

The Orient.

Dec. 28, 1910

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 37

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

16th Session (Dec. 21). Various examining Committees reported favorably on the following, the proposition of the Government to make a fresh appropriation of 3500 liras for the Mint; the bill calling for the transfer of 15,000 liras saved from the expenses of the Hedjaz Railway to the work of investigating the Jeddah-Mecca, Damascus and Derah Branch Railways; the bill covering the purchase of 8000 shares in the Anatolian Railway; the resolution to appropriate 4500 for the sending of physicians to Van and Erzroom, which sum, later being considered excessive, it was decided to turn over to the Grand Vizierate. After these reports were read they were placed on the docket. In accord with the favorable report of the budget Committee the Chamber voted without change the bill which authorizes the War Department to use the 15,613,731 piasters saved from the War Department budget for the purchase of transports for the Navy. The Minister of War stated that seven or eight transports could be bought with that sum, that the Naval Committee had promised to provide 15 ships, and the entire number needed was 60 transports. At the afternoon session the proposition to use the 21 million piasters added to the extraordinary war budget for 1910-1912 (year beginning Mch. 14) for the purpose of substituting Mauser rifles for Martinis was accepted. The Minister of War explained that 40,000 non-Moslems were enrolled annually and the sum of them is now 230,000, and that for these soldiers there are no arms. The Martinis which are scarcely worth 5 piasters each can be changed into Mausers at a cost of 106 piasters which is one third the cost of a Mauser, that is by converting Martinis into Mausers, it will be possible to have 198,000 Mausers with the money which 60,000 would cost if purchased outright. The bill for the reorganization of the Army was made the order of the day for Saturday the 14th.

17th Session (Dec. 24). The proposition to use 15,000 liras out of the Navy appropriation for repairs on ships, and 10,000 liras for property registers and account books were referred with the accompanying Vizierial letters to examining Committees. The Committee on the balance of the budget reported that it would not be feasible to use the sum appropriated for the purchase of an Embassy building in Vienna for the purchase of an Embassy building in some Balkan State and the construction of a house for the Minister Foreign Affairs in Constantinople. Reports of the military and budget committees were read with reference to a bill which authorizes the Minister of War to take 3 million liras from various portions of the budget and use this sum for the reorganization of

the Army. The Minister of War made a speech setting forth the history of the Ottoman Army and emphasizing the immediate necessity of reorganization. The details of expense he said he could not give until the work had been done. After a long debate the desired permission was given to the Minister of War by the vote of the majority. A document signed by 16 deputies and demanding a parliamentary investigation into the arrest and imprisonment of Riza Nour Bey (Sinop) was read and put on the docket.

18th Session (Dec. 24). A Vizierial letter with reference to the telephone concession for the Capital was referred to the Public Works Committee. The appropriation for establishing colonists in Kosova and Syria was favorably reported on by the examining Committee and voted. During the reading of the report unfavorable to appropriating 4500 liras for the sending of physicians to Erzroom and Van a bitter and unseemly controversy took place between Dr. Arif Ismet and the Minister of the Interior.

THE AWAKENING OF TURKEY

BY EDWARD F. CAREY

Nearly three hundred members of the "Round Table" and their guests enjoyed a most delightful and instructive evening on the first of this month at Teachers College, New York City. This club is composed of people connected with the educational institutions in some measure united by Columbia University. Its program includes the discussion of educational and political aspects of modern progress.

The subject of this last meeting was "The Awakening of Turkey." It was the good fortune of the audience to listen first to Dr. Howard Bliss, son and able successor of Dr. Daniel Bliss, whose establishment and management for nearly half a century of the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut places him in the ranks of the world's greatest educational leaders.

Dr. Bliss began with a graceful description of the natural beauty of Turkey. No doubt many of his hearers could the better appreciate what he said, having had the benefit of Mediterranean travel. He also reminded his audience of the romance of Turkey, whose history includes the names of Alexander, Jesus, and Mahomet. Then he paid an enthusiastic tribute to the quality of the present inhabitants. Indeed, he found in them the first reason for the modern awakening of the Turkish Empire. Dominant Turks, with the blood of the conquerors still in their veins; Greeks, related to the heroes of the classic period; Armenians, modern merchants of the Orient, intelligent descendants of the Aryan mountaineers;

and the Arabs, free sons of the desert, — these are alert, active races, too proud and too capable long to endure wrong and tyranny.

