

The Orient.

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THE WAR.

This has been one of those weeks when the above title has seemed most inappropriate. Our friends the enemy have been doing some spring house cleaning in Rhodes, and are credited with the decision to spend twenty millions of francs in public works there. Should this prove true, it might indicate that Italy expected to stay there long enough to reap some rewards. Admiral Viale and his squadron have gone on appropriating the islands of that region, and sending their kaimakams to sunny Italy. Symi and Cos have thus come under the Italian tricolor, and the next objective would seem to be Chios (Scio). Despite several rumors, however, this large island does not appear to have yet been attacked.

There have been some brushes in Tripoli near Bu Kemes, where an Italian force ventured some ten kilometres inland and was attacked by the Arabs, and apparently induced to retire. Otherwise very little powder has been wasted this week.

The decree of expulsion of all Italians from the Ottoman Empire does not prove quite so drastic as was feared; for not only workmen on railroads are exempted, but all workmen. This is a great relief to Robert College as well as to many factories, etc., where Italian workmen are being employed. King Vicer Emmanuel has given £4,000 for the relief of those expelled from Turkey. The Italian newspapers are very indignant at what they term this cowardly measure of reprisal. To them, this expulsion decree is a confession on the part of the Young Turks of their impotence to meet Italy in the open field. It would have been more correct to say in the open sea; for events in Africa go to prove that the Italians prefer the security of the fortified coastland and the protection of their naval guns to the open field. Nothing would rejoice the Turks more than an opportunity to meet their foes on land. The present policy of gobbling up defenseless islands was recently thus described by a Turk: "It is as if, having a quarrel with you, instead of attacking you in a manly way, I should steal your little baby." The Ottoman authorities are allowing the Italian subjects in this country the option of becoming Ottoman subjects, and it is expected that many will do this to avoid expulsion.

The Dardanelles are once more open and steamers ply to and fro as they did two months ago. The question of the financial losses due to the closing of the straits gives rise to much speculation. A rumor of a Russian demand on Turkey for an indemnity, calls for confirmation.

THE SITUATION IN ALBANIA.

Judging from the official notices given out in Constantinople, the little local misunderstandings in isolated points in Albania have about been settled, and complete tranquillity is in sight. Judging from the British press, the danger of a general uprising of all the Albanians is becoming more acute. The actual facts probably lie somewhere between these extremes. Including the battalions sent from the capital, the troops now in Albania number about 30,000 men. The names of several ex-deputies, such as Ismail Kemal Bey, Basri Bey, Nedjib Draga Bey and others, are mentioned as leaders in the revolt. This indicates as a cause of the trouble dissatisfaction with the methods pursued in the present parliamentary elections, — methods illustrated by a naïve paragraph in a local paper of last week: "It has been decided to have a Catholic Albanian elected as deputy in the vilayet of Shkodra." Meanwhile Mazhar Bey, Vali of Kossovo, who had gone to Mitrovitz in connection with the disorders, has returned to Üsküb, — whither the general in command of the Kossovo army corps has also returned from Ferizovitch. An *idadi* school has been formally opened at Ipek, and work has begun on the first four kilometres of the macadamized road from Shkodra across to Prisrend. These "reforms" are welcome.

CO-OPERATION IN BULGARIA.

To the Editor "The Orient":—

I ask the indulgence of your columns to correct an impression of denominational narrowness that, wittingly or unwittingly, must be created by a letter in your issue of May 8th. Speaking of the annual meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Association at Bourgas, "R. T." writes:

"The one voice of regret heard was that Methodist church polity is unable, more unable than ever apparently, to grant on the north of the Balkans that brotherly co-operation with the Society which from the first has been such a pleasant feature of the relations between the Society and the Congregational churches to the south. It seems a pity that the Society should be hampered in the attempt to realize its national aim by any body that is working for the spiritual good of the country."

