

The Orient.

January 4, 1911

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 38

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

19th Session (Dec. 28). A bill to insert into the account of the floating debts the Commission fees and other expenses incurred for certain real estates that had been put on sale by auction last year and have not since been transferred to the bidders, was favorably reported by the proper Committee and placed on the docket. The reading of two proposals on the deficits of the military and civil pension funds and a favorable report on a bill for making up the deficit of the military pensions fund by an additional grant of some 12 million piasters, gave rise to an animated discussion on the impropriety of continuing the payment of enormous pensions to the grantees of the older regime. The debate ended in the approval of two resolutions calling for the bill long since promised by the government, and of another promised by the Minister of Finance on the question at issue.

A bill on an additional grant of 41 million piasters to balance the military pension fund account was favorably reported by the proper committee, and was placed on the docket for consideration on Saturday.

A report of the Excuse Committee on the absent deputies was referred to another committee for reconsideration. A bill on military reorganization was referred to the Committee on the Budget. The appropriation for the medical expedition to Van and Erzroom was approved on the explanation of Halil Bey, leader of the Union and Progress Party in the Chambers, on the ground that it had already been used up about the cholera epidemic, and that the Committee of the Budget recommends its approval.

A proposition not to recognize the election of the successor of the deposed Chelebi of Konia, and another to erect docks and coal depots at the Dardanelles, were disapproved. A question as to whether the poor peasants expelled from Albania are to be indemnified and an interpellation on the arrest of the members of the Democrat Party met the same fate.

20th Session (Dec. 31). A resolution about doctors was referred to the proper committee for previous discussion. Another on travelling expenses was placed on the docket. The additional appropriation of 41, 803,702 piasters to balance the military pension fund account was granted on the detailed and earnest pleading of the Minister of War. In the afternoon sitting the Chamber read and approved the report of a committee, which advised the refusing of the grant of 155,200 piasters to be used for life pensions for the djariés (concubines) of Yildiz, on the ground that a sum of 27,300 piasters had already been assigned to the purpose and inserted into the gen-

eral debt account and later a further sum of 44,735 piasters had been called for this purpose.

The bill forbidding the transfer of the real estates sold by auction but not yet transferred for several reasons was read and made part of the order of the day for Monday. The question of the Parliamentary investigation came up. The first speaker was the mover Loutfi Fikri Bey (Dersim), who spoke in a clear and forcible way upon the three following points: (1) Is the Chamber authorized to undertake such an investigation? (2) Is that authority suspended under Martial Law? (3) Is the question at issue worthy of a Parliamentary investigation? He replied in the affirmative by describing illegal processes of examination, beatings and tortures, and by showing a broken cudgel stained all over with blood, and a whip, and fingers and finger nails which he claimed were pulled from the bodies of persons during the process of examination by torture.

The Prime Minister answered that the interpellation had added nothing to what he had already affirmed in declaring and expressing his distrust in the government, except by now bringing forth a few material evidences by way of illustration. However, confidence in the government has already been voted, and it would be better not to charge such bad actions upon the Ministry of War as have been described. A better way will be to call for explanations directly from the Minister of War. After a long and animated discussion, the question raised by Loutfi Fikri Bey was outvoted by 96 to 73. The Sitting was closed at 5.50 P. M.

21st Session (Jan. 2.) Two bills were read and referred to the Committee on the Budget for previous examination. One is a call for a further tri-monthly appropriation of 4,073,100 piasters to fight the cholera and prevent its spread, the other is a request of permission to transfer a sum of 850,000 piasters from the 9th section of the Budget to the 12th. The appeal of Kassim Effendi (Kaiseri) for permission to be excused from attending the sitting on the plea of ill health till the month of March was acquiesced in, but his proposal to pay to the navy contribution fund what would be due him till then was refused. Two interpellations addressed to the Minister of Education were approved and inserted into the order of the day for Monday. One is by Hussein Djahid Bey, on the course the Minister is taking with reference to Lycées. The other is by the deputies for Tripoli, who ask why it is that no schools are being opened in their district. Then began a discussion of the 135th Art. of the Chamber's By-laws. According to that article the name of any deputy who absents himself from three successive meetings is to be published in the official organ. It was voted to publish the name of any deputy absent from the meetings more than 5 times a month. Articles 94th and 136th were approved. The substance of this Article is that to constitute a legal quorum it is necessary to have half the total number of the deputies plus one, and that a deputy on leave has no right to draw salary for the days of his absence beyond the limit of his furlough.

