

The Orient.

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PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ALLIES.

Outwardly little progress has been made during the week in regard to peace. Bulgaria is especially anxious to have the preliminaries signed and it is reported that she has threatened to draw up a treaty with Turkey independent of the other Allies if they continue to delay proceedings at London. This step would seem to be extremely detrimental to the general settlement and thus far no independent action has been taken. While the Balkan delegates to the London Conference are discussing matters of comparatively minor importance the Greek and Bulgarian forces are engaging in fierce battles in the region of Mount Panghaion. Reports from Salonika indicate that heavy fighting took place between these two armies on Thursday of last week. From Sofia comes the announcement of a new Macedonian Brigade of between 10,000 and 12,000 men who are to be stationed in the neighborhood of Drama. Meanwhile we hear persistent rumors of Greco-Serb agreements detrimental to Bulgaria. Russia is doing her best to bring the matter of the Serbo-Bulgarian trouble to a peaceful settlement.

Favorable indications are to be found in the comparative quiet in Albania; the discharge of some 50,000 Austro-Hungarian reservists; and in the continued firmness on the part of the Great Powers. Skutari is now an orderly city under the control of the International Commission which holds daily meetings under the presidency of Vice-Admiral Burney. Montenegro since her evacuation of Skutari, has seemed to drop out of the world so far as international considerations are concerned. The discharge of the Austro-Hungarian reservists puts the world at more ease with regard to the general situation, while the firmness of the Powers in refusing to admit any changes that would modify the fundamental principles, set forth in the preliminary treaty as drawn up by the Powers, indicates that these Powers are in accord.

REFORMS IN TURKEY.

If newspaper articles and the appointment of commissions were any indication of the extent of reforms to be applied, Turkey would soon be one of the most thoroughly reformed nations in the world. Since hostilities have ceased these questions have occupied a foremost place in the newspapers of the capital. Practically all parties admit that reforms are necessary. Not all are sure that they will come. During the past week practically every department of the gov-

ernment from the office of vali to the gendarmery has come in for its overhauling (on paper). The question that holds the foreground at present is that of foreign assistance. Is Turkey, of herself, sufficient for this task? Most writers agree that some help must be obtained from outsiders, but are not all agreed upon the amount of such assistance needed or upon the manner in which it can be made most effective. Some writers favor a large use of foreign administrative help and would give great freedom to such helpers. The *Ikdam* writes as follows: — "Our country must be governed according to European systems. Our officials are unable to give any answer to such reports of the condition of Turkey as appear in the European papers. If they should ask me, I should choose Europeans as Valis. And I would go even farther and have Europeans as Minister of Public works, Minister of Commerce and other ministries that demand expert knowledge." This same writer favors the plan of handing over all Government industries to foreigners, "because we have not a single man able to manage large industries." This same writer goes on to lay emphasis on the fact that Anatolia is an agricultural country but in spite of this fact the Government has done nothing to develop scientific farming.

According to the *Tasviri-Evkiar* the Sublime Porte has requested the British Government to send Lord Milner to become General Overseer of the reforms to be inaugurated in Anatolia. It is also reported that the Armenian Question will come before the Ambassadorial Conference in London. It is hoped, therefore, that, out of the mass of advice and criticism, something effective will come and that conditions may soon become more settled throughout the Empire.

COL. JOHN P. FINLEY.

The *Ijtihad*, a liberal Turkish weekly, has an interesting article on Col. Finley by Riza Tewfik Bey. The writer first expresses his regret that no one here, at the seat of the Caliphate, knew or cared anything about the million Moslems in the Philippines, nor of their sufferings during 400 years at the hands of the Spaniards. Then he describes Col. Finley's mission to the Caliph as the fully authorized representative of these Moslems in order to secure official recognition and sanction for their present position under the American government and to present their urgent request for teachers to instruct them in the doctrines and practices of their religion. Then follows an account of the people translated directly from Col. Finley's statements in regard to their persecution by the Spaniards, their desire for closer connection with the Caliph-

ate and his determination to use their faithfulness to Islam as the foundation on which to build an industrious, loyal American citizenship. In closing the writer says: "I do not know if these noble, clear, great words of Col. Finley need any comment. I only know this: as I heard these words I grieved that I was not a Philippine Moslem, and fixing my eyes on his, tried to understand the true nature of this great man. In this American official who is three inches taller than such giants as Cromwell and Bismarck, I saw the personified representation of the conquering might and justice of the American government. I rejoiced because I had discovered an example of wisdom.