Though educated among the Congregationalists, I have been a member of the Methodist church many years and have never yet been able to discover anything in its elastic "polity" that would prevent it from entering into the largest and

freest co-operation with any body of Christian workers anywhere and at any time. I confess to a surprise that "R. T.", who is usually correct and guarded in his statements, and, I should judge, conversant with the polity of most religious organizations, should so little understand or be acquainted with the Methodist church. It would be a comparatively easy proposition to defend, that there is not another denomination in all the world that is more in co-operative effort with other bodies of religionists than the Methodist church. Surely there is nothing either in the spirit or law of her "polity" that would prevent her.

No, the difficulty does not lie in her "polity." Had the pen of our respected "R. T." wisely slipped and recorded a "c" instead of a "t" in the use of his word it would have framed the the proper word though its geographical location would have still been wrong. The difficulty is not in "polity" but in *policy* and that too with the religious workers of South Bulgaria. Frankly, though the Society claims to be for all Bulgarians without geographical or denominational limitations or distinctions it has purposely or inadvertently created the impression in North Bulgaria that it is an adjunct of the Mission of South Bulgaria. So that while some of us in North Bulgaria are considered as members, about the only connection we have with it is the privilege of contributing annually to its funds. The writer himself was once asked by the chairman of a gathering of religious workers of South Bulgaria whether we did not have in North Bulgaria an organization similar to theirs in South Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Evangelical Association. My reply was that I understood that the constitution of the Society made it a Society for all Bulgaria; and that I was annually paying dues with the understanding that I was a member. On another occasion, the writer when seeking a close co-operation in a certain missionary enterprise, was told by a leader of the Mission of South Bulgaria that they would be liable to lose the support of the Bulgarian Evangelical Association if the Methodists entered into it. If you look at the list of its officers, managers and directors you would scan it in vain to discover a Methodist among them. At the last annual meeting, I am told, one of its members evidently thinking it high time to broaden its policy and to incorporate within its spirit as well as letter the large Christian following in North Bulgaria, suggested that one Methodist be added to its Bureau and named the man. It was voted down.

Just before the annual meeting in Bourgas, the secretary of the Society wrote me to ask whether our Conference could not send to the annual gathering a delegate. I did not encourage the plan and so wrote. I object to the plan because I object to applying the principle of segregation rather than of union to us. We are a Conference of Bulgarians, by Bulgarians and for Bulgarians. We wish to be treated in fact and in spirit according to the constitutional requirements of the case and if we are, "the voice of regret" need not give a melancholy tinge to any of its annual gatherings.

In contrast to these overt acts there stands out the historic fact that our Annual Conference at its session three years ago passed a resolution inviting the Bulgarian Evangelical

Association to hold its annual gathering within the bounds of our Mission. But in spite of the pretended regrets one has to scan a long list of years in the past before reaching the rare event when this did actually happen. In view of all these facts it does not strike us a particularly gracious in "R. T." to attribute the lack of union to an implied narrowness of denominational "polity" when the secret of the difficulty can be traced to a narrow policy. If it is contended that it is simply a wrong impression that we have, then since much has been done to create it, let now something be done to correct it; or we will have still to contend in the language of Emerson that "your actions speak so loud that I cannot hear what you say."

Sofia, May 14th, 1912.

E. E. COUNT.

IS ZIONISM A SOLUTION?

A Palestine correspondent of *The Near East* contributes to a recent number a very sane and valuable discussion of the Zionist movement, wherein he draws attention to the fact that "the last thing that a European or American Jew desires in taking up residence in Palestine is to become an Ottoman subject," especially now that the new laws would compel them or their children to become soldiers. He also points out that although the Jewish subjects of Turkey, who are mostly Sephardim Jews, who came from Spain, have learned to use Turkish or Arabic and have always been Orientals, "the Modern Zionist is an Occidental, a man by long residence in Northern or Central Europe unfitted for a semi-tropical climate, and he despises the language of the new land to which he comes." These are mostly Ashkenazim Jews, speaking Yiddish and perhaps Russian or German, and cultivating the use of modern Hebrew as the unifying language, but never Turkish. If they are coming to the Orient for the benefit of the Ottoman Empire, then they must learn to be good Ottoman subjects. But he sees insuperable practical difficulties to European Jews settling in Palestine. "In the first place, Palestine is not a land in which Northern Europeans are suited to tillage of the soil or any other purely manual labor. Europeans can live in Palestine under conditions somewhat similar to that of the English in the healthier parts of India or East Africa. That is, by leaving a great part of the actual manual labor to the native, by living in houses well sheltered from the sun, protected from the ubiquitous mosquito, and located in situations carefully selected for their salubrity. All this needs the possession of moderate means. He may with constant care and the periodical use of quinine bring up a family of children in the land, but there will be, in the great majority of cases, a certain physical and moral deterioration from generation to generation. The long, dry summer, the scorching sirocco, and the weary, drenching rains of winter are all extremely trying even to the hardy Syrian fellah; but when, in addition to this, large parts of the land, the maritime plain, the Jordan valley through its whole length, and even Jerusalem itself, are riddled with malaria, it is evident that this is not a land for the settlement of thousands of poor Jewish families. Se-

