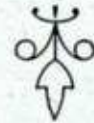




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Bardezağ  
Orphanage  
Report,  
1904.

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“Don't refuse me again!”

c/o Herr PFARRER NINCK,  
WINTERTHUR,  
SWITZERLAND,

*July 11th, 1904.*

SINCE it is uninterrupted sunshine that makes the desert we must surely be thankful for the storms which bring freshness and fertility, blossom and fruit. Last summer we were rejoicing in an abundance of sunshine on our work, *e.g.*, the building of the new Orphanage Home without accident, and the Funds coming in nobly from many kind friends in other lands, so that we are able to end this year, thank God, with a fine serviceable building and no debt. Through this summer we hope to find a little money to put up a few needful cupboards, a ceiling, and bars



to prevent the children falling out of the upper windows, but apart from these small deficiencies the new Home may be said to be in fine working order. The clean, airy rooms, the good walls—such a contrast to the rotten boards of our old shanty—the neat front with its little plots of roses and other flowers which our boys take so much pride in caring for, are a constant cause of gratitude to our heavenly Father; and the orphans have a tenfold joy and pride because there is so much of their own labour built into it. The elder boys toiled with the workmen from early morn till night, earning good wages, which they brought without exception and handed over to the Orphanage, as can be seen by our Financial Statement. The wee boys carried tiles, pounded bricks, and helped in proportion to their powers. Many inner fittings are the result of the boys' ingenuity, and the steps leading to the front door are formed of pebbles which they gathered from the streams and bedded in mortar. To every boy it is "*Our Home*," and many lessons of usefulness and independence have been thus implanted in their young minds.

That we may become less of a burden on the generosity of outside friends, especially in view of the terrible scenes which are even now preparing fresh candidates for the Orphanages of the Interior, we have largely developed our silk-worm industry this year, and hope that God will grant us such success that we may in this way earn the support of two orphans for a year. Having a clean, airy place (we devoted the upper dormitory to the purpose), favorable to the best culture, we put our name on the Government books for raising seed and not silk. This necessitated the strictest adherence to rules, scrupulous cleanliness in every particular, and much extra work, which was cheerfully undertaken by the two faithful House-mothers in addition to their regular work, which of course we lightened as we were able.

The Inspector visited us constantly, and, up to the end of June, professed himself quite satisfied. No idea of the labour involved can be formed by the uninitiated. A boy in the Senior Class was appointed, with five willing, obedient boys under him, to gather food for our thousands of new "Orphans;" and owing to our repeated digging of the garden last year our young mulberry trees had made splendid growth. Food is a serious consideration, since, although at first a small handful of leaves chopped very fine sufficed for our brood, in the last week they eat about 300 lbs. of leaves per day, at a cost of perhaps 12s.

The employment of these boys was an experiment, but proved a successful one. They found the work more interesting than sitting in the class-room, so they would learn their lessons quickly and get permission to come out to work, nearly the whole of their playtime also being willingly sacrificed to the needs of their crawling charges. There is no time now to enlarge on this interesting culture, what concerns us for the moment is that the boys faithfully fulfilled their arduous task and showed a manliness and acceptance of responsibility in advance of other years, and



that at the time of our leaving the village the cocoons were mostly spun, and there was every prospect of their being accepted by the Inspector—the end for which we have toiled and prayed through so many strenuous weeks.

It is possible that in the future this industry may be still further developed for the maintenance of the Home.

But we must share with you our clouds as well as our sunshine.

School re-opened in September with one case of dysentery amongst the permanent orphans. From that time on for three months we were never free from illness, at times having even four sick rooms in use at once, for various ailments, such as measles, mumps, skin-diseases, &c. Seeing we had no one specially for the care of the sick this came rather heavy, but we are thankful to say that in time all were perfectly recovered, although in the village little ones were dying two or three per day until Government ordered the closing of all schools. After this influenza visited us and laid low all the teachers except one of our last year's graduates who taught this whole year without salary as a token of gratitude for his seven years' life in the Orphanage. His work was thorough and unflagging; as an orphan he appreciated the difficulties that daily met us, and considered the interests of the Orphanage as of his own home. He took charge of house-work and of the boys' sports in a way that a stranger is not apt to do. At the same time, he was very young for the post, only 17 years old, and his authority was not maintained without a few struggles. There is much to be said in favour of the elder boys thus repaying some of their debt, and they can be an immense help; there are, however special difficulties connected with having such young teachers.

Another young teacher grew so depressed after influenza that we were forced to give him a month's vacation. He returned, but his work was never up to the mark, and he finally took his departure without warning at Easter. As the Matron went off that same week to secure a permanent home by matrimony, we felt rather deserted. Again our boy Haroutune came to the fore and filled each gap as needed, until we secured the temporary services of a Master who taught during the last six weeks.