With acuteness Dr. Bliss summed up the circumstances leading to the revolt of Salonica in August, 1908, the demand of the Army for the return of the Constitution of Midhat Pasha, revoked by Hamid in 1876, and the hypocritical granting of its return by the frightened Sultan. Graphically he described the people's reception of the proclamation. Of course, no words can adequately show the popular joy. Think what had been the abject slavery of the people during the old regime! And suddenly the Constitution assured them of the right to travel, the freedom of the press, a deliberative parliament elected by the vote of the people, religious freedom, and the right of public meeting! No wonder the people embraced each other on the streets. Dramatically Dr. Bliss related the story of Fuad Pasha, wrongfully imprisoned in Damascus by the old political tyranny. When the dungeon doors opened and he was told to go free, the old hero cried, "Never, till on my breast are placed again the medals I won, and into my hand is given the sword with which I defended my country!" His badges of honor were quickly brought, and then Fuad Pasha, symbol of a freed nation, returned in triumph to Constantinople.

Of course, the first ecstasy of joy passed away, and the people then found themselves face to face with the difficult problem of representative government among a conglomeration of races. But that the Constitution itself had come to stay, Dr. Bliss seemed confident and the cause for this assertion he found in the Armenian schools and colleges which for two generations have occupied the strategic centers of all Turkey, giving a thorough education adapted to native needs, and preparing the people for the right use of freedom. Such colleges as Anatolia, Central, International, and Euphrates, and especially the later institutions at Constantinople and Beirut, have been America's contribution to the modern awakening of Turkey. And, indeed, the mission of our nation to the backward races of the world is one of education. "When my honored father," said Bliss, "first sailed for Syria, the cargo in the hold of the vessel was New England rum, and I submit that America owed it to Syria as the part of mere decency, to send with so much destruction also some construction and instruction!"

Hopeful as is the political and also the commercial future of Turkey, now is the time when that youngest of our free countries most needs the wise sympathy and practical assistance of free America. Dr. Bliss closed with a strong plea for cordial help in the great work of educating the races of the Turkish Empire.

The discussion of the subject was then ably taken up by Richard J. H. Gottheil, Professor of Rabbinical Literature and the Semitic Languages in Columbia University. He agreed with Dr. Bliss that for the awakening of Turkey great credit should be given to the American Schools, especially the Syrian Protestant and Robert Colleges, with the good work of which he was personally acquainted. But he wished to remind the audience also of the services of a distinguished

group of Turkish literati, who, from 1830 to 1875, influenced by French models, rehabilitated the Turkish language, freed Turkish literature from its bondage to the Persian and Arabic forms, and coined the words for Patriotism, Nation, and Freedom.

The chairman then announced that if they looked the whole world over they could not have found a better man to close the discussion, and he was sure the audience would feel extremely fortunate to be addressed by his honor, Mr. Straus, United States Ambassador to Turkey. Naturally, the veteran Ambassador was received with appreciative enthusiasm. Mr. Straus began by saying that it became an ambassador to be careful of his utterance. And yet, with all the necessity for a diplomat's caution, he could not help saying three things. He regarded the present Turkish Parliament with admiration, both for its dignity, and for the patience and skill with which it has attacked its new and difficult problems. And he wished also to add his testimony to the credit of the American schools in the noble work of awakening the people of Turkey to the need and the understanding of liberty. He said that he had had the honor of presiding at the graduating exercises of Robert College, and of advising the students of their duties of citizenship and true patriotism. And finally he wished to say that he regarded the future of Turkey as bright, that he was optimistic as to the outlook. Especially he was glad for every sign of the growing pleasant relations of the United States and Turkey, as evidenced by the interest of the "Round Table" in the subject of the evening.