lected settlers of the more prosperous class may do well, and there is much room for such. But very few such settlers come. "Almost all of the colonies are in districts away from the ancient home of the race, the highlands of Judæa and Samaria. Even here health is not easily maintained. Jerusalem is notorious for its malaria. More quinine is probably consumed in Jerusalem, in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, than in any city in the world. Jewish settlers from Europe and America coming to this city in middle life are terribly disillusioned to find themselves suffering every summer with successive attacks of malaria. The better-to-do move off again — to America in particular, — but the poor must remain where they live in poverty and apathy. They occupy mostly poor little tenement dwellings, with no proper sanitary arrangements. The only hope lies in getting the young men and women to emigrate to happier surroundings. Amid all the talk of Zionism the rich Jews of Europe have left the Jewish community of Jerusalem a by-word for poverty, a mass of pauperism.

"Some of the leaders themselves recognize that the aggregation of Jews in the cities of Palestine is an evil, and they would discourage more from coming if they could. The difficulty is to make the immigrant and his children settle on the soil and take to agricultural life.

"There remains another aspect of the question. The race has changed. The Jew may be Oriental in spirit, — though that is only very partially true, — but he is now no longer suited in physique to the Orient. The Russian and Polish Jew has become adapted to a Northern or Central European climate. The Yemen Jew, on the other hand, has for many centuries been accustomed to the climatic conditions of South Arabia, and cannot flourish in Palestine, where he dies sooner or later, in the majority of cases of some form of tuberculosis. Secondly the land is by no means derelict. In spite of the very great exodus of Moslems and Christians from Palestine and Syria, the parts of the land best suited to cultivation are already occupied. The hardy Circassians in many tens of thousands have made splendid settlers in the richest situations, and have for ever secured these lands for Moslem domination. They are in every way suited to the land, where they flourish and multiply; they are born to the soil and work it to its utmost; they are natural soldiers and they keep in check the rapacious Bedouin. But no Jewish colony planted in their neighborhood could flourish; with all their rude virtues they are unsociable, fanatical, and thieving, and would never tolerate the timid European Jew. Thirdly, the undeveloped parts of the land require a great expenditure of capital. Deforestation has been going on for centuries, but in an increasing ratio in the last few decades. Afforestation is one of the greatest needs, but it requires much capital. And lastly it is probable that, as Prof. Huntington has so ably argued, in his recent book, 'Palestine and its Transformation,' the climate has very greatly changed, and that, do what he will, man cannot restore its past glory to Palestine until kind nature brings back a more even distribution of the seasons; if not a greater rainfall, at least one extended further into the dry season both in spring and autumn."

BEIRUT TEMPERANCE READING ROOMS.

The annual meeting of the committee and patrons was held Thursday, May 2nd. These Rooms were first opened in 1900. The twelve years has been a period of growing usefulness. The new suite of rooms near the American Press comprises a large reading room, an assembly room seating 120 persons, an office, committee room, book room, and kitchen. During the past year Mr. Labib Bardawil, a graduate and former teacher of the College, has given full time as Superintendent in the rooms. Under his charge progress has been made. It has not been an ideal year for work owing to the general excitement in the city. But a great deal has been done in making the city acquainted with the Rooms and their aim and purpose.

