

# The Orient.

January 25, 1911

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 41

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## Rev. HERBERT M. ALLEN.

It is with deep sorrow of heart that we announce the death of Rev. H. M. Allen, to whom, in connection with the Treasurer of the Missions, *The Orient* owes its inception. Toward the end of December Mr. Allen suffered an attack of influenza, and the importance of being at his post at the beginning of the year led him to come to the Bible House before he had fully recovered. The result was that pneumonia supervened, and though at one time he seemed to be getting better, and friends were hopeful of his recovery, there followed a relapse, to which his constitution, never very strong, at length succumbed. His death took place at his home in Shishli on the morning of Jan. 25th.

Mr. Allen was born in March 1865 at Harpout, where his father and mother labored as missionaries for nearly fifty years. There his boyhood was spent, and it was there that he laid the foundations of that knowledge of the Armenian language in which he was perhaps unequaled among the American residents of this land. He went to America for his education and graduated from Williams College in the class of 1888. His thought at that time was to enter newspaper work in America, but before doing so he made a visit to his birthplace, and went to Van where his father and mother were giving temporary assistance. The result was that he was led to reconsider his plans, being convinced that his most promising field of usefulness was in this land. He returned to America and took a theological course at Bangor Seminary, graduating in 1893, and the same year he was married to Miss Ellen R. Ladd, and they came to join the missionary circle at Van, with which Mrs. Allen had already been connected some years. They remained at Van until 1898 when family considerations led them to return to America. There Mr. Allen was appointed by the Home Missionary Society superintendent of work for the growing Armenian colonies and one of his labors in their behalf was the establishment of an Armenian paper, the *Gotchnag*, which is still continued and doing useful work.

In 1903 he accepted an invitation to return to Turkey with a view to assuming the editorship of the *Avedaper*. For two years he had charge of the Boys' High School at Bardizag during the absence of Dr. Chambers. Then he made an extended tour through the country to meet as many as possible of the constituency he was to serve as editor. He assumed charge of the paper in the Summer of 1907, and under his editorship it was improved and the number of subscribers increased. He felt that he had found his true sphere, and looked forward to many years of useful work in connection with our publication department. He was an able writer, had rare gifts as a preacher, was always ready to work up to and beyond the limit of his strength, and his death leaves such a vacancy that we do not as yet see how it can be filled.

To the stricken widow, to the six children left orphans, to the aged father, to the sister and brother, and to all the many friends bereaved by this seemingly untimely death we extend our most heartfelt sympathy.

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### THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

**26th Session** (Jan. 18). Several items were reported by the Budget Commission and were approved, notably that concerning the expenditure of 2,000,000 piastres to found normal schools. The written requests of two deputies were read, demanding that the Minister for Foreign Affairs make a statement with reference to the measures taken by the Government, in view of the Russo-German *entente*, to protect the interests of the Empire, especially in Asia. This statement was promised for Saturday's session. Article 7 of the enlistment bill was then taken up. This article concerns those excused from military service, comprising those who are the sole support of a family, the infirm, those whose fathers are over 65 years of age, those who pay the exemption tax and then serve for three months, graduates of the higher official or foreign schools who have served one year after graduation, and graduates of official secondary schools and lycées, who have served two years. Objection was made to requiring the graduates of higher schools to serve one year; and the Minister of War explained that this was in order to furnish officers for the reserves. The military schools are turning out six hundred officers per year, but these are not enough. A special school for officers of the reserves has also been opened, and has now 180 students, who are making good progress. The Minister added that at the request of some, he consented to reduce to 60 years the age of fathers whose sons should be excused from further service. The article was thus amended and passed. On a separate motion it was agreed that graduates of private secondary schools or colleges should also be required to serve only two years. Articles 8 and 9, concerning the limit of service of the reserves, were accepted, and Article 10 was referred back to the committee. During the discussion of Article 11, the noon recess was taken; and at its close the President announced with profound regret the sudden death of Dr. Arif Ismet Bey, of Bigha, which took place during the recess. This deputy, feeling faint, had withdrawn into the corridor, where he fell senseless. Drs. Narli, Dagavarian and Riza Tewfik were at his side in a moment, but death resulted from syncope of the heart. After suitable expressions of grief the Chamber was immediately adjourned as a mark of respect for the late Deputy.

