

The Orient.

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MAP OF THE REGION DEVASTATED BY THE EARTHQUAKE.

WITH THE EARTHQUAKE SUFFERERS.

As announced last week, the American Red Cross Mission, sent by the Constantinople Chapter on the U. S. S. "Scorpion", kindly loaned by Ambassador Rockhill, left for the scene of disaster on Wednesday last. Thursday and Friday were busy days for Dr. Wilfred M. Post of Konia, Surgeon Walton and Capt. Upham of the "Scorpion." They started in at Sharkeuy, and visited eight towns and villages between there and Myriophyton, riding from village to village, examining and treating the sick, setting and bandaging broken limbs etc., and in general doing what they could for the distressed people, whose houses they found almost without exception a mass of ruins. As the coast towns and villages had already been pretty well attended to by the Government and the Greek Red Cross and the Red Crescent societies, the Americans went mostly to the villages on the slopes of Tekir Dag. Those on the seaward slopes of the mountain were found to have suffered far more than those lying inland. Some 100 to 120 persons were treated, many of them very badly injured, and surgical supplies and medicines were distributed in several places. Friday night, finding that

the Government officials and the Red Crescent doctors seemed to think they could handle the situation unassisted, and especially as a large hospital ship chartered by the Red Crescent came to anchor near by and began taking the sufferers on board, the "Scorpion" sailed back to the Capital. Both officials and people thanked them cordially for their services, and the expedition felt that it had been well worth while to go.

Immediate medical and surgical needs seem now to be well supplied. The principal thing now is to furnish food and shelter; and the Government and the Greek Patriarchate are doing this with a fair degree of energy. The inhabitants, nine-tenths of whom are Greeks, seem too dazed as yet to pull out the beams from the ruins of their houses and build the temporary shacks they need till they can rebuild permanently. Estimates as to the number killed, wounded and destitute vary greatly. Dr. Post thinks the numbers killed may reach 5,000, while the Ecumenical Patriarch places the total of sufferers at 100,000. We trust these figures may prove far too high. A recent account gives the figures for Sharkeuy, Myriophyton and 14 towns and villages near, as 1,184 killed and 1,669 injured. The "Annuaire Oriental" gives the total population of the *sandjaks* or sub-provinces of Rodosto and Gallipoli together as 212,000, and of the shore towns and vil-

lages, including Rodosto, Hora, Myriophyton, Sharkeuy and Gallipoli, as 79,000. The suffering outside of these two *sandjaks* was relatively small.

The Government has decided to grant leave of absence to all the soldiers from these towns, that they may help their families rebuild and start anew. The Prefecture of Constantinople has sent thither some masons and carpenters, to rebuild the houses. As most of the inhabitants of the region are farmers, vine-dressers or silk-raisers, their business itself has not been seriously injured, if only they can get their homes rebuilt. The Greek Patriarch has decided to proceed in person to these villages, with some members of the Holy Synod. The Hellenic Government has voted 300,000 francs for the sufferers; and the Metropolitan of Athens has formed a committee to collect subscriptions. The Greeks of New York have sent \$1,000 as a first gift. Many generous gifts from individuals of all nationalities in Constantinople are reported. If the funds already in hand are wisely administered, most of the damage can be repaired. The houses were mainly frame houses filled in with adobe bricks, and not very costly.

The Laibach (Austria) Observatory says that this earthquake was thrice as violent as that of Messina in 1908. Of the eleven instruments in the observatory, only two were able to register the shocks. The other nine were dislocated by the violence of the seismic phenomenon.

POST-OFFICE BRILLIANCY.

"A letter bearing a Turkish piastre stamp, postmark illegible, was delivered to the American colony in Samokov, Bulgaria, on the 14th August. It was addressed in a bold and very legible hand to an Englishman in Larnaka, Cyprus! By a powerful stretch of a powerful imagination, "Larnaka" might be made to read "Samaka" (= Samokov), but how the "Cyprus" could be made to read "Bulgaria" or anything else but "Cyprus" is a mystery. The letter has been returned to the post with the words "Larnaka, Chypre, Ile de la mer Méditerranée" printed (not written) very clearly along the top of the envelope, and underscored with red ink. It is hoped it may now reach its destination."

