

# The Orient.

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## MEETINGS WITH G. SHERWOOD EDDY.

Mr. Eddy arrived in Constantinople Friday, March 1st, in the afternoon. The first meeting was held the same evening in the Mousalla English School hall in Stamboul.

In spite of the illuminations and excitement due to the holiday, every seat in the hall was filled. The audience was composed almost entirely of students and young men.

Mr. Eddy in his clear, sympathetic, convincing manner, spoke to the hearts of the men on the subject "Science and Religion." He showed how great laws of nature had been discovered and then made to serve the purposes of men by applying to facts and theories the scientific method. In the same way continents have been discovered and all great inventions made and perfected.

So said the speaker ought thoughtful men to apply to the facts of religion the same scientific common sense principles which they apply to the other facts of life.

If attention is any criterion, Mr. Eddy had the interest of his audience from start to finish. At the second meeting of this series, held on Sunday evening, although many additional chairs had been brought, every place was filled and all standing room taken. As Mr. Eddy discussed the meaning of life and the terrible fact of sin, the interest and responsiveness of the audience was even greater than at the first meeting.

The interest was not confined to the regular attendants at such meetings, for the 100 or 150 Moslem guests seemed equally attentive and responsive.

On Saturday evening and Sunday morning Mr. Eddy spoke at the Girls' College and on Sunday afternoon to a large audience at the Evangelical Armenian Church in Pera.

All who have heard Mr. Eddy agree that his visit here as in other cities is proving a great blessing and inspiration.

D. A. DAVIS.

## DEATH OF MISS FENSHAM.

Florence A. Fensham was born in East Douglass, Mass., in 1861, but while she was still a child the family removed to Albany, New York, and it was here that her girlhood was passed. Upon graduating from High School, her desire was to enter Radcliffe College but a call to missionary work abroad which came to her through Dr. Jessup of Beirut caused her to sacrifice her course that she might respond to it.

She went to Constantinople in the fall of 1883 and entered into the work there with great enthusiasm. When in 1891 the Home School became the American College for Girls, Miss Fensham was made Dean and given the department of Biblical Literature and Comparative Religion. Always an earnest student, she spent her first furlough year in study at Cornell and Harvard Universities and later had one semester in Cambridge University, England, and a year in the University of Edinburgh and Mansfield College, Oxford.

On coming to America in 1899 she entered the Chicago Theological Seminary and three years later received from that institution the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, being the first woman to receive this honor. During her studies here she not only held the "high honor scholarship", equivalent to the attainment of 95 per cent in all her studies, but exerted a social influence so great that one of her teachers declared it was not too much to say that she changed the whole atmosphere of the Seminary. Similar testimony is borne to her strong and elevating influence over the American colony of students at Oxford.

Another period of work as Dean and Chaplain of the Girls' College in Constantinople followed, and then one of work in the Chicago Commons, where she was a "mother teacher" to the needy of many nationalities, especially the Armenians who just then were seeking a refuge from terrible oppression and massacres in Turkey.

Her last great contribution to the cause of the Kingdom was through the Congregational Training School for women, now affiliated with the Chicago Theological Seminary. I

was her vision and her indomitable energy and courage which brought this school into being and she has stamped upon it indelibly her own high standard of efficiency and devoted service, while her gracious personality has made of the school residence a veritable home.

In the midst of her arduous labors for the school, she has found time to serve on the Executive Committee of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior, to respond to many calls as a speaker for missions, and as an interpreter of the Bible, to belong to the Chicago Woman's League and to organize a society for pastor's assistants.

Her death came very suddenly after an evening spent with her girls and others at an inter-Seminary banquet held at Maywood, February 15th. The funeral services occurred in Carpenter Chapel of the Chicago Seminary, Sunday afternoon, Feb. 18th, where Dr. Graham Taylor, Dr. William T. McElveen of Evanston, and President O. S. Davis paid her very high tribute as a student, an educator, a missionary, a friend, and an administrator. The way in which she made her life in the Orient contribute to her service here and her faithfulness to very high standards as student and teacher—her absolute refusal to condescend to anything slovenly in scholarship or teaching—were among the many points in her character brought out vividly.