FINANCIAL SITUATION IN TURKEY.

The Special Report on the Ottoman Public Debt for 1909-1910, presented to the British and Dutch bondholders, has just been published. Sir Adam Block, President of the Council of Administration, begins by remarking that the year has given the best results yet attained since the Council entered on its duties in 1881 and by quoting the figures of the gross receipts in support of his statement. He proceeds:—

As stated in last year's Report, the Government's Budget for 1909/10 showed a deficit of Lt. 5,500,000. Recourse was had to a loan of Lt. 7,000,000 in order to cover this deficit and to defray certain supplementary expenditure approved by the Chamber, amounting to about Lt. 1,500,000. These supplementary credits were required to liquidate a Government debt of Lt. 836,000 due to the Oriental Railway Company, to settle the debts of the ex-Sultan, amounting to Lt. 528,000 (of which Lt. 450,000 were paid up to the end of the year), to provide for the relief of the sufferers in the disturbances at Adana and to indemnify and pension of a large number of superfluous officials (Lt. 350,000 paid). The receipts of last year exceeded the estimate by Lt. 1,500,000 odd, and with this and the product of the Loan above-mentioned, the Minister of Finance was able, for the first time in the history of Turkish finance, to state to the Chamber that he had closed his accounts for the year, not only without a deficit, but with a balance in hand. But later information leads me to believe that the extraordinary receipts fell short by Lt. 542,001 of the extraordinary expenditure incurred. The extraordinary receipts, estimated at Lt. 5,190,000, only produced Lt. 3,076,644, whilst extraordinary expenditure incurred came to Lt. 3,618,665. The deficit of Lt. 542,001 will be the object of a special vote in the Chamber. At the same time debt to the amount of Lt. 1,206,073 was amortised, or 1.27% of the whole debt. Whilst, therefore, on the one hand, the external debt increased by Lt. 7,000,000 of nominal capital, it decreased by the action of the Sinking Fund by Lt. 1,206,073.

In the days of the old *régime*, salaries of officials were only paid for six months of the year, the soldiers were hardly paid at all, army contractors had to wait years for their money, and year after year, although consecutive loans were contracted to meet the deficit, the Government's expenditure invariably exceeded its revenue. The floating debt steadily accumulated, and within the Empire creditors were annually being created, who, for the most part, were never able to obtain satisfaction for their legitimate claims.

With the assistance of the product of the Loan (Lt. 5,600,000) it is true, and by receipts larger than the estimate, and, at the same time, by keeping a tight rein on the expenditure, thus realizing certain small economies, that the present Minister of Finance has entered on his second year with a balance of nearly Lt. 2,000,000 in hand.

Djavid Bey did not conceal the fact that, as yet, no measures had been taken for the settlement of the floating debt. He admitted that, as far as he could estimate, it

amounted to a little over fourteen millions of Turkish pounds. Of this sum Lt. 4,000,000 is a debt due by the Government to the Agricultural Bank. A law will be presented to the Chamber this year with regard to the settlement of this floating debt.

The Budget for the current year presented by the Minister of Finance to the Chamber showed estimated expenditure of Lt. 29,503,165 as compared with Lt. 29,765,639 in the previous year. The Budgetary Commission increased the credits to Lt. 31,911,798, and finally the Chamber adopted the figure of Lt. 32,161,522, which is Lt. 2,395,883 more than the estimated expenditure of the previous year. The principal cause of the increase is the credit for the Minister of War, which is now Lt. 8,771,930, as against Lt. 8,070,175 in the preceding year. The credit allowed to the Minister of Marine also shows an increase of Lt. 409,356.

A further extraordinary credit was voted for the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Public Works for Lt. 1,705,653 and Lt. 922,027 for each department respectively, making in all Lt. 2,627,680.

I fear that every friend of Turkey must feel disappointed with these figures, as the expenditure is excessive under existing financial conditions.

The Military and Naval expenses represent 33% of the total expenditure, and if the extraordinary expenditure is taken into account the proportion is 39%. Leaving the Great Powers aside, the expenditure in Greece in 1909, as far as I am able to get the figures, for the Army and Navy combined, was 21%; in Bulgaria it was 23%; in Servia 26%; and in Roumania 13%.

On the other hand, the Army, the Chamber and the general feeling in Turkey was that the moment was critical, and it was believed that with this outlay the country would be secure and the Government better able to proceed with the peaceful development of its resources. Although not a productive expenditure properly so-called, Military and Naval expenditure may sometimes be considered as indispensable. The Minister of Finance, who, like similar Ministers in other countries, was harassed by the demands made upon him by the Departments of War and Marine, had to give way.

