by Montenegrins.
 - Capture of Prizrend by Servians.
- November 3.—Capture of Preveza by Greeks.
- Bombardment of Shkodra by Montenegrins begun.
 - 4.—Turkish appeal for mediation.
 - 5.—Turks retreat on Chatalja.
 - 9.—Capture of Salonica by Greeks.
 - 13.—Negotiations for an Armistice.
 - 17.—Bombardment of Chatalja begun.
 - Montenegrins entered San Giovanni di Medua.
 - 18.—Fall of Monastir before Servians.
 - 20.—Hostilities suspended at Chatalja.
 - 21.—"Hamidié" torpedoed by Bulgarian flotilla.
 - 22.—Mitylene occupied by Greeks.
 - 24.—Scio occupied by Greeks.
 - 25.—Ottoman and Bulgarian Plenipotentiaries meet at Bakhshaishkeuy.
 - 28.—Durazzo occupied by Servians.
- December 3.—Armistice signed with Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro.
- 16.—Peace Conference met in London.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS DELAYED.

Unforeseen complications have arisen to delay the progress of the peace conference in London. The second meeting of the delegates occurred last week Tuesday, when the Ottoman representatives declared that they were empowered to treat only with the three States that had agreed to an armistice. They offered to proceed to negotiations with these three, ignoring Greece till further instructions should come from Constantinople. The Allies, however, very naturally declined to be thus separated in their negotiations, and the conference adjourned to Thursday. Nothing could then be done, since the Ottoman delegates had received only a telegraphic résumé of their new instructions, so the next sitting was fixed for last Saturday afternoon. At this time, the Ottoman delegates announced that they had been instructed that negotiations might proceed even with Greece; but that before the subject of peace conditions could be touched the humanitarian measure of sending food into the besieged fortresses must be agreed to. The Balkan delegates were however unanimous that this topic was not one to be considered in the conference, an agreement having already been reached on this point in the protocol of armistice signed at Chatalja. This position was one on which the Turkish members declared they would again be obliged to consult with their government, whereat the sitting was again adjourned till Monday, Dec. 23rd.

Apparently the Ottoman Government is seeking, by the introduction of delays and of side issues, to bring about some rift in the lute of the Allies, and thus profit by any slight disagreement. The Allied States, however, continue to act in complete harmony and show no signs of weakening. This attitude has caused no little pessimism in many diplomatic quarters; nevertheless reports from competent English sources are still optimistic, and a member of Kiamil Pasha's Cabinet is quoted by the Greek daily *Tachydromos* of this city as saying that the peace negotiations will not be interrupted.

There has nevertheless been an ominous increase of the military spirit at the Capital. The newly arrived soldiers at Chatalja are reported as itching for a fight, and the influence of the warlike generals threatens to unseat Kiamil Pasha, Nazim Pasha, Noradounghian Effendi, and others who realize the absolute necessity of peace. The present Cabinet is using every endeavor to curb this bellicose spirit and prevent further bloodshed.

Meanwhile the Greeks are tightening the lines about Yennina, and a Greek monoplane is reported to have successfully dropped bombs into the town. The Turkish army in the town is estimated at 25,000 altogether. There have been two more encounters between the Ottoman and Greek fleets outside the Dardanelles, with apparently no serious consequences on either side. The object of the Greeks seems to be to lure the Turkish ships away from the protecting fire of the land batteries, while the Turks prefer to avoid a combat in the open sea. The Turkish papers announce that the Greek cruiser "Averoff" was damaged in the first engagement and is being repaired at Salamis.

"REAL CHRISTIANITY."

The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Dec. 4th comments editorially on the letters of the missionaries from Turkey, reassuring their friends as to their personal safety. It says that while American warships are being sent clear across the Atlantic and the Mediterranean the missionaries are sending home the most positive assurances that there need be no care, uneasiness nor worry about them, "that they have had convincing assurances from their paynim neighbors that they are safe and will be safe, through everything." It goes on to say:—

"It is something that may well stir the pride of Americans in the work of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, that the representatives of that board in Turkey have lived such lives and done such work, and borne themselves so well, that no amount of religious fanaticism can influence their neighbors to hurt those workers, or to allow any Mohammedan fanatics to attack them. It is wonderful indeed, in the light of the horrible tales which are coming from the scene of the war, that this is so. But there can be no question as to the facts.