Chicago, Feb. 19, 1912.

Mrs. L. O. LEE.

### THE DRUZES.

By the late Rev. GEORGE E. POST, M. D., LL.D.

In the year 386 of the Hejirah (996 A.D.) el-Hakim became Fatimate Caliph of Egypt. He was killed in 414 (1023 A.D.), after a reign of 28 years. In the year 407 of the Hejirah (1016 A.D.) he claimed divinity, and was styled el-Hakim-biamrillah or el-Hakim-biamrihi, he who rules by the command of God, and preached a new religion, founded on the idea of the unity of the godhead, manifested in himself. He was an adept in astrology, the horoscope and talismans. He was fickle in his opinions sometimes giving an order, then revoking it; at one time building, then tearing down; at one time setting free and at another imprisoning, etc. He also interfered with trivial matters as, for example, at one time forbidding the sale of Corchorus, in the streets of Egypt, and at another interdicting the sale of oil, or forbidding the sale of scaled fish. Sometimes he directed that women should not leave their houses and at others that they should not lean out of the window. He also ordered the shoemakers not to make shoes for them, and that all the windows in the town should be nailed up. Subsequently he allowed all that he had ordered not to be done. Sometimes he ordered schools to be built, and sheikhs to be appointed in them, to instruct the students who gathered about them. Presently he ordered these schools to be razed and the sheikhs to be killed, and many such things. Sometimes he mounted his horse without having put on a turban, but having a kerchief about his head. He also rode a white ass, called The Moon, of which he said that wherever he paw-

ed the earth with his forefoot he discovered a treasure. While it is generally believed that he was murdered, his adherents say that he went out alone in the night to the Blue Tank, the place known as Kasabat-Helwan, and ascended thence to heaven. They expect him to reappear. They called him Maula (Master) and themselves Muwahhidin (Unitarians), because the Druzes believe that he has no partner. The true story is that on a certain day he went out as was his custom, on his white ass, in the direction of the Blue Tank, when some Moslems who were in ambush sprang upon him, killed him, threw him into a pit, and left his cloak by his donkey, and then returned to Cairo and told the Moslems what had happened. Then some of the followers of el-Hakim-biamrihi, who were termed Batimiyeh (Intimates) went after him and found only his cloak and ass, which led them to suppose that he had ascended.

His earliest convert was Isma'il-ed Darazi, who was so persecuted that he fled to Lebanon, and converted large numbers to the new faith, about 410 Hejirah (1019 A. D.) Another convert in Cairo was el-Hamzi, who was more successful in Egypt, and gathered numerous adherents to his master's religion about six years before the latter's death. Although the Druze sect owes its name to Darazi, he was branded by Hamzi as a heretic, and the Druzes curse his name. Another apostle, Moktana Baba-ed-Din was sent to Syria, and preached the codified doctrines of the Druze faith. It is said that some Druzes remain in and about Cairo, who still hold to their faith, while outwardly professing Islam.

The Druzes of Syria are found in Hauran, Anti-Lebanon, Lebanon, Safed, Aleppo, and Mount Carmel. They are not a distinct race, the converts having been made from the various races living in these widely separated regions. Some have fancifully regarded them as descendants of the Crusaders others as of Arabic origin. But no one has ever been able to prove any theory of racial origin of this most singular sect. After the second captivity of Israel, Lebanon as well as Samaria was repopled by Esar-Haddon by Kuthites and Gordyans, the ancestors of the Kurds. After them the Mardi from the neighborhood of the Caspian settled there. Later still some of the Beni-Himyar from near Aleppo. Then Crusaders from Europe, and Mutawalies and Bedawin. The Druzes made converts from all these nationalities, and therefore are mixed in blood.

Their number was computed in 1870 by Dr. Wortabet at 50,000. Of these there were in Mount Lebanon 27,000, Hasbeya, Rasheya, and Merj 'Ayun 7,000, el-Billan, Damascus, etc. 4,000, el-Hauran 8,000, Mountains of Safed and Acre 1,500, between Antioch and Aleppo 2,000, Beirût 500. This number has been augmented by a considerable growth from which emigration has subtracted far less than from the Christian population of the Lebanon.