Dr. Arif Ismet Bey was about forty years old, and leaves a widow and several small children. He had been municipal physician in Konia and elsewhere, and had also been connected with the dailies *Ikdam* and *Sabah*. He had represented his constituency of Bigha (Dardanelles) ever since the beginning of Parliament.

**27th Session** (Jan. 21). A vizirial letter urging immediate action on laws concerning mines, the phylloxera and locusts, was passed on to the appropriate committee. A bill appropriating a certain amount for creating normal schools, was approved, as was a report of the military commission concerning military surgeons and nurses. The commission on the revision of the Constitution reported a bill embodying the demand of the Senate for the right to discuss projected

laws in the first instance; but no date was fixed for its discussion. Article 12 of the enlistment bill was then taken up. This provides that if a man of 60 years, or one who, though younger, is physically incapacitated for work, has a son of military age, this son is placed in the second class (i. e. exempt) provided the father have no other son living with him or in the same village who is seventeen years old or over, or if he have no brother, nephew or grandson living with him and capable of supporting him. This article provoked a long discussion, and many amendments were offered. It was objected that the Sheriat (religious law) does not recognize the obligation of a brother, nephew or son-in-law to support one; also that seventeen was an age at which boys ought to be at school, and the support of aged parents ought to be 19 or 21 years old at least. An amendment was proposed that every only son should be exempt, but it was objected that this would tend to check the birth-rate. The noon recess put an end to this indecisive debate.

At the afternoon session, Rifaat Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, was present, also the ministers of the interior and of public instruction. A report of the Budget committee, fixing the pensions of three daughters of Abdul Hamid at 20,000 piastres (\$880) and of two daughters of Prince Selaheddin, son of Sultan Mourad, at 10,000 piastres, was adopted. The election of Mahmoud Bey as deputy from Trebizond, to fill a vacancy caused by death, was ratified; and a month's leave of absence was granted Izzet Bey, of the same place. The promised discussion then began, as to the Russo-German *entente*. Shefik el Mouayyed Bey, of Damascus, read a carefully prepared speech, tracing the history of European intervention in the political affairs of this country, expressing regret that the Constitution had not brought in its train deliverance from the Capitulations, but that on the contrary the Potsdam interview and the Russo-German understanding constituted a foreign interference. The Ottoman Empire was being treated as if it were a proprietorless country in Central Africa. The attitude of the British and French press regarding Turkish possessions created a feeling of dissatisfaction which even the words of M. Pichon and Baron Marschall could not dissipate. The speaker laid the blame for the existing state of affairs on the Young Turks, who, he said, trampled the Constitution under their feet; and added that the policy of the present government, far from benefiting the country, provoked foreign intervention. Ferid Bey (Kutahia) followed, calling attention to the text of an agreement between Russia and Germany, as published in a London daily, the four points of which were (1) that Russia would not oppose the construction of the Baghdad Railroad; (2) that the railway lines to be constructed in Persia should be connected with the Baghdad line at Khane-kin; (3) that Germany agrees to construct no other line between the Baghdad Railway and the Russian frontier, nor aid the construction of any such line; (4) that Germany recognizes the paramount interests of Russia in Persia, and (5) that Germany would not seek to profit by any concessions for railway, navigation or telegraph lines in north Persia, except with the consent of Russia. The deputy insisted that the rights of



Turkey in the consideration of these questions ought to be recognized, and asked what the Sublime Porte was doing about it. Rifaat Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, then read a long and reassuring declaration, stating that the Ottoman Government had received assurances both from Baron Marschall von Bieberstein and from M. Sassonoff that the rights and interests of Turkey were not being touched; also that the third and fourth points enumerated above had been denied by the German Ambassador, and that the Porte was using every means to keep in touch with the situation and to safeguard the interests and rights of Turkey, both within this empire and also in Persia. This statement was deemed satisfactory and the session adjourned.