"The fact is all the more noteworthy because one hears so often, from those who criticise foreign missions, the trite remark that the missionaries 'do more harm than good,' that they 'stir up strife,' that 'the gunboat always follows the missionary, sooner or later'. These things have been said so often and so positively, that a great many persons have come to believe that there must be some basis for all this criticism. All this talk, it is growing plain, however true it may once have been, is certainly not true about American missions or American missionaries. The testimony in this case, given by their friendly neighbors, at a time when all other foreign residents in Turkey are in fear of their lives, is a crushing answer to such sneers.

"No man can doubt, in the face of this conspicuous evidence, that the American missionaries do live and practice in daily life the religion which they preach. No man can believe the unworthy sneers and slanders so vaguely but commonly rehearsed, in the face of this unanswerable testimony to the abiding respect and love in which the American missionaries are held, even by those who will not accept their religious teaching. The United States needs to send no warships to protect the American missionaries, even in this stage of bloody fanaticism and a national craze for indiscriminate killing. They have better protection than all the fleets and all the armies of the world can enforce, in the present condition of things in Turkey.

"One sometimes reads, in histories of past centuries, of brave, heroic priests who have gone alone into the impenetrable forests, across the trackless deserts, with no fear of the martyrdom which might face them at the end. The American missionaries in Turkey knew, long ago, that the present trouble in that quarter of the globe was impending, but not one faltered, or thought to leave his post. The true heroism of Christianity lives today and conquers, by its sublime loyalty to the truths of the religion which it is carrying to the darkest quarters of the earth."

THE GREEKS AT SALONICA.

The Salonica correspondent of the *Near East* does not give a roseate hue to his picture of Greek administration in Salonica during the first three weeks of their occupation. We can only hope that conditions have materially improved since then.

"Already we have had for over a fortnight a Greek Minister of Justice, who is also 'representative of the Hellenic Government in Macedonia'; a mayor, a chief of the postal and telegraph administration; a learned professor at the head of a new sanitary service, and divers other officials, of course all Greek; while to assist in maintaining order and tranquillity some 600 trained Cretan gendarmes have been imported. All this has a very cheering sound about it; and when our Minister of Justice assures us that he has come here 'to put an end to the tyranny and disorder that reigned in the country, to assure absolute liberty to all the elements of the population without distinction of religion, to treat all nationalities with equality and justice, to respect the rights of individuals, and to work for the welfare of all the inhabitants of the country, such being the general principles dominating and guiding the administration in Greece', one at once grasps the fact that the Millennium is about to dawn.

"It is an old saying, however, that 'the darkest hour is that before the dawn', and our present experience is amply proving the truth of it; for never has your correspondent witnessed such complete anarchy, confusion and disorder in any town in which he has ever dwelt; he has lived long in Turkey, but never in Greece. His Excellency tells us that to assure public order he has brought these 600 gendarmes—and there are more to come—who, helped by soldiers, are patrolling the town and maintaining order. But where is the order? There have been more street robberies, harassing of Jews and Turks, molestation, and other abominations during the last three weeks than were ever known before. In fact, for women it is now impossible, and even for men risky, to be out in the streets after sunset. The tram service is completely disorganized, and on the upper line to the railway stations it has had to be entirely suppressed because the Greek soldiers crowd into the cars, often refusing to pay the fare, disregard all rules, and otherwise abuse their position, their officers, even when on the same tram, taking no notice, and letting them do just as they please. The idea of military discipline seems quite unknown, at least so far as any consideration for the general public is concerned. But, in all fairness it must be said, the Bulgarian soldier seems much more under control than the Greek.

"His Excellency likewise tells us what he is going to do to safeguard the public health. Meanwhile our streets are one mass of mud and filth; for we have lately had much rain, and they have not been cleansed or swept during the three weeks of the occupation. The whole length of the quay and on to the railway stations is a slough of despond; while beyond the Custom House, in the same direction, the carcasses of dead and rotting horses and other animals are poisoning the air

of the whole neighborhood. Judging from what is seen, one is disposed to wonder whether after all, and making due allowance for the difficulty of the situation, the Greeks are really equal to the task of ruling such a mixed population as that existing here and in this region. That anybody else but the lower Greek element enjoys the change is exceedingly doubtful."