"Would that a Col. Finley had been able to be born in my unfortunate country!"

Col. Finley was granted a long audience last Friday by the Sultan and on Saturday he was received by the Heir-Apparent.

MAPS AND THEIR USELESSNESS.

Not long ago a certain department of the Government of the United States desired to secure accurate information as to the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire in Arabia. Application was therefore made to the most likely place where such information would be expected, — the Ottoman Embassy in Washington. The latter however was constrained to reply that they possessed no such map as would show this, and were unable to furnish such, and that perhaps the best place to apply would be the American Consulate in Constantinople. Acting on this Ottoman suggestion, the Department sent to our Consulate here, and that office decided that the Ministry of Public Instruction was probably best able to furnish the desired map. They therefore sent around to the aforesaid ministry to request information as to the boundaries of Turkey in Arabia. After some investigation this Directorate of all the school system of the Empire sent a polite reply to the effect that their maps were merely such as were in use in schools; and that inasmuch as for students in schools it didn't matter whether the boundary line went a little to the left or a little to the right, these maps did not pretend to be accurate! They timidly suggested that the Council of State might possibly possess the desired information.

Geography has for many years been an uncomfortable study in Turkish schools, and certain boundaries have changed somewhat during that time. But the interesting part of the above true tale is the attitude of the highest educational authorities in the Empire on the subject of information for schools. Conceivably the War Department, or the Ministry for Foreign Affairs may be under the painful obligation of being accurate; but for pupils in schools, — what matters it about a few paltry thousands of square miles in Arabia? And above all, why do these meddling foreigners ask about exact boundaries in Arabia? Maybe they can somehow find out, — but after all, of what possible use can it be to them?

THE DUTY OF THE MINISTER

TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

No department of the minister's work is more important than the Sunday School. The Sunday School of to-day is the congregation of to-morrow. The congregation of the future is in the making in the weekly gatherings of the young. During the plastic period of life the great opportunity stands out conspicuously. Any neglect in this formative period can never be made up. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." In this pregnant sentence is the deepest principle of psychological science. We cannot improve on this declaration however much we may discuss the great problems of child culture. Sad to say the negative of this is as true as the positive. Train up a child in the way he should not go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

This makes plain the supreme importance of the Sunday School to the minister. His main business must be the training of the young if he would save the future of his work. A man can project his life into the future only as he can project himself into other life. The only other life that will respond in large measure to his appeal is life that has not become fixed, and inflexible. A wise man will see that if he is to succeed it must be in laying foundations in the growing, expanding forces of virile youth. It is not after the illusions of life have faded out and the fire of life has ceased to glow that impressions are likely to be made. It is in that restless period of life when the child is ready to believe anything that is told it by a sincere person that the foundations of character must be laid. A great Catholic Bishop once said, "Give me the child for the first seven years of his life and I care not who has him after that."

The inquisitive age is the age of opportunity. The minister that will neglect the children in his congregation, or delegate their training to incompetent hands is bound to fail. In large congregations where a minister's duties are numerous and exacting it may be impossible for him to give that attention to the children that ought to be given. He is bound to pass over to others this delicate task. This brings to me a point I wish to emphasize, i. e., that if a minister cannot give much of his time to the Sunday School he must prepare men and women in his congregation who can give time.

I think I can do nothing better than to quote here "My Creed as to the Sunday School" by Rev. E. Y. Mullins, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

1. The supreme need in our country to-day is that the forces which make for character shall control the forces which make for intelligence.
2. One of the greatest forces which make for character is the Sunday School.
3. The factor of the Sunday School most potent in the development of character is the teacher.

