

# The Orient.

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**AHMED RIZA BEY, SENATOR.**

His Majesty the Sultan has been pleased to confer on Ahmed Riza Bey the rank of Senator, in recognition of his services to the country. Ever since Parliament was opened, in December of 1908, Ahmed Riza Bey has been the presiding officer of the Chamber of Deputies, having been re-elected each session with surprising unanimity. He has been fearless and impartial in his treatment of the Deputies, and has upheld the traditions of parliamentary law and usage to a degree that most men in a similar position would have found impossible. It is no surprise, consequently, to hear the local press commenting on the possibility of his now being elected as President of the Senate.

As a further mark of Imperial favor, the Sultan has made a gift to the new Senator of the *konak* at Nishantash which he was allowed, as President of the Chamber, to occupy, but which had belonged to the imperial family.

## UNIVERSAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR STUDENTS.

A call has just been issued, signed by Dr. Fries and Dr. Mott as Chairman and General Secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation, for the observance of Sunday, Feb. 25th, 1912, as the Universal Day of Prayer for Students. This is reinforced by a hearty endorsement on behalf of the Provisional Committee for the Promotion of Christian Asso-

ciation work in the Turkish Empire, signed by President C. F. Gates as Chairman and Mr. E. O. Jacob as Executive Secretary. We reproduce part of the circular issued:—

"In issuing this Call it is fitting that mention be made of some evidences of the blessing of God upon the world-wide Student Movement during the year just closed—evidences which suggest grounds for united thanksgiving.

"The Federation Conference in Constantinople in April drew attention to the religious needs of the Near East, provided a platform upon which various branches of the Christian Church could unite in a common task, and made more pervasive the sense of unity in the Federation.

"As the delegates of the Constantinople Conference visited student centres throughout the Near East, many opportunities for further service were disclosed. Already a new Student Movement has been started in Austria, and promising developments have taken place in Asia Minor, Egypt, and the Balkan States.

"On the occasion of a visit by the General Secretary to Switzerland many students were led to personal faith in Christ, and the Movement assumed greater responsibilities for the large number of foreign students in its field.

"There has developed in Australia a deeper interest in Foreign Missions and the alliance between the Student Movement and the Laymen's Missionary Movement is certain to be productive of mutual helpfulness.

"There has been throughout the student world a noteworthy advance in the study of social problems by students, and this has been especially manifest in the United Kingdom and in North America.

"The tour of Mr. G. S. Eddy among the student centers of Eastern Asia was fruitful in leading over one thousand students to become Christian inquirers.

"The training of leaders for Unions and Associations has received more attention than ever before. Conferences for discussion of methods and for spiritual quickening have ministered to the deepest needs of the personnel of these Movements. It is noteworthy that this year has seen the twentyfifth anniversary of the first conference for students, and also of the Student Volunteer Movement of North America. The great conferences of students on missionary and other themes have opened new doors of opportunity and call for special prayer that the fruitage in dedicated lives may be gathered."

Some of the grave problems calling now for a volume of intercessory prayer are mentioned as: the secular atmosphere in many universities; the hostile attitude of the students of South America and Continental Europe toward all forms



of religious observance; materialism, indifference, uncertainty and unbelief among students; and the need of able leadership. The importance of special prayer in preparation for the Day of Prayer is emphasized, and the suggestion is made that where possible the day before or the day following Feb. 25th be likewise devoted to an earnest presentation of the claims of Christ upon the lives of students.

### THE ARMENIAN CATHOLICS.

Apparently the conflict going on within the Armenian Catholic Church has passed from the very acute stage of three months since to a more quiet stage, since the return of the Patriarch, Mgr. Terzian, from Rome. It will be recalled that the Patriarch convened a Council of his Bishops and Archbishops at Rome, despite the apparent unwillingness of the Ottoman government to allow any of its subjects to hold a council on Italian territory during the war. This Council naturally took the ground already taken by Pope and Patriarch, that the clergy and the clergy alone has any authority regarding the financial and property affairs of the church, and that the contention of the laity regarding their rights was utterly inadmissible. Apparently the Ottoman government has been persuaded of the clear distinction between the Kingdom of Italy and the Church of Rome, and appreciates the friendly attitude of the Pope, or at least his absolute neutrality, in the present war. The efforts, therefore, of the Armenian Catholic lay council here to have Mgr. Terzian discountenanced by the Government were unavailing. The Patriarch has returned to Constantinople, he has been received as formerly by the government officials, and has taken up his control over the church affairs. His opponents are by no means conciliated. In the press they are carrying on a campaign against him, though with but little hope of success. They allege that the Armenian Catholics are Armenians before they are Catholics, and will stand for their national rights to the bitter end. We fear, however, that this attitude will be found incompatible under the present circumstances with their allegiance to St. Peter's Successor. In order to be loyal Catholics, they will be forced to lay down their contention for lay rights in the administration of ecclesiastical affairs, whether financial or otherwise. In the contrary case, their connection with the Roman church must cease. How long the present deadlock will continue, time alone will tell.

### AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

The American College for Girls opened on January 22nd. Teachers and students have returned from the various places in Greece, Asia Minor, Bulgaria or Constantinople where they had spent the Christmas holiday, and returned with fresh vigor for work. The new rooms which have just been built in Barton Hall are ready for occupancy. These rooms will give much needed relief to the overcrowded dormitories and class rooms of the College. The Seniors move into new quarters. The Mathematics and History classes at last have proper ac-

commodations, and all departments feel the comfort of enlargement.

One of the graduates of the College, Miss Alexanian, 1910, won by a competitive examination the European Scholarship, offered by the government, and is now gone to study in Paris.

Miss Nazli Halid, Turkish graduate of 1910, has been teaching in the Preparatory Department at Arnaoutkeuy since graduation, and has now, in addition, been appointed teacher of Physiology and Physics in the Dar-ul-Mouallimat.

Miss Panossian, 1906, is also teacher in both the Preparatory Department at Arnaoutkeuy, and in the Dar-ul-Mouallimat. The present Minister of Education is certainly very progressive in his efforts to have teachers with diplomas, for the Turkish Girls' Schools.

Miss Kiroff, 1908, teacher of Bulgarian in Arnaoutkeuy, went to the Student Conference in Liverpool January 2nd-8th, as a delegate of the American College for Girls. She has returned; and gave a very interesting report of the Conference on Sunday evening at the College. Her report was listened to with deep attention, as she told of the gathering of over ten thousand delegates, of their study of mission problems, and of the methods of social service to be adopted by college students. There were at the Conference delegates from Russia and Austria and Turkey and Bulgaria, from Switzerland and France and Roumania and Germany and indeed all the countries of Europe, as well as Australia and New Zealand. As Miss Kiroff told of the charming hospitality of the English people, of the inspiring speeches and discussions of the Conference, she made her audience feel the brotherhood of mankind, and the oneness of all the work for the uplift of the world.

I. F. D.

### EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

The monthly meeting of the Evangelical Alliance will be held at the Somerville House Friday, Feb. 2nd, at 3 p. m. The leaders, Dr. C. F. Gates and Rev. Geo. Huntington, will present the work being done at Robert College, especially that part of the work which has to do with the moral and spiritual training of the students. This is in line with the scheme of the Executive Committee of the Alliance, to have discussed at the meetings various phases of Christian work being carried on in Constantinople. This plan was conceived with the hope that these public presentations might be the means of creating a strong bond of prayer and interest between the existing agencies for Christian work in this city.

While under existing conditions it is impossible to effect a federation of these agencies, it seems not only feasible but also practical and highly desirable that they should associate themselves in prayer for one another and for the progress of the Kingdom of God in Constantinople.

It is hoped that on the day of the meeting Christian people, even though they are unable to be present at the meeting, will spend some time in prayer especially for the subject under consideration, and also for other agencies striving to make known the teaching and spirit of Christ in our city.

D. A. DAVIS. *Secretary.*



### SYRIAN PROTESTANT COLLEGE.

Mrs. Morris K. Jesup has been elected a member of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Jesup was president of the board at the time of his death.

Dr. Webster gave the third of the Faculty Lectures on Jan. 6th, on Louis Pasteur. Not only was the lecture most interesting to all, but to medical men it had particular fascination, as well as to all students who may have been in touch with silk culture. The devotion of this great Frenchman to the welfare of his country was held up for all to exemplify for this Ottoman Empire.

It rained 9.14 inches and it rained every day during the Christmas recess. The many excursions and tramps had to be cancelled, but two biograph exhibitions, the Christmas tree at the Johanniter hospital, the Christmas giving, and the Students' Union entertainment helped to break the monotony of "the music of the rain."

