

AMERICAN MISSIONS ABROAD.

Eighty-Fourth Report of the Board of Commissioners.

Field of Labor of Its Emissaries Now the Scene of Exciting Events in Armenia and North China—Summary of Donations from New England and New York.

The eighty-fourth annual report of the American board of commissioners for foreign missions, whose offices are in Boston, New York and Chicago, is published today.

The secretary and the prudential committee, under the reorganization that has occurred during the last year, are composed of the following clergymen and laymen:

Corresponding secretaries — Judson Smith, D. D., Charles H. Daniels, D. D., James L. Barton, D. D.

Prudential committee—The president and vice-president ex officio.

For three years—Edwin B. Webb, D. D., Charles C. Burr, Arthur H. Plumb, D. D., Hon. William P. Ellison.

For two years—G. Henry Whitcomb, James G. Vose, D. D., Hon. Henry D. Hyde, Hon. J. M. W. Hall.

For one year—Rev. William W. Jordan, Elijah Horr, D. D., Charles A. Hopkins, Nehemiah Boynton, D. D.

The Asiatic Turkish missions of the board are sub-divided into the western Turkey mission, the central Turkey mission and the eastern Turkey mission. Bitlis, in eastern Turkey, is the city where the governor resides, who, according to recent telegraphic dispatches, gave the order for the alleged massacres. In that city, according to the report, the following missionaries of the board reside: George C. Knapp, Royal M. Cole, George P. Knapp, Mrs. Alzina L. Knapp, Mrs. Lizzie Cole, Mrs. Anna H. Knapp, Miss Charlotte E. Ely, Miss Mary A. C. Ely, Miss Grace M. Knapp.

Rev. George C. Knapp and Mrs. Alzina M. Knapp have been in Bitlis since 1855. Rev. George P. Knapp and Mrs. Anna H. Knapp became missionaries there in 1890. Mrs. Lizzie Cole, Miss Charlotte E. Ely and Miss May A. C. Ely, in 1868, and Miss Grace H. Knapp in 1893.

Bitlis has suffered from famine as much as any other station in eastern Turkey, unless it be Erzroom. This has diminished the number of students, has cut of the income of many of the out-stations, and has led to great deprivation. It is not simply the higher prices which are caused by the famine, but in such times it seems as if the lawless element were let loose upon the innocent, and the Koords come down upon the plains and cause great loss of property and life. In spite of these things, the people seem to have entered into the church work with more zeal than usual. Twenty-seven have been received on confession to the churches of this station during the year, and the attendance upon church worship has been fully up to the average. While the famine prices have reduced largely the number of students, the boarding school in Bitlis having had only 60 pupils, while last year there were 102, yet when we look back over the 13 years, the time that the high school system has been in operation, and contemplate the results, we see five active young men settled in as many villages, all preachers, who not only graduated from this school, but have taken a theological course at Harpoot and come back fully equipped to perform the duties of pastors of churches, while many others who have been more or less educated in this school are teaching and doing faithful work.

In regard to the distribution of money for the relief of the famine sufferers, the missionaries have given to families that were found to be destitute food two or three times a week. The report states that a significant commentary on the attitude of the government toward poverty is the fact that "one relief patient was imprisoned for tax, and instead of being fed in prison was escorted by a gendarme several times a week to the missionary's house to receive famine rations."

This station is in central Koordistan, and is in the wildest region probably of any mission station in Turkey.

At the city of Erzroom, at the north of the district in which the massacres have been reported, reside the following missionaries and members of missionary families: William N. Chambers, David A. Richardson, Frederick W. Macallum, Mrs. Cornelia B. Chambers, Mrs. Myra W. Richardson, Mrs. Henrietta M. Macallum, Miss Effie M. Chambers. Erzroom, like Bitlis, has called for much labor during the year in caring for the sufferers. Thousands of those who had means at the beginning of the famine trouble soon found their means exhausted by the high prices which they were compelled to pay for food. All this has led to a wretched condition among the Christian population, which condition has been rendered worse by the depre-

dation of obbers, by official maladministration, and all with no hope of present relief. Yet there is much that is encouraging. The Sunday school, which was begun six years ago by Mrs. Chambers with 50 members, has risen to nearly 200. The girls' school and kindergarten in the city has gained a good reputation, and it has had a large attendance. The numbers were so great that during the sessions of 1893 and 1894 a second school became necessary, with higher tuition, and to this second school were transferred some of the older pupils. Now even the second room has been crowded beyond all expectation.

The relations with the government have been unusually pleasant. The force of native workers has been enlarged by the graduation from the theological seminary of a class of 12, 10 of whom are at work within the limits of the Harpoot field, while two are in Bitlis.

Van is the youngest station of the mission, and, in fact, the youngest in Turkey. It has had many things to contend with because it is the centre of the old Armenian power as well as the most fanatical region. The church at Van has been somewhat reorganized during the year, and, it is hoped, is in a better condition for work than ever before. The place where the conflict between the missionaries and the government has centred has been in Agants. This seems to have now somewhat subsided. The town is fast becoming one of great importance as a commercial centre, possibly more so than Van itself.

The evangelical agencies in Smyrna of the western Turkey mission are quite as hopeful and encouraging as the educational work. The Greek congregation is in a most flourishing condition. The Armenian church, under Mr. Tachjian, who was called from Constantinople station, is increasing its power, as well as its congregation. The Sunday schools in Smyrna number four, with an aggregate attendance of 300.

Manisa has had a year of aggressive work, both in the Greek and the Armenian congregation. There is preaching in three different quarters of the city. A very hopeful feature is the growing interest in the study of the Bible by the young men. It is difficult for the people to break away from the worship of the old Gregorian church, but acquaintance with the Bible must either reform the old church or divide it.

At the old centre, Ak Hissar (Thyatira), there has been a fresh impulse this year, and large inspiration. A Greek teacher, familiar with the Greek, Turkish and Armenian languages, and a graduate of the Theological Seminary at Marsovan, is about to settle over this church. A school for Greeks numbering 25, under the care of an earnest young woman, is progressing.

The Armenian work in Ordoo, Semen and Bey Alan of the western Turkey mission is reported in a hopeful condition, the number of adherents increasing, the women more accessible, and many learning to read. New places are waiting to be opened to gospel influence when funds sufficient can be had. The Greek work at Ordoo is still in a critical condition, owing to the persistent opposition of the old church. The interposition of foreign embassies at the capital has not been marked by appreciable success. At the first an order was given that the Protestants should use their new chapel, but while meeting in the chapel for the first time they were assaulted by a mob, and much damage was done to the property, though no lives were lost. Much attention has been given, and more needs to be given, to this affair, as it seems like a test case for religious liberty to the Protestant Greeks in Turkey.

At Aintab, of the Central Turkey Mission, there is a society which has about 160 members, nearly all of whom are Gregorian Armenians. These churches have also a deep interest in the work of the evangelical Armenian churches and in the Christian work of Koordistan. The interest during the year has not waned, and through them others of neighboring cities are becoming interested, and so the work broadens. The churches paid during the year nearly \$5000 for the support of their own institutions, which is indeed a large sum when measured by the value of a day's wages.