The above, from our Samokov correspondent, brings to mind a letter that arrived at Marsovan some years ago. It had been mailed in Germany, and was addressed, in a very legible feminine hand to a Mrs. Somebody in Torquay, but the writer had neglected to add the word England. The brilliant German postmaster had written in blue pencil, "?Türkei?" and the letter came hither. But how it got past Constantinople and landed in Marsovan, at the American Mission, is another mystery. So also with the post-card sent from Constantinople and clearly addressed to the American Mission, Marsovan, which finally reached the addressee via St. Louis, Mo. But for clearness of address, who will equal this, — which, be it noted, was promptly and correctly delivered: —

Mastrabide, Direction, Baybe Laouse, Constantinople.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Last week we reported the Albanian crisis as quieter and three other disturbing factors at work. The situation is pretty nearly reversed at present; for while the Montenegrin frontier dispute is being examined by an international commission, and another commission, composed of Turks and Bulgarians, is looking into the Kotchana massacre, and Niazi Bey is not meeting with any success in trying to stir up trouble for himself, the Albanians have become very peremptory in their demands. The local dailies announced that some 15,000 of them had begun an advance on Salonica, to gain their ends, one of which was reported to be the hanging of Talaat Bey and Djavid Bey. The latest despatches however assert that the Albanians have not entered Keuprülü, as had been rumored, and that an understanding has been reached between them and the Government. The general amnesty demanded for all engaged in this last uprising has been granted, and some sort of compromise seems to have been arranged on the question of carrying arms. For the moment, then, there is a feeling of relief, though the clouds are still lowering.

In the Cabinet there has been some difficulty, of which the successive resignations of Zia Pasha and Damad Sherif Pasha from the ministry of the interior are symptoms. It is rumored that there is a lack of understanding between Hussein Hilmi Pasha and his colleagues as to what attitude to take towards the Union and Progress Committee. In place of Damad Sherif Pasha, Gen. Salih Pasha, formerly Minister of war and now a Senator, has been given the Ministry of Public Works. But the Ministry of Interior is vacant.

The Italians have cut the caravan-route from Tunis to the Tripolitan oases by the occupation of Zuara. In Arabia, Seid Idris is giving much trouble to the troops sent against him.

Arrangements are being pushed for holding the elections all over the country about the middle of October.

S. P. C. NOTES.

Work is progressing on Robert West Hall, the Y.M.C.A. building. The contractor promises to have it ready by the new year, 1913.

Dr. Adams announced at the medical conference that he had found a quick, painless and cosmetically good cure for the Aleppo Button.

Drs. Moore and Dorman and their families are enjoying their furloughs in America. Prof. Reed also is in America for the summer and Prof. Irwin is in Germany.

Dr. F. J. Bliss, dean of Rochester University, has been visiting his parents. He recently motored with his father, Dr. Daniel Bliss, 89 years of age Aug. 17th, to Sidon, and while there Dr. Daniel swung into the saddle and rode out to Ramapo Hall and back, some five miles altogether.

W. B. A.

ON ORIENTAL FOUNTAINS.

Mr. Harry Griswold Dwight, whom an esteemed contemporary describes as an American artist, painter and archaeologist, gave last Friday at Chiboukli at the residence of Halil Bey, Director of the Imperial Museum, a lecture on the Old Turkish Fountains of this city. The lecture was in French, illustrated by a large number of photographs taken by the lecturer, whom his numerous friends here know rather as a painter of exquisite word-pictures and charming descriptive essays in *Harper's*, *Scribner's* and other monthlies. It was given before the Society of Friends of Stamboul, an organization whose object is to study, appreciate and preserve all the monuments of all sorts, ancient and modern, in this wondrous town. His Highness Prince Abdul Medjid presided, and among those present were Mrs. W.W. Rockhill, the American Ambassadors, Mr. Marling, the British Chargé d'affaires, M. Pissard of the Public Debt Commission, the French Ambassador and Mme. Bompard and many others. Mr. Dwight described first interior fountains, of which the garden of Halil Bey, where the conference was held, contains a beautiful specimen, brought from an old ruined house. Others of this sort are to be found in Bebek and Candilli. He then spoke of the fountains attached to mosques, many of which are of extreme interest; and lastly of public fountains. While it might not be easy to identify any of these, he said, as actually Byzantine, many of those in Stamboul certainly occupied the sites of Byzantine fountains and were constructed out of their materials. The great quadruple fountain in the Tchirtchir quarter, near the Aqueduct of Valens, ornamented with Byzantine designs, though attributed to Sultan Suleiman, was probably much older and might be Byzantine. In closing, he urged the Friends of Stamboul to see to the preservation of these smaller monuments which had so much of true grace and character. Halil Bey, in thanking Mr. Dwight, assured him that this desire was shared by all.