More in detail might be mentioned: that the average daily attendance at the rooms has been 40; a series of lectures on questions of general interest has been conducted and well attended by men; evening classes in English and French with an enrollment of 15 in the English and 20 in French; 50 periodicals and papers are on the tables; a good number of new books added to the library; new tables have been presented by a furniture manufacturer; articles have appeared from time to time about the enterprise in the newspapers of the city.

The Committee in charge has been strengthened by the addition to the membership of the Russian Consul-General.

The new work contemplated is only limited by the means for carrying it on. W. B. A.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

May 27, 1912.

During the past week the American College has been visited by two directors of Turkish Girls' schools. One, the Rüşdié School in the Suleimanié, Stamboul, and the other, a new Girls' School just started in Kadikeuy. Both these directors went over the College, deeply interested in all its arrangements, but more especially in the course of study. In both cases the object of the visit was to find out the course of study and be able to co-ordinate their own schools with the American College, so as to send students well prepared into a definite class here.

The College also received some days ago a visit from a Russian Turk, who has founded many schools for girls in the Caucasus and was particularly interested in the methods of American education for girls.

Sir William Ramsay has just been making a visit at the American College, on his way to the Interior of Asia Minor, where he is to excavate in Antioch of Pisidia, the most ancient sanctuary of the god Men, a wonderful sanctuary on a mountain top more than 5,000 feet high, which Sir William and Lady Ramsay discovered last year. He expects to spend more than one season in the excavation of this site.

The Commencement at the American College is to be on the original date, June 11th, at Scutari.

J. F. D.

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

6th Session (May 25). After some routine business a motion was made that the question of the inability of deputies or senators to hold simultaneously positions in great companies like the Régie or railroad companies, be definitely settled. This motion was referred to the committee on legislation. The concession for a branch of the Oriental Railways, to go from near Üsküb through Kalkandelen to Gostivar, or a distance of about forty miles into northern Albania, was voted after Djavid Bey, Minister of Public works, had made some explanations as to the conditions of the contract. There was considerable discussion on a bill provisionally sanctioned by *iradé*, by which the municipality of Constantinople is to collect an additional tax for local expenses. The prefect of the city, Tewfik Bey, mentioned among urgent needs the care of those burned out of their homes last year, and also preventive measures against the cholera. The committee to whom the provisional measure had been referred reported adversely to its adoption on the ground that the exigencies did not demand such a measure. The question was tabled till the next session, which will be held today. The bill to tax Italian sulphur only 11 %, and not 100 % as are all other Italian products, was passed.

ROUMELIAN REFORMS AND FOREIGN FUNCTIONARIES.

The *Sabah* urges the government to utilise the knowledge, experience and impartiality of foreigners by sending them on a commission of inspection. But this commission should not try to complete in a few months or even a year or two the transformation of the Roumelian administration in such a way as to remove all causes for complaint. The more so as the task involves not merely the starting of appreciable reforms, but the accustoming to the correct administration of the new system of functionaries encrusted in musty and superannuated political documents. It says:—

"We wish the measures taken to be beyond the influence of changes in personnel, as well in the cabinet as in the provinces, and also of conflicts and of political currents in our national life. We do not want such a commission to go off with mere instructions from the cabinet sanctioned by *iradé*; their instructions should be in the form of laws passed by Parliament and free from any ulterior ministerial interference, so that they may not find themselves switched on to a new track with every cabinet change. No reform ought to be a mere experiment. We certainly must go on in whatever line we start, and not turn back half-way. Such instability would be avoided by a law, free from ministerial caprices. The time for 'eternally beginning over again' is past. We must do durable work and keep on. Whoever they are, to whom this reorganizing is committed, whether native functionaries, or foreigners admitted as Ottoman functionaries, they should be nominated for a fixed term and be non-removeable, under

certain conditions, that they may be sure they will be allowed to carry through what they begin. If this assurance is lacking, no reform is possible. A reformer must know he walks on solid ground. Let us not come to any arrangement with a foreign power about this, but do it ourselves, with our own laws. And to ensure continuity in these reforms, let Parliament place them beyond the influence of party politics by giving this executive commission full liberty of action for a certain period of time. The aim is so important, and bound up with such sacred interests, that we do not hesitate to make such a demand, especially since it is urged upon us by the visible results of numerous experiences."

