

The Awakening of the Older Nations.

"To Knowledge" Cry Which Progressive Party in Turkey Placards Highways—Governments Seek to Enhance Own Prestige by Schools.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

Beirut.—If a visitor in this city has sufficient curiosity to inquire the meaning of the Arabic inscriptions which he sees emblazoned upon the walls, he will be told that they are a motto of the Progressive Party—"To knowledge" and "Juryman, seek knowledge! Ignorance is shame."

That points straight to the underlying problem of awakened Turkey. However, farcical the present constitutional government may now appear, it must ultimately rest upon the education of the people. Not at the Sublime Porte and in the inner offices of the administration, but in the schools of the Empire, the destiny of Turkey is to be worked out. A constitutional government is simply impossible without popular education.

The prevailing idea of education in old Turkey was the memorizing of the Koran in four tones. The Koran is in Arabic and so even where memorized, utterly unintelligible to most of those who study it. These mosque schools were little else than hot-beds of bigotry and hatred of Christians. They effected no change in the economic conditions, nor did they broaden the intellectual horizon of their students. Traditions concerning the Prophet were of little help to the peasant in raising a living from the ill-treated soil of his land. One of the hopeful signs of the new day is that everybody seems to realize that education must have the right of way.

Religious Schools the Rule.

When the constitutional era was proclaimed there was at once a great flocking of children to existing schools, especially to those kept by foreigners. There has been some reaction in this respect, as the Moslems and Greeks and Armenians have, by means of threats and other pressure, compelled the parents to send children to their own schools however inferior these may be. The latter have been forced to improve their standing—erectibly, even at the cost of taking Christian teachers from the foreign schools. One office of the educational institutions maintained by foreigners in Turkey is to stimulate the native schools to emulation.

While the Young Turk leaders have designed a scheme of non-religious schools, yet practically the religious schools are the prevailing ones. The people here have such varying religious beliefs, and religious ideas hold such a supreme place in their thought, that nobody is satisfied with non-religious schools. The result is that the youth of Turkey is largely being educated in schools which put the church above the state. The empire is divided into great national groupings which are also religious classifications. Educationally, the result is chaos. The government is trying to find itself in this matter and to adapt itself to the educational conditions of the new order.

Diplomacy and Education.

In the great game for the possession of New Turkey, the school is freely used by foreign governments. France has heartily supported and championed the Jesuit colleges and primary schools for they teach the French language and French history and inculcate the French view point. They are visible reminders of French nationality and naturally enhance the prestige of that government which has strongly supported the rights of these schools with diplomatic representatives. These French schools maintained by the Jesuits are enormously successful.

Germany has tried, but with poorer success, to give the German language the right of way in Turkey, but the German tongue does not succeed in corresponding ratio with the other German triumphs here. So, along the Bagdad railway, the Germans are obliged to use the French language. Great Britain has belatedly come to realize the advantages of the educational agency in promoting her prestige. In Constantinople an English High School for Boys has been opened with a fine staff of teachers out from England. The education given is in the English language and along English lines. The teachers allow that they are promoting the British type of education as a matter of imperial policy. On this basis they are supported by the British press and British officials, and they look forward to a grant from the British government, just as an appropriation would be made for the maintenance of a Consulate.

Where America Leads.

It is only of recent years that the American government seems to have awakened to what may be called the diplomatic significance of the American schools in the Levant. Broadly speaking, America has been kept from being a negligible factor in the Turkish empire by the schools maintained here by the foreign missionary societies of the United States. These schools are admittedly the foremost in the land. As a result of all the nationalities to be found in Turkey, America is the most popular. Three out of four emigrants seek the shores of America.