**28th Session** (Jan. 23). Several vizirial letters, dealing with soldiers failing to respond when called to the colors, with subscriptions to the Ottoman fleet, and other topics, were referred to appropriate committees. The report of the Budget committee on the pension to be granted to Niazi Bey, of revolutionary fame, was read and placed on the docket for the next session. The enlistment bill was again taken up. Article 13, concerning the sons of widows, was referred back to the committee for modification. Article 14, concerning the exemption of sons of dependent parents where two brothers have met death during their term of service and there is no other brother above 17 years of age, was approved, as were the following three articles. After the noon recess Articles 20 to 29 were discussed and with slight modifications passed on to the commission as approved.

### MEDICAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE AT BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

The third interdenominational medical missionary conference was held at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, Jan. 5-8, 1911. Turkey was represented there by Dr. and Mrs. J. K. Greene, Mrs. E. D. Marden, Dr. F. D. Shepard, Pres. Alexander MacLachlan, Mrs. M. P. Parmelee and daughter, and Dr. C. E. Clark; Arabia by Dr. S. J. Thoms, and Persia by Rev. E. W. McDowell. A hundred and fifty missionaries of all Boards from all parts of the world were there. A letter recently received from Mrs. Marden reports a most inspiring and helpful conference. She makes especial mention of the fine address of Dr. Greene, delivered "with all his old-time vigor." The president of the conference was Rev. C. C. Creegan, D.D., whom many will remember seeing in Turkey a few years since. Mr. MacLachlan was one of the vice-presidents. Among those present from other lands were W. J. Wanless, M.D., L. R. Scudder, M.D., and Mary Riggs Noble, M.D., of India; Mrs. Mariam Headland, M.D., and G. W. D. Lowry, M.D., of China; Rev. Graham Lee, of Korea; R. H. Nassau, M.D., D.D., of Africa. Medical topics were naturally to the fore; but political conditions, industrial training, and evangelistic work also found place on the program. Mrs. Marden speaks in glowing terms of the Sanitarium itself, as well as of its superintendent, Dr. Kellogg, and his boundless hospitality. Eight hundred invitations had been sent out for this year's gathering; and those who were able to be present were most cordially and bountifully entertained throughout the meetings of the conference as guests of the Sanitarium.

### HARBORS ON THE TURKISH COASTS.

An interesting article appeared this week in *La Turquie*, on this subject, the substance of which is here given.

It has been justly said that lines of communication, such as railroads and carriage roads, cannot be of the highest service unless they terminate at harbors giving easy access to navigation and properly equipped with terminal facilities. As regards this, in common with many another country, ours is in a very mediocre position; for in spite of our very considerable coast line, we have very few large harbors, such as Constantinople, Haidar Pasha, Salonica and Beyrout; and a small number of harbors of less importance. The program of the Government in respect of public works could not afford to neglect this matter of the harbors. In fact there has been considerable activity along this line. Investigations have been made, plans and specifications drawn up, and even some contracts made.

On the Black Sea coast, the port of Samsoun is of right the necessary complement of the future railroad from Samsoun to Sivas. Another harbor will have to be established to serve as a port for the region of Erzeroum. Work will have to be undertaken and real harbors constructed at Kerasoun, Sinope and Heraclea.

In European Turkey the harbor of Rodosto has already been made the subject of a contract. The question of harbors at Dedeagatch and at Kavalla is being investigated.

In Syria, plans have been drawn up with reference to the harbors of Tripoli and Jaffa. The harbor of Haifa must be properly built by the company that has the concession for the phosphate mines at es Salt.

Mersin, the head of the railway line to Tarsus and Adana, is to have a modern harbor. Improvements are also to be made to the harbor at Alexandretta.

In Yemen, the harbor of Djebbana forms a part of the project for a railway to connect Hodeida and Sanaa.

In Tripoli of Africa, operations are to be carried on in the harbors of Tripoli and Benghazi.

The list that we have given is far from being of great consequence, but it is amply sufficient to show that the question of harbors is occupying the mind of the officials. When we add that measures have been taken to better the terminal facilities of existing harbors, and notably that of Salonica, to accomplish the necessary repairs and so forth, it can be seen that the Department of Public Works, in the task that falls to it of providing the country with those economic facilities that are so indispensable to it, is pursuing simultaneously three lines of activity: roads, railways and harbors."