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB AT ROBERT COLLEGE.

An International entertainment was given in the evening of Tuesday, May 21st, by the members of the Cosmopolitan Club of Robert College, and was eminently successful. The object of the club is to cultivate the most friendly and mutually helpful relations between the members of all nationalities, irrespective of racial differences. This entertainment embodied in a picturesque way this international idea, and indicated the important work this club may have to do in promoting in this unusually cosmopolitan college the unifying spirit of mutual cooperation. Madame Karitsch kindly lent her aid for the occasion and was much appreciated, as were also the duets of Mrs. Manning and Prof. Estes; and the students did surprisingly well throughout. We cannot do better than to give the acrostic program as it was carried out.

Introductory Remarks by the President

National Turkish Hymn — <i>W. Sabra</i>	CHOIR
Towards Unity	Mr. G. PETROFF
Erkönig. — <i>Schubert</i>	Mrs. KARITSCH
Reasons Why I Became a Cosmopolitan	Mr. C. DODOPOULOS
Ne Osennii Dojditchek. Russian Song.	CHOIR
Armenians and the Cosmopolitan Idea	Mr. H. SHAHBAZIAN
The Unfinished Symphony. — <i>Schubert</i>	[Mrs. MANNING
In a Cosmopolitan World, a dream .	Prof. ESTES
Obstination. — <i>Fontenaille</i>	Mr. Y. KRIKORIAN
Nocturne No 2, Flute-Solo. — <i>Chopin</i> .	Mrs. KARITSCH
About the Land Across the Ocean. .	Mr. ADAMANTIADES
Lish odno prosti. — <i>Denza</i>	Mr. GRIFFITH
	Mr. R. KATSOUNOFF
Effets de la guerre	Mr. PRESENTI
Vergebliches Ständchen. — <i>Brahms</i> .	Mrs. KARITSCH
End of War	Mr. J. MATINCHEFF
Norwegian Dances	[Mrs. MANNING
	Prof. ESTES
In Albania	Mr. REDJEB
Native Bulgarian Song. — <i>Gana's Mother</i>	CHOIR
Good Night	PRES. YANCOVSKY

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

Let the college Y.M.C.A's make a vigorous effort to enlist their members in some definite form of Bible-study and of Christian work during the vacation months, that they may return in the fall with radiant faces and tales of conquest.

One might have suspected that the Eastern Turkey Mission were carrying out last week their decision of last July, to hold their next Annual Meeting in Constantinople; for there were fifteen of them here, representing seven families and three stations. But the meeting is to be held in Erzroum in July instead.

We print today a letter from Rev. Dr. Count, Superintendent of the Bulgaria Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, taking exception to a paragraph in a recent issue. "R.T.", who, as most of our readers know, is Rev. Robert Thomson, says in reply that the paragraph in question simply was a faithful record, like the rest of the article, of what was actually said and done at the Bourgas Meeting; and that if, as they in the South shall all be very glad to be assured is the case, the impression received in regard to the attitude of Methodist polity toward the Society is mistaken, it is certainly no more mistaken than the impression received by the Methodists as to the relation of the Society towards the Congregational Mission, or the attitude of the workers in the South towards the Methodist Mission. This being the case, we devoutly trust that these mistaken impressions may be removed by a brotherly conferring together on the part of both Bulgarian and American workers on both sides of the Balkans.

For four years this Empire has been ruled by the Committee of Union and Progress; and people are beginning to inquire whether this form of government has not served its day. When the tyranny of Abdul Hamid was overthrown, a strong hand behind the scenes was necessary to establish and preserve a powerful government. We do not question the remarkable success of that Committee in those days. Of late, however, there has been in many quarters a strong revulsion of feeling against this organization. While prudently refrain-

ing from any conclusions as to their justice or injustice, we may enumerate some of the more important counts in the bill for damages brought against the Committee by its opponents, - charges which, though denied, are persistently reiterated. Its policy of stern repression and uncompromising Turkification in Albania has called forth the greatest amount of criticism. Latterly, the methods used in obtaining the overwhelming majority in the present parliamentary elections are characterized as surpassing those of the palmiest days of Tammany Hall. And in the trial that has just closed, of the murderers of Zeki Bey, the prosecution has been merciless in its denunciation of the Committee as the actual perpetrator of this crime and as guilty of other political murders. Were we to judge from the words of their opponents, the Committee is determined to rule or ruin the country, with the probabilities strongly in favor of their proving unable to rule it; and the only hope lies in unseating them.