4. The supreme lack in the present-day Sunday School is the lack of a sufficient number of thoroughly equipped teachers.
5. The chief teacher of teachers and trainer of trainers of the Sunday School is the pastor.
6. The chief trainer of pastors is the theological Seminary.

This points two morals: one looking to the pastor, the other to our seminaries. A paper on the duties of the seminaries in the training of their students in sacred pedagogy, might well form the subject of a separate article.

But my care in this paper is to make supreme the duty of the pastor to the young of his flock — he must not neglect that sacred duty. If he cannot take a direct personal part in the Sunday School, or only a meager part, he is bound to train men to whom he can commit the great task of teaching the children for the future. He must see that there are men and women trained and skilful in supplementing the training received at the homes of the little ones. But woe to the little ones that have had no adequate training in the principles of life and morals at their homes; then the duty becomes a superlatively great one.

And it is not enough that the minister's assistants be men and women who have a faculty for imparting knowledge. That is necessary, but with that there must be the spiritual vision, there must be a warm sympathetic nature, there must be a passion for souls. The great difficulty facing many of the ministers in this country is the paucity of men and women who are at all fitted for leadership. If there happen to be a school in connection with the congregation the pastor is pretty sure of at least one helper. The teacher is usually ready to take the smaller children through the lesson, but every school to do its best work ought to be graded. This means several classes and so several teachers.

From where are they to come? That is the problem, and a serious one it is, but it is one that must be solved.

The children must be trained if the future is to be assured. There is nothing for it but to take such material as he can find and develop it. This is not easy work, but nothing is ever accomplished worth anything without labor, and it would be strange if this very important work could be accomplished without great effort and sacrifice. But he must remember that in the training a few of the best young people in his congregation he is developing what will in the future be a source of the greatest help to him in his expanding work, for work will expand if fidelity in service for the children is exercised.

J. P. McNAUGHTON.

NOTICE.

The Order of Service for use in Sunday Schools throughout the world as an Opening Exercise preceding the study of the regular lesson on the World's Sunday School Day, Sunday July 13, 1913, has been issued in Armenian and Armeno-Turkish and copies are being sent out free to the Sunday Schools in Turkey, Persia, Russia, Bulgaria and Egypt using these languages. Missionaries and other friends are requested to see that they are distributed promptly.

WHAT DO THE ARABS WANT?

The *Tanin* says: —

We are astonished beyond measure at the diversity of programs of reform offered in the name of Syria. The general council of the vilayet of Damascus has drawn up a project utterly different from that of Beirût. Then another reforms committee, representing nobody and having no legal approval other than brawling and uproar, formulates entirely different demands. It claims that military service be local, that the general assembly be enabled to pass a vote of lack of confidence toward a vali appointed by the central government, and that the Arab provinces enjoy an independence that even the autonomous colonies of England themselves, mature as they are, do not possess. In our opinion, such impracticable demands, even if drawn up in good faith, are beyond question marks of inexperience.

But all the claims for reforms are not within those limits. The Egyptian *El-Mukezri* committee exhibits still more impertinence. Moreover certain American papers have entirely unveiled themselves. These papers published in America by Syrians have no other connection with our brothers the Arabs except the language. We are sure that not a single upright and patriotic Arab has even dreamed of the statements, for instance, of the *Elbabil*, which says: "The Turks commit excesses on the Arabs, who therefore ought to separate from them. But as the Arabs cannot live independently because of their passions and desires, Syria, once detached from Turkey, must be taken over by France." Needless to say, such opinions are not allowable by either the Mohammedan patriotism or the national patriotism of the Arabs. Nevertheless the Syrian orchestra at Paris is playing a totally different tune. Another reforms committee has been formed there.