On Christmas night many students and teachers gathered in Daniel Bliss Hall and piled the platform with gifts for the poor, —groceries, clothing, money, etc.

The Students' Union entertainment illustrated the diversity of tongues on the campus. Songs and declamations were rendered in 18 different languages, and the nineteenth, German, did not "spiel." Those that were represented were Arabic, Syriac, Turkish, English, Armenian, French, Spanish, Greek, Latin, Italian, Bulgarian, Albanian, Persian, Tartarian, Abyssinian, Hebrew, Russian, and Esperanto.

Tuesday the 16th was made memorable by the visit to the College of His Beatitude, the Patriarch of Antioch, accompanied by the Greek Orthodox Bishop of Beirût, with suite and cavasses. They attended college prayers, and after the usual service Prof. Dumit in behalf of the President and faculty made a welcoming address in Arabic, to which His Beatitude eloquently responded in an address on the intellectual advantages before the young men he was addressing. The Bishop said he would speak of the heart, as his superior had spoken of the head, and he emphasized the importance of all drawing as much together as possible and sinking our differences. Both addresses were warmly received. All stood and sang "Alma Mater" and gave three rousing cheers for His Beatitude. The company was photographed with the President and the venerable President-Emeritus on the steps of Post Hall.

The Week of Prayer was observed at the college by special services beginning Sunday, Jan. 7th and continuing through the week till the 14th. The subject was "Christ's Talks with Men." The President in the Assembly Hall and Prof. Hall in Daniel Bliss Hall gave the opening sermons on: "Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee." The evening meetings were held in the Library. Dr. Webster spoke on "Christ's Talks with Men who were Conscious of their Sins"; Prof. Crawford, on "Men Unconscious of their Sins"; Dr. Moore, on "Decisions"; Rev. Mr. Gifford, on "Service"; Prof. Hall, on "The Backslider"; Dr. Porter, on "Restoration"; Dr. Dorman, on "Nourishment". Sunday morning the 14th, Dr. Webster

preached in the chapel and Prof. Crawford in Bliss Hall on "Eternal Life"; and the President closed the series in the evening from this text;—"I have yet many things to say unto you." The meetings were largely attended, the interest was deep and the fundamental place spiritual religion must hold in the life and character of every intellectual man was brought forcibly home to the students. W. B. A.

### HEALING SOUL AND BODY IN SIVAS.

The Sivas church has been unable to find a supply for this year in the absence of its pastor who is spending his second year of study in America, and has been obliged to make an arrangement by which Mr. Partridge has taken charge of the preaching and prayer-meetings. In this work he has the assistance of the Normal School teachers who take turns leading the prayer-meetings, speaking in the Sunday-School, and occasionally preaching. On alternate Sunday evenings we conduct a song and preaching service in English for our Boarding Schools and such others as can appreciate a service in English. Mr. Partridge and Mr. Holbrook preach by turns, and special music is always provided. Once a month we have a stereopticon sermon in the Chapel which is always crowded.

Three tours have been made this fall. The first was made by Mr. Partridge and our native evangelist from Gürün, Bedros Eff. Moughalian, to Khanzar, Zara, Enderes, and Kara Hissar. Mr. Partridge carried his stereopticon and gave illustrated sermons on the life of Christ. On their return Mr. Holbrook went back to Gürün with Bedros Eff. and spent a week visiting schools and preaching on Sunday through an interpreter. He visited also the schools at Manjuluk on the way. Just before Thanksgiving Mr. Partridge and Mr. Holbrook made a short trip to Khanzar and Zara. The greatest need in all our outstation work is more teachers for our village schools. Many communities are ready to pay all or a large part of a teacher's salary if one can be found, but are forced to let their children run the streets. The next need is for trained and ordained preachers, most of the churches being at present served by our day-school teachers who of course have had almost no training or experience for pastoral work. Every year it becomes increasingly evident that our greatest evangelistic work as missionaries must be in the training of the teachers and preachers who are so sorely needed as leaders in the village life.

