

The Awakening of the Older Nations.

The Recent Uprising in Arabia—Attacks on the Mecca Railway Indicate New Unrest—Fresh Hostility to Christians.

On Mt. Nebo, Land of Moab.—Trying to get to the inwardness of national currents, which may be seen only superficially in the cities, I have been over in Arabia. Here, on the spot where Moses was given his glimpse of a company of Bedouins, beneath whose black tents I expected to find the traditional Arabian hospitality, if received at all. Instead, I have met with scant courtesy, and that this has not been open hostility is due to the unsettled state of mind which does not know quite how to take the new strenuousness of the Young Turk government.

I did not know, at the moment, the risk I ran, for the ferment which I found was but the beginning of open, armed antagonism to the government on the part of the Arabs, who attacked the Hejaz railway, despoiled a station and a train, robbing the passengers, killing some of the crew, cutting the telegraph wires, and generally bidding defiance to the authorities. A party of Americans numbering nine, going over the same route as myself, and only two days later, were despoiled of all their money and possessions, and saved their lives almost by a miracle.

The Arabs are out in strength, and this seems to be more than a raid, indications pointing to a concerted movement among the tribes, against whom the government has since sent out an expedition of large proportions. The Arabs are still "out," and Constantinople seems to be afraid of a general rising of all the Bedouins in Arabia.

Anti-Christian, Anti-Progress. A key to the situation was given me on Mt. Nebo, when a handsome, black-bearded sheikh asked, naively, yet in no pleasant spirit, "Why don't all these Christians go to America, or somewhere else? We don't want them here." The man had not the remotest idea that the Christians held this region before Mohammed was born; he spoke out of the common Moslem ignorance and bigotry. The immediate cause of his remarks was the fact that Christians are now being enlisted in the Turkish army, which used to be entirely Islamic. He was also disturbed by the fact that the government is gathering conscripts from the Arabs, a hitherto unknown procedure.

With more reason than they themselves discern, the conservative elements in Turkey's population are laying the responsibility for all this recent awakening and progress upon the Christians. They think that somehow the infidel dogs are back of this disturbance of the good old days of inaction.

For constitutionally, or rather, theologically, the Moslem is a foe of progress. He is under the sway of a fatalism which says, "The old ways are best." Yet under his rule the civilization of this land has not only stood still, but it has decidedly retrograded. There is a deep element of truth in the charge of the faithful, that the progressive Young Turks are not good Moslems.

Changes for the Changeless Desert. The Arab has never been able to reason in the abstract or in the large; he thinks only in terms of the individual; therefore he has never created a civilization, although he has lived longer as a distinct people, than any other on earth. So he feels only vaguely the economic and social changes that are touching his land, along with the rest of the old world. He knows that he has had to discard, of late, his traditional spear, and even his flintlock musket, with the long barrel, is not equal to his present needs, so that he must buy an expensive rifle, for which it is not easy to secure cartridges. Likewise his tent must now be lighted with kerosene, rather than with a tallow dip, and his wife is suggesting other radical household improvements, all of which threaten the old order.

The noble Bedouin cannot grasp the larger meaning of the railway that runs down through the desert from Damascus to Medina, with Mecca for its ultimate goal; but he can see that it has deprived him of the profitable employment of transporting and preying upon the pilgrim caravans. The lack of a sale for camels, for instance, touches him. I met a string of more than one hundred and thirty camels, going south, unladen. The answer I got when I inquired the reason was, "The railroad has taken our business. Now, for most of the year, the animals eat out of our pockets, so we are taking them down to Egypt to sell them."

The Mecca Railway's Meaning. Everybody has heard of the Mecca railway—the Hejaz railway is the proper name—but comparatively few know its real significance. Advocated, if not originally suggested, by Emperor William, to his good friend Abdul Hamid, it is ostensibly a pious enterprise, to facilitate the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the birthplace of Mohammed and the place of the sacred Kaaba, or shrine; toward which all Moslems turn when they pray; and to Medina, the prophet's tomb. It is also of immense strategic value. It enables the government to convey

troops quickly to the scene of frequent disturbances by the turbulent Bedouins. Without it, the control of the Hejaz region was merely nominal, a government by treaty and bribes to the lawless tribes.

And Hejaz province, so little known to the world, and a mere desert waste, is the most important of the Turkish possessions. This anomaly is explained by the statement that the two holy cities of Islam, Mecca and Medina, are within the Hejaz. By virtue of the possession of these Turkey holds the Caliphate, and is regarded as the great Moslem power. Actually, Great Britain rules several times as many Moslems as Turkey. But it is Turkey's hold upon the followers of the prophet that enables this queerly assorted empire to hang together. If she loses the Hejaz, it will be shortly all up with her. None the less, there are many students of the situation, I myself among the number, who look to see Great Britain in control of all of Arabia before many years.

Two years ago the Hejaz railway was completed as far as Medina, amid great jubilation. It is doubtful if it will be pushed through to Mecca for a long time to come; at least, not until this question of the turbulent Bedouins is settled. For nearly its whole length the road runs through absolute desert. Special cars were built to carry water. The fear of the Arabs is so great that some of the passenger coaches are armored—and noisy, rattly boxes they are, not to speak of their filth. The schedule, and general management, would be counted farcical by American railroad men; even certain roads in the southern states are punctuality itself, as compared with this single train a day.

Most of the cars are third class, a first-class coach being run once a week. In the transportation of soldiers and pilgrims, freight cars are employed. I have seen sheep cars, with slat sides and two floors, filled with passengers, each of whom carries his own bedding and cooking arrangements with him. Still, this is a great improvement over the three-mile an hour camel caravan.