In view of these contradictory and inconsistent demands, which committee or newspaper should be regarded as the true interpreter of Syrian feelings? There are ringleaders who under cover of reforms wish to enact a tragedy, just as certain Albanians did, to the prejudice of our Arab fellow-countrymen. Some of them talk of union with France, others of union with England. These premature avowals are enough, we think, to make our compatriots open their eyes. We recognize better than any one else that the Arab vilayets need reforms. But so do all the Ottoman vilayets also need them. We join with our Syrian countrymen in their demand for reforms. But we desire with all our hearts that this demand should not be superficial, and that it be not instigated from abroad.

When it was said that certain Albanians were sacrificing the welfare of their country to their own cupidity, it was objected that a traitor could not be born in Albania. The same danger, the same evil in all its gravity, rises again now. At least let this living example of Albania serve as a lesson. We hope that our brothers the Arabs, guided by sound common-sense, Ottoman patriotism and religious fervor, will recognize the Ottoman Empire — whatever its government — as an affectionate father. Like all the other Ottoman elements

the Arabs must yield to the sentiment of solidarity as between all the elements, and not instigate division. The government has already taken important steps on the road to reforms. If it is left in peace, it will be able to follow this up. Let us all work quietly for the repairing of the empire, shutting our ears to the designing clamor from abroad.

COMMENCEMENT DAYS AT ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE.

The Commencement exercises of St. Paul's College were held on May 9th. Eleven seniors delivered orations and received their diplomas. Their studies, however, will continue regularly to the close of school on June 6th.

Many factors contributed to the success of the day: a large appreciative audience was present including many guests from Mersin and Adana; the weather was fine and our president, Dr. Christie, a great deal strengthened by his winter trip to Egypt, occupied the chair. The orations of the seniors were short and well delivered. Several musical selections and songs were rendered by the College Orchestra and College Choir.

The graduating class is one of the strongest that has gone out from St. Paul's College. Of the eleven men, five will teach, two will study for the ministry, two for medicine, and two enter business. They are men who, we believe, will be of service to their country.

In the afternoon of the same day the Declamation contest was held. During the year every pupil had spoken twice before the student body and faculty. The best twelve were selected. These gave declamations in four languages, English, French, Turkish and Armenian; three men competing in each.

So keen was the competition that the judges, chosen from the audience, found it difficult to decide upon the winner, and in Turkish and Armenian the prizes were divided. Dr. Chambers of Adana presided.

St. Paul's Academy held its Commencement and prize-speaking contest on April 23rd preceding the spring vacation. Twenty-eight boys graduated, the majority of whom plan to enter the College next fall. The Academy with its own faculty has been more separated from the College than before, College teachers having given only a few lessons. This arrangement has given a feeling of individuality and enthusiasm to the pupils, which, together with energetic and careful supervision of the Principal, Garabed Efr. Ohanian, has contributed in making the school year as well as the final exercises, more successful.

The plan of holding the Commencements a month before the close of school has been found necessary. On account of the heat of this Cilician plain in May and June, the people scatter to their vineyards and mountain homes very early. The school work, however, continues for all until the end of the term.

PAUL E. WILSON.

DR. MATTEOSSIAN'S JUBILEE.

As announced in a previous number of *The Orient*, the completion of fifty years of medical service by Dr. Matteossian was celebrated last week by a large number of his friends at the Tokatlian hotel. Without distinction of race or religion many physicians and other notable men and women gathered to do honor to the guest of the occasion. Sixteen speeches were made, interspersed with appropriate music. Dr. Torkomian gave an excellent account of the life and work of Dr. Matteossian, mentioning among other facts that he was a native of Egin, was educated in Bebek under Dr. Hamlin, studied medicine in America, served as a doctor in the Civil War, returned to Constantinople, became one of the first reformers of the Armenian Hospital, was the first to introduce aseptic surgery into this city.