It is a pleasure to see an American, who knows this city so well from his childhood up, thus leading in the effort for the conserving of its treasures.

MEDICAL PLANT AT KONIA.

The new American hospital enterprise in Konia has now been in operation for a little over a year; and it seems a good time to give the readers of *The Orient* an account of its history. Dr. Dodd and Dr. Wilfred Post went to Konia in May, 1911, with their staff of nurses, and began work in their small hired houses. After they were settled and the work fairly started, it was thought best that Dr. Post should take his much needed furlough. So he and his family went to Scotland and later to America. There he has been working for the hospital in every way, visiting the Mayo brothers in Rochester, studying in different hospitals and preparing for the growth of the work in Konia. In the meantime the practice and influence of the American doctor in Konia has steadily grown in extent and importance. One of the houses

became a dispensary and pharmacy under the hospital's own pharmacist, educated in Beirut. The other two houses, built together, have served as the homes of the doctors and their families and the nurses and Nurses' Training School, and also for a small but busy hospital. The men's ward has six beds, the women's five, and these have been almost constantly occupied. With operations, a growing outside practice, care of patients, lectures and teaching in the training school, the time of doctor and nurses is very full. But with Mrs. Dodd's help they have added still another activity to those already mentioned, namely a boys' club. The street boys, to the number of fifty or over, have been gathered in and formed into a club, which meets twice a week at the hospital. Sunday evening there is a religious meeting of the club, and on Wednesday evening, a hilarious singing lesson, and a talk of some kind. As most of the boys are utterly unaccustomed to any sort of order, it has been necessary to have a *zabtieh* regularly at these meetings. But there has been a very great change in the manners and character of the boys already; and most pleasant relations with them and their families have grown from the meetings. Mrs. Dodd not only hopes that the club will some day have a gymnasium, and a reading room, but even before that happy time she hopes to obtain a good mirrorscope with which she can amuse and interest the boys on Wednesday evenings.

As Dr. Dodd himself told the *Orient* readers some time ago, he succeeded in buying one of the hired houses for a reasonable sum, as a permanent pharmacy and dispensary. The real hospital is to be built on an excellent site which has been secured and walled in, near the railroad station. But it was felt that a city clinic would also be necessary, and indeed should first be established. So the purchased house is now being rebuilt and added to, to make it thoroughly fit for such work.

I. F. D.

SAMOKOV NOTES.

Prof. and Mrs. Gibbons of Robert College, and children, together with Mrs. and Miss Brown — mother and sister of Mrs. Gibbons, — and Miss Hopkinson, a friend of the family who is to winter with them in Constantinople, are making a summer stay in Samokov. Two parties, in which these and other visitors have participated, have within ten days visited Rilo Monastery and Musalla.

In the course of a brief but rather severe thunderstorm that passed over Samokov on the afternoon of Friday, July 26th, lightning struck the little spire of the Protestant church, carrying away the finial cross, a good many shingles and boards, and one of the pillars at the entrance, beside breaking many window-panes in the church and neighboring buildings. Providentially the heavy rain that preceded the bolt kept the tower from catching fire. The course of the damaging flash was as erratic as usual, and the manifestations of its enormous power as remarkable. Several members of the community who were close to the church feel that they had a narrow escape, for which they must give thanks to God.