BRITISH OFFICER KILLED IN PERSIA.

Great Britain has had for some months in Southern Persia a force of about 1,250 soldiers, supposably to act as a Consular guard and help to keep order in her "sphere of influence." New complications have now arisen through the killing of Captain A. B. Eckford by tribesmen near Shiraz. The murderers are believed to have been of the Boerahmadi tribe. They also captured a caravan of merchandise on its way to Bushire.

In view of this outbreak the duty of Great Britain to take more energetic measures to secure order in that section of Persia seems manifest. In Persia, fears of a punitive expedition have been expressed. But if that were all, the British Government would perhaps do better not to take any steps whatever, so far as Persia is concerned. What is needed is either so efficient a reorganization of the local gendarmerie under its new Swedish officers as to keep in check these lawless tribes, or else a much larger force of British troops to do police duty over all of Southern Persia. For it is evident the Persian government, unassisted, is too weak to maintain order even on its great highways. The Swedish officers at Teheran are making preparations to send a force of gendarmes immediately to the disturbed region. The Persian Minister in London has expressed to the British Government the deep regret of the Shah's Government at this outrage and murder. Should the British Government find it necessary now to strengthen its force in Persia, this will be but another step toward the ultimate partition of that unfortunate country between the Lion and the Bear.

SIX KHUTBAS READY.

The series of Khutbas or Mosque Sermons issued in Arabic by the Nile Mission Press, Cairo, are now being brought out in Turkish by the Publication Department of the American Board, Constantinople. In these sermons the preacher, taking a text from the Koran, addresses his imaginary audience in the second person plural; the application of every sermon is an invitation to read the Bible and thereby find the true Saviour. The tone of the sermons is conciliatory and they have met with great acceptance wherever used. Six have already been issued in Turkish, and others will follow shortly. They are admirably suited for free distribution. Price, 15 piastres a hundred, post free. Apply to W. W. Peet, Bible House, Constantinople.

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE. DECEMBER 25, 1912.

EDITORIAL.

THE ORIENT wishes all its readers a Happy Christmas. Not all of us can use the word "Merry" just now, but our hearts are full of the truest happiness as we remember what this day commemorates. Our Orthodox and Gregorian readers will please also accept these our sincere wishes, even though they must wait a few weeks for their Christmas-day to roll around.

A limited number of bound volumes of THE ORIENT are to be had from this office; either Volumes I., II. and III. bound separately or I. and II. together and III. separately. The prices are 54 piastres for I. and II. together, and 47½ piastres for Vols. I. II. and III. separately, or \$2.20 and \$2.00 respectively. As a concise compendium of current history in this interesting Empire and neighboring states, these volumes claim a place in the library of all students of Oriental events.

One of the hardships of the Balkan war for non-combatants has been its interference with the mails. Even before war was declared, trains on the Oriental Railway stopped running, thus reducing the Capital to three mails per week from the north and west, via Constanza. Our interior friends probably think we are mighty lucky at that! But much worse than this has been the cutting off of all communication, telegraphic as well as postal, with points within the territory of war. Some points are even yet isolated; and from some of our friends and co-workers we could hear nothing for many weeks. It would be a marvel if during all these vicissitudes letters and other pieces of mail had not been lost. This is one of the lighter penalties of war. Incidentally, the conquered territory now becomes foreign lands, and rates of postage are somewhat changed. To points on the seacoast we can no longer send letters for twenty paras; and newspapers must now pay ten paras per 50 grams, in place of two paras, throughout all these regions. It may interest friends abroad to know that domestic letter postage is more expensive in Turkey than foreign, except along the seashore, the rates being 1 piastre for each 15 grams or fraction thereof,

as compared with 1 piastre for 20 grams and 30 paras for each additional 20 grams to foreign parts. THE ORIENT will be compelled hereafter to charge the foreign rate of 6 s. or 7½ francs for points no longer within the Ottoman Empire. You ought to have thought over these disadvantages before you withdrew.