Only those who have traveled along the Turkish coasts can fully realize the importance of this step in advance. Such an important seaport as that first mentioned by this writer, Samsoun, which is the outlet for all the traffic of the Harpout, Sivas and Amasia region, has only an open roadstead, with no breakwater, and so shallow that the average steamer has to lie nearly a mile from shore while loading or unloading, — a process frequently rendered utterly impossible by the



furious storms of winter. In fact, the only [semblance to a landlocked harbor on the whole south shore of the Black Sea is the little port of Vona, which is too small to be of much commercial value. Sinope has a sort of double roadstead; but not one of these has anything resembling a quay, or a landing-stage large enough for a steamer. The natural port for Erzeroum will be Trebizond, which also needs great improvements. Travelers to Jerusalem know how really dangerous is the feat of landing at Jaffa, with the slightest swell on the sea. In fact, every port mentioned needs the same sort of improvements that the Quay Company at Constantinople has given the harbor of the Capital.

### MOSLEM COMMERCE.

The *Journal of the Chamber of Commerce* (Constantinople) has a long article on this subject from which we cull the following:—

"The Society of Young Moslems, recently founded at Bengal, India, has just asked the Sublime Porte to allow the establishment in this city of a museum for the exposition of Ottoman industry. The Minister of Commerce and Public Works has asked the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce on this subject.

"Only those blinded by ignorance can fail to see the radical change in heart and mind of the Moslems of our country during these last years. The mothers, who were wont to instil into their infants an ambition to be *kiatibs* or *effendis*, and later on to direct their thoughts to military glories, have now begun to lead them to seek a commercial career. It is undeniable that the Moslem element has, during the past quarter century, increased to a noticeable extent in the commerce and industries of Turkey. This quiet but continuous intrusion of the Moslem element has not disturbed the non-Moslem peoples who have the honor to bear also the name of Osmanli. On the contrary, they are convinced that the entry of their Moslem compatriots will be a help to them, especially as regards trade with Moslem countries.

"In fact the bonds of religion are even today much stronger than those of blood and race in certain agglomerations in the East and the Far East. So the millions of Moslems far from our borders are seeking closer relations with their coreligionists in Turkey, at the Grand Caliphate of Islam. This step of the Bengal Society of Young Moslems is a striking proof of this tendency to revolve around that center, the Sun of Islamism. In order to attract the sympathies and monopolize the trade of the myriads of Moslems in India, China and Java, Ottoman commerce imperatively needs the aid and assistance of Moslem business men, who can present the attraction of a powerful love for the Moslem peoples of the whole world. Moreover, though one single Moslem merchant may not wish to risk his capital in exhibiting to his coreligionists in India the products of Ottoman industry, yet a group of young Moslem merchants could, without much risk, under-

take this task that has always succeeded so admirably among the Germans,—those inventors of exporting companies.

"At a remote period of Ottoman history, the non-Moslem people living under the glorious sceptre of the House of Osman, grandly accomplished their duty by holding high and firm, according to their means, the standard of Ottoman commerce, which was confided to the hands of the *rayahs* as something less sacred than the standard of war, committed to the exclusive care of the conquering race. Now, however, that this latter, the standard of war, constitutes an emblem which every Osmanli, conqueror or conquered, has the right and the duty to unfurl and to defend at the cost of his blood; and when the former, the banner of commerce and industry, is no longer considered unworthy to pass into the hands of the conquering race on the same conditions as into those of the conquered races, both being mingled in the common Fatherland,—the former, the conquering race, has to prove that under the folds of either flag, that of war or that of commerce, far from betraying its interests, it will carry it wherever it ought to go. This will furnish an example encouraging to all, and assuring the triumph of the Crescent, as well in a military sense as in the no less sacred sense of the economic interests of the Ottoman Empire."

### GREEKS AND ARMENIANS FRATERNIZE.

On the occasion of the Oriental Epiphany, by order of the Greek Patriarch the metropolitan of Kolonia and the archivist of the patriarchate at Phanar were present at the solemn high mass in the Armenian patriarchal church at Koum Kapou. They were received with all honor, and a special place had been prepared for them in the cathedral. After the service, a reception was held for them at the Armenian patriarchate, where two more delegates from Phanar were also present. The progress in fraternal relations between the nationalities since the restoration of the Constitution was the topic of conversation. Every mark of respect was shown to the visiting Greek delegates.