The High Tide of Pilgrims. It has been the government's practice to distribute enormous sums of money annually among the Bedouins,

The average Moslem is appallingly ignorant, generally unable to read or write, and sure, as they have told me, that the greatest city in the world is that wherein the Caliph has his throne, Constantinople. They verily believe—that is, those in interior Turkey—that the other nations are inconceivable. At Mecca they are learning otherwise, to the real peril of Turkey's power.

A Menace to Turkey's Power. This is one explanation of the somewhat reactionary policy which has been noted of late on the part of the Young Turks: They are deliberately trying to allay the feeling of distrust on the part of the more rigid Moslems. They see that they must conserve the one tie that makes them a nation, the religion of Islam. If the Bedouins, who never have thought much of the Turk's religion, follow the more orthodox Wahabis, in their crusade for an Islam truer to type, then indeed will hard times have dawned for Constantinople.

Even the new movement of troops, which sends men from Syria and Kurdistan and Asia Minor into European Turkey, and mans the Yemen barracks and expeditions into Arabia with Christians and Jews from Macedonia and the coast, is a factor in spreading discontent. All of these men, wittingly or not, are propagandists of the new order. It was a momentous day for civilization, and for Turkey, when the authorities decided to enlist followers of the Prince of Peace in the army of the prophet. (Copyright, 1911, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

TO THE NEW MARRIED MAN

Things He Should Practice to Learn How to Button a Dress in the Back.

You may not have noticed it, but they button in the back. Life is a discipline, and so you had better take time by the forelock and be prepared.

Purchase from some large dressmaking establishment one of those bulgy ladies who have neither head nor legs, known as dummies or dress-forms. Procure an old gown of your mother's or sister's, and each morning



Building the Hejaz Railroad.

as blackmail, to insure some degree of immunity for the pilgrim caravans. Not until this year did Constantinople feel strong enough to dispense with this disgraceful tribute. This is one reason for the present uprising of the Arabs. Another is that this is the first time the immemorial Damascus caravans have ceased altogether to go by camels. The road is in complete working order and news of its operation seems to have penetrated to the remotest corners of the Moslem world.

In consequence, there has been an influx of pilgrims beyond all precedent. It has completely swamped the railway's facilities. Pilgrims from the remote interior of Asia, after traveling months, have been obliged to wait days and weeks at Damascus, at the imminent risk of missing the ceremonies at Mecca, which, occurring but once a year, give the participant the right to the coveted title of "hajj." The best estimates obtainable, place the number of pilgrims who kept Balam this December at Mecca at more than a quarter of a million.

These pilgrims, who have always been regarded as a potent unifying factor in the Turkish empire, are also a means of spreading the world's unrest, even as they are the greatest single factor in the spread of cholera. They carry to the disintegrating news of the changes that have come to pass, so that an infidel Christian is proclaimed as the equal of a faithful follower of the prophet. They repeat the stories of the Young Turk's religious laxity, and of the serious consequences involved in the enrollment of Christians in that army which believers have regarded as the modern sword of the prophet.

The Most Cosmopolitan City on Earth. There are other grave consequences involved in this wonderful coming together of multitudes from many lands; for be it remembered that the most cosmopolitan city on earth is not New York or London or Paris, but this productless city of Mecca, in the sterile desert of Arabia. However negligible the pilgrims may be individually, and the trainmen treat them with utmost contempt, they are scattering seeds of national unrest. Ottoman Moslems hear how justice cannot be bought, but is freely given to high and low, in the Moslem ruled by Great Britain and the United States.

They exchange news of the world's progress and politics; and who can wonder if some well-informed pilgrim from India or Egypt puts forth the prophecy that soon alrshaps will be flying over the desert, setting at naught the remoteness which has been the Arab's immemorial defense?

practice fastening it down or up the back.

Set it in a rocking-chair, so that it will wiggle, and see whether you can get the right button or hook into the right buttonhole or eye. When you can do this, say once out of four times, have the buttons changed to a size just too large for the buttonholes, and begin all over again. If fairly clever at this, try a row of hooks and eyes invisible to the naked eye.

Then substitute for the metal eyes a few loops of thread, well lost in the meshes of a jungle of lace.

Do not use a strong light, for you will often have to perform in the twilight or early morning. Speed is requisite, and there should be a few pins and needles thrust into the gown at unexpected points.

At first you can use the language that comes naturally; but gradually this should be discontinued, and replaced by something less offensive. Count ten before you really express your feelings.

If you are able to pass through this course successfully, fastening the gown straight in three minutes without profanity, you may proceed to the next lesson.—Success Magazine.

The Light That Failed. Jones was at the theater, and behind him sat a lady with a child on her lap which was crying unceasingly.

Unable to stand it any longer, Jones turned smilingly to the lady and asked: "Has that infant of yours been christened yet, ma'am?"

"No, sir," replied the lady. "If I were you I would call it 'Good Idea,'" said Jones.

"And why 'Good Idea?'" said the lady, indignantly. "Because," said Jones, "it should be carried out."

It was Jones who had to be carried out.

Clothes Baskets. One of the largest imports from Russia into America is willow clothes baskets. The huge hamper so commonly in use are nearly all made in central Russia by peasants, although some come from the Danube valley, and there is considerable domestic manufacture. The importations last year exceeded one million dollars' worth.

Osier willow, from which they are made, has been worked by Russian peasants for centuries and was formerly the material from which they wove their houses. The method of cutting, peeling, twisting and manipulating the withes is handed down from father to son.

Can anything be more offensive than foul breath in man or woman? Who has not had the experience of a conversation with some one whose every word seemed to reek with corruption? Foul breath is only one symptom of a foul stomach. The work of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition is not being properly performed when the breath is tainted. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery will sweeten the breath by curing the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition. It removes accumulations of effete matter from the system, clears the machinery of the body from clogging waste, and increases the action

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