R. T.

MARSOVAN SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL.

The first session of the Marsovan Summer Bible School closed yesterday. Throughout its four weeks' session it has seemed to those of us who were sharing in it that it was producing the kind of results for which it was purposed. When the proposal to inaugurate a Summer Bible School was made we agreed that if six individuals indicated their decision to attend such a session we should feel it worth while to hold the school for this first summer, hoping thereby to gain impetus for succeeding sessions. It has been a happy surprise therefore, to have the attendance run up as high as 30 with a steady average of about 25. These included teachers who have also been preaching in their different school communities; colporteurs, Bible women, and students from both Anatolia College and Anatolia Girls' School. In addition there were some business men from the city, two Gregorian priests and some of the visiting missionary friends. The sessions were all held in the early part of the day. Beginning at eight o'clock there was a fifteen minute chapel service, followed immediately by the first class-hour with Mr. Pye in English, closing at 9:15. A fifteen minute recess followed these two exercises, succeeded by the two Turkish class-hours under Prof. Xenides and Dr. Riggs, beginning at 9:30 and closing at 11:30. In addition to these three full-hour sessions Mrs. Riggs held a fourth hour with the Bible women at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

There appeared to be a steadily growing interest on the part of those studying in the school. A realization of what can be gained by coming open-mindedly to the word of God and setting oneself to the task of discovering the purpose of God for the individual, and also the community life of men, as revealed in experience based on the Scriptures, seemed to grow clearer and lead to an interest and earnest desire for more of such kind of work. The spirit and character of the leadership of the school attempted to make clear that hard work is entirely in place and necessary in order to gain this result. It was gratifying to hear the words of testimony to this effect from the lips of one or two of the more mature students, and also from one of the Gregorian priests at an afternoon reception held for the school in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Pye's home the day before the close. This social hour in which the entire school was brought together with community of interest and friendly feeling seemed to do much to cement the relationships that had been steadily growing through the previous weeks.

The school closed on Friday, August 9th. The closing exercises were held at 11 o'clock in the morning at which Dr. Riggs presided. Prof. Xenides gave the address, emphasizing the value and possibilities wrapped up in the kind of work we had been doing together. His statements were reinforced by Dr. Riggs in a few closing words, and the closing prayer and benediction were given by Mr. Pye.

The kind of work that has been done during these few weeks has seemed to be earnestly welcomed by those in attendance. This leads us to venture the hope that the next

session can be held next summer with the same purpose and spirit dominating the work. To this we look forward with full expectation.

E. P.

WHO ARE THE YOUNG TURKS?

The Turkish daily *Tanzimat* says:—

The Committee of Union and Progress has had for four years many opportunities and chances to gain success. Unfortunately it has been unable to profit by these. One of these good chances was that this Committee, whose acts had surpassed those of the régime of absolutism, had gained the name in Europe of Young Turks. Nor was this surprising. Since the Committee of Union and Progress had in its day fought the Hamidian régime, and had been founded with the object of starting in this land an era of liberty and equality, it was but natural that the Europeans, as defenders of such enterprises, should appreciate and sympathize with their cause; and, to distinguish them from the men of the old régime, should give them the title of Young Turks, just as they did for the liberal Persians and the Chinese revolutionists, whom they called Young Persians and Young Chinese. But later, gradually all the true friends of the Constitution began to desert the Committee of Union and Progress, because of its bad administration. In spite of this the glorious name of Young Turks was retained in Europe. In fact, this name was for a long time a great asset to the Committee. Had they known how to follow a better course, they might still profit by it. In Europe, since the Committee were known as Young Turks, the Opposition was long considered as reactionary. And this was logically necessary. Since Europe knew the Union and Progress Committee as Young Turks, that is, formed of intelligent Ottomans, animated by the love of liberty, naturally all who opposed them could only be fanatics or reactionaries. Could it be otherwise?

