

## AMERICA IN ATHENS.

How Our College Boys and Girls Study  
Greek as it Should be Studied,

## UNDER THE PANTHEON'S SHADOW.

A Visit to the Home of Dr. Schliemann,  
the Great Explorer.

## CURIOUS CUSTOMS OF GREEK PEASANTS

FROM OUR TRAVELING COMMISSIONER.

THESSALY, GREECE, AUGUST 19.—It will be surprising to many to know that Athens has an American classical school, and that the graduates of American colleges live here the year round and devote themselves to the study of Greek literature, Greek history and the Greek language. This school is supported by donations from Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Ann Arbor, the University of Virginia, Columbia College and several others of our great schools, and it also receives support from a number of wealthy citizens of America who are interested in the classics. Its tuition is free, and the various colleges have the right to send such of their students as have taken high rank in the classics. It is presided over by competent professors, and some of the greatest collegiate men of the United States have been at its head. Prof. Goodrich, of Yale, and Prof. Merriam, of Columbia, have each spent a year here, and during the past year Prof. Tarbell, of Yale, has lectured to and studied with the students. Until this year the head of the school has been one of these professors sent out from home for one year to be relieved at the end of that time by some one from another American college. At present, however, a permanent head has been chosen, and this head is Dr. Charles Wadsworth, of New York, who has made himself famous in the classical and archaeological departments at the King's College, Cambridge, England. Dr. Wadsworth holds a high professorship at Cambridge, and he stands at the very head of the professors of Europe in his specialty. He will be assisted by professors sent out from America, and there is no doubt but that the school will be even better than it has been in the past.

NOT A LADGE SCHOOL.

It is not a large school, and its students seldom number more than eight or ten persons. The school fees, which will be paid for the removal of the children, which are supposed, cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000. At Delphi was the great oracle of the Greek cult of Apollo, and it was here that some of the greatest of the Greek games were celebrated. The Grecian oracles and their temples had great treasures, and the Temple of Apollo at Delphi is said to contain 3,000 statues. When Sulla sieged Plutonium in '86 he paid his troops out of the treasures of Delphi, and it may be that under this village there are peaks of gold cups and gold vases, to say nothing of historical relics and works of fine art.

PROUD OF THEIR HISTORY.

The modern Greeks are as much interested in these excavations as are the scientists of America and America. They are proud of their history and the great gangs of men now at work on the Acropolis as I drove up to the Parthenon yesterday. I had a dozen men digging out the dirt from the side of the hill and carrying it away in great buckets upon their heads. Just outside the Parthenon other excavators were at work, and the mass of the Acropolis contains a number of new discoveries. Among them is a national museum which is filled with the broken legs, arms and torsos of great statues of the past, and the Parthenon itself is guarded by Greek soldiers, who see that their wondrous beauty is not damaged by relic-hunting trampers. There is an Academy of Sciences at Athens, which stands on the street of the University just below Schliemann's house, and in front of this



A Modern Greek.

building, on great pillars, are numerous statues of Minerva and Apollo. This academy is intended for Grecian and foreign savants, and it is modeled on the great Greek buildings of old Athens. The University of Athens is worth notice. It has 2,000 students, and it is after the style of the universities of Europe. The majority of its students are Greeks, and they make you think of some of the prettiest features of the architecture of Greece. The house stands even with the street, but the right and left ends are gardens, in which beautiful statues look out surrounded by rose trees. Bushes of roses climb over the winding marble steps that lead up to the mansion, and every one of the many rooms of the interior are of fine Greek. The whole house is floored with small tiles, and the walls are covered with Greek marbles and figures. You find Greek columns in the halls, and the stairs of the building are marble. The whole house is frescoed, and many of the paintings remind one of the walls of Pompeii. On some of the walls are verses in Greek characters from the old poets. A bust of Homer sits on the marble mantel of the ballroom, looking between Jupiter and Hera. There are busts of Minerva and pictures from the Iliad. The library contains thousands of volumes and its front windows give a magnificent view of the Parthenon.

EVERYTHING GREEK TO THEM.