As the Druzes almost from their origin were subjected to severe persecution and repression, they soon ceased to attempt proselytism and asserted that the door of salvation was closed by the death of el-Hakim-biamrihi, and that those who were then Druzes were all who could ever enter the sect and that none

who were Druzes could ever leave it. They veiled their doctrines in mystery, and practiced their worship in secret. Little was known of their system until the time when Ibrahim Pasha subdued them at Shib'ah in 1837, and obtained possession of their Kihalweh at el-Bauyadah near Hasbeiya, where many of their sacred books were stored. These books found their way into the hands of European scholars, and from them have been extracted as much system as is possible to formulate from their wild, incoherent jargon. Among these books is the Kitab el-Nukat wed-Dawair which was published in 1902. Others are "The Treatise on the Manifestation of Truths", "The Treatise on the Cause of Causes", "The Course of Time". They number in all six volumes, containing 111 treatises. Dr. Wortabet, who has made a deep study of these books, believes that the Druze system is derived from that of the Batemites or mystics of the ninth century, and other similar sects, who had founded theirs on Zoroastrian philosophy.

The Druzes believe in an eternal, supreme being, on the unity of whom the Druzes chiefly insist. Hence they are called Unitarians. They deny that he has attributes, for to predicate anything of him that may be true wholly or in part of any creature is to impute frailty to and cast contempt on the Supreme Being. The believe in ten assumptions by God of human form, not real but phantomic, — a Divine Manifestation, to convince man of the existence of God. As to the Creation, God created first the Universal Mind. This being, having looked with complacency on the glorious light of which he was formed, sinned. God punished him by forming another being out of the Mind, contrary to his desire, called the Antagonist. This being was required by God to obey the Mind, but refused and so became a rebel against God. God then created the Universal Soul partly from the light of the Mind, partly from the darkness of the Antagonist. He then created from the three the Foundation or Companion, and again the Eternal Word. From the Word came the Preceder, and from the Preceder the Succeeder. The Mind, the Soul, the Word, the Preceder, and the Succeeder became the ministers of God. The Antagonist and the Foundation became ministers of Error.

Human souls were evolved with the word, the Preceder and the Succeeder, and are composed of mingled light and darkness, of good and evil. Their number is limited and unchangeable. Matter was evolved in a manner similar to the soul, and contains the two principles, heat and cold, which generate dryness and moisture. These properties caused matter to assume length, breadth, height and depth. Matter took the form of a sphere. The circle of Atlas was first formed at the center, then the Zodiac and the fixed stars, then the seven planets, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, the Sun, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon. By action of heat on the moon was formed the circle of fire. Then was formed the circle of air, then a segment of a circle which was water, then the earth on the surface of the water. The last creation was human bodies to be the tenements of the souls. They were created all at once. The Druzes deny the common parentage of mankind.

(To be concluded.)

### NOTES FROM KONIA.

We have taken a step forward in securing a permanent location for our work in the City. While the Hospital must needs be on the edge of the city, where we could get a sufficiently large piece of land, within our means, before the city grows out to it; for the Dispensary clinical work and for the Pharmacy, in order to have the latter pay well, we have felt that we must have our headquarters right in the heart of things, as public as possible.

We have found that there is hardly a better place than the house we have already rented and when it was offered to us, on fairly reasonable terms, we accepted and have completed the purchase. It was not known that the owner was willing to sell, and after the bargain was completed, he was offered a higher price, but we have the title secure.

A merchant wanted it for investment, Greek physicians wanted it, apparently to make it a hospital themselves, the Catholics wanted for a Girls' School, and the Greeks generally rubbed their eyes in surprise to find that the "people of yesterday" had got one of the best locations in the city.

The new Vali is an old acquaintance of ours. He is Mouammer Bey, formerly Mutesarrif of Cesarea, then Vali of Adana and now transferred here. Progressive and energetic, he is taking hold of affairs here with a will. Such an administration was greatly needed. He takes a special pleasure in city improvements and is planning to turn the hill of Alaeddin into a public park. If this is carried into execution, it will make a park whose location can not be rivalled in any city in the interior.

