

The Awakening of the Older Nations.

Palestine and High Politics—A Deep Discontent Pervades the People and Myriads of Them Have Emigrated to the United States.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

Jerusalem.—Of all the old nations, Palestine is the one in which the world is most interested. Over these comparatively few square miles have swept most of the forces that have made history. Here were given to the race those influences which have done most to change the history of the past two thousand years.

Wonder of Wonders, this old order is now undoubtedly passing away. This is the most interesting of all the sights here for the discerning traveler. It is a revolution wrought by the return to this land of forces which had their inception here.

Palestine is more deeply traveled by the prevailing unrest of the times than any other nation I have yet visited. Pressed upon from many sides by the most modern influences, made sensitive to human rights by centuries of oppression, it is small wonder that the Syrians were most enthusiastic in hailing the new regime, with its promise of "Liberty, Justice, Fraternity, Equality."

From One Land of Promise to Another.

One morning I witnessed the weekly exodus of Bethlehemites at the Jerusalem station of the Jaffa railroad. It was a scene for a painter's brush. The young people who were leaving for America were dressed in foreign style; only the young men still wore the fez of Turkish subjects.

The magnitude and importance of the migration to America from Syria can hardly be overestimated. More than a quarter of a million are now in the new Land of Promise, and which so many more have their faces turned.

The return of emigrants to America and their letters home have a powerful influence in increasing the unrest here. All over the Lebanon, which has an autonomous Christian government, and where property is therefore safe, the returned emigrants have built fine houses—and then, in a surprising number of cases, have left them and gone back to America, usually taking a number of their neighbors along.

American Oil "the Light of Asia." In other ways America is contributing directly to the awakening of this old nation. Probably the most typical single accessory of the life of Palestine is the water jar, carried on the heads of women. As it was in the days when Rebecca went to the well with a clay jar upon her head, so it continues until now.

These same cans furnish most of the tin that is used in Asia. As I have watched long caravans of camels bearing cases of Standard Oil into the interior I have recalled the hundreds of little tin-smithing shops I have seen all over Asia, wherein the native workmen were beating out these tins and fashioning them into a score of articles for domestic use.

to carry it without breaking was my problem. I put it up to the first tin-smith I met, and in ten minutes he had transformed part of an American oil can into a well-made coffin for pussy. "The Light of Asia," Standard oil is called out here, because it has displaced olive oil and candle dips as an illuminant.

The School Teacher and Statesmanship.

There is no novelty in the statement, which has been repeated by every observer that has ever been in Turkey, that the greatest part America has in the awakening of this empire—and no other nation has had a greater—is through the American schools, which have leavened the whole lump with American ideals.

It is in a stiff Maronite district, outside of Beirut, that the only woman physician in Turkey who possesses a license from the government to practice has her headquarters. Dr. Mary Eddy is a wonderful American woman, of tireless energy, masculine initiative and extraordinary skill, whose experiences in itinerating among the Arabs and throughout Syria read like a romance.

Palatium, established by Consul-Gen-



Camels Laden With American Oil.

eral G. Bie Ravendal. Thus it may be seen how the American influence in Turkey is working in humanitarian and inspirational ways.

Europe's Designs on Palestine. In contrast with the altruistic labors of America for Turkey and especially for the Holy Land, is the conduct of the great European powers, who are playing a skillful game for the ultimate control of this land, and even making use of religious prejudices to that end.

Both these nations, as well as Great Britain also, seem to be hopelessly outdistanced by Germany. The Kaiser impartially supports Protestant and Catholic, and also goes out of his way to throw elaborate, if artificial, bouquets to Islam, all in the interest of Germany's schemes here.

The most conspicuous objects in the landscape of the Holy Land, except Mount Hermon, are the two towers, or steeples, erected on the Mount of Olives by the Germans and Russians. These are the first objects that meet the traveler's eye, from whatever direction he comes.

An American Communist Experiment.

The only communist experiment of which I have knowledge that has not come to an early and inglorious end is what is known as the American col-

ony here in Jerusalem. It has existed for more than a score of years, and outwardly appears to be more prosperous than at any other time in its history. It numbers more than a hundred persons, none of whom, strange to say, is a socialist. They claim to be merely a big family, with no particular theories to work out. They have all things in common, and each does the work for which he or she seems best qualified.

Like the ill-fated American colony at Jaffa, this one was started on a peculiarly religious basis. A Chicago lawyer and his wife came out here to wait for the return of the Messiah. They held extreme views on many subjects, including the making of money. Hard times eventually drove them to work, and now, while the religious aspect of the colony has fallen very much into the background, it is a notable commercial success.

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