The members of the club then adjourned to the social room, where refreshments were served, and besides talking with the distinguished speakers of the evening they also had the pleasure of meeting a most venerable and enthusiastic man, Dr. Greene, for fifty-one years missionary of the American Board in Constantinople.

Reprint from "Armenia."

ZEKIAT HAJ KOURBAN

ALMS PILGRIMAGE SACRIFICE

FROM "HIKMET"

II

There is no *harj* (narrow limitation) in the religion of God.

When a man is engaged in *namaz* (Moslem prayer) and the pot on the fire boils over and five piasters' worth of food is in danger of being spoiled he is allowed to interrupt his *namaz* at once and do what is needed. When a believer is at *namaz* and he hears such cries as, "O help me! I am burning!" or "Help, help, I am drowning," God commands him to leave his prayers at once and help the man in need, "because He says, 'I have not put any *harj* on my people.'"

"And so if the stranger fears that he is going to fall from a roof, or that the fire will burn him, or that he is about to drown and asks help of a praying man, he must stop his prayers." (Fatava-i-Hindieh Vol. I, verse 109).

When a person intends to carry out his *Haj*, it is not possible for him to go on the pilgrimage if one of his parents is unwilling to have him go because of being needed at home. Let us stop and think in the name of infinite mercy, of God overshadowing all things. If God in His majesty commands his servant when engaged in prayer to break his *namaz* in order to save some one who is in danger of falling or is on fire or is drowning, even if that person be a non-Moslem, does he not command us to render immediate assistance to twenty million Moslems, to innocent unfortunates, to wretched wives, to violated sisters, to poor mothers, and grand mothers, who weeping and plucking their hair cry out, Help us, for God's sake! for the sake of the Prophet of God! Help us for the honor of Islamism. Help us for the glory and the high estate of the Caliphate. Come to our rescue. These beasts are devouring us. Every day they are slaughtering some of us like lambs and sheep. They are drowning us in our blood.

This country was once the property of the Mohammedan Caliphate. One hundred thousand victorious heroes lie beneath its soil, while one hundred and twenty thousand sons are living witnesses, each one of whom would be a source of spiritual happiness under the gleaming rays dispersed by the banner of Islam. Now look how the fanatical conservatism of Christian civilization has delivered over forty thousand Islams, survivors of the sword, into the bloody fangs of beasts. Help us, be quick, we are dying.

God commands us to run to help at the cry of these 40,000 captives, to rescue our brothers in religion, to free their souls, and above all to save the honor of the Caliphate and of Islamism from blasphemies and from enemies.

(to be continued)

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

Weather report. Dec. 17th-24th.

(Observations at 8 a.m. daily)

Maximum temperature	(Dec. 21)	67.7° F
Minimum	(Dec. 22)	37.5°
Rainfall		
December 21 st		.54 inches
" 22 nd		.38
" 23		.39
Total for the week		1.31
Total for the month to date		2.00

On Wednesday, December 21st we listened to an interesting and instructive lecture by Professor Herbert Adams Gibbons of Robert College on The Case against the House of Lords.

On Friday Miss Ruth Rouse, travelling secretary for the Young Women's Christian Association arrived. We are very glad to have Miss Rouse as our guest during part of her stay in Constantinople.

The Faculty Christmas party on Friday evening, took the form of a chafing-dish party, where Dr. Miller dispensed "welsh-rabbit." The appropriately illustrated and descriptive

place cards, with the examination of the 5p presents, often accompanied by appropriate verses, made the time pass quickly.

On Christmas eve Miss Burns presided at a party in the drawing room for the students, where prizes were offered to those who guessed correctly the largest number of substances from a line of 25 bags containing aromatic materials varying from cologne to onions.

The Faculty were awakened appropriately at Midnight by the gentle singing of verses from "Holy Night," and awoke later to welcome the sun after several days of rain.

The Christmas service in the Chapel was conducted by Miss Rouse, and immediately afterwards most of the faculty from the College went to Arnaoutkeuy to eat Christmas dinner with Dr. and Mrs. Murray and the members of the faculty of the Preparatory School.