On the return of Dr. Clark in the summer, after his furlough in America, he found that the epidemic of cholera which had been anticipated for some time had reached the city and every one was excited and greatly frightened; and he was kept very busy for some weeks attending almost exclusively cholera patients. During the two and one-half weeks of the epidemic there were about 400 deaths reported. The city government worked hard and the whole population received a lesson in hygiene, for every one was required to clean his yard and there was a systematic cleansing of the streets. Ordinarily there are no reports of deaths: each family looks after



its own, while living, and buries the body as soon as possible, after death. During these months, however, a report of every death and a medical certificate of the cause was required before burial and in case the cause was cholera, the Government buried the body, disinfected the premises, and instituted a five days quarantine of the house. The Government also systematized the marketing of fruit and vegetables, guarded the city water courses, and sent physicians to the neighboring cities. In any attempts at reform, the authorities always have a great handicap in the fanaticism and ignorance of the people, yet the fact that there were so few deaths, as compared with those of other epidemics, shows that there has been a great change in recent years both in the intelligence of the people and in the Government. The general good health this fall seems to be due to the unusually good food supply; the warm weather, allowing out-of-door life and good ventilation; and the unusual cleanliness of the city.

Our dispensary clinics have been larger this fall than ever before and though the development of the work is slower than we might wish, yet its steadiness is very encouraging. The employment of a native assistant physician for one-half his time has enabled us to open another clinic in the city especially for the Turks.

The surgical work too has been increasing, and as time goes on, with more experience and better facilities, the results are improving. People show an increasing readiness to stay in the hospital for treatment. By changing some of the rooms on the lower floor, we have been able to increase the space for patients and we now have twenty-one beds. We shall soon have four more which will be set up in case of necessity. The patients in the hospital hear and read the Bible daily and our Sivas Bible Woman now gives some of her time to the instruction of the women.

The outstations of our field are often entirely without medical assistance. We are happy to say that, as several of the young men of our field are studying medicine or are planning to do so, we hope that the outstations will soon be better supplied with physicians. We believe too that the co-operation of the Hospital is going to be of much service to these young men in their profession as well as a power in raising the general standard of the medical work throughout the region. Indeed we already see many good results in this direction.

E. C. PARTRIDGE.

#### BRITISH ADVICE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Sir Thomas Barclay has just published a book entitled "The Turco-Italian War and its Problems." Like most books that appear prematurely, it has been severely and somewhat justly criticised. The *Tanin*, speaking of the author's advocacy of an honorable peace, says, "We looked eagerly through the work to find out the conditions of such a peace, but were disappointed. For, while acknowledging that if justice had its way in international history, the problem ought to be solved by the simple evacuation of Tripoli and Benghazi by Italy, Sir Thomas Barclay adds that the time for such an adjustment

is now passed, and that an indemnity proportionate to the injury is the only means of settling the loss inflicted. This point, to our view, destroys all the value of the book. Were Sir Thomas an Italian statesman or a diplomat, we might have explained his language by saying he so spoke out of political necessity. But as a thinker, a wise man, who addresses the general public and who has made a reputation as a lawyer, it seems to us he should take as his point of view only that of right and justice. Since, according to the author himself, justice in international relations requires the Italian evacuation of Tripoli and Benghazi, his duty as a humanitarian and a civilized thinker was to bring all arguments to bear with a view to securing justice in international relations. If Sir Thomas instead of trying to cover up the banditism of Italy's action, had used his pen to stigmatize it, perhaps his words would have had no special importance. But since his propositions are not to be followed, but will naturally be soon forgotten, his object ought to have been to have engendered respect for right and justice in international relations.

"The best answer to the proposals of Sir Thomas is that of Prof. Brown in a letter to the *Manchester Guardian*, where he says: — 'I regret not to be able to share the opinion of Sir Thomas Barclay, a good friend of Turkey and Persia; and I must refute one of his assertions. He alleges that Turkey ought to accept a money compensation, not for the loss of the Tripolitan territory, but for the prejudice to her dignity and honor. Turkey cannot acquiesce for a money consideration in the banditism of Italy; and such advice at such a crisis seems to me out of place. Can Turkey abandon to Italy the Arabs, her co-religionists, her most faithful allies in this war, who have suffered so? Can she withdraw her troops from Tripoli, disarm the inhabitants and give them up to the Italian butchers like a flock of sheep driven to the shambles? If she did this, Turkey would not only besmirch herself, but would completely lose the position she enjoys as the leading Moslem nation, the protector of Islam. I believe the Turks intend to fight to the bitter end, as they should. Besides, I am sure their situation is not as hopeless as it is painted. Despite their criminal violation of international morals, I believe Italy will be forced to evacuate the place.'