Dr. Schliemann is infatuated with old Greece and he wants nothing less than to have his name serve him Greek names, and he never changes them, so that they may be different. The Greeks are as a rule well posted, and those of the better class speak several languages. It is not uncommon to meet a young lady who talks English, French, Italian, and Greek with equal facility, and the Greeks believe that the modern Greek pronunciation is the same as that of the ancient. The Greeks make good political speeches, but there is no Demosthenes among them. The Greeks of to-day has not an Aschylus nor a Homer, but to judge from the newspapers there is no lack of modern Greek poets, and there is a Greek comedy here named Komikos, who writes some plays which have been acted in the theater, some of which have been played before the King.

In the country districts you will find people who are posted on the Greek poets, and there are few Greek youth who have not read what we call the Greek classics. The country people of Greece are far different from those of the cities. It is outside of Athens that you find the picturesque costumes, and it is here that you find the

great female school of Athens, known as the Arakion, where Schliemann met her. She was the best teacher in the city, and when the learned doctor found that she knew the Iliad by heart, the gossip of Athens say that he straightway proposed. She was beautiful, however, as well as learned, and her portrait which I saw on the wall of the drawing room represents a very fine-looking girl. She is said to be as kind of Greek as any, and she will tell you of her husband not long ago her daughter wore a dress like those shown in some of the figures discovered in the excavations of Troy. Dr. Schliemann is quite wealthy, and it is said that he owns property in different parts of the United States. He came from America to Greece, and claims American citizenship having been a resident of California when it was admitted to the statehood. He has been in Athens during my visit, and he is, I am told, in Paris during the Exposition.

The polytechnic institute of Athens contains the finest of Dr. Schliemann's discoveries, and I saw here who room

filled with gold cups, gold masks and gold plates, together with jewelry and gold articles which all told, must in the gold alone be worth several big American fortunes. These things were all found at Mycenae, not many miles across the Gulf of Corinth from Delphi, and some archaeologists suppose that under the present site of Delphi the works of Agamemnon are located. The condition that they would agree to a certain treaty with Greece. This treaty is, I am told, fallen through, and Delphi may yet be bought by the Americans. A number of American scientists are

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The women are different. Their costume is a beautiful one, and they look bewitching. Tall, straight and well formed, they have large, bright eyes, regular features, and a wealth of brown or black hair, which hangs in long waves down their backs. They wear in the fields a single gown of linen which falls from their necks to their feet, and over this they have a long sleeveless sack of white wool, bordered with stripes of black. I have seen some of them upon these days, and I attended a great national dance near Athens. The girls had on their fine dresses, and they came out in costumes of silk embroidered with gold. Their hair was covered with fine silk veils at the ends of which were woven with stripes of gold, and were wound around their faces so as to frame their head. They had on the long skirts of the week day, but many of these were embroidered half the way to the knee, and on their breasts they wore great scrolls of gold, which were fastened with pins extending from one side of the body to the other. These gold coins were their fortunes, and each girl had thus on her person the dowry which she was to bring her husband in marriage. There are no marriages in Greece without dowries, and every girl is expected to bring her share into the fund for the beginning of her marriage. The customs, which are embroidered, are made with care to be brought out after marriage, and as soon as a girl is old enough to sew she begins to work on her wedding outfit. The customs and costume vary in different parts of Greece, but all of the country girls delight in great silver buckles at the waist, and maids of Corinth wear belt buckles of silver made of two great silver disks, each of which is as big as a shaker.

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THE FARMING METHODS.

of Greece are very primitive. I see girls and men working, using the same tools which you find on the Greek sculptures—the cutting of the wheat is done entirely with the sickle and it is bound with the hands. About the half of the people of Greece are engaged in agriculture and this, I believe, is a small proportion in comparison with other nations. The average Greek is ten times poorer than the average American making a living on the soil. He is either a doctor, a merchant or a sailor, and the shipping interests of Greece are very large. Though the country is so small it has a bigger navy than we have and its coasting vessels alone amount to over 6,000. It does not seem to be a very large number of ships.

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