Besides this, they have in Europe a wrong impression of the organization of the Union and Progress party. They are considered as the only party that is well organized. Naturally it will not be long before they will perceive the error of this view. In the Ottoman Empire, no party, neither Unionists nor our Liberty and Agreement party, can be regarded as constituted on a solid basis; for our social fabric, whether from a moral or from a material point of view, is not yet mature enough for solid organizations. But when compared with the Union and Progress party, the Liberty and Agreement (*Entente libérale*) may be considered more solid. As far as we know, the Union and Progress Clubs in the provinces were composed exclusively of the higher officials. But now that it is forbidden to officials to be members of political Clubs, the Union and Progress clubs will resemble mills that cannot grind for lack of water. We hope that Europeans and correspondents of European papers will no longer fall into this error, but will more readily express their opinion with no fear lest they offend this one or that one. In this way the Europeans will get a clear idea of the fact that the Union and Progress party has not the strongest organization, but perhaps even the feeblest.

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EDITORIAL.

The current number of THE ORIENT is being sent to the reading-rooms of several of the College and Theological Seminary Y. M. C. A.'s in America, in the hope that it may prove of sufficient interest to students there, and especially to students of mission problems in the Near East, to secure a place on their tables. Would it not be a good thing for each Student Volunteer Band to secure thus up-to-date and reliable news weekly from this quarter of the globe? The Ottoman Empire has for years been the storm centre of Europe, so that its political status is of vital interest to a student of history. And as the great exponent of Islam, and practically the sole remaining independent Moslem power, its relation to that faith makes it essential that every student of missions know the trend of affairs at the heart of Mohammedanism. The weekly visits of this little paper have done not a little to give a clearer understanding of these world-problems to a good many. Try it for a year, ye up-to-date students.

The celebrations connected with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the advent of Ferdinand I. to the throne of Bulgaria have roused the Bulgarians to considerable patriotic enthusiasm. And well they may. Their king has shown uncommon tact and ability in a position by no means easy. Coming to the throne at a time when internal conditions were anything but ideal, and when relations with the suzerain power had been severely strained by the seizure of Eastern Roumelia, this foreign prince has overcome the barriers of race, religion and language, and led his people in a progress that has been really remarkable. To his genius as a peacemaker is largely due the fact that an apparently certain conflict with Turkey has more than once been avoided. The ambitions of his people have been gratified in the change from a tributary principality to an independent kingdom, to whose material advancement he has largely contributed. In all this he has been quietly but efficiently aided by his beloved Queen Eleanora.

In another column is an extract from a Turkish daily of

this city, dealing with a common foreign misapprehension. The defeat of the Committee of Union and Progress, the displacing of the Said Pasha Cabinet and the downfall of Djavid Bey, Talaat Bey, Gen. Mahmoud Shevket Pasha and other leaders of the Young Turkey Party of four years ago, coupled with the amnesty of a lot of the rascals of the Hamidian régime, have very naturally led many in America and Europe to think that reaction had set in, and that the Young Turks were once more out of the saddle and in danger of being trodden under foot by the Old Turks or reactionaries. We are happy to say that this is not so. No less an authority than Sir Edwin Pears, who is a staunch friend of liberty and union and progress, asserts that the present Cabinet is the best Turkey has had in forty years. It is in no true sense reactionary, but really constructive and progressive. It is as strong for constitutional government and as determined to prevent the return of Hamid as anybody could desire. The fact is, that the Committee of Union and Progress, blinded by the lust of power, had begun to use methods just as despotic and illiberal as those of Abdul Hamid, and were becoming cordially hated by a large proportion of their former supporters. The change of today is not the downfall of the Young Turks; it is a sudden and violent check to the Committee of Union and Progress; and if that organization can be purged of its oligarchical and illegal tendencies and methods, it may yet be of service to the state, made wiser by its knock-down. But the principles of constitutional freedom, of liberty, equality, justice and brotherhood, were in imminent danger of sacrifice on the altar of a self-perpetuating Committee; and today they appear to have been rescued by the more level-headed exponents of the Young Turk idea.

THE HADJIN PROBLEM.