We had also a most willing, if not so efficient a helper, in a girl from the Brousa Orphanage. As that Home is being closed, Hripsimé came to us as a mother's help, having charge of the Infants' dormitory, seeing the little ones clean and tidy, superintending their house-work and so forth. In our need she also gave them lessons although it was not her forte. She is a splendid example of Swiss training (the Brousa Orphanage is under Swiss ladies), so steady and conscientious in everything, and we trust will be more valuable as she gains experience in ruling, and exerting a softening, refining influence on our little fellows.

With all these difficulties, in addition to lack of water owing to an exceptionally dry season, and other trials incident to the training of so many boys, it is not surprising that we felt we had



lived through enough for one year, and closing school a week early sent the boys off at 3 a.m. one June morning to catch the Constantinople train. Even then one of them contrived to sprain his ankle before he reached the boat; mercifully that was the last mishap.

May next year open more favourably!

There remain only 13 absolutely homeless boys for the summer. We are so glad of the time for cleaning, white-washing and resting that we send away all for whom it is in any way possible, even giving bread money to the most destitute whilst they are with their widowed mothers.

One more cheering instance is worthy of mention. Another of our orphans who last year graduated from the High School, obtained a post as teacher in a village school near Brousa, where, amidst peculiar difficulties, he held a steady, faithful course. He gave universal satisfaction by his successful teaching and discipline, he directed the sports of his pupils, boys and girls, and stirred in them a new interest in natural history, bringing back a fine collection of birds' eggs to Mr. Robert Chambers. His preaching and leading the services in the little Protestant Church in the absence of the Pastor was an unhoped-for joy, as Nishan had been extremely reserved on religious subjects whilst with us. But God has His own way of training His children, and He has greatly developed Nishan's character during the past 12 months. The boy says, so earnestly, that he has striven by his conduct to maintain the honour of our School, and he has succeeded; he has also tasted the pleasure of passing on to others some of the sound teaching he had himself enjoyed.

When discussing the aim of his future, Nishan said, "There is one thing that strongs my faith. I see that Dr. Chambers was *born* for the Armenians, and then I think 'for whom was I born'?" May God indeed shew him for what purpose he was given life, and enable him to follow his Master's steps in living for others!

In that phrase Nishan embodied the conviction of most about us; "Dr. Chambers was born for the Armenians." However much his friends may desire to save him for his own comfort or their enjoyment, his life is continually sacrificed for this distressed nation, never a thought of self intruding to hinder his constant work. To quote his words written to another—"Men cannot measure the toil, appreciate the spirit, or determine the reward. God's giving is rich giving, and He will repay every sacrifice."

Terribly has Dr. Chambers been missed this year; his un-failing sympathy and interest in details great or small, his calm, clear judgment, his ready action. Many a time have we all cried out in our difficulties, "If only he were here!" Had we not appreciated his value before we most certainly have learned it now. We are so thankful to know that he and Mrs. Chambers are getting a real rest with their son in Vancouver, and talk of returning in the course of next year to their large, waiting family. God grant them a happy return in health and Spiritual power!



Dr. Chambers' work is being carried on by the Rev. H. Allen, whose wonderful command of the Armenian language has excited general admiration. He has exhibited a most kindly feeling towards the Orphanage, but no new friend can take the place of the old, especially under the peculiar trials of this year. Mr. Allen has kindly promised a closer supervision next year, as it has been deemed needful for me to take a longer rest than the summer holiday, even if one can refrain from passing it in begging for funds. I am quite conscious that the past strain has told, and that my work this year has been by no means of the best. We must leave it in His hands "Who knoweth our frame," Who "pitieth His children," and can over-rule our failures to carry out His good will.

The first step has been to come with Miss Powers, a most devoted, life-long missionary from Brousa, to this Paradise of hospitality and Christian kindness, where Pastor and Madame Ninck, with their five lovely, sunny-hearted children, make one feel at peace with all the world. But even in this leafy shade, and amidst the sweet scents and sounds of Paradise sordid cares obtrude themselves, and I must present to you our Balance Sheet for the past year. The new building is free of debt, and we will wait for cupboards and so forth until the money is forthcoming. It is interesting to see how practical Native sympathy has been in providing us with our Home.