We have had a most delightful five days' visit from Dr. and Mrs. Francis E. Clark, who are visiting the cities that St. Paul has made famous. Thus we have begun to reap some of the privileges of being in Iconium; since it brought us such fellowship as this.

We visited the site of Lystra, in company with them, giving them incidentally such a taste of interior travel in Turkey as they had not had for 19 years. Lystra is six hours from here, by wagon, nearly due south. They had hoped to go also to Derbe, but that would have required another two days and their time did not allow of their taking this further trip.

Dr. Clark was afforded full opportunity to work here, giving a travel talk on Wednesday evening to the boys who gather in our house for singing and listening to lectures and addresses, where nearly seventy were present; and on Sunday morning, preaching to the Protestant congregation, in the afternoon, to the boys of the Apostolic Institute College, in English, and in the evening at the Gospel service in our larger hall.

Besides this, Mrs. Clark gave a C. E. talk to our nurses and employees. May we have many more such visitors.

Konia, Feb. 22, 1912.

WILLIAM S. DODD.

The 29th annual meeting of the International Missionary Union will be held at Clifton Springs May 29th to June 4th, 1912.

## THE WAR.

As time goes on, the folly of the Italians in their method of carrying on the war becomes increasingly evident. After assuring Europe of their intention to limit their operations to North Africa, their attack at Beirut was a confession of their inability to strike any decisive blow in Tripoli or Benghazi. And even so, it failed to accomplish any good, even from the Italian standpoint; for the expulsion of 6,000 or 7,000 Italian subjects from Syria will be a far heavier blow than the loss of a forty-year-old gunboat and a torpedo-boat. Italy's other blunder was the annexation bill, which passed her Senate unanimously and met with very feeble opposition in the Chamber. This bill makes any European intervention much harder, for no room is left for a compromise. Meanwhile the Italian troops are making desperate efforts to enter into the land they have "annexed", and fierce fighting is reported at Homs, with an Italian loss of about 100 killed and wounded. The total cost to Italy of the expedition thus far has been about £stg. 8,000,000.

## THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

Both the Committee of Union and Progress and the Opposition, or Party of Liberty and Agreement, are putting forth greater and greater energy in the election campaign, and the political thermometer rises rapidly. The greatest blow to the Unionist cause has been the decision of the *ülemas* at Salonica to go over in a body to the Opposition. It is impossible to tell as yet how wide an influence this action may have on the members of that powerful body in other parts of the country. On the other hand, there seems to have come about a definite agreement between the Unionists and the Armenian Tashnagists, by which the latter pledge themselves to support the Committee. The Government is striving to make a favorable impression in the European provinces by the visit of Hadji Adil Bey, Minister of the Interior, and his commission of reforms. This party is now at Üsküb, and proposes to go later into the country of the Malissores. In this city the campaign against the opposition press, which had already resulted in the condemnation of Tahir Haireddin Bey, Mr. Kosmides and Dr. Riza Tewfik Bey, is continued by the suppression of the *Ihdam*, which has reappeared as *Iktiham*, and the arrest and imprisonment of its editor, and by the expulsion from the country, not only of M. Ximenes, a worthless and unprincipled Spanish Jew, who formerly edited the *Bourse d'Orient*, but also of the proprietors and editors-in-chief of two of the leading Greek dailies, the *Proodos* and the *Neologos*. The latter move has considerably roused the Greeks of Greece, since the four expelled journalists, who were Greek subjects, have gone to Greece with their story. The municipal elections in the capital indicate a considerable Unionist majority in most sections; and while it is too early to prognosticate, present indications point to a victory for the Union and Prog-

ress Committee as a whole, though with greatly reduced majority.

Half of the three months allotted for the elections and for the assembling of the new Parliament has gone by, and yet a day has not been set for the choice even of the electors of the second degree. If the proclamation of the Sovereign is to be carried out, the Government must very soon designate the time for these elections.

## A TEACHERS' CONVENTION IN SIVAS.

The presence in Sivas for a few days of Michael Eff. Minassian made it possible to give to Armenian speaking teachers an unusual opportunity. Mr. Minassian very willingly put himself at our disposal for a series of addresses to teachers, followed by question boxes of great interest and usefulness.