Hadjin is a town of less than 20,000 inhabitants, all Armenians, in the heart of the Taurus mountains, about 100 miles due north from Alexandretta and nearly 60 miles northwest from Marsh. It is thus described by Dr. Christie: — "You approach the city from the north over mountain heights seven or eight thousand feet above the sea-level. The road winds around one of the peaks and all at once you see the narrow, almost circular valley, lofty mountains surrounding it on all sides: as Mr. Perry used to say, it looks just like an immense mill-hopper. Two-thirds down the steep slope over which you are looking, a narrow nose of rock runs out towards the south, and terminates in a precipice at the centre of the valley. This rock is covered with houses, — its steep sides, its top, every part occupied, houses above houses, four or five tiers or stories, propped up where necessary with tall posts, scarcely anything you can call a street in the whole city, — just a hive of human beings, 20,000 of them swarming on that narrow rock. Indeed, from where you first see it, the town resembles nothing so much as a huge honeycomb torn off so as to show many irregular series of cells. You could almost toss a biscuit down upon the flat roofs of the tiers of

houses, a thousand feet below. One can never forget the impression made by a first view of Hadjin."

A disastrous fire in the summer of 1883 left 6,000 people homeless, and the effects of this blow were felt for many years. The Evangelical congregations suffered severely, and in fact the whole city was so discouraged by this that it has never fully recovered. The bare rocks and steep slopes of its valley seem to the young men to offer scant prospects for the future, and many have migrated from its inhospitable recesses. Add to this the massacres of 1909, and it is not strange that much relief work has been needed in Hadjin of late.

Latterly the Government Industrial Commission has enlarged its weaving equipment here, and put the management of this in the hands of the American missionaries. The Gregorians have started a stocking factory; and the Oriental Carpet Mfg. Co. have laid the foundations for quite a rug industry in Hadjin.

The two Evangelical churches report steady progress during the past year, under the pastoral care of Messrs. Dikran Rejebian and Sanatrug Shanlian. The Hadjin Home school for girls has an enviable record of steady and efficient work for over thirty years, and its graduates have raised the standard of the homes and schools of the entire region. The High School or Academy for boys is nearly twenty years old, and its boarding department, opened only two years ago, has been a gratifying success. The United Orphanage and Mission Society also maintains work here. Their Boys' Orphanage has been removed to Everek, but the Girl's Home is still in Hadjin.

The discouraging features of depopulation, emigration, unhealthy climate and the lack of prospects for the future, have made "the Hadjin problem" a vexing one for several years. The last report of the station, drawn up by Rev. Harold I. Gardner, says as to this:—

"Regarding the question of the continuance of Hadjin Station, which has been before the Mission so often, the Station urges that very careful consideration be given to the matter, and that some policy for the Station be outlined by the Mission as soon as possible. The Station would by means want to put itself on record as urging withdrawal. It desires only to assist in bringing the matter to the consideration of the Mission, urging a careful deliberation upon all sides of the question. It is ready to carry out, so far as is possible, the policy that the Mission shall, after such deliberation, deem wise. It would call careful attention to the closing part of Dr. Chambers' recent report to the Mission on the Hadjin question. Among the points for consideration must once more be mentioned the unstrategic character of the city. Also its economic hopelessness which is necessitating its decline in population and importance. Those who fit themselves for usefulness in almost any line must go elsewhere to find employment. They are going, and the result will become and is becoming the survival of the unfittest. In one sense it is hard to see all the educated and promising young men leave the city but we feel that one of these young men, returning for a visit, spoke only too correctly when he urged the young men of the city to go elsewhere. Hadjin can offer them no future.

"A Medical Work and larger Boys' Work are necessary to realize and conserve the results of the splendid work already being accomplished at Hadjin Home School for Girls. Otherwise the results of what is done are partially vitiated by lack of balance. But do these present conditions and this future outlook justify the development of the work to insure this proper balance? On the other side, the abandonment of a plant established by so much sacrifice and consecration, which has been for many a far-shining beacon light, and which has through long years at last won preferential rights with the Government, is a very serious matter.