It is pleasing to note in the Boston daily quoted this week, that faithfulness in service is recognized and appreciated by the public press, as a mark of "real Christianity." To remain quietly at one's post in the hour of apparent danger seemed indeed the natural thing to do; and the suggestion, made to some, to flee to a place of greater security, came as a shock and seemed as unthinkable as a similar suggestion did to Nehemiah of old. At the hour of writing we have no definite news of how our fellow workers have fared at Adrianople, Monastir and Kortcha; but we may speak for those here and at Salonica. We pitied those who felt impelled by terror to leave home and property and friends and fly to Athens or farther. We also pitied the many who were thrown into still greater panic by such precipitate flight of their neighbors, while unable themselves to leave. A clearer vision of the Everlasting Arms underneath would probably have saved these two classes from much unnecessary trouble. For while nobody can deny that there have been dangers aplenty, yet we cannot but feel that the element of personal risk to non-combatants was less than was imagined. We do not corroborate the Boston editor's statement of "a national craze for indiscriminate killing." That is a slander on the Turks. In point of fact, public order in this city was perfectly maintained, even all through those trying days when the thunder of cannon at Chataldja was plainly heard all over the capital, and incoming refugees spread terror by their bloody tales.

Yes, the missionaries stuck to their posts. But let us not forget also the equal courage of the Red Cross workers who came from their homes of security and comfort to aid the suffering at that crisis, and of the diplomatic corps, who not only stayed to use their official influence and summon their warships but also went personally among the wretched, the sick, and those dying in cholera camps, to show the same Christlike spirit. Let us not forget that newspaper reporters expose themselves to far greater personal risks in their profession. To have fled at such a crisis would have cost the missionary the respect and confidence of all nationalities, — nay, and his own self-respect too.

Dr. Dorman was the S. P. C. representative at the 75th anniversary celebration at Mt. Holyoke College. The doctor overheard some one inquire if the green facings on his gown stood for agriculture; and he comments that he would not mind being a farmer, but he does object to being taken for one on such an occasion. He also had the pleasure of representing the S. P. C. at the inauguration of Pres. Meiklejohn at Amherst.

AMERICAN RED CROSS ACTIVITIES.

Last Friday the U. S. S. "Scorpion" went to Moudania conveying Mrs. Rockhill, Mr. Hoffman Philip, Major Ford, Mr. Peet and several others, representing the Constantinople Branch of the American Red Cross, on their way to Brousa. From Moudania the party drove up to the former capital of the Ottomans, and spent the next day investigating the lot of the tens of thousands of refugees that have migrated there. In this they were ably assisted by Miss Jillson, Principal of the Girls' School in Brousa, who has been indefatigable in her distribution of aid to these unfortunates. The party was also most cordially greeted by his excellency the Vali of Brousa, Danish Bey, who called on the American Ambassadress at her hotel, and expressed his appreciation of what the American Red Cross is doing. The finest of weather favored the expedition all through, and they have returned to the capital in high spirits.

The chief need of the refugees in and about Brousa was found to be clothing and bedding; their immediate wants in the line of food are being met by the Government, and they have in most cases found shelter in hans and other houses. A very large number of these unfortunates are women and children, only a small portion being men. The majority of those now in the city have come from the region of Kirk Kilis and Lüle Bourgas. Their numbers are probably now somewhat larger than the estimate given two weeks ago by Miss Jillson, for more are flocking in all the while.

Dr. Wilfred M. Post, who is expected in Constantinople very soon, has been investigating conditions among refugees in the regions of Afion Kara Hissar, Eski Shehir and Kütahia, where he found that most of the six or seven thousands that had come had been distributed among the villages. Prof. Rendel Harris, who is working in cooperation with the American Red Cross, on behalf of the British Friends, has gone to Angora to investigate conditions, while Mr. Hobhouse and Rev. Hovsep Djedjizian are working among the Eski Shehir villages.

BAGHDAD RAILWAY SECTION OPENED.

Another section, or rather, two sections of the Baghdad Railway were thrown open for traffic ten days ago. These are of about one hundred kilometres each, and are from Kadjonlu in the Amanus Mountains, not far from Eybez, southeast to Aleppo, and from Aleppo northeast to Djerablous on the Euphrates, which is the site of Carchemish, the ancient southern Hittite capital. We are also informed that very soon another section of 54 kilometres, eastward from Oulou Kushla into the Taurus Mountains, will be opened. Oulou Kushla is the present terminus of the line from Constantinople, and lies some 50 kilometres east of Eregli.