Sir William Ramsay is to speak at the American College for Girls, at Scutari, on next Sunday, the 31st of December, at 11:30 a.m., the time of the usual service.

ROBERT COLLEGE.

Professor and Miss Huntington invited the members of the Faculty and other friends to sing Christmas carols on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas. In addition to the singing of hymns, there were Christmas solos and quartets. Tea was served afterwards.

There was a special Christmas service in the Chapel on Sunday morning. The choir sang several old English carols. In the evening the Christmas music was repeated, and Prof. Estes explained the origin of the carols sung, and their history.

Prof. and Mrs. Gibbons entertained the unmarried professors and instructors at dinner on Christmas Eve. After dinner Prof. Huntington announced the engagement of Miss Gibbons to Mr. George Morgan Duff, Instructor in History.

Mr. Cuthbert Binns, of Roumeli Hissar, invited the Faculty children to a Christmas Tree party on Monday afternoon. It was the first appearance in public of our latest baby, Elsie Bedell.

Prof. Watson has announced a series of Shakespeare readings meant primarily for the students, but to which the members of the teaching staff and their families are invited. There are eight readings in the series. The first, from Midsummer Night's Dream, was held on Tuesday evening, Dec. 27.

Mrs. Gates is receiving on Monday afternoons.

Examinations start on the 2^d of January, vacation on the 11th. The second term begins January 23^d.

THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE IN MOURNING.

DEATH OF HIS HOLINESS THE CATHOLIKOS.

On Saturday morning, Dec. 24, Matteos II. Catholicos of all Armenians, passed away, in the Monastery of Etchmiadzin in the Caucasus. The shock caused by his sudden death will be felt by his people all over the world. Apparently he was in unusually good health, he had only just entered on his second year as Catholicos, and all were beginning to look to him as the one who was to lead them through the present crisis in national affairs and institute the reform movement in the Church.

The news of Archbishop Izmirlian's death has brought out many expressions of sincere sorrow in the Ottoman Press. A Turkish writer says that his death is a loss to all humanity. Those who knew the man will agree with this estimate, for no one could have been more broad in his sympathies and in his ideals of human brotherhood. The secret of his life however was the fervor of his Christian faith and the richness of his inner spiritual life.

Next week we will publish a brief sketch of the life and character of the Catholicos.

THE JEWS IN PALESTINE.

Dr. Bokshuts, a Zionist agent, who has recently returned from Palestine to Austria, has given out a very optimistic report of the condition of the Jews in Palestine. The information he gave the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Osmanischer Lloyd* goes to show that the Jews have been making remarkable progress throughout Syria. The number of Jews in Jerusalem particularly has increased to such an extent that they outnumber any other nationality. The number at present exceeds 85,000. They have already 120 schools and synagogues in Jerusalem, and in other towns like Jaffa and Haifa the increase is proportionate. The cause for this rapid increase is the persecution of the Jews in Russia.

The Jewish Colonization Association has large funds under its control and with these extensive tracts of land are bought and are then parcelled out to the Colonists. In the meantime schools, synagogues, and hospitals are being built. The colonists are mostly farmers and by means of modern machinery they are very successful. One fifth of the land in Galilee is in the hands of the Jews, and lands in the Hauran will soon pass into their possession. Dr. Bokshuts predicts that in a few years time Jewish money and skill will make Palestine an earthly paradise.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,

American readers of the Orient, will no doubt learn with sympathetic interest of the decision of the Ottoman Government to send three young men to the University of Columbia to complete their education there. This is a step which can only lead to the best results and it is to be hoped that it is only the beginning of a closer educational connection between America and Turkey. This country owes much to American educational enterprise here and while there is no wish to disparage the education given on the Continent there is no doubt that the healthier moral atmosphere which surrounds Anglo-Saxon educational institutions will help to produce men well fitted to come to the forefront in this country either in an official or private capacity.