It was perhaps natural that the Army should benefit at the expense of the other services of the State. The expenditure under this head was regarded as a heavy premium paid for insurance against internal and external complication.

There were not wanting many intelligent Turks who hesitated at increasing the expenditure before being assured of finding the means of defraying it. But the military spirit of the nation would at the moment brook no restraint. It was held, rightly or wrongly, that Turkey was not entirely free from the danger of foreign aggression; that internal disturbances, resulting from years of misgovernment and of the vacillating and weak policy adopted under the old *régime* towards powerful and warlike sections of the nation, menaced the existence of the Constitution. Military operations were being actually carried on against the Albanians, and were contemplated in other parts of the Empire in order to ensure that respect for authority without which no Government can exist.

Further, the establishment of order was necessary for the proper collection of the Revenue, and to enable the peaceful and industrious elements of the population to develop the resources of the country and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

The Chamber therefore without demur finally accepted the Budget (annexed to this Report, pages 99, 100, 101).

The receipts for 1910/11 were estimated at Lt. 25,355,849, which seems a very moderate sum, seeing that the revenue of the previous year amounted to Lt. 25,963,849. Indeed, so far as can be judged from the receipts of the first six months of the year, the estimate will be considerably exceeded. The Budget showed a deficit of Lt. 6,806,673; but, on the other hand, the Minister of Finance began his year with nearly Lt. 2,000,000 in hand.

It remained for the Minister of Finance to find the wherewithal to pay his way, and the Chamber authorised him to raise the money by loan.

The Loan negotiations commenced in Paris in July, and have formed one of the chief topics of discussion in the European press for the last few months; but while it is difficult at the moment to make any accurate forecast of the result of this protracted and unfortunately somewhat acrimonious controversy, I may, perhaps, be permitted to make a few observations to correct certain misrepresentations and to place the real facts before the financial public.

The French Government finally put forward the following conditions:—

The Turkish Government shall designate, in agreement with the French Government, two officials, one of whom shall be the head of the Public Accounting Department at the Ministry of Finance. The other shall be entrusted with the duty of ensuring the proper working of the Audit Department, as laid down in the law now under consideration by the Chamber. The Turkish Government shall notify to the French Government the measures they propose to apply for the strict control of the Budget. Lastly, in the placing of Government orders for munitions of war, etc., to be defrayed out of the proceeds of the loan, France was to be accorded as good treatment as the most favored nation.

The view taken in official circles here was that these conditions were tantamount to the official intervention of a foreign Government in internal affairs, and it is hardly surprising that in the present temper of the "Young Turkey" party, at a moment when the spirit of national independence is awakening, the Government should find these conditions unacceptable. The opinion was widely circulated in the Turkish Press that seeing the security offered for the loan was first-rate, and that the general state of the Empire was certainly not worse than hitherto, political rather than merely financial considerations had influenced the action of the French Government to close the French market. The French market being closed and the London financiers having withdrawn, the Turkish Government had no other course but to turn to Germany and Austria.

The *Spectator*, commenting on Turkish Finance, says:

"It seems that it is possible for men thoroughly trained in finance and living on the spot to take a distinctly hopeful view of the financial prospect in Turkey. We have just received the 'Special Report on the Ottoman Public Debt', by Sir Adam Block, and it is a pleasure to know that this highly competent and honourable critic is able to declare that in spite of all difficulties and disappointments, Turkish finance is orderly and thoughtful, and ought to be able to weather the storm.

"This report is more hopeful in tone than anything which has come lately from Turkey. It does not, of course, touch non-financial questions. But if there is good financial hope for Turkey, there is nothing else which may not be remedied. A prosperous, right-dealing Turkey would always be a guarantee that the *status quo* in the Balkans could be maintained; and surely that is what we all desire. Towards this end, well-regulated finance is the indispensable means; and we can only hope that events will prove the optimism of Sir Adam Block's Report to be justified."

Sir Edwin Pears, in a letter to *The Economist*, of London, comments as follows, after a masterly analysis of the Turkish budget for the coming financial year:

"Every one will recall the wasteful expenditure, the corruption and extravagance combined with altogether illegal extortion, which characterized the old *régime*. The amount of leakage in the collection of revenues was beyond doubt enormous. Every impartial man must recognize that much has been done to stop such leakage, especially in reference to customs duties. Above all, the Ministry deserves credit for endeavoring to introduce order into the financial situation. Much remains to be done, because unfortunately the men from whom details are required to make a clear statement of the amounts which ought to be provided for in the Budget, are in many cases absolutely without experience. If Djavid were a Gladstone at figures, he could not do it without aid from a host of subordinates, which he certainly cannot obtain."