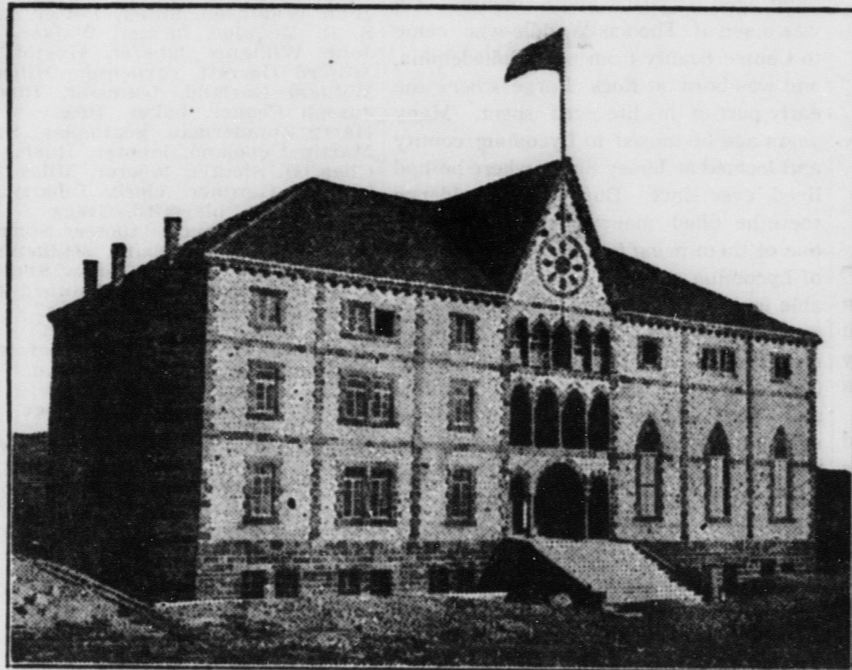
The entire cause of the English

She has a staff of upwards of a dozen American women teachers. The graduates, who from many nations, frequently go into teaching work. The college is an influential center of the new educational movement, and Moslem teachers are on close terms of friendliness and co-operation with the American faculty. It is no small matter that in this cosmopolitan institution Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Bulgarian, Syrian, Koordish and girls of other nationalities are learning American ideals of life. The international college for boys, the American school for girls, at Smyrna, and other notable institutions.

More than twenty-five of these American schools are maintained by missions in different part of the empire. Their teachers are American and an exceptionally large percentage of their pupils become in turn teachers of local schools or engage in religious work. There are many parts of Turkey that are honeycombed with the influence of these mission schools.

The Printing Press Lever.

A study of the forces responsible for the wonderful awakening of Turkey leads investigators into many interesting fields. Here I have run across the significant fact that within four years the Presbyterian Mission press at Beirut has issued at a nominal price a large stock of d'Aubigne's "History of the Reformation." This was done originally to get rid of a surplus of



School for Boys of the Presbyterian Mission.

books. The demand for this work, which has in it the seeds of both political and religious revolution, grew amazingly and still continues. Remembering how comparatively small the number of educated readers in Turkey has been, it does not seem an impossible task to touch the majority of them with some such influential book as this.

Similarly the newspapers and books issued from this historic press, despite the censor's vigilance, has been scattering the seeds of new thought widely over the empire. Here more truly than in any other part of the world of which I have knowledge, the printing press has been a lever of Archimedes to overturn the old order. The primary output has been the Bible in Arabic. The entire Arabic-speaking world has been supplied with Bibles from this press more than a million and a half copies of the Bible in whole or in part, having been issued up to date. Even the Georgian churches have accepted the translation of the Bible into Arabic which has come from this press. The Russian schools within the Ottoman empire, have taken their book supply from the Mission Press, and the Russian government is at present the largest single customer of the Press.

Modern maps have been a valuable output, for in the skillful war with



Citizens of Old Philadelphia and American Missionary.

celebrated by a baseball game between tutors and a nine from the crew of the "Scorpion." So high is the reputation of Robert college that cabinet ministers and other leading Turks send their sons to it. It has got out of the acute financial difficulties which beset most of these altruistic educational institutions in the Levant, through the receipt of the Kennedy bequest of nearly two million dollars.

American Women in New Turkey. Thanks to gifts from the Rockefeller and Sage funds, the American College for Girls in Scrutari is enabled to move to more commodious quarters on a hill overlooking the Bosphorus not far from Robert college. The site is a beautiful one, and the building will be worthy of a great educational institution.

Temporarily, a part of the college is housed in an old palace on the Bosphorus. The head of this institution is Miss Patrick, a noted educator, who has elected to give her life to Turkey,

speaking people has been profoundly benefited by these institutions, established with no thought of statecraft. In all parts of the Levant one may find English speaking graduates of these schools, to whom American history and American ideals have been made familiar. There is doubtless warrant for the statement that the American schools in the Levant have done more to honor the American name and flag in these parts than all the embassies at Constantinople.

Some Remarkable Results.

It is a curious and anomalous situation that the greatest educational institutions in the Ottoman empire should fly the flag of another nation. This is unquestionably the case. It is a source of immense pride to traveling Americans that the Syrian Protestant college at Beirut and Robert college of Constantinople and the American College for Girls in Constantinople, are the educational mountain peaks in Turkey. None of these is, strictly speaking, missionary, but all are entirely American being supported by American money and conducted by American teachers.

The potency of all this is difficult to make clear to persons who do not understand oriental conditions. The finest buildings, the largest institution, and the most celebrated in all Beirut, is the Syrian Protestant college, which has a magnificent site on the Mediterranean with the purple Lebanon mountains in the distance. This is

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