Dr. Matteossian replied with deep feeling to all the kind addresses made to him. He said that he owed much to the missionaries as it was through an uncle who occupied a high office in Mosul and was acquainted with the work of Dr. Grant among the Nestorians that he was led to become a doctor, while no student of Dr. Hamlin's could ever cease to be grateful for the inspiration that came from his life. He spoke, too, of the privilege of living in such an age as ours, when steam and electricity have become the servants of man, medical science has made such wonderful progress, absolute governments have all been overthrown and the spirit of brotherhood has become so general.

Archbishop Ormanian brought the formal part of the program to a close in a very genial and happy speech in the course of which he proposed to confer the title "The Good Physician-in-Chief" upon Dr. Matteossian. Congratulatory letters and telegrams were read from many distinguished persons who were unable to be present, among whom were the American Ambassador, Dr. Patrick and Miss Prime and Mr. Peet.

As a memorial of his Jubilee it is proposed to raise a fund the interest of which will be used at Dr. Matteossian's special request, to support and educate one or more orphans. Contributions to this fund may be forwarded through *The Orient*.

During the past week two steamers have struck mines in the vicinity of Smyrna. On May 21st the "Sénégal" of the Messageries Steamship Company, while leaving Smyrna for Constantinople, struck a mine near the entrance to the Gulf of Smyrna. The damage to the steamer was a hole 7x4 metres in its hull. Four persons seem to have lost their lives in this accident. On May 24th the "Nevada" of the Archipelago Company, in order to avoid a collision with another steamer, turned out of the course and struck a line of mines, three of which seem to have exploded. The steamer is a complete wreck and 40 of the 123 persons on board the steamer perished. It is reported that steamers booked for Smyrna will refuse to stop there until some more satisfactory arrangements can be made about the mines in that harbour.

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BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE.

MAY 28, 1913.

EDITORIAL.

Statistics tell us that by the year 1800 the Christian Church had succeeded in gaining only seven out of each one hundred of the world's population. By 1900 twenty-four out of each one hundred were members of some Christian Church. This means that the increase in church membership during the last century was more than twice as great as its total increase during the eighteen hundred years that preceded. When thinking of the past century as the great century for mental and intellectual development, it might be well for us to recall the above facts. One writer in commenting on these statistics remarks, that, "In view of this fact there is not much place for pessimism." One might add that in any sane view of the world there is little place for pessimism, but in considering the above statistics one would have much less reason for pessimism if he were sure that each one of the twenty-four Christians referred to represented a real live wire for Christianity. But, — and here we can have no statistics — if we could tabulate the qualitative increase in Christian force during the last century, would we have more or less reason for pessimism?

This week's issue of the ORIENT contains two timely and suggestive articles relative to a most important department of our missionary work, viz, the Sunday School. Each article, in the phase of the subject treated, surely places the emphasis where it belongs. Too often the real importance of the Sunday School is not grasped by those responsible for the work of our churches; while, in not a few cases, this work is so poorly conducted as almost to be a travesty. Without attempting to place the blame for this state of affairs, it certainly is important that every person interested in the development of God's work in Turkey should see to it that, in his or her particular field, nothing is neglected which tends to build up large and efficient Sunday Schools. If those primarily responsible for this work in our field are not awake to their opportunity, as well as their responsibility, we should take steps to awaken them, lest we find our churches sleeping "the sleep of death." If the vernacular comments on the lessons are

not satisfactory, substitutes should be sought, or, better still, measures should be taken for securing more suitable vernacular lesson materials. The suggestions in the letter from our Erzroum correspondent are steps in the right direction. If the "helps" from our Publication Department are not helpful, help it to make them helpful. But whatever we do, let us seize our opportunities to make our Sunday Schools *efficient*.