The meetings were held under the auspices of the American Normal School but were cooperated in by the Gregorian School Committee whose hearty approval and arrangement of their school work made possible the attendance of practically all their teachers.

The three sessions on Monday and Tuesday afternoon were limited to those actually engaged in school work, members of school committees, teachers and the members of the two highest classes of the different high schools in the city, composing an audience of about 200 persons. The subjects of the different sessions were, Elementary Education, High School Education, School Discipline, rewards and punishments. On each subject Mr. Minassian delivered addresses following which for more than an hour very practical question boxes were held.

The last session of the Convention was a meeting with admission by ticket for teachers and parents interested in educational work. About six hundred people gathered in the largest hall in the city for an address by Prof. Minassian on the subject; "The Fundamental Conditions for the Reform of our Schools." The lecture, the product of careful study of present educational conditions in the Armenian schools of the Turkish Empire, was thorough and convincing. Recognizing the weak points in the Armenian character, it was yet heartily optimistic for the future.

Progress must be made however along the line of three absolutely essential reforms; 1. An appreciation of the need of and provision for proper teacher-training. 2. The guaranteeing of the dignity and permanency of the office of teacher by a larger remuneration. 3. And the preservation of the independence of the school by committing to properly trained and reliable principals the internal management of the schools.

One of the outcomes of this interesting series of meetings was a step nearer together on the part of those engaged in the education of Armenian children in Sivas. The subject of a general teachers' association was discussed and the need of a summer school for teachers emphasized. It seems very probable that such a summer school will be begun either this summer or a year later.

E. C. P.

### THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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### EDITORIAL.

A visit such as that of Mr. Sherwood Eddy to this city is a rare treat. If any of our readers here have failed thus far to secure the privilege of hearing him, they should certainly avail themselves of the remaining opportunities.

The passing away, within a few days of each other, of two women long connected with the work of the American Board in this country, both of whom had gone back to the home-land, draws especial attention to the high qualities of those whom the Board sends out here. Of Miss Hattie Seymour, or "Aunt Hattie," as she was affectionately called by all her associates, one fellow-worker writes: "The world loses one of the loveliest spirits that ever lived." Prof. Graham Taylor of Chicago, with whom Miss Fensham has been closely associated for the past six years, said of the latter: "She made everything she touched broader; that is one reason I admired her so." The American College for Girls is planning for a memorial service for Miss Fensham next Sunday. Harpout station and the Eastern Turkey Mission will doubtless take appropriate action with reference to their former associate. Persons of the calibre of these two are too big to be limited in their influence to any one place. On both sides of the Atlantic, these women were known and admired and loved. Their influence on the girls and women of Turkey no one can rightly appreciate in all its breadth and depth till the books are opened up yonder.

If *The Orient* does not devote pages to the relative merits of various prospective candidates for the presidency of the United States, this is partly because *The Orient* is a strictly non-partisan paper, and also because American politics constitute a field which this paper leaves to other journals. We may remark, however, that the average American citizen residing in the Ottoman Empire, be he Ambassador, architect, College president, missionary, dentist or business man, is as intensely patriotic and as absorbedly interested in the campaign of this summer and fall as the average citizen of Philadelphia or Kalamazoo. Our interest, moreover, is deepened and heightened by the conviction that the United States will elect a statesman who shall worthily represent her and uphold

her honor among the nations of the world. An American resident abroad naturally takes the wider world-view of such a contest, and prays that his country may entrust her helm to a statesman with a clear international outlook. Our next President will not only have the pleasing task of opening the Panama canal; he must also labor with incensed Russia, and mayhap enter into new relations with that newest Republic, — China.