Japan has within a few months lost two friends from abroad, who had devoted to her highest welfare the better part of their lives. Bishop Nicolai, of the Russian Orthodox Church, gave nearly fifty years of self-sacrificing service to the island empire, living there through the recent war under most trying circumstances and exemplifying the race-obliterating power of the love of Christ. The Japanese people admired and respected him, and sincerely mourn his loss. George William Knox, of New York, who spent some twenty years in missionary work in Japan, part of the time as Professor of Philosophy and Ethics in the Imperial University, has also passed to his reward. The Japanese government recognized his signal services by conferring on him the insignia of the Order of the Rising Sun. Princeton gave him the degree of D.D., and Hobart that of LL.D., and Yale University and Union Seminary sought him as lecturer and professor. But his heart was still in Japan, and he went out once more for the sake of those people, and, as it proved, never to return.

These men are types of what their admiring friends call the "missionary hero." But they would have been the first to disavow that title, and to insist on the other statement, - "The love of Christ constraineth me." They merely exemplified the fact that while the devoted missionary is no less patriotic for his native land, he has risen above race prejudices, to the point where there is neither Jew nor Greek, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free, but all are brethren. They were indeed heroes; and, thank God, there are thousands like them.

The presidential primaries in Ohio resulted in the pledging of 32 delegates for Roosevelt and 10 for Taft, with six delegates-at-large to be elected later. This is a stunning blow for the President in his own state. Gov. Harmon was victorious on the Democratic side. Thus far Speaker Champ Clark has secured about 300 delegates, Gov. Wilson 200, Mr. Underwood 85 and Gov. Harmon 40.

ARMENIAN CLERGYMAN CONGRATULATES ACTOR

The Turkish theatre in the capital was begun and has been carried on by Armenians. One of the pioneers on the stage is Mardiros Eff. Menakian, a famous actor in whose honor a grand jubilee entertainment was recently held by the nationality to which he belongs. This actor is famous not alone as a pioneer in the Turkish theatre and as remarkably successful in this difficult rôle for fifty years; he is also distinguished and honored as a master who always presents plays calculated to uplift the moral life of the people. So that he is truly worthy of the tribute paid him by his fellow-Armenians. His Imperial Majesty Sultan Mehmed Reshad has honored him with the medal of the *Liakat*, and a Turkish writer ranks him with the best French actors.

I am not so much concerned or interested with the details of the entertainment, nor has his personality moved me to write these few lines. I wish rather to give the estimate of the actor by the ex-Patriarch of the Armenians, the famous thinker and writer, Archbishop Malachia Ormanian. His article, which appeared in the *Puzantion*, is of great significance as showing what an Oriental clergyman thinks about the theatre and about actors, a question in morals that is before the Christian ministry. He writes: "You are certainly to be congratulated by those who have been delighted by seeing you on the stage and hearing your wonderfully modulated voice and have admiringly cheered your technical ability. Of course you will be astonished to see among your admirers one who has neither seen nor heard you and has thus no opportunity to estimate you, for the actor and the clergyman seem to be opposed to each other. But in reality are these two callings so contrary to each other? It is true that theatre doors are closed to the clergy; but we must infer that this restriction is because of prejudice and misunderstanding, otherwise the same prohibition should apply to every Christian and to the moral public. I believe that this prohibition is a sort of restraint and disability for the clergy, to remind them of the seriousness of their calling. As they are exceptionally respected, so with the greatest caution they must justify this unique position. I know that John Chrysostom and Manta Couni* violently opposed the theatre and spoke against it; but on reading them we see that what they blame is the immorality of the theatre, the unchaste and immodest plays, and not the theatre itself. Is there anything in the world that has not been corrupted by the unregenerate human mind? Yea, even religion has been corrupted by both worshipers and clergy. But such corruptions demand skilfully applied remedies. Anything pure in itself stands high above corruption and does not entirely lose its value. This, I think, without further amplification, can illustrate why a clergyman can congratulate an actor. If others have seen in your fifty years of service your skill and ability, your devotion to your profession,