The Financial Statement shows the want of Dr. Chambers' controlling hand, but accounts in Turkey are extremely confusing to a novice, and the purchases and sales of building material made extra complications this year. Still, every para has been entered and accounted for in the Mission books, which, however, are too far from "Paradise" for reference. Evidently some entries have been made under ordinary expenses which do not strictly belong under that heading, this must partly account for our average expenditure having risen to 73 piastres per mens. per boy. Some individual presents for orphans have been sent by their kind-hearted supporters in far-off lands, *e.g.*, a parcel of pictures and comforts for Krikor from a C.E. Society in America; dissecting instruments for Haroutune from Madame Schölly. Our boys made a special Self-denial Collection for the little bare-footed waif whom we took in out of the snow at Christmas. But I must not trespass on your patience—God will hear the prayer of our little ones, "Bless our kind ones and grant them to go on helping us." See that you do not weary of asking Him to give His Holy Spirit to the orphans for whom you care.

Yours gratefully, in His service,

SOPHIA NEWNHAM.



# ORPHANAGE CURRENT ACCOUNT.

JULY, 1903—JULY, 1904.

Debit.	Ps.	Credit.	Ps.
Teachers' Salaries ... ..	11,857	Native Contributions ... ..	1,017
Expenses... ..	57,387	Per Miss Wheeler ... ..	23,484
		Dr. and Mrs. Holder ... ..	568
		"Friends of Armenia" ... ..	1,214
		Swiss Society ... ..	21,972
		Russia, Pastor Unruh... ..	864
		Per S. N. England ... ..	1,299
		Per Mrs. Hardin, Mt. Lebanon ... ..	800
		High School Benevolent ... ..	190
		Miss Barker ... ..	109
		Rev. R. Frew ... ..	60
Balance ... ..	1,943	Boys' Payments... ..	19,610
	<u>Ps. 71,187</u>		<u>Ps. 71,187</u>

## NEW BUILDING ACCOUNT.

£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Miss Edgar ... 0 10 6	Mrs. Hull & Friend 0 15 0	Dr. Conway ... 0 5 0
Mrs. Medland ... 2 0 0	Mrs. Walker ... 5 0 0	Mr. & Miss Foster 2 2 0
Miss Jennings ... 0 10 0	Miss Wills ... 1 0 0	Miss Andrews ... 0 2 6
Miss Hickes ... 5 5 0	A Friend ... 0 2 6	Mrs. S. Cumming... 3 0 0
Mrs. Norman's	Miss Greaves ... 0 10 0	In Mem., R. E. N. 1 0 0
Drawing-Room	Mrs. Crisp... .. 0 2 6	Miss Tolley ... 0 10 6
Meeting ... 3 19 0	Joseph Storrs Fry 2 0 0	Miss Moulson ... 1 0 0
Mrs. Bliss ... .. 5 0 0	Mrs. Cecil Pugh... 1 0 0	Anon. ... .. 0 5 0
E. L. N. ... .. 2 0 0	Mrs. Newnham ... 3 0 0	Miss Barkworth ... 1 0 0
Mr. and Mrs. H. S.	Miss Edith	Mrs. Flemming ... 5 0 0
Newnham ... 2 0 0	Newnham ... 1 0 0	Mrs. Philip
Per Mrs. Cave ... 1 0 0	Miss Cowan ... 1 0 0	Newnham ... 1 0 0
Mme. Lancia ... 2 2 0	Mrs. E. A. Foster 1 0 0	From last year
Miss Crichton ... 1 5 0	Per Mrs. Basil Cress 1 14 6	about ... ..340 0 0
Miss Storrs ... 0 2 0	Mrs. Baedekr ... 0 10 0	
M. A. N. ... .. 10 0 0	Misses Wolston ... 0 10 0	<u>£410 13 0</u>
Mrs. Goldie ... 1 0 0	Mrs. Turberville... 0 10 0	

## TURKISH MONEY.

Ps.	Ps.	Ps.
Miss Farnham & Mrs. Bowen for Ceiling 6,24	Brousa Friends ... 30	Haroutune 70, Nishan 40 ... .. 1,10
Legacy, Mirikelian Effendi ... .. 20,00	Brousa Orphan Girls 16	Sale of Cocoons ... 11,70
Mme. G. Godet and per Mlle. Maillefer ... 16,77	Miss Clarke ... .. 40	Sale of Silk Machine 10,00
Miss Lathrop ... .. 2,73	Per Mrs. Condayian ... 1,83	Scutari College ... 5,00
Per A. B. F. M. ... 2,00	Orphanage Box ... 1,30	Y. M. C. A., Constantinople ... .. 2,31
Chicago Friends ... 45	Boys' Wages Given... 4,72	
Nairn, Canada ... 3,87	Book-binding ... .. 2,10	<u>Ps. 114,37</u>
Per Mrs. Washburn... 19,60	Sale of Photos and Shaving ... .. 87	
	Sale of Rags ... .. 92	

*This Account is closed exactly balanced; any needful fittings will now be by special gift.*