The next day, Friday, a large number of the Christian deputies accepted the invitation of the Greek deputies from Constantinople, Kosmidis and Constantinides, to an afternoon tea at Tokatlian's. Suleiman el Bustani Eff., Vice-President of the Chamber, was present, as well as nearly all the Greek, Armenian and Bulgarian deputies. The Servian deputies begged to be excused, as they had a separate celebration. Zohrab Effendi made a speech, expressing pleasure at this gathering and hoping that such social gatherings of deputies might be more frequent, and might include also Moslem deputies; for he saw the value of such informal occasions in cementing the various elements. A committee to carry out this suggestion was formed on the spot, consisting of two Armenians, one Greek, one Syrian and one Bulgarian.



## THE REVOLT IN YEMEN.

According to an official bulletin issued by the Ministry of the Interior on Monday evening, Seid Idris raised the standard of revolt in the sanjak of Assir for the purpose of creating a separate principality, with himself as prince; while the Imam Yahya, who is heading the revolt in the mountainous region near Sanaa, has proclaimed a *jihad*, or holy war, against the Ottoman Government. The motives of these two leaders are thus represented as totally different, and we are not told on what basis they can be understood as cooperating. Seid Idris has gathered a force of three thousand (*sic*) and has laid siege to the city of Ebha, which, however, is strongly fortified and the garrison is well supplied to resist a long siege. Meanwhile Seid Idris has summoned to his support all the tribes of Assir and is marching on Sanaa, the garrison of which has been reinforced in order to repulse any attack.

No fresh news is at hand as to the Imam Yahya, whose following is supposed to be still larger. The *Stamboul* places their number at 60,000 or more. Troops are being embarked as rapidly as possible for Hodeida, both from Smyrna and from Constantinople. The cruiser *Medjidie* and the torpedo boat *Peiki Shevket* have been ordered to be ready within a week, with three months' stores on board, to sail for the Yemen coast. According to a Turkish daily, some of the large vessels of the Russian Volunteer fleet are to be hired as transports for the troops going to Arabia.

## ADANA WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

The special commission of the Chamber of Deputies sent a request, according to *La Turquie*, to the Armenian Patriarchate, asking for what object or objects the Lt. 10,000 voted last year for the benefit of the widows and orphans in Adana Vilayet had been expended. The answer of the Koum Kapou Patriarchate was to the effect that this sum had been spent in establishing shops or factories where these widows might work. Several such factories had been opened at several points. Seventy-five knitting machines for knitting stockings had been secured from England, each giving employment to five women; and of these about one quarter had been sent to Tarsus and the rest to Hadjin. A factory is also to be started in Adana city to teach these widows to sew.

## EMPIRE NEWS.

### The Capital.

There having been no cases of cholera in the city or suburbs for ten days or more, the Sanitary Board has announced the discontinuance of all quarantine measures against Constantinople; and beginning with Saturday Jan. 21, is granting clean bills of health to steamers leaving this port. The daily bulletins have been discontinued.

According to *La Turquie* the receipts of the imperial treasury for the first nine months of the current fiscal year, 1326, exceeded those of the corresponding period of 1325 by

76,344,018 piastres, even excluding reports not yet received from certain distant provinces. This indicates that the estimate of receipts for 1326 made by Djavid Bey will be considerably exceeded. Another favorable sign is that the kilometer guarantees to be paid by the Government during the year 1326 show a considerable diminution. A third is the increased customs receipts, which for the first nine months are Lt. 300,000 in advance of those for the previous year, and are said to indicate an advance of nearly or quite Lt. 500,000 for the whole year.

Suleiman el Bistani, of Beirut, Vice-President of the Chamber, has been promoted to a seat in the Senate. The same honor has been bestowed also on Zareh Eff. Dilber, Counsellor of State; Ziaeddin Eff., former Sheikh-ul-Islam; Nail Bey, deputy from Djanik and former Minister of Public Instruction; the *sherif* Djafer Effendi; and Aristides Pasha, deputy from Smyrna and former Minister of Mines and Forests.