This will leave but two short sections to complete the line as far as the Euphrates River, — the difficult section across the Taurus and down to Adana, which involves the cutting of nearly a hundred tunnels; and the section from Maa-

mouret to Kadjonlu, across the Amanus range. The line from Adana through Osmanieh to Maamouret has been in operation but a short time. When the engineering difficulties of these two mountain sections have been overcome, it will be possible to take a sleeper berth or seat from Haidar Pasha and ride in comparative comfort to "that great river, the river Euphrates," or, branching off at Aleppo, through Damascus to the holy city of Medina. This may take two or three years, but it is coming; for even in the Ottoman Empire things do move.

KIAMIL PASHA AND THE ARMENIANS.

Last Saturday the Grand Vizier invited to the Sublime Porte Abp. Ormanian, the former Patriarch; Dr. Dagavarian, ex-deputy for Sivas; Badrig Eff. Gulbenkian, a merchant, and Diran Eff. Kelekian, editor of the *Sabah*, and held a long consultation with them as to the reforms necessary in the eastern Anatolian provinces. Abp. Ormanian drew the attention of Kiamil Pasha to the unfortunate results of the failure of the Government to put into effect previous reform schemes. The latter assured the distinguished prelate that the Armenian people might have perfect confidence that the present Government would carry out what it promised, and said he desired the aid of these representative Armenians in elaborating the projected reforms. A commission will then be charged with the application of these reforms, and it is understood that Abp. Ormanian will be requested to be a member of this commission. Outrages on Armenians in the Kourdish regions continue to be altogether too frequent, and the Government feels that it must do something to forestall the danger of Russia coming in to "pacify" the territory.

ARTICLES ON TURKEY.

Former residents in Turkey as well as Americans now in the country are doing great service in enlightening the ignorance of the great American public just now on the Balkan situation. Among the many recent articles in American papers we note three in the *Congregationalist* of Nov. 21st, by ex-President Washburn of Robert College, Dr. J. H. House of Salonica, and Miss Ellen M. Stone; two in recent numbers of the *Outlook* by Rev. Stephen V. R. Trowbridge, of Aintab; one by Mr. Kristo A. Dako, of Albania, in the December *Missionary Herald*; an article on "The Nearer East Aflame," by Dr. George F. Herrick of Constantinople, in the December *Missionary Review*; an illustrated article on The Albanians by Mr. T. J. Damon of Roumeli Hissar, in the November *National Geographical Magazine*, which also quotes an article by Sir Edwin Pears on Turkish rule, and one by Ambassador James Bryce on Two Solutions of the Eastern Problem, both from "*The Balkan Question*." Sir Edwin Pears also has an illuminating article on the causes of the Balkan War, in the November *Contemporary*. Attention should be called to a description of the Red Crescent work at Constantinople, by Dr. W. S. Dodd of Konia, in the *Near East* of December 13th.

MEDICINE, OR AMPUTATION?

The Turkish daily *Tanzimat* writes: —

"Do we need a doctor, or a surgeon? I ask it regarding our poor Roumelia. If a doctor were charged to look after her, he would naturally try more or less to remedy her trouble and heal her; and if he did not succeed in doing this, he could at least keep her alive till a new crisis. While a surgeon would not think of using treatments, but would resort to amputation of the rotten parts so as to save the healthy parts and preserve the rest of the body from contamination.

"If we must apply this example to Roumelia, we must choose between these two methods, each of which has its good side and its bad. The method followed by our government is the following: The Balkan States, in the note they sent before the outbreak of war, demanded the introduction of reforms. We are agreed; we will apply the reforms needed; that is, we will constitute an autonomous Macedonia, and an autonomous Albania as well. To this we have nothing to say.

"But we will not give up a single bit of territory, and no one can make us do so; we are not yet completely vanquished. It was natural that we could not be victorious everywhere against the four allied States. We acknowledge that our Western army has been conquered, but nobody can say that of our army of the East, which has demonstrated its resisting power at Chatalja. While Bulgaria has put on a war footing her last man, we have still whole provinces from which we have not taken a single man.

"In short, we agree to reforms, but not to cession of territory. Nor can we conceal the fact that this solution has likewise grave inconveniences for us. For, as for long years we have depopulated Anatolia for the sake of Roumelia we should unfortunately in the future have to do the same. We should have no time to attend to Anatolia yet, for we should be compelled to keep on sacrificing our men and our money for Roumelia until a new war should break out.