"We must keep in mind also that from these mountains have been trained and sent forth many efficient men and women who have done and are doing a noble work in many lines of Christian activity in various places. It may be perhaps furthermore true that the opportunity for training boys and girls for such work is more favorable in such a place in the interior than in many of the larger coast centers where other influences, many of which are evil, are more potent.

"The personal ties of attachment, the strong cords of sentiment, the desires of many of the people, the relationship with the villages, all make the thought of discontinuance painful. We can only pray that Divine Guidance may lead in this matter to that decision which shall count most for the incoming of the Kingdom of our Master, whose we are and whom, wherever He shall lead, we would most faithfully serve."

THE RISING TIDE IN CHINA.

From the Y. M. C. A. in Shanghai comes this glad word:—

"A friend of mine happened to be reading on one of his recent travels into the interior when he was accosted by a fellow-passenger who asked him what his book was. When told that it was the New Testament, "Oh yes," said the man, "that is a book which we must all read, now that we have become a Republic." We see the change very markedly in our Association. A year ago it was more or less difficult to get men into Bible-study classes; now we have a Wednesday evening Bible School with an enrolment of over 200 and a weekly attendance of about 100, besides three or four good classes that meet on other days. This of course, is in addition to the required Bible-study in the Day School, the religious instruction given weekly in the Evening School, and other religious meetings. The total attendance last year at our religious meetings, exclusive of Bible classes, was 24,627. A great majority of men in these classes are non-Christian, and many come with the idea that they will hold fast to their Confucianism but gain any advantage there may be from the study of the teachings of Christ; and yet numbers are being brought into the Church through these meetings and classes, — many of them being the very flower of our membership, — and their numbers are rapidly increasing. It is the happiest experience we have, that of seeing men whose abilities and intellect we have grown to admire, come to see the truth of the Christian religion and then openly identify themselves with the Church."

ELECTION FRAUDS.

The Grand Vizier has sent the following communication to all the valis and independent mutesariffs. It speaks volumes, as coming from an official source, as to the make-up of the late Parliament.

"In consequence of certain illegal orders given last year by some of the ministers, the elections for deputies did not conform to the electoral law. Judicial, religious and other functionaries who had no legally conferred right to do so, interfered in the elections, misusing their official influence. Many electoral districts were disregarded, in spite of the clear prescriptions of the law. Villages were attached to a *kaza* (sub-provincial chief town) that was not their own, so as to form separate districts. Moreover, the ballot-boxes were constructed in such a way as to facilitate fraud and abuses, as has been proved by the careful examination of formal protests.

"You must ensure the specified legal election formalities in such a way as to avoid all undue influence, compulsion or abuse. All the citizens must be enabled to cast their votes freely and independently. The highest interests of the nation demand this. The government guarantees absolute liberty in the new elections, which will be held in all impartiality. It will punish officials who abuse their functions by interfering in the elections. All the election districts must be legally constituted. The ballot-boxes must be so constructed as to prevent every fraud or abuse.

"All members of any political party are allowed to pronounce discourses in behalf of the program of their party. But legal processes will be instituted, in accord with Articles 72 and 73 of the election law, against those who are guilty of acts tending to disturb peace and order."

A HISTORIC EARTHQUAKE.

The ruin wrought at Gallipoli by the earthquake of Aug 9th recalls to mind another earthquake there, five and a-half centuries ago, which was fraught with epoch-making consequences. Stanley Lane-Poole thus describes it:

"In 1358 an earthquake overthrew the cities of Thrace; houses crumbled to the ground, and even the walls and fortifications fell upon the trembling earth, while the terrified inhabitants fled from their shaking homes. Among the rest, the walls around Gallipoli fell down, the people deserted the city, and over the ruins the Turks marched in. The Emperor in vain protested; Orkhan declared that Providence had opened the city to his troops, and he could not disregard so clear an instance of divine interposition. The civil war which still raged left Cantacuzenus small leisure for attending to anything but the attacks of Palaeologus. The shore of the Hellespont was quickly garrisoned with Ottoman soldiers, and the first fatal step had been permitted which led to the conquest of the empire, and the perpetual menace of Europe for several centuries."