"Such are the words one might expect from a wise and thinking man. We fear they will have no material effect. But at least it is good to see that, in civilized Europe, right and justice are not empty words. Would Sir Thomas, who thinks that with four or five million liras the Italian aggression, — a veritable crime from the point of view of international law, — can be paid for, or that gold will compensate for a stain on a nation's honor, — would he consent to accept five hundred millions to allow a foreign invasion of Ireland, and call that compensation enough for the honor of his country? We are certain that the mere proposal would hurt his self-respect. Consequently, while our hearts are bleeding at the unjust attack of which we are the victims, at the killing of our women and children in Tripoli, we think he will understand the pain his proposal causes us, and we beg him not to murder us any more by useless insults."



### THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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### EDITORIAL.

Any who wish copies of the issue of Jan. 17th, containing Mr. Dako's valuable article on the Albanians, may have such sent to any address they may give us, at the rate of one piastre apiece, post free, so long as the extra copies last.

The local dailies have announced that the Protestants have come to an understanding with the Tashnagists and the Union and Progress Committee with reference to the coming elections. We are in a position to state that this rumor is not true.

No Christian doubts the efficacy of fervent prayer on the part of righteous men. And a call to united prayer for a great object should furnish an opportunity of putting into action this great power. There is an especial fitness about observing the Universal Day of Prayer for Students, in a land where education is so recently coming to its own, and where so large a proportion of youth are threatened with the delusion that an education means consequent disbelief in any form of supernatural religion. Hearty and unsolicited testimonials to the superior moral and spiritual tone of the American educational institutions of this land come in from all sides, and especially from former students and their friends. But these are tempered by the knowledge that the student body presents an ever-increasingly complex problem, to solve which our institutions need as never before Divine guidance. While praying for students, let us remember also and especially those to whom these students look for guidance and inspiration.

The past week saw the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved friend, Herbert M. Allen, to his reward. As the founder and first editor of *The Orient* he rendered a distinct service to all English and American friends of missions to the Ottoman peoples. But this was a mere supplement to his real life-work. He is remembered today for many other and more important characteristics. Seldom has there lived a man so utterly devoted to the moral and spiritual uplift of a nation, and especially of a nation into which he was not born. The extent to which he had, however, identified himself with the Armenian people in his inmost life, was shown in those last hours of delirium, when he preached and pleaded and

prayed in their language, and spoke in that tongue of *my* church and *my* nation. A loyal and true American to the last, he had yet so completely devoted his heart to working for them that for him there was "neither Jew nor Greek." Mr. Allen will live in the memory of his associates as a thoughtful and stimulating preacher, as well as an editor of no mediocre ability. The years may pass by; they have as little effect on the permanency of his work as on his now completely liberated spirit.

We spoke last week of the advantages of introducing military drill into our educational institutions. Another branch of instruction that should today find a place in the curriculum of all High Schools and Colleges in this country is parliamentary law and procedure. Some years ago, in one of our colleges, a half-hour per week was given to practical drill in the making and passing of motions, the nomination and election of officers, and the transaction of ordinary forms of parliamentary business. The results were most encouraging. Students so drilled are in a position to preside over gatherings and to enforce the essentials of correct procedure, to the great facilitating of whatever business may be in hand. In these days of parliamentary elections in all parts of the country, the graduates of our institutions ought to be in a position, we will modestly refrain from saying to be elected as deputies, but at least to see to it that such elections are carried on in such a dignified and correct way as to ensure the free expression of the true will of the people. Where the institutions have failed to furnish any drill in parliamentary law, and in the conduct of elections and of debates, this can hardly be expected. But if such courses be introduced, and the literary societies be encouraged to engage in systematic debates on questions of the day, we may reasonably expect our graduates to develop as leaders in the corporate life of the nation.

### A CENTENNIAL ORDINATION.

Next Tuesday, Feb. 6th, is the hundredth anniversary of the ordination, in the Tabernacle Church at Salem, Mass., of Messrs. Judson, Hall, Newell, Nott and Rice, the first five missionaries of the American Board. This anniversary is to be most fittingly commemorated by the ordaining of five young men as missionaries of the same Board, exactly one hundred years later, in the same town and church; and the same historic bench will be used on which those original five sat. One of the five is Mr. Samuel Ralph Harlow, of Union Seminary, who, with his fiancée, is under appointment to the Western Turkey Mission. Among those who will take part on that occasion are Dr. Lyman Abbott, who will give the main address, Dr. D. S. Clark, who will give a historical address, and President Fitch of Andover, who will offer the prayer. It is expected that Dr. George F. Herrick will also take part.