We are glad to announce a decided improvement in the condition of Mr. Allen, who has been ill at home for several days. His case was pronounced to be pneumonia, but the present indications are that the attack is less serious than was at first supposed. There is every reason to hope for an early recovery, but it is probable that for a few issues to come our readers will miss his skillful touches upon the articles appearing in the "Orient".

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(DR. PATTON IN ADANA.)

It was impossible for me to report you Dr. Patton's visit to Adana because I had no time before we started with him on his way to Marash. Had this visit been cut out of the program it would have been a great loss both to Dr. Patton and also to us and the work. The Sunday exercises alone in Adana were well worth a week's journey. The large Gregorian Church was crowded with an audience of more than 3000 people in a Union Service on Sunday morning. After 18 months service in that church the Protestant people took that occasion to express their gratitude and to say goodbye to their Gregorian brethren for their very kind courtesy and good will in allowing the use of the church so long. In the midst of the service and after the newly arrived Vartabed, Nerses Vartabed, had spoken, the Protestant Pastor, Badv. Ashjian, spoke in Turkish, the missionary, W. N. Chambers, spoke in Armenian, Dr. Patton spoke in English and was translated into Turkish. The whole service made a profound impression on all present and will not soon be forgotten. The occasion was unique and Dr. Patton will not experience another like it in all his trip. The cordiality expressed by that great audience was inspiring.

In the afternoon Dr. Patton preached an impressive sermon to an audience of nearly 1500 in the Protestant Church which is undergoing repairs and occupied now for the first time since the massacres, when it was burned down. The bell that had fallen from the top of the tower in the fire, now in place again, was rung for the first time, at the sound of it many an eye filled with tears of joy.

Dr. Patton's visit was helpful in many other ways. We left Adana on Tuesday morning and in the path of the massacres we visited desolate Hamidieh where at the door of the chapel—strangely preserved, while every thing around it was burned to ashes—a very small remnant of the once growing congregation begged for a preacher or teacher, promising to pay one third of the salary.

The next night we spent at still more desolate Osmanieh, and visited the ruins of the church where so many of our Christian workers were martyred, their spirits winging their flight in flames of fire.

The next night we reached Baghche where Mr. Macallum met us. That evening Dr. Patton spoke to a little company of about 100. Here he got a very impressive view of the most pathetic aspect of the effect of the massacres—a group of desolate widows and their suffering children.

The next morning Dr. Patton and Mr. Macallum mounted their horses and started for Marash; Miss Webb and I drove back to Osmanieh.

All the way the weather was fine, the roads good, the journey most enjoyable. Evidently Dr. Patton got a view of this great Cilician Plain, both as to the massacres and their effects, as well as our Gospel work, that he could never have gotten through a thousand letters and photographs.

It is a most hopeful thing that the importance of deputation work on the part of the Board and American Churches is forcing itself into greater prominence. May it grow till such visitations become frequent. Wishing you a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year", Yours very truly,

W. N. CHAMBERS.

Kars Bazaar, Adana, Dec. 21, 1910.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

Weather Report. Dec. 24th—31st.

(Observations at 8 a.m. daily)

Maximum temperature	(Dec. 27)	63.5° F
Minimum	(Dec. 25)	36.0
Rainfall:—	(Dec. 27)	.02 inches
Total for the month to date		2.02

The Annual French Entertainment was repeated on Monday afternoon at Arnaoutkey.

The last week before examination is always one of eager questioning and careful work, when professors and students alike are looking forward to those tests of the effectiveness of their efforts during the long Fall term. This week has been no exception to the rule, but we think there has been a commendable absence of undue excitement.

Miss Rouse has conducted morning Chapel during the week, addressing the students on the duties and responsibilities of student life.

On Sunday morning January 1st. Sir William Ramsay gave us a very suggestive sermon on the New Testament from a literary point of view. In fact, the nominal subject was the least important in presentation, for he dwelt, not on the form of the presentation, but upon the development of the message we here receive, showing how in substance as in time it began with the letters of Paul and culminated in the Gospel and Revelation by John:—the Gospel of love and the vision of the triumph of that Gospel written even in the presence of its apparent defeat.