One is tempted to wonder whether this historic event was brought to the minds of the Turks by the destruction of

two weeks ago, and whether they were not glad that there was no besieging Italian army to take advantage of their stunning blow.

Constantinople and vicinity have frequently been terribly shaken by earthquakes. To mention only some of the more important dates, in 1794 about 300 houses were damaged; in January 1826, more than that number were destroyed; there were severe shocks in 1846 and 1851; and the last disastrous disturbance was on July 9th 1894, when part of the Grand Bazaar was wrecked and the Princes' Islands shaken, and some 2,000 persons killed.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

H. R. H. Prince Yousouf Izzeddin started yesterday on a trip to Vienna and Switzerland. It is asserted that this journey has no political significance.

Zia Pasha, Minister of the Interior, handed in his resignation last week; and Damad Mehmed Sherif Pasha, Minister of Public Works, was transferred to the Department of the Interior. Monday morning, however, the resignation of Damad Sherif Pasha was announced.

The 82nd birthday of Emperor Francis Joseph was observed with a special *Te Deum* in the Catholic Church of Santa Maria Draperis in Pera last Sunday, a reception at the Austrian Embassy at Yenikuy in the afternoon and a dinner in the evening.

The socialistic daily *Ishtirak* has been suspended by court-martial for having published an article adjudged diffamatory against the Heir-Apparent.

Messrs. E. Seager and Zarifi won the championship in doubles at the Therapia tennis tournament by defeating Messrs. Weiss and La Fontaine in the finals.

THE PROVINCES.

The daily papers announce the birth of a son to the ex-Sultan, at his Salonica villa.

An attempt was made on Saturday last to blow up a train between Salonica and Constantinople. Fortunately the two bombs were discovered in time to stop the train and avoid a mishap.

Reshid Bey, formerly Vali of Aleppo, has been appointed Vali of Aidin.

NOTES.

Among recent arrivals in the Capital are Dr. Marsh of Philippopolis, Dr. and Mrs. Levon Sewny of Sivas, Messrs. Lake and Cady of Marsovan, Dr. Newton of Smyrna, Prof. Tillyard of Edinburgh, Rev. H. K. Wingate and family of Talas, Mrs. Smith and Miss Darrow of Marsovan. Dr. Newton left Sunday night for Scotland, Messrs. Lake and Cady Saturday, and Mrs. Smith and Miss Darrow yesterday for Marsovan.

Dr. Dray, of the Dental School at Beirut, was in town for a few days this past week, on business.

Rev. and Mrs. Charles L. Carhart left Constantinople last Friday on their way to America via Patras.

OTHER LANDS.

Sultan Mulai Hafid of Morocco has abdicated; and his bother Mulai Yousouf has been chosen to succeed him.

Not for 50 years has Switzerland seen such cold weather in August as has been registered this month.

M. Jules Massenet, the eminent French composer, died Aug. 13th, aged 70.

A German shipyard has received the contract for a new armored cruiser of 13,000 tons for the Greek government. The armament and armor-plating will be supplied by the Bethlehem (Pa.) Steel Company.

President Taft has sent to the Senate the nomination of President Schurman of Cornell University as Minister to Greece and Montenegro. Dr. Schurman has been President of Cornell for twenty years.

The three Egyptians charged with conspiracy against the Khedive, Lord Kitchener and the Prime Minister, have been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment each.

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria took place at Tirnova last Saturday with great pomp and enthusiasm. Many of the rulers of Europe sent despatches of felicitation.

From Vienna comes the news that Count Berchthold, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, intends to take the initiative in proposing to the powers an exchange of views with the object of supporting the Ottoman Government in its policy of decentralization. This seems to meet with general approval at the other European capitals.

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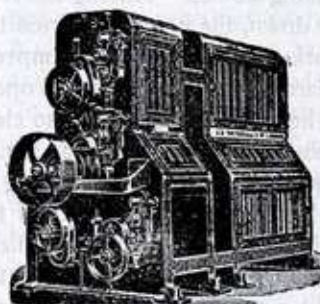
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| SAXONIA | (14,220 ") | " | 28th. |
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