It fell to my lot, almost accidentally to judge the papers submitted by some thirty of the candidates. The subject was an essay, in English, on "Education and the State". Whilst some of the papers showed but an elementary knowledge of English, the ideas of all, struggling as they were to express themselves in a foreign language, showed thought and originality. The essays of the four candidates which I placed first in order of merit were excellent and would have done credit to any young man writing in a foreign language. Of the four I placed first two were Greek, one Armenian, one Turk, of these one Greek and the Turk were selected and the third, a Turk, was chosen from among the next best candidates. It is very gratifying to me to see that I was instrumental in selecting these young men and I am sure that all Americans here who have friends or influence at the University of Columbia will do their best to assure a warm welcome for these young students and will see that everything possible is done to enable them to profit to the utmost by the great opportunities put before them.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours Faithfully

HUGH E. POYNTER.

EMPIRE NEWS.

The Capital.

It is rumored that the various parties forming the opposition in Parliament are preparing to coalesce.

The newly appointed director of the Ottoman Bank, M. Revoil, arrived last week.

According to the *Jeune Turc* the Minister of Foreign Affairs has approached the Foreign Cabinets with reference to the proposed income tax for foreigners and has received the reply that a final decision will be reached during the coming year. In the meantime the Income Tax bill is to be presented to Parliament.

The Imperial Commissary in the Regie, Ismail Jenani Bey, has been appointed Grand Master of Ceremonies at the Palace.

The *Jeune Turc* is also authority for the statement that during a recent call at the Sublime Porte the Austrian Ambassador announced on behalf of his Government that in the matter of the protection of the Albanian Catholics and the appointment of their bishops Austria was ready to waive certain rights in order to give expression to her confidence in the Ottoman Government and assist in the development of its constitutional system.

The Ministry recently has had under consideration the condition of the vilayet of Bagdad and received special information from Ismail Hakki Bey, deputy from Bagdad, who has been travelling through the province and reports the situation as exceedingly bad. In some places he says complete anarchy prevails.

After the close of the present Parliamentary sitting the President, Ahmed Riza Bey, plans to visit Athens. The visit will be unofficial but he will work for a better understanding between Turkey and Greece.

The bids for the construction of the Samsun-Sivas railway proved to be far in excess of the sum fixed by the Government so that the Department of Public Works has decided to undertake the work and will send its engineers to Samsun within a few days.

The Government has declined to allow the International Exposition proposed by a British company for 1913 to be placed on Seraglio Point. The place finally selected is at Kiaghath Khane, between Ayas Agha and Imrahor Kioshk. The company proposes to build a double track electric tramway from the city to the Exposition and for those who go by water a large number of launches, fifty of which have been already ordered.

On Sunday the Committee of Union of Progress Party held a meeting which lasted five hours. The subject under discussion was the cabinet. The Minister of the Interior was present and his explanations resulted in a vote favorable to the Cabinet. The Greek papers however say that the 38 dissatisfied deputies have announced that if they are unsuccessful in securing the resignation of some members in the Cabinet they will withdraw from the Committee of Union and Progress.

Mayroyeni Bey, a Greek philanthropist has placed 20,000 francs under the trusteeship of the Siloghos with instructions to use the annual income as a prize of merit. The Committee in charge has awarded the prize this year to the Mothers' Refuge Society, which cares for poor mothers and helps them in bringing up their children.

A German expert is to be called by the Government to take charge of the Mahsousseh Steamship Company.

The *Tanin* announces that the Ottoman Legation at Sofia was entered by thieves and a large number of important papers carried off. The correspondent declares that there are those who are resolved to bring about a crisis between the two countries, but, before doing so, felt the need of ascertaining how matters lay between Turkey and Roumania.

The *Osmanischer Lloyd* is authority for the statement that an understanding has been reached between the American and Ottoman Governments with reference to the Chester Anatolian Railway scheme.

According to the *Yeni Gazetta* the Government has made fresh representations to the Protecting Powers with reference to the perilous situation of the Moslems in Crete.

The *Tanin* says that the fares on the new electric tramways will be 20 paras to the first station and 10 paras additional as far as each successive station. For instance from Shisli to Galata Serai would be one fare, 20 paras, and for every station after that 10 paras will be added so that the total fare from Shishli to Yedi Kulé would be 100 paras.