A highly-recommended Armenian girl, 14 years old, strong and active, desires position as housemaid in an English-speaking family. Address *The Orient*.



## THE POMAKS.

In many places in the Balkan peninsula there are people who speak only Bulgarian, are of Bulgarian blood and still preserve many Bulgarian customs, but being Moslems, they hold themselves aloof from other Bulgarians. Their forefathers, in the 17th century or later, were either compelled to change their religion, or found it convenient to do so, that they might retain their lands, or escape from the tyranny of some Greek bishop. Such persons are known in Bulgaria and in those parts of European Turkey bordering on the Rhodope mountains by the name of Pomaks. In other places they are called Turks, Torbesh, Chitaks, or some other derisive name.

The name, Pomak, is derived from the Bulgarian word *pomagam*, (I help), apparently given them because they assisted the Turks in holding the country. Except in the kaza of Tikvish, on the right bank of the Vardar, and in the Meglen valley in the kaza of Vodena, such Moslem Bulgarians are found in or near the mountain passes, in strategic places, where they could well render the government great assistance in case of a rebellion, or in a war of invasion. This they have always been ready to do.

In Bulgaria there are, at present, not more than 20,000 Pomaks, almost all of whom live on the north slope of the Rhodopes. In the western part of the Adrianople vilayet there are, probably, another 20,000. On the eastern border of the Salonica vilayet, mainly between the Mesta Karasou river and the Rhodope range, there are about 46,000, while elsewhere in this vilayet, including the fertile Tikvish plain with nearly 18,000, and Meglen with about 8,000, there are 50,000 more. In Monastir vilayet, mostly in the mountains to the east of the river Drin, there are 36,000, and in the southern part of the Üsküb vilayet there are 13,000. As nearly as I can learn there are in all about 186,000 Moslem Bulgarians.

Unlike the Moslem Albanians they have little or no love for their race, though they rarely intermarry with the regular Turks. They are first and foremost Moslem, and frequently are more dreaded by other Bulgarians than are the Osmanli Turks. Those in Bulgaria show no desire to attend the Bulgarian schools which the government provides for them. In Turkey there are only Turkish schools for them, but not knowing Turkish they can get but little profit out of them. Living mostly in mountain villages they are the last to be reached by schools and other agencies for promoting civilization. They rarely leave their homes to seek work in other parts. Sometimes they live in villages with Christian Bulgarians and, in time of peace, are not bad neighbors, — the youth of both sexes and religions dancing together on the village green.

As very few of them can read in any language our colporters have not succeeded in reaching them with books or tracts. Being more or less scorned by their Christian neighbors they are not well inclined to listen to religious instruction. My hope is that the Evangelical churches in their vicinity will make this needy people their mission field.

Samokov, Jan. 27, 1912.

J. W. BAIRD.

## YAVASH, YAVASH!

The *Tanin* remarks:—

*Yavash, yavash* (slowly, slowly) is an axiom well-rooted among us, the regulator of our thoughts and actions. *Yavash, yavash* . . . while in the West the whole civilized world rushes on with surprising activity, and struggles and works, but here we rest in an expectant attitude, going along *yavash, yavash*. Not only have we no appreciation of the value of a minute, an hour, or a day, we cannot even grasp the value of months and years. *Yavash, yavash!*

Here it is a week since the Chamber was dissolved. What has been done in that week? In a European country, a whole course of political action is decided in a half-hour; but with us, things go *yavash, yavash*. The Government was in a hurry to get rid of the Chamber; those last days it was impatient at being able to do nothing. And the main reason for condemning the Chamber was, that it did no work. But with the Chamber out of the way, all this good will and labor and effort has also disappeared. Ah! at last the end is attained; the disturbance has been quieted; we can breathe easily; but after this, whenever work is mentioned, it is again *yavash, yavash*. And so, with our *yavash, yavash*, a week has gone. Most valuable time has gone. The Government ought in these first few days to have taken measures to ensure its moral influence and strengthen confidence at home and abroad. This moral influence is a thing gained on the instant, or in a single day, or never.