In the evening Miss Rouse, Travelling Secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation (not of the Y. W. C. A. as erroneously stated last week) took charge of the meeting of the Christian Association.

In an article in the *Yeni Gazetta*, Kapriel Eff. Noradounghian, former Minister of Public Works, protests against the refusal of Parliament to investigate charges of torture. He calls attention to the 6th article of the Constitution which forbids such barbarities, and holds that far from the country having profited by this refusal, fundamental human rights have been trampled on. He points out that capricious administrations that have interfered with freedom of speech and conscience have sooner or later fallen by means of a just revolt. The legislative assembly must stand absolutely for the execution of the Constitution; and indifference on the part of the Deputies to such fundamental rights of humanity gives cause for popular anxiety, criticism and distrust. It was the duty of the Chamber to find out whether the provisions of the Constitution had, in the case of Dr. Riza Nour and his companions, been respected or not. If the charges made were confirmed by such investigation, the blameworthy acts of ignorant individuals could not stain the honor of the nation. If found false, general satisfaction would have resulted. Indifference shown has its result in indifference to the voice of conscience, and is sure to bring other serious trouble as well.

It is not surprising to learn, in view of this and other expressions of dissatisfaction, that the Government has decided to proceed to an investigation, in spite of the refusal of the Chamber of Deputies to investigate these preferred charges.

The Times (London) makes the following statement:

Some 2,000 armed Albanians in the mountains of Dibra, in reply to the offer of an amnesty on the part of the Turkish authorities in case they lay down arms and promise amendment for the future, have made the following demands:—

1. A complete amnesty for all Albanians condemned for political offenses.

2. Complete educational liberty, implying permission for the employment of the national language and the national alphabet in schools.

3. The reopening of all Albanian schools which have been closed by the Government, and the removal of the embargo on the printing presses of newspapers and other publications.

These demands are an irreducible *minimum*, and the insurgents declare that unless the Government accepts them unreservedly they will fight to the bitter end. They also put forward the following further demands:—

4. All Government officials to be of Albanian nationality.

5. The employment of the Albanian language and alphabet in all schools established by the Government.

6. The opening of agricultural, normal, and commercial schools in all the principal towns, with Albanian as the language of instruction.

7. The taxes levied in Albania to be expended in the country itself on roads, railways, and other material improvements.

8. The opening of agricultural banks throughout the country.

9. The Government to encourage the introduction of foreign capital into the country, which should not be employed for the furtherance of any foreign propaganda.

These proposals are peculiarly interesting as constituting the first explicit demand on the part of the Albanians for national autonomy. Their determination to obtain self-government has received a powerful impulse from the policy of repression and denationalization pursued by the Turkish Government, and the severities practised last summer have sown the seeds of a widespread national movement.

Daily evening meetings during the Week of Prayer have been held in Turkish and Armenian at Gedik Pasha and Koum Kapou, and also in Greek at Gedik Pasha. Two union services in Turkish and Armenian were held at the Bible House, on Monday and Thursday; and two in English under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance, the one on Tuesday at the Somerville House, and the other on Friday at the Bible House.

STUDENTS AT TARSUS.

Our circle has been enlivened by the genial presence of Dr. Christie, who spent most of the week in Constantinople conferring with the Embassy and the officials at the Porte in regard to the exemption from military service of several students and professors in St. Paul's Institute who have recently been drafted. The following are Dr. Christie's comments upon the results achieved during his stay in Constantinople:

St. Paul's College and Academy in Tarsus are full of students this year. There being a great lack of recitation-rooms, many classes recite out under the trees in the yard. When the money comes for the finishing of the new building there will be great rejoicing in the native city of the Apostle to the Gentiles. The two hundred and five boarders and the fifty-two daypupils, hardworking fellows all of them, deserve all the educational facilities that can be given them. There are no "fightings within": but "without are fears". Contrary to law and justice, some of the local authorities have done much to break up our work, by taking (or threatening to take) two of the teachers and many of the students as soldiers. No other school in that region has been treated in this way. It has been generally understood that teachers are exempt; and that men in the two highest classes of schools like ours (Juniors and Seniors in College) are to be permitted to finish their course of study before serving in the army. Even with respect to men in the lower classes, it would seem to be better for the interests of the country to allow them to continue at their studies. After graduation they will be far better material for soldiers than they can be before that time. Of course, if the country were in danger of invasion it would be the duty of men of all ages, and especially of the young men, to spring to her defense. But, thank God, there is no such emergency now upon us; and we hope that there never will be. In present circumstances it seems cruel and unwise to take three years out of the life of a student in College, in order simply to give him a military training. These considerations have been presented to the Minister of War and the Minister of Education. Earnest effort in the same direction has also been put forth by the American Ambassador, Mr. John Ridgely Carter. As a result, His Excellency Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, the Minister of War, has promised to wire the Tarsus authorities to exempt the teachers and the pupils of the American College in Tarsus from being drafted as soldiers. We are most grateful to the gentlemen named, as well as to Mr. Peet, for their kind assistance in this affair.

