

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS TO ITS CONSTITUENCY

AFTER the evacuation of Cilicia, the majority of the Armenians from Cilicia became established in Aleppo. Here they found themselves without church or school. Accordingly a few men and women from the Evangelical community formed a committee and opened a school, out of which have grown schools housed to-day in five or six different buildings and attended by more than a thousand pupils from this and other communities. When, then, Miss Foreman came from Aintab in '22, and opened a continuation of the Girls' Seminary at Aintab, she found pupils already gathered. And when Dr. and Mrs. Merrill returned from America in 1924, it was to take charge of a Boys' High School which had been organized in 1923, under the care of the Board of Managers of Central Turkey College. This High School has been maintained until the present, not for itself alone, but with a view to the ultimate re-opening of the College in Aleppo. The High School is conducting this year (1927-28) the work of the pre-war sophomore class of the College.

What about the College?

The question may arise, "Why has not the College itself been re-established in Aleppo?" The answer is that the Board of Trustees in America has not felt warranted, hitherto, in taking this step. Now, however, after long correspondence, the Trustees have decided to turn over the entire management of the affairs of the College to the Board of Managers in Syria, leaving them

free to develop the College according to their own best wisdom and ability. The Board of Managers consists of six native and four foreign members, the present members being:

Dr. A. A. Altounyan, Dr. A. H. Djebedjian,
Rev. G. H. Haroutunian, Rev. J. C. Martin, D. D.,
Dr. K. Sarkissyan, Rev. L. M. Witherspoon,
Rev. J. K. Lyman, Rev. A. A. Shiradjian,
Dr. V. Poladian, Rev. H. H. Riggs.

The Decision of the Board of Managers.

In view of this decision of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Managers has decided to adopt for the College a new name: ALEPPO COLLEGE, and to apply to the government of Syria for recognition under this name. A very eligible site for the College has been found near the city. This site can be secured for about two thousand dollars.

Money Needed to Balance This Year's Budget.

The Board of Managers is responsible, as has been indicated, for the annual budget of the Boys' High School. The balancing of this budget will be difficult this year, if fresh help does not reach us. For the rent of school buildings alone we are obliged to pay over \$1200, and certain extra expenditures have seemed unavoidable. On the other hand, student payments, if they reach our expectations, will meet only one-fourth of our expenses, and the Directors of the Apostolic Institute have been able to give us only \$750., instead of the grant of \$1500. made in previous years. It seems, now, that approximately fifteen hundred dollars in new gifts will be needed, to carry out our plans for the current school year, without debt.

Whence This Courage?

"How can you have courage, in the face of these financial uncertainties, to begin a college in Aleppo and to undertake such responsibility?" The answer is that *necessity compels us.*

Three Reasons Why.

1) There are now 100,000 Armenians settled in Syria. Aleppo, a city of 300,000, is their center. In Aleppo there are a number of high schools. But there is not another, besides the present Boys' High School, where instruction is based on evangelical principles. 2) Thinking only of the ten thousand evangelical Christians among the Armenians in Syria, if they are to persevere and to remain faithful to their calling, they are obliged to provide evangelical secondary training for their children. And if they are to maintain a high reputation, and to be served, as formerly, in their churches and schools and in community affairs by men of thorough preparation, a college like the old College at Aintab is for them a necessity. 3) The needs and desires of other religious and racial groups are to be considered, and the possible service of the College to all sections of the population in Aleppo and North Syria. We confidently hope that, as in the past, many students from different communities and races will benefit together from the College, as soon as it has re-commenced its work.

What Financial Basis is there for a College?

"What possibility is there of success in this undertaking?" The old invested funds of the College will continue to be cared for by the Board of Trustees, and the income will be sent to us each year from America. There will be, also, the payments of students for tuition. Yet these two sources will provide a sum equal to only about one-half of the present budget of the Boys' High School.

To all Friends of the College, therefore, we Appeal for Help.

Why may we not expect that alumni of the College, other compatriots, other churches, other friends will stand ready to help this new undertaking for the common good? Our fathers and many friends of different races and nationalities prayed and

worked and gave, and so the first College came into being. Our desire must be like theirs, and we, like them, must pray and work and give, according to our ability. Every sacrifice is to be made for our beloved College, to preserve the fruits of our fathers' labors and to establish the College again in its important work.

For the Board of Managers,
A. H. DJEBEDJIAN, Secretary.

REMITTANCES to help meet the 1927-8 Budget of the Boys' High School may be sent directly to the Treasurer of the Board of Managers, J. E. Merrill, P. O. Box 287, Aleppo, Syria, by draft on London, or by personal cheque on your local bank, if more convenient.