A. C. R.

One result of the Balkan war is that Asia Minor contains at least two hundred thousand more Moslems than before, as refugees from the conquered European provinces, and perhaps three hundred thousand. One must subtract from this number the total of soldiers who went off to the war from Anatolia with cheers and with flying colors, but who will never return to their desolated homes. Still the increase in population is very important. There is no question of the ability of the land to support these new myriads. Asia Minor has had a comparatively sparse population, and, given modern methods of agriculture, can support many hundreds of thousands more. The question is, who is to befriend these unfortunate trekkers? Who will prove the good Samaritan to them? Many have come to their temporal rescue, and have aided them with money grants, with food and raiment, with lands and buildings. But they have spiritual needs. Cattle must be housed and fed, but here are human beings, whose souls are of far more importance than their bodies. We of the West have been given the opportunity of acting as almoners of the bounty of many toward these wanderers, and in so doing have gained the heartfelt gratitude of those whose wants have thus been relieved. And we have gained in addition a road to the hearts of these same people. Shall we use that road? The methods are multiple. Keep by all legitimate means the hold on their affections that circumstances have given us, and there is no limit to the good we may be able to do them. But who is sufficient for these things? Reinforcements are urgently needed to meet the increased responsibilities. It is unfair to expect those who may be specially suited to undertake this new work to keep at the same time all their previous work. Come over and help us!

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.

Rev. A. B. Shumavonian, pastor of the Armenian Protestant Church in Pera writes a Weekly Review for the *Avedaper*, the Armenian paper issued from the Bible House. For the current week he says, in part: —

"Perhaps because of the scarcity of news the local and foreign press have begun to devote their columns to the Armenian question. It would be credulity to attach too much importance to this phenomenon in the newspapers. If the Armenian question were one that could be solved by words or newspaper articles, it would have been solved and ended very long ago. We have been deceived quite long enough. The *Times* or the *Temps*, the *Novoe Vremia* or the *Berliner Tag-*

blatt, have nothing new to say, more especially as our wound is not of those that are healed by ink. We are acquainted with Armenians who by reading the *Daily News* in 1895 and 1896 learned a considerable quantity of English, and that is perhaps the best result of the articles published by the English press in favor of the Armenians. We do not wish to be ungrateful for the sympathetic attitude shown to us by the European press. We only desire to warn our nation against the mistake of placing too much hope on mere words whether spoken or written. The work of the press is to enlighten public opinion. But what importance has the public opinion of Europe for the Kourdish chiefs Mir Muhé and Sumgo? Those gentlemen and their comrades in office would be more affected by three yards of rope than by thirty yards of editorials. This, at least, is our conviction.

"If the press succeeds in persuading the ruling class to agree to solve the Armenian question, whatever sacrifices that undertaking may demand, then it will do a real and useful service to our nation. But up to the present our experience has taught us to expect a different result. "English ships cannot ascend the mountains of Armenia" said Salisbury, and this coarse jest was the only result of the tremendous newspaper agitation of 1896. To be sure, conditions may have changed since 1896, but we have no reason to think that the newspaper activity of today will accomplish more than it did then. There are so many conflicts and struggles, open and concealed, going on between the European governments, that the famous concert promises only a negative result. International pity may hardly provide a piece of dry bread for our orphans.

"And while we ask Armenians not to place too much hope upon the kind words of editors and the benevolent desires of diplomatists, at the same time we shall request our Turkish fellow-countrymen not to think it safe altogether to overlook and despise the exhortations of the European press and the principles it preaches. It would be credulous in us to regard the Armenian question solved because there is a current in the west favorable to reform, but for the Turkish government also it would not be wisdom to suppose that today there will only be a repetition of the events of 1896. Not a single government wishes or is able to defend the integrity of Turkey if the Turkish nation does not hasten to strengthen its position by internal reforms. Even if the arrangement about Koweit be only a new edition of the treaty of Cyprus it will not be patriotic for the Turkish governing class to consider the fate of the country assured by that arrangement.

"Turkey lost Cyprus without ensuring any real and permanent gain. Perhaps the Russian Cossacks may succeed in climbing those mountains where English ships could not ascend, and then if Turkey asks help from the west, Sir Edward Grey may be tempted to repeat Lord Salisbury's clever remark and say, "Our ships cannot ascend the mountains of Armenia."