The plays to be presented in the Capital hereafter will be subjected to censorship before they are staged. This move is said to be in the interest of public morals.

A local paper learns that Dr. Arif Ismet Bey, who used violent language in his controversy with Talaat Bey in Parliament, is to be expelled from the committee of Union and Progress.

The general secretary of the Democratic party and several members have been arrested and will be examined before the Military Tribunal. The party has decided to publish a new paper, the *Hukuk-u-Besher*.

The Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Babbington Smith appointed to investigate methods for securing uniformity in coinage rates has accepted in principle the restoration of the mejidié to its former value, namely one-fifth of the gold lira.

A Socialist Club in Galata has been closed by order of the Government.

Ottoman capitalists are about to establish a new bank with a capital of 200,000 liras.

The Students in the Ottoman University recently organized a society for social purposes. The Military Tribunal has raised the question whether students shall be allowed to form such associations. The matter has been referred through the Minister of Education to the Grand Vizier.

The *Jeune Turc* says that the Naval Committee has decided not to purchase 10 war ships of the 2^d Class on the ground that Turkey's relations with the stronger Powers are entirely friendly, whereas in the case of other States as Turkey's Naval strength exceeds that of each, it will be necessary to increase the number of ships only when one of them increases its number.

Orders have been given that the gramophone is not to be used for reproducing quotations from the Koran.

Prof. Emmerich of the University of Munich has come to Constantinople for the purpose of investigating the cholera conditions here and to assist in stamping out the disease. The *La Turquie* says that he has been invited to come by the Government.

The Imperial iradé for the construction of electric tramways in Constantinople has been issued.

At its meeting on Thursday the Ministry decided to give permission to American missionaries for the building of a school in Jerusalem.

The Military Tribunal has condemned the proprietor, the editor, and an article writer of the comic paper *Eshék* to pay fines of 25 liras each for offending against common decency and for publishing offensive articles against the Government.

The Minister of *Evkaf* (Religious Foundation) has resigned and has been succeeded by Khairi Bey, deputy of Nigde.

The Minister of the Interior will ask for a fresh appropriation of 40,000 liras to carry on the campaign against cholera.

Ghalib Bey, the new Governor of Syria, left for his post on Friday.

Cholera in Constantinople. From Dec. 22 to 28 inclusive there were 123 fresh cases of cholera, 43 of which proved fatal. The total number of cases is given as 1241, deaths 718.

THE PROVINCES.

The Councillor of the Department of the Interior in an interview on affairs in the Roumelian provinces said that the number of bands was rapidly decreasing, and that the measures taken by the Government to disperse the remainder are sufficiently radical to promise complete success. The people, he said, are weary of the policy of these bands and long for quiet and a chance to recuperate. The stories circulated by some foreign correspondents he declared were the fruit of their

own imagination. Unfortunately this optimistic view of the Macedonian situation is not confirmed in all respects by those who have recently been on the ground.

The Executive Council of Smyrna decided to remove "the bazar" (weekly market) from the village of Kayadibi to the central town of the district. When the order was to be enforced the villagers attacked the soldiers and a fight ensued in which several villagers were killed and a number wounded.

The Bagdad Railway Line has been extended from Bulgurlu as far as Ulu Kushla, a distance of about 30 kilometers.

The Brousa-Moudania Railway Company offers to extend its line to connect with the Anatolian Railway also with the Soma-Banderma Railway on condition that the Government grant a thirty year guarantee. The Department of Public works is favorably disposed toward this proposition and negotiations are proceeding.

It is reported from Canea, Crete, that meetings are being held in all parts of the island calling for annexation to Greece.

Very severe weather is reported from Sivas.

NOTES.

Rev. W. Nesbit Chambers, of Adana, writes from Osmanieh, Turkey, on December 14th.

"Dr. Patton, Miss Webb and I reached here this evening, two days from Adana—good roads and fine weather, good journey. We go to Baghche tomorrow, and will pass Dr. Patton over to Mr. Macallum."

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