Few persons outside the order have had such opportunities of knowing the Druzes as had the late Dr. George E. Post. Among his papers was found, after his death, one on that interesting and little-understood people, a portion of which we present in this issue. There is great divergence of authorities as to the number of Druzes, Dr. Julius Richter giving it as 83,000, Dr. H. H. Jessup as from 75,000 to 100,000, and Sir Edwin Pears as 225,000. Part of them are found in Hauran, the Roman Auranitis (see Ezek. 47:16, 18) and part in the Lebanon Mts., not far from Beirut. These latter united with the Moslems in the fearful massacre of Christians in 1860, as a result of which the Lebanon was by international intervention given exceptional privileges as a province and put under a Christian governor. Dr. H. H. Jessup says of them: — "This year, 1872 is said to be the year for the final crisis or cataclysm of the Druze religion. Their prophet, El Hakem, promised when he died to return again with an immense army from China, overthrow Islam and subject the earth to his sway. This year according to certain Druze authorities, is the year for his return. Some of them are saying, 'If El Hakem does not appear in 1872, the Druze religion is false, and we must cast about for another.'"

Those who are interested may find some further light on the Druzes in two illustrated articles by Rev. George C. Doolittle, in the *Missionary Review of the World* for August and September, 1906.

### THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

The Day of Prayer for Colleges, February 25th was celebrated at the American College for Girls, Dr. Patrick preaching the sermon in the morning, from the text: "God in whom we live and move and have our being."

Mr. Sherwood Eddy spent Saturday night, March 2nd., at the College and spoke that evening to the students on the "Awakening of Asia." Sunday morning he gave the College an uplifting and helpful talk on the "Meaning of Life."

It was a most full and good day, for in the evening Miss Saunders, one of the secretaries of the International Y. W. C. A., told of the branch of that society recently founded in Sophia, Bulgaria, and something of the Y. W. C. A. work in Servia and Roumania. Miss Saunders is living in Sophia, and the society there have a club room for the women students and help them in many most necessary ways.

On Wednesday Rev. R. F. Borough, Chaplain of the Crimean Memorial Church spoke to the College on the Cathedral of England and the Parish Church, from a point of view new to most of his audience, and especially interesting.

I. F. D.

### ANATOLIA COLLEGE NOTES.

This winter the game of Basket Ball has been introduced in Anatolia College, with the fitting up of the gymnasium room of North College. It has met with great favor among the students and already some good games have been played. Picked teams from the Greeks and Russians played a fast 27 to 20 game resulting in favor of the Greeks. The Junior class defeated the Sophomore class by the score of 31 to 17. The Sophomores had formerly beaten the Freshmen 12 to 11. Other games are to be played soon.

The Day of Prayer for students was marked by very helpful services throughout the day. Earnest and effective addresses were given at the morning session in Turkish by Dr. White, Prof. Xenides and Prof. Hagopian; and in the evening an English service was held with addresses by Mr. James and Rev. Ernest Pye.

The College circle and the whole city of Marsovan are very grateful for the visit of Prof. and Mrs. Michael Minassian of Erzroum. Prof. Minassian gave three addresses at the College, and one at the National School in town. His scientific knowledge coupled with his strong and earnest religious spirit and his own self-sacrificing example in laboring for his people made a great impression here. He made the prevailing agnosticism look like a poor, anaemic thing, and true faith like the strong man in the dew of his youth.

### SYRIAN PROTESTANT COLLEGE.

The fourth lecture in the faculty series was given by Dr. Adams on "The New Therapeutics." The Arabs say, "Every bird sings his own song." The lecturer is professor of therapeutics, and made clear why it is advisable to have half a dozen or more vaccines squirted in under one's skin. He also explained how the vaccines and serums are made, and how they act in preventing and in curing diseases.

Just before Mid-year examinations the students had their minds taken off the strain of the semi-annual tests by the Band and Orchestra concert in Assembly Hall. A large audience gave enthusiastic reception to most of the numbers on the program. Aside from Madam Armstrong, all the performers were college talent.

Dr. Dorman is convalescing from his attack of enteric fever. He says that the typhoid serum is as grateful as a drink of cold water on a hot day. It did him much good.

Mr F. Willoughby Smith, the American Vice Consul General, is in the hospital with a mild attack of small-pox. Mr. Hollis, the Consul General, is away on away on a short leave of absence.

W. B. A.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Kennedy have been appointed as missionaries of the A.B.C.F.M. and designated to the Western Turkey Mission. Their location will probably be decided at the Annual Meeting in April.