"There is only one way for the people of this land to choose; let the Armenian devote himself to labor for the development of himself and the country, let the Turk strive to

bring about true and serious reforms, by giving native and foreign officials the liberty and the right to work. If we do not solve the Eastern Question in this way, both the activity and the inactivity of the foreign press and diplomacy will be equally useless for us."

LETTER FROM ADANA.

It is a month since I reached Adana after an absence of a little more than a year.

When we arrived the people were slowly recovering from panic—a painful reminder of the days and months succeeding the awful experiences of the massacres. Naturally, shattered nerves tingle with the slightest suggestion of trouble. However the present Vali, Emin, was alive to the necessity of putting a stop to those remarks or demonstrations calculated to arouse apprehension. It is credibly reported that in some places the Moslems ran in one direction and Christians in the other, both apprehensive of the possible action of the other. Nothing sinister has taken place and tranquility is preserved so that many are already moving out to the vineyards and there appears to be no apprehension in the minds of the people. There are reported many deserters in hiding in various places making travel unsafe, at least in appearance, and there is less night travel than is customary because of this apprehension. However I do not hear of any depredations. With the conclusion of the peace negotiations the situation in this district ought to improve very rapidly.

During this year considerable changes have taken place. Many of the burned streets have been reconstructed, new streets have been opened up, old streets widened and much of the massacre catastrophe debris removed. The able bodied prisoners have been used for this work a good deal. These men, under guard, may be seen working in gangs cleaning up this debris. There is much still to be done in reconstruction.

The harvest fields are looking fine—a magnificent sight—giving promise of large yield of wheat, barley, oats, sesame etc. The prediction is made that the one hundred thousand bales of cotton of last year's crop will be surpassed by twenty thousand bales more this year.

The weather has become very hot, cool nights, however, relieve the distress very greatly. At my door at this moment 9 P. M. the thermometer registers 74°. Barley harvest is pressing on rapidly. Hundreds of McCormick reapers are falling into line and they will soon be followed by scores of steam threshers. It is said that there are about 100 steam plows on the plain.

The schools are all closing. The hot weather, the vineyards and cotton field cut down the school year to eight months and many children do not get more than six months attendance at school. The Gov. Commission of Instruction is calling for six kindergarten teachers at large salaries. This is an indication of the planning, whether it can be accomplished or not is another question.

There was a fine concert given in the American Seminary for girls the other evening. It was in the yard of the school,

the night was fine, the audience large and the music good. It was an enjoyable evening brought to rather abrupt close by a sudden sprinkle of rain of about five minutes just as the last measure was to be called. A good round sum (about £ 30) was realized to be used for the conduct of a school for the children of people working in the cotton factories.

There were two slight shocks of earthquake — one on Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock, and the other next morning — no damage was done.

W. N. C.

LETTER FROM ERZROUM.

In an editorial of the ORIENT for April 30, the statement is made that although the Publication Department has for years issued a booklet of lesson helps which is sold far below cost, the greatest difficulty is experienced in securing its circulation or use.

May I suggest that the reason for this is that the "help" which can be extracted from it is so infinitesimal as to be far less than even the selling price? I do not know whom I am "slamming" in this statement, but I am sure that almost any who have tried to use the book, and who know what a good book of S.S. helps can be, will bear me out in my statement. I have tried two years to use that book myself. The studying of it was good for my Armenian, but of no help in preparing the lesson. Our S.S. teachers also, who know more or less of English, say that they can get more out of English lesson helps, even when they can't fully understand them, than they can out of that book.

We give out a number of the books each year, but could not possibly sell them. They are useful only in telling where the lesson is found and what the Golden Text is. A tiny booklet, like a C.E. topic card, which could be printed for 10 paras, would do that work just as well.

If a book the size of the present one is to be issued, it needs to contain some "live" material especially some suggestion of methods for teaching each lesson to make it interesting — something on the order of "That Class in the Corner," or "How to interest the Boy," etc., with which S.S. magazines from America are always teeming. An introductory story, leading up to the teaching of the lesson, would be very helpful. Most of the scholars are children; many of the grown-ups must be taught as though they were children; and the teachers in the villages, at least, seldom have any notion of how to make a lesson interesting.