your cleverness and productive ability, I can see that in those long years of service no one has charged you with corruption or accused you of anything immoral. That is your merit. You have inspired the people to goodness, to pure patriotism; and you have tried to keep the people cheerful, to rid them of weariness, and have impressed on their mind all the good influences you could bring them. This is the testimony I have heard of you; and this is the calling of a true actor. We clergymen, too, speak and sing, discuss and preach spiritual truths and good principles, and impress on people's minds what is good and right, so as to elevate their spiritual and moral life. Therefore our two callings are not contradictory to each other, and they even have points of contact when the clergyman works truly and the actor acts purely."

BENJAMIN BEDROSSIAN.

A CONFERENCE?

Rumors of a European conference to be called for the settling of this present war, lead the *Tanin* to doubt the utility of such a gathering.

"The diplomats," it says, "will not sit round the green cloth without knowing in advance what they are going to do and what sentence they are to pass. For a conference without a predetermined program opens the way to many risks and many unforeseen happenings. Such a congress would not only be of more harm than use, but the Ottoman government would not consent to it. If the Powers announce this gathering as intended to find a means of stopping hostilities, we may be sure that the sentence to be pronounced will be prepared in advance. The more so as the Sublime Porte and Italy will not agree to be there without knowing what it is. So, if a conference is proposed, it is important to be sure of the decision in advance. We could not attend a conference whose program implied the abandonment of Tripoli to Italy, under whatever gilded guise such cession might be proposed. No more could we acquiesce in its being convoked, or consent easily to its decision to intervene, without knowing the tenor of its decision. Despite our respect for the diplomats, we must say our confidence in them is not great. Rather than go to a conference of diplomats without knowing beforehand their decision, we prefer to go before a court of arbitration. The Hague, perhaps; but a conference, — never!"

OTTOMANS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Under this caption the *Stamboul* prints a letter from a Syrian Ottoman in Buenos Ayres, complaining of the neglect by the Constitutional Government of its subjects in South America, whose numbers he places at half a million. Consulates-general were created some time ago in Brazil and Argentina, but the first and only consul to Brazil was soon recalled. The Ottoman Consul to the Argentine, Emin Arslan Bey, was greeted with great enthusiasm by his fellow Ottomans there, and the writer now longs for the like happiness

*An Armenian Archbishop of the middle ages.

for those in the other Republics of South America. He cites the sorrowful plight of those in Paraguay, where most of the Ottoman subjects have been forced into the army because of the existing revolution, with nobody to protect them. The cost of opening other consulates, he says, would soon be covered in great part by the consular receipts. Turkey maintains legations, even, in Sweden, Holland and Spain, in all three of which, the writer claims, there are not more than 500 Ottomans, while a half-million in South America are neglected. He urges that the consulates-general in Brazil and the Argentine be "raised to the rank of legations," the former to have within its jurisdiction Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; while the latter would include Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Chili. The bettered conditions of Ottoman subjects in the Argentine since the arrival of the Consul-general there is offered as an instance of what will take place in other countries when similar steps are taken.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

The Armenian National Assembly met last Friday, and elected Senator Kapriel Effendi Noradounghian President, and Mr. Haig Hodjasarian and Dr. Dagavarian Vice-Presidents.

The *Zhamanag* announces the arrival in this city of Mousa Bey, the famous Kourdish brigand chief who has so long terrorized the regions of Moush and Bitlis and was the assailant of Dr. Reynolds years ago.

Mr. Gryparis, Greek Minister to Turkey, returned to this city last Saturday, thus resuming diplomatic relations between these countries, that had been practically suspended for many months. Moukhtar Bey, Turkish Minister to Greece, reached Athens on Saturday also.

Nail Bey has resigned the treasury portfolio, which he had held just a year. The reason for this step is not given. Djavid Bey, Minister of Public Works, will act as minister of finance as well for the present.