The dissolution of the Chamber is a right accorded by the Constitution. It is a right; but he who uses it should justify it by efforts, by working, by extraordinary achievement. Between the dissolution of the Chamber and the meeting of the new Chamber is an interval of barely three months. The Government has only these three months in which to do what it must, what it has promised to do in dissolving the Chamber, and to prove its capacity. Think on the one hand of the brevity of these three months, and on the other of the number of difficult tasks to accomplish, and one can immediately see the importance of the week that has been wasted. In the course of this week the Government has been unable to throw off its drowsiness. Today a minister is added to the Cabinet, and tomorrow there is talk of another, and also of the resignation of some one else. If you go to a competent source to ask about this, the answer you get is: All will be done, *Inshallah*, but *yavash yavash!*

In view of this state of affairs at a critical moment, when our statesmen have assumed a responsibility so great that it would bow down the strongest shoulders, we cannot unfortunately prevent the conviction that they do not sufficiently appreciate the gravity of the situation. The chief cause of the misfortunes that have befallen this country these past four years lies in hesitation, lack of effort, lack of courage. If we fail to appreciate the gravity of the political situation at home and abroad, we may be sure we shall receive the penalty of this ignorance, and that it will not be long in coming.



### THE BUDGET FOR 1328.

On Nov. 14th last, Nail Bey, Minister of Finance, presented to Parliament his proposed budget for the financial year 1328, which begins on March 14th, 1912. The Chamber, however, in the ensuing two months did not touch this most important matter, and Nail Bey's painstaking attempt at economy must await action by the next Parliament. The Constitution provides for the continuance in force, in such a case, of the budget of the previous year, when this measure is sanctioned by imperial *iradé*; and this will doubtless be done pending action by the incoming Chamber. If all goes well, and Parliament assembles by the middle of April, it will still take many weeks for it to examine the details of the proposed budget for 1328; so that one can hardly expect it to be actually passed before the summer recess. Last June had hardly arrived before the exhausted deputies complained of the depressing heat which prevented their brains from doing successful work, and Parliament adjourned on June 4th. Possibly it may see fit this spring to vote provisional budgets for each month, as was done last spring. But in any case, the Minister of Finance seems determined not only not to exceed the limits of last year's budget, but wherever possible to reduce expenses. We fear that this may prove easiest in the departments of Public Instruction and of Public Works. This is not so much the fault of the Treasury department as it is that of the departments of Public Instruction and Public Works. The latter during 1910-11 used only 24.68 % of the funds allotted to it. Had the Minister of Public Works been more energetic, and made use of the little he was assigned, the case might have been different. Behold a modern illustration of the Great Master's law: - "From him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

### LEVANT TRADE REVIEW, No. 3.

The third number of this organ of the American Chamber of Commerce for Turkey, or for the Levant, as we must now call it, is a distinct advance on its predecessors. The lengthening roll of members of the Chamber also indicates the healthy growth of this organization. Several of the articles in the present number of the *Review* are in French, notably an illustrated description of the Panama Canal, and a paper by Consul-General Ravndal on Relations between America and Turkey. Of especial value are articles on Silk in Turkey, and Turkish Silk in America. Brousa silks are shown to be superior to those of all other countries, being more elastic and stronger. There is also an interesting account of Greek Shipping, a statement of the Economic Policy of the Young Turks, a description of Dairying in the East, and a long extract from *The Near East* regarding Sir William Willcocks' scheme for the Reviviscence of Babylonia, accompanied by a bird's-eye view of the scheme. Commercial reports of considerable length and value are given from Trebizond, Aleppo, Mersin and Smyrna, as well as from Roumania, Servia and Egypt. Such a wealth of valuable material would be rendered far more accessible by an index to each number.

### EMPIRE NEWS.

#### THE CAPITAL.

A commission headed by Reshid Pasha will represent the Sultan at the festivities in Sophia on the occasion of Crown Prince Boris reaching his majority.

The Department of Public Works has decided to establish a tramway line between Moda, Kadikeuy, Haidar Pasha and Scutari, with a branch from Scutari to Alem Dagh.

His Excellency the Grand Vizier, Said Pasha, is suffering with the chicken-pox.