THOMAS D. CHRISTIE,

(Pres. of St. Paul's College and Academy).

Constantinople, Jan. 5, 1911.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

We are pleased to learn from a late number of the *Y. M. C. A. Review*, (London), that His Majesty King George V. has become patron of the National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations incorporated. In reply to the Council's petition addressed to Lord Kinnaid, President, the intimation is made that His Majesty most readily consented to comply with the request of the Council.

Her Majesty the Queen has already extended the favor of her patronage to the National work of the sister organization, the Young Woman's Christian Association.

Masterton Association, New Zealand, has been making a special effort to raise Lstg. 1,500 for a new building. At the time of the last mail, Lstg. 500 was in sight. Lstg. 200 had been promised by members, averaging Lstg. 3 each.

Vancouver Association has just closed a campaign for half a million dollars in five days, with 525,000 dollars pledged for three new buildings, and 6,000 dollars raised for freeing the Y. M. C. A. from debt. With the amount from the sale of the old building, this will give the Y. M. C. A. Lstg. 120,000 to expend. Amongst the donors was Lord Strathcona, who contributed the sum of Lstg. 5,000.

A building specially for boys has recently been opened by the Association at Hamilton, Ont. It is as large as the main building for men, and is the finest structure yet erected exclusively for Y. M. C. A. boys in any city. Within twenty-four hours of the Committee determining to acquire the site, a lady had asked for the privilege of contributing the amount of the cost.

Touched by the missionary impulse of a recent convention, a coterie of prominent Canadian business men, says the "Toronto Mail," developed the idea during a luncheon at the National Club of erecting a Lstg. 15,000 Association building at Calcutta, and within thirty-six hours the full amount was subscribed. Mr. Chester Massey, who is abroad, opened the subscription list by cabling Lstg. 4,000 as his contribution.

Honolulu Y. M. C. A. has commenced a new building, which will cost Lstg. 45,000.

In San Juan, Porto Rico, the government has given the Y. M. C. A. a fine central site of six thousand square metres, valued at Lstg. 10,000, and the citizens have already contributed an amount equal to this for the construction of new association premises.

NOTES.

Thursday, Jan. 5, was the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin. A more extended notice of this noteworthy event will appear in our next issue.

Rev. Geo. P. Knappe arrived in Bitlis on his return from America, December 15th, by way of Beyrout and Aintab. Nearly fifteen years ago Mr. Knapp made a personally conducted trip from Bitlis to the coast, under strikingly different circumstances. In a recent letter he refers feelingly to the pleasing contrasts of today. He expects now to remain in Bitlis for the present.

The Government power-boat on Lake Van did good missionary service last month in bringing Dr. Edwin Ward to Van to care for Mrs. Yarrow and Dr. Ussher. The former had been suffering for a good while from appendicitis, which was relieved by a successful operation. A few days later Dr. Ussher was operated on for hernia. Both patients are reported as doing satisfactorily.

Rev. Henry H. Riggs and family and Mrs. H. N. Barnum are established for the winter at Hyde Park, Mass., with Mrs. Barnum's sons and with her sister, Miss Emma Goodell. Mr. Riggs is exercising his mechanical genius by constructing for his own amusement a wireless telegraph apparatus, in his spare moments.

Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Lyman, after spending some weeks in Egypt, have gone on to India, where they are to visit Dr. Ruth Hume, of Ahmednagar, the missionary of their Brooklyn church. They return thence to America via Hong Kong and Honolulu.

THE PROVINCES.

According to the Vienna *Tageblatt*, the health of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid is so unsatisfactory that it is proposed to remove him to a sanatorium in Germany. The *Neue Freie Presse* remarks that this proposal at once raises the question whether the ex-Sultan should go to Vienna, a matter which has already been the subject of an application by the Porte through the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople.

Central News Agency.

Owing to the energetic efforts of Dr. Chambers, Bardezag, or rather Baghtchedjik, has at last its own post and telegraph service; and telegrams may be sent there direct.

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