Perhaps the present book is the best that can be issued with the present possibilities; if so, it may as well be reduced to a mere announcement of what the lessons are for each Sunday in the year, and the teacher left to his own devices.

EUNICE M. ATKINS.

Erzroom, May 12, 1913.

The *Sebil er Reshad* the leading Moslem religious weekly of this city, began in the issue of May 2 (O.S.) an interesting series of replies to the Khutbas or Mosque Sermons recently translated from Arabic into Turkish.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

By military order the Greek *Tachydromos* and the Armenian *Gavroche* have been suspended for an indefinite time.

Lieutenant-colonel Enver Bey, who has been with the army at Chataldja, is reported to have arrived in the city and to have gone directly to the Sublime Porte for long interviews with the Grand Vizier and the Minister of the Interior.

The Government is planning to have a new census of the city taken. The city has been divided into 300 zones and special inspectors, assisted by the mouktars and imams, are to have charge of the work of gathering the statistics. The census is to be completed within a month.

Under the heading "An Example for the Moslem World from the Activity of the Christian world" the *Ijtihad* gives a brief account of the work of the Young Men's Christian Association and says that this organization is about to open branches in Turkey to raise up a strong and enlightened class of Turks, and for this purpose it has been decided to spend \$75,000 on a building in Constantinople.

THE PROVINCES.

In the April number of *Al-Kulliyeh*, Dr. Harvey Porter has an excellent article on the coins of Syria and Palestine in the Greek period, with illustrations of fifteen such coins.

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From Basra comes the report that the entire garrison at El Katif has gone to the island of Baherin in the Persian Gulf, and that, after little resistance, the province of El Hasa surrendered to the Arab Chief Ben Saoud.

Recent telegrams from Bitlis and Sert report the slaughter of eleven Armenians by Kourdish robbers. Among the slain was an Armenian priest. An unusually large number of Armenians are emigrating to America this year.

NOTES.

Rev. Charles T. Riggs, editor of THE ORIENT, sailed by Khedival steamer on Tuesday of last week for Smyrna, where he will be joined by Rev. Xenophon P. Moschou, Ph.D., of the Greek Evangelical Church of Smyrna. Together they will proceed to Athens on business connected with the Evangelical Communities of Athens and the Piraeus. Mr. Riggs expects to be absent from the city for ten days or two weeks.

Miss Mary D. Uline of Bitlis arrived in the Capital early last Tuesday morning from Beirut whither she had gone with the late Miss Mary A. C. Ely. Miss Uline expects to spend several days in the city, while on her return to Bitlis she will visit Tiflis, Erzroom and attend the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Turkey Mission at Van in July.

Mr. J. E. Connor, American Consul at St. Petersburg, arrived in the city on Monday of last week for a ten day's visit. Mr. Connor expects to be absent from St. Petersburg for a two months' trip through South-eastern Europe.

Schubert's Mass was repeated, with piano accompaniment, on Sunday afternoon at the Robert College Chapel. Many who were unable to attend the former evening concert were thus given an opportunity such is rarely offered to music lovers of the city, while not a few availed themselves of the privilege of hearing the Mass a second time.

OTHER LANDS.

The Mikado is suffering from an attack of pneumonia.

On Saturday of last week occurred the marriage of Princess Victoria Louise, daughter of the Emperor of Germany, to Prince Ernest Augustus of Cumberland.

Japan's reception of the reply of the United States to the Japanese protest against the California Land Legislation would seem to remove all danger of an immediate conflict between the two nations.

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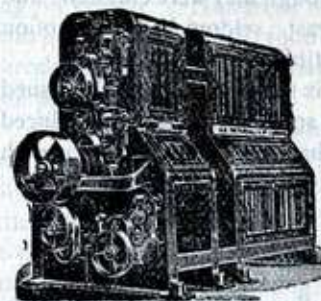
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