The two assassins of Zeki Bey, who was murdered at Makrikeuy last July, were on Sunday last sentenced to fifteen years each at hard labor. The trial has reflected no credit on the Committee of Union and Progress.

The baccalaureate sermons at Robert College and the American College for Girls will be given by Professor van Millingen and Rev. Robert Chambers, D.D., respectively.

The ministry of finance announces that a nickel piece of 2½ paras will soon be minted and put in circulation.

It is announced that the Liberty and Agreement party will hold a congress in Constantinople during the first two weeks in June. Loutfi Fikri Bey has been delegated to draw up a history of the party from its foundation, for this gathering.

THE PROVINCES.

Rev. Mibar Muncherian, of Talas, is to preach the Baccalaureate Sermon this year at Central Turkey College.

Mr. Mihran Garabedian, a graduate of Anatolia College and of Union Theological Seminary, has accepted an invitation to become a teacher in Central Turkey College, and is expected to arrive in the fall from Saskatchewan, where he is now preaching.

Of the four honor men in the Senior classes of the various departments at the Syrian Protestant College this year, two are Armenians, one Greek and one Syrian.

Dr. A. F. Schauffler contributes to the last *Outlook* a graphic sketch of the notorious bandit Tchakirdjali, of the Smyrna region.

A Salonica despatch tells of the sudden death, from apoplexy, of Mgr. Joachim, Greek Metropolitan of that city.

Ambassador and Mrs. Rockhill returned on Monday from a four days' visit to Brousa. They went to Moudania on the despatch-boat "Scorpion."

An Arab woman in Benghazi who had shown great devotion in caring for the Ottoman wounded and was herself wounded by an Italian shell, has been decorated with the order of the *Shefakat*.

The annual meeting of the Bithynia Union, announced for Smyrna to begin June 5th, has been postponed indefinitely on account of political conditions.

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NOTES.

Miss C. R. Willard of Marsovan arrived in Constantinople on Monday on her way to America, and left by train Tuesday evening.

Rev. and Mrs. Edward B. Haskell, of Salonica, are to sail from New York for Genoa on July 6th by the "Friedrich der Grosse," on their return to their field.

Rev. F. W. Macallum, D.D., and family arrived by train on Saturday morning and have taken up their residence in Gedik Pasha.

Rev. Mr. McGregor has been appointed to the Scotch Mission in Galata, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Thomson. He is expected to arrive early in September.

Mr. Ponafidine, for many years Russian Consul-General in Constantinople, has resigned his post on reaching the retiring age, and left for his Russian farm with Mrs. Ponafidine on Monday last. Her many American friends will sorely miss the genial and helpful presence of Mrs. Ponafidine here.

Mr. O. S. Heizer, American Vice-Consul General, returned on Saturday last from America.

Dr. and Mrs. Marcellus Bowen left on Monday by the Paquet steamer for Batoum on their way to Persia, where they will make a tour of inspection of the work of the American Bible Society; they hope also to attend the Inter-Mission Conference in Hamadan in July. Mrs. Bowen expects to visit America later, before returning to her home here.

OTHER LANDS.

The Russian grain shippers in the Azov and Black Seas estimate their losses during the month while the Dardanelles were closed at half a million sterling.

As Prince George William of Cumberland, son of the Duke of Cumberland, was on his way to attend the funeral of his uncle, the late King of Denmark, he was killed in an accident to his motor-car, near Friesack, in Brandenburg.

A Persian paper announces that Salar-ed-Dowleh, the brother of the ex-Shah, has died of a gastric trouble, and that his ablest general has been captured and executed. If true, these facts should go far toward restoring order in Persia.

During the last ten years, 28,916 Armenians have emigrated to the United States, the majority of them since the summer of 1908. There are said to be now some 70,000 Armenians there.

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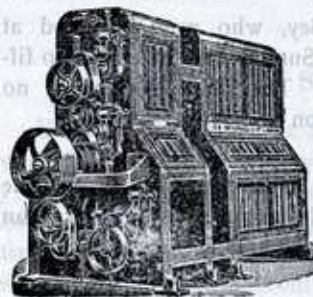
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