### FAVRE BOYS' HOME, BARDIZAG.

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast" and we are recalling our boys once more to try to make up a little lost ground by Easter. The last shock in the Boys' Home annals was the absence of a teacher because his wife and three children were down with measles, whereupon a tremendous south wind arose and carefully disseminated the germs in our building. Six boys went down in one day, we already had one convalescent from scarlet-fever, so we thought it wise to bow to circumstances and promptly send away as many of our younger boys as could find a home to which to flee. Three weeks have passed since our last case, so we trust we may be free from further outbreaks this year, please God. We are thankful to Him Who has brought us so far through a most difficult year without any fatality.

The famous Vartan's Day was celebrated in the Home by a series of tableaux vivants arranged by Alojjan Eff. who introduced them with a brief résumé of the history of Vartan, the boys in the tableaux being dressed as nearly as might be after the style of those days. It was well got up and provided a very pleasant vacation occupation.

S. N.

### RAILROADS IN NORTHERN ANATOLIA.

In a recent number of the *Jeune-Turc*, Dr. G. Pasdurmadjian, ex-deputy for Erzroum, pleads for the superior importance, from a commercial point of view, of railroads in northern Asia Minor over the Baghdad scheme. He quotes the late Minister of Public Works, Houlousi Bey, as sneeringly calling the partisans of this view "Chester-jis," but says that instead of retaliating by calling the advocates of the southern route "Huguenin-jis," he prefers to term them "Baghdad-jis," and cheerfully accepts for himself the term "Anatoliji." He then casts a little asparagus at Houlousi Bey, by saying that among the Baghdad legion are also Abdul Hamid, Arab Iz-zet, Tahsin Pasha, etc. He then says that the line from El Helif to Baghdad will cost the government Lt. 320,000 a year, and another Lt. 140,000 must go annually to the Adabazar-Bolou scheme, as kilometeric guarantees. In place of building thus 850 kilometres, Dr. Pasdurmadjian proposes to spend this Lt. 460,000 for the construction of 1764 kilometres, from Angora to Sivas, Samsoun to Sivas, Sivas to Erzroum, and Trebizond to Erzroum. On the basis of the cereal exports of the Sivas and Erzroum vilayets alone, he shows that this is perfectly possible, and will prove remunerative to the company that undertakes it. He shows that the three vilayets of Sivas, Erzroum and Trebizond which will be served by these railroads have an average population of 19 per square kilometre, while the vilayets of Baghdad and Mosoul, traversed by the other line, average but 6.3, and even of this scant population,  $\frac{1}{3}$  live far away from the proposed route of the railroad, and most of them are nomadic. He quotes figures to prove that while the average annual receipts of the govern-

ment from taxes on cereals in the provinces of Mosoul and Baghdad for the past five years has been Lt. 247,985, that from the provinces of Sivas, Trebizond and Erzroum has been Lt. 675,141. He points out that it is unnatural to try to deflect the export trade of the Mesopotamian plain to the port of Alexandretta while two great rivers furnish far cheaper transport for the produce of that plain; while, on the contrary, the northern provinces have no such natural means of transportation, and would use the railroads entirely, especially as these proposed northern lines follow the present trade routes to the only existing ports, — Samsoun and Trebizond.

## EMPIRE NEWS.

### THE CAPITAL.

Mr. Kosmides and Dr. Riza Tewfik, the imprisoned ex-deputies, share the same private room, and are reported as very comfortable. Friends are allowed to call on them at any time, and many are availing themselves of the opportunity. A delegation of students from Robert College visited them on Saturday last.

Saturday noon the feast of *Mevlud*, or the birthday of Mohammed, was observed with great pomp, His Majesty the Sultan going to the Noursretié Mosque at Top-hane. Many tourists from the *Arabic* availed themselves of this opportunity of seeing the Sultan.

The Sultan has conferred the grand cordon of the *Osmanieh* upon the Sheikh-ül-Islam, and that of the *Medjidieh* upon Aristidi Pasha, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture.

The annual ball of the Armenian educational society "Miatsial" resulted in the addition of some Lt. 2,500 to the society's funds. This society now has an annual income of over Lt. 8,000, and supports eighty-five schools besides a normal school, an industrial orphanage and two summer schools for teachers.