Mr. Saraffoff, the Bulgarian Minister, and Mr. Popoff, 1st Dragoman, paid a visit last Friday to the Ecumenical Patriarch, which His Holiness returned on Saturday. M. Saraffoff tendered to the Patriarch an invitation from King Ferdinand to be officially represented at the festival of the coming of age of Crown Prince Boris. There was also talk of a *rapprochement* between the Bulgarian and Greek branches of the Orthodox Church.

Prince Said Pasha Halim has been appointed as President of the Council of State, making him a minister without portfolio in the Ottoman cabinet.

The Sultan has given a donation of 20,000 piastres for the distribution of charcoal to the poor of the city, and this distribution has begun.

At the second annual meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce, held last Wednesday, the name was changed to "The American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant," in order to include branches in Greece, Bulgaria, Malta, Egypt, etc. Dr. Marcellus Bowen was elected President, Consul-General Ravndal being Honorary President.

The exports from Turkey to the United States in 1911 amounted to \$18,000,000, as compared with \$15,000,000 in 1910. American cotton-seed oil was imported into Turkey to the extent of 36,000 barrels in 1911 as against 11,000 in 1910.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has conferred on Assim Bey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the grand cordon of the Order of Civil Merit, set in brilliants.

The *Osmanischer Lloyd* is authority for the statement that the headquarters of the Committee of Union and Progress have been transferred from Salonica to Constantinople.



### THE PROVINCES.

One, perhaps the last, of the group of girls whom Miss Maria A. West gathered about her, in the old Haskeny School, Mrs. Anna, wife of Deacon Garabed Hovagimian, has just died in Trebizond aged 69. She will be pleasantly remembered by all the older missionaries. Her father, Rev. Hagop Filisian, was Pastor in Trebizond from 1858 to 1879. Her youngest daughter has been a successful teacher for five years in Adabazar and is now superintendent of the kindergarten department of the Gregorian Community of Trebizond.

A Greek steamer, the *Albania*, was wrecked last week on the island of Cassos, in the Aegean. The captain went down with his ship.

Cholera is reported to be making ravages in Yanina and near the Adriatic coasts north of the Gulf of Arta.

The *Oregon*, of the Archipelago American Steam-ship Company, has run ashore not far from Smyrna, and is a total loss.

An anonymous Greek has offered through the Metropolitan of Salonica to give a sum of 100,000 francs to establish in that city a lyceum for young ladies.

### NOTES.

Miss Kate G. Lamson and Miss Sarah Louise Day, of the Woman's Board, Boston, who are now on a tour of the mission stations in India of the American Board, and who had hoped to visit this spring a number of places in Turkey, have been led by the postponement of the All-Turkey Missionary Conference to change their plans, and will instead spend a couple of months in Japan. They sail from India Feb. 6th, and are due in Japan March 12th. Their address while there will be, care of Rev. Otis Cary, D.D., Kyoto, Japan.

President and Mrs. John E. Merrill of Aintab are the parents of a second daughter, Dorothy Trowbridge, born January 12th.

The Hon. William Lowther, father of the British Ambassador to Turkey, died on Tuesday last, at the advanced age of 91.

Mr. Henry Zohrab Longworth, for many years British Consul at Trebizond, died there suddenly on Friday last, of apoplexy.

We regret to announce the death last week of Mr. Alexander A. Gargiulo, Interpreter to the American Embassy, after nearly forty years of service. He was appointed as interpreter in the Legation July 1st, 1873.

## This space reserved

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### OTHER LANDS.

Severe earthquakes have taken place in the Ionian islands, especially Zante, as well as in the Peloponnesus. Many public and private buildings were thrown down and several lives lost.

The new Gordon Memorial Cathedral at Khartoum was solemnly consecrated last Friday, in the presence of a large assembly, including deputations from many ecclesiastical bodies.

In the newly-elected German Reichstag, the Socialists have 110 seats, the Centre 93, Radicals 41, National Liberals 45, Conservatives 43, all others, 65. The Socialists gained 57 seats.

The King and Queen of England are due to arrive in London on their return from India, on Monday next, and on Tuesday a thanksgiving service will be held in St Paul's Cathedral, at which their Majesties will be present.

The Chinese revolutionists have been widely victorious in the past week; and Wu-Ting-Fang has finally sent an ultimatum to the Emperor demanding that he abdicate within 24 hours, failing which the advance on Peking will proceed.



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