"As for the surgical solution of the problem, that is very simple. Keep as much territory as we can in the direction of Adrianople, and give the rest to the Allies, saying 'Now try your brains on it.'

"But this way of solving it has its inconveniences as well as its advantages. The latter consist in allowing us to take care of the development of Anatolia. The Cabinet is of opinion that the question be solved medically, and I too am of the same mind; for I cannot accept the surgical method, though it seems very simple. I am not moved by sentiment in saying this, for after profound reflection I say to myself: 'If we could only be men, in future, we could keep Roumelia as well as Anatolia, even though Roumelia would be attached to us as by a mere cotton thread; but if, on the other hand, we fail to become men, then Anatolia too will slip out of our hands and then, — both would be gone and the world would be quiet, and so would we.'"

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

Last Thursday evening, the 10th of Mouharrem, the usual Persian mourning ceremony in commemoration of the death of Hassan and Hussein was observed in Validé Han and Vezir Han, Stamboul.

The *Jeune-Turc* announces that the four new steamers ordered by the Mahsoussé Company have been completed and will shortly sail for Constantinople from Marseilles.

The week's cholera report is encouraging, showing a steady diminution of new cases and fatalities from day to day. The cases reported during the week ending Sunday night were 299, with 151 deaths, bringing the totals since Nov. 5th to 2156 cases and 1052 deaths.

The Turkish dailies *Alemdar* and *Tanzimat* have been suspended by the court-martial.

Abp. Germanos, *locum tenens* of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has been decorated by the Sultan with the grand cordon of the Order of the Medjidié.

Twenty-five members of the Indian Red Crescent Society, including eleven doctors and fourteen nurses, arrived here last week from India and England, with a quantity of medical supplies, to assist in the care of the soldiers.

Lieut. Col. Enver Bey, who led the Ottoman forces so well at Benghazi, has returned to Constantinople.

The reports of the American College for Girls (Constantinople College) for the year 1911–12 have just been sent us, in neat pamphlet form with the architect's drawing of the group of new buildings at Arnaoutkeuy as a frontispiece.

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THE PROVINCES.

The last section of the Bandurma-Soma railroad is practically completed, and will be formally thrown open to traffic within a few days.

Indications from Angora and elsewhere point to lighter crops next spring, owing to the paralyzing of farming industries by the absence of men in the army. On the other hand, the opium crop in the Afion Kara Hissar region promises to be much better than last year.

Ohannes Bey Kouyoumjian, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has been named as Governor of the semi-independent Lebanon province, and the appointment has been approved by the protecting powers.

A number of Roumelian refugees have been taken to Bafra, at the mouth of the Halys or Kizil Irmak, where the local government ensconced them on lands belonging to Armenians. The Minister of Interior has now ordered them transferred to government lands.

NOTES.

Hon. G. Bie Ravndal, American Consul-General, arrived on Friday, Dec. 20th, from his visit to America.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Van Bommel, of the Constantinople Y.M.C.A., have gone to Salonica to help in relief work.

OTHER LANDS.

The Presidential election in France is set for Jan. 17th next.

M. Mischiu, Roumanian Minister to Constantinople, has been promoted to a similar post at London.

The engagement is announced of Miss Helen Gould, President of the Board of Trustees of Constantinople College, or the American College for Girls, to Mr. Finley Shepard of Saint Louis. The wedding will probably take place next month.

Hon. Whitelaw Reid, LL. D., Ambassador to the Court of St. James, died in London from pulmonary oedema on Sunday, Dec. 15th, in his 76th year. He was appointed to this post in 1905, having been Minister to France, 1889-92. The funeral was at Westminster Abbey, and the interment will be in America. The British Government has placed a battleship at the disposal of the United States to convey the remains across the ocean. Mr. Reid was editor-in-chief of the New York *Tribune* 1872-1905.

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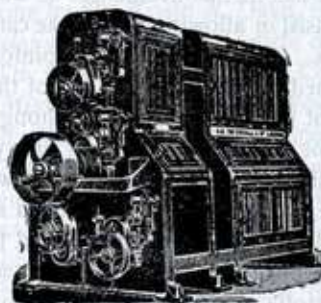
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