It is announced that the commission appointed by the Ministry of Finance to investigate the monetary situation, has decided to create a bureau where gold and other money can be changed without discount; and such bureaux are to be opened in all the chief cities of the Empire. If this is carried out, farewell to our friends the *sarafs*!

Anonymous threatening letters purporting to come from a Red Axe Society, have, it is said, been received by Louffi Fikri Bey, Dr. Riza Tewfik, and other members of the Opposition.

The funeral of Dr. Arif Ismet Bey, Deputy from the Dardanelles, was held on Thursday. A religious ceremony was held in St. Sophia, and the burial was near the mausoleum of Sultan Mahmoud. It appears that the deceased had a similar though lighter attack a few months ago at Brousa, and knew that he had some heart-trouble.

The Armenian daily *Zhamanag* says that in response to a request of the Armenian patriarch, Mahmoud Shevket Pasha has stated that non-Moslems enlisted in the army will not be sent to the district of Yemen, nor to any district where there are no churches.

The manager and editor of the comic paper *Ghidik* have been fined Lt. 20 by the court-martial for printing an article against the Greek deputy, Mr. Boussios.

The number of functionaries in Constantinople, now out of employ, but drawing salaries, is stated as 1,780, and their salary list as Lt. 11,000 per month. Nearly half of these were attached to the ministries of the interior and of finance.



The Ottoman Jewish gymnastic society "Maccabees" announces a musical and gymnastic entertainment, to be given at the Petits-Champs on Thursday evening of next week for the benefit of the Ottoman fleet.

The Council of Ministers, at its meeting Tuesday, decided on the following measures: (1) the payment of the traveling expenses of the armorers who have been summoned to Kosovo to be attached to the various army corps; (2) the transmission to the Chamber of Deputies of a bill to provide for the construction of a school for deaf mutes near Top-Kapou, Stamboul; (3) the transmission of another bill to regulate the customs duties on plows and other agricultural machines.

The ministry of mines and forests and also that of agriculture are now lit by electricity, the installation having been completed this week.

### THE PROVINCES.

The Council of Ministers has decided to place a gunboat on Lake Skodra in Albania, to do police duty on its shores.

Despatches from Syria indicate a winter of unusual severity. A heavy fall of snow is reported from Aleppo, and there has been a great loss of life among the cattle. Crops have suffered greatly. The Euphrates river is reported frozen over, though we are not told how far south. Even at Baghdad there has been a snowstorm, — a most unusual occurrence. At Adana snow has fallen for the first time in six years.

Owing to the difficulty of providing in the barracks the forms of food prescribed by the Oriental Churches for their followers during fasts, the Ministry of War has decided to give Christian soldiers during the fasts a certain daily allowance and have them provide themselves suitable food from outside.

The *Jeune Turc*, in a leading article of last week, advises the Government to cultivate close relations with the American market, especially in connection with railroads, because the United States, unlike France, conceals no territorial ambitions beneath her commercial efforts.

Sofia has been put into direct telephonic communication with Budapest.

An avalanche of snow on the highway between Kastemoni and its port, Ineboli, last week has cut off communication between the two towns.

Negotiations for a commercial treaty between Bulgaria and Turkey were broken off on Saturday last, owing to certain demands on the part of Bulgaria which Turkey would not grant.

The autobus company has commenced running its buses between Galata, Pera and Shishli.

The Bank of Rome has decided to open an office at Constantinople, with a branch office at Jerusalem.

The Bulgarian health authorities have removed all quarantine regulations hitherto in force against arrivals from Constantinople, save a formal medical examination.

Snow has fallen in such quantities to the east of Adabazar as to cut off communications between that city and Bolou. The roads are buried beneath several metres of snow.

### NOTES.

Mr. Caldwell reports terrific weather on the Black Sea on his return from Marsovan. It took him four days to reach the capital from Samsoun, — a distance of 360 miles.

We desire to express our sympathy with Dr. and Mrs. Malbon in their anxiety over their eight-months-old daughter who lies seriously ill of diphtheria.

Professor Charles Anderson of Robert College has been compelled by the state of his health to go to Dresden for rest and change.

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ULTONIA	25th.
SAXONIA	March 12th.

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