The Cunard S. S. Saxonia is due here Saturday morning next, and leaves on Monday for New York, via Piraeus, Fiume, Trieste and Italian ports.

Yesterday afternoon a large and appreciative audience at Robert College enjoyed a concert given by Florizel von Reuter, the celebrated violinist, and Mme. Anna Schabbel-Zoder, prima-donna of the Dresden Royal Opera, a soprano of unusual ability.

### THE PROVINCES.

According to official statistics from Jeddah, 84,789 pilgrims passed through that port the past year, going to Mecca.

The Sherif of Mecca announces the entire number of pilgrims at this last pilgrimage as between 250,000 and 300,000; but it is hard to imagine that so many more came by other routes.

"The Anatolian", Bulletin for the opening of the year, has just made its appearance at Marsovan, printed in English on the press of Nerso and Sirabian of that city.

Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Clark are at present on a trip to Ephesus, Laodicea, Hierapolis and Colossae, with Dr. and Mrs. Edward Riggs, having already visited with them Philadelphia, Sardis, Magnesia, Thyatira, Pergamum and Smyrna.

### NOTES.

Word has come of the death of Miss Hattie Seymour, for thirty-eight years missionary at Harpout, who passed away at Philadelphia, Pa., aged eighty. Miss Seymour sailed for Turkey March 2, 1867, and returned to America in the summer of 1904. Further notice of her life and work will appear next week.

Rev. Charles L. Carhart has resigned his position as librarian of the Syrian Protestant College, and will return to America at the close of the College year.

Professor J. R. Allen of Robert College has recently been elected President of the Michigan Engineering Society, and of the National American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

We learn with solicitude of the illness of Mrs. G. F. Herrick, in New York, from bronchial pneumonia. She has the best of care, and the case was reported Feb 16th by Dr. Herrick as progressing as satisfactorily as could be expected.

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### OTHER LANDS.

A \$10,000,000 fire devastated the city of Houston, Texas, on Feb. 21st. Providentially there was no loss of life. The greatest loss was in the destruction of 100,000 bales of cotton, valued at \$5,000,000. 2000 persons were made homeless.

Mr. Roosevelt has publicly declared himself in favor of all the policies, including the "recall", now advocated by the Progressive or insurgent wing of the Republican party, but which are opposed by President Taft.

The French aviator Védérines has established a new record by flying 200 kilometres in 1 hr. 15 min. 20 $\frac{1}{2}$  sec., or an average of 99 miles an hour.

A collision in the Hoosac Tunnel, Massachusetts, a fortnight ago, between a passenger train and a freight, resulted in the death of four persons. The wreck caught fire, but the heroic engineer backed the passenger train out and prevented further loss of life.

The wind in New York City broke all records on Washington's Birthday, blowing 96 miles an hour. Much damage was done, but no loss of life is reported. The storm was general east of the Mississippi.

Emin Bey, the new Turkish Ambassador to Persia, failed to receive on his landing at Enzeli the customary salute given to all new diplomatic representatives landing on Persian soil, the reason being that the Russians had seized the guns at that point. At last accounts the incensed ambassador was still at Resht, refusing to proceed to Teheran till his injured dignity has been repaired.

Unpaid troops in Peking and Tientsin mutinied and started burning and looting the Chinese and Tartar quarters, last Thursday. The disorders continue to be very serious, but foreign residences and legations are well guarded and apparently in no danger.

Between 800,000 and 1,000,000 coal miners in Great Britain are out on strike, and the business of the country is well-nigh paralyzed. The miners insist on a minimum wage which the mine-owners declare an impossible one.

Chancellor Mahlon Pitney of New Jersey has been appointed by President Taft a Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

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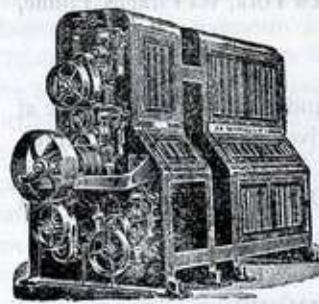
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