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VOL. V. No. IV.

DECEMBER, 1930

THE SYRIAN WORLD

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE IN ENGLISH DEALING
WITH SYRIAN AFFAIRS AND ARABIC LITERATURE



WHAT EVERY SYRIAN BOY AND GIRL OUGHT
TO KNOW

REV. W. A. MANSUR

ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF SYRIA
PROCEEDS SLOWLY

LOVE AND WAR IN THE DESERT

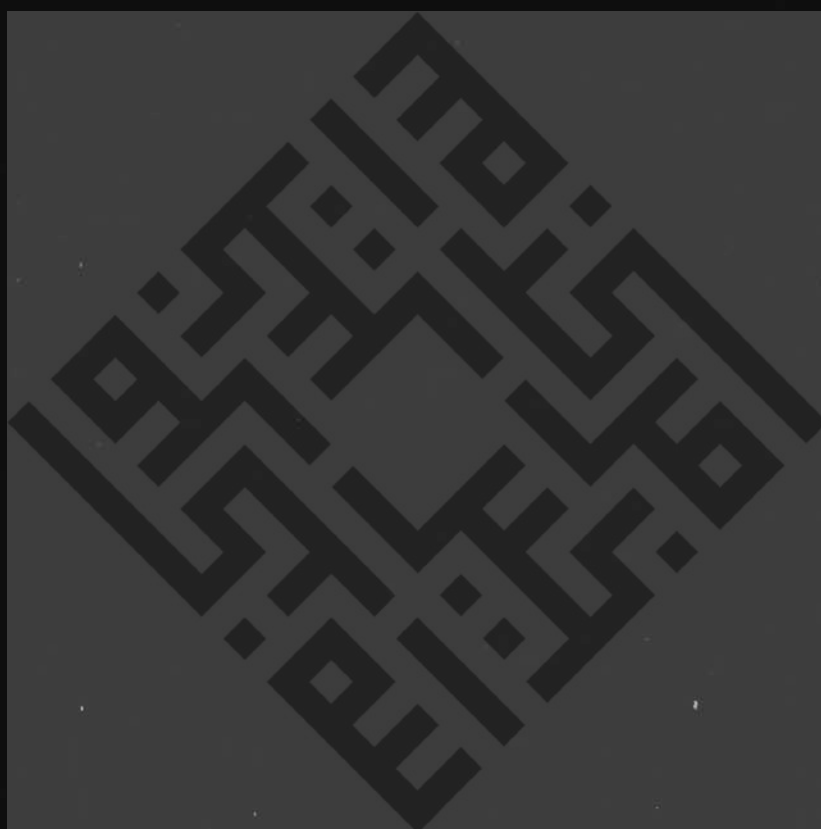
THE TWO SEAS

PHARES BEHANNESY

ALI ZAIBAQ (QUICKSILVER) (A SERIAL)

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

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THE SYRIAN WORLD

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>What Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know</i>	7
REV. W. A. MANSUR	
<i>Song</i>	13
G. K. GIBRAN	
<i>Economic Reconstruction of Syria Proceeds Slowly</i>	14
D. F. MCGONIGAL Vice Consul, Beirut	
<i>The End and the Beginning</i> (Poem)	20
AMEEN RIHANI	
<i>The Two Seas</i>	21
PHARES BEHANNESY	

CONTENTS (Continued)

	PAGE
<i>In the Garden of Love</i> (Poem)	26
DR. SALIM Y. ALKAZIN	
<i>Love and War in the Desert</i>	27
<i>On His Friends</i> (Poem)	34
J. D. CARLYLE	
<i>Ali Zaibaq</i> (Serial)	35
SALLOUM A. MOKARZEL and THADDEUS S. DAYTON	
<i>The Gardener</i> (Poem)	41
THOMAS ASA	
<i>Editorial Comment:—</i>	
Racial Considerations	43
Syrian Societies	45
<i>Readers' Forum</i>	46
<i>Political Developments in Syria</i>	48
<i>About Syria and Syrians</i>	51

IN THIS ISSUE

NO more timely subject could be chosen for discussion than that which forms the topic of Rev. W. A. Mansur's article in this issue. We feel confident that readers will find as much pleasure in reading it as the author experienced in writing it. And judging by the letter of the Rev. Mansur accompanying the article, this was one that swelled his heart with more joy than any he has heretofore written. When readers would have finished with it they will concur in our opinion that it supplies the essence of the educational program which the Syrian-American generation should follow. We would be inclined to counsel every Syrian boy and girl to read it not only once, but repeatedly at regular intervals, so as to keep alive in their memory the fundamental requirements of their racial education. The article, besides, will be found replete with historical information and copious quotations which seem always new and enlightening. An appraisal of Rev. Mansur's contributions is published in the Readers' Forum of this issue, and we believe that his present article will raise much higher

the appreciation of this patriotic clergyman's efforts by the grateful Syrian-American generation to whom he has become such a wise and benevolent mentor.

A story with a real thrill is that of War and Love in the Desert which, contrary to expectations, is not translated from a book, nor does it deal with a happening of long ago, but is most modern and is being treated sensationally by the contemporary press of Syria. The story revolves upon the love of an impetuous young sheikh for a beautiful maiden of another tribe which culminates in his kidnaping her. Then the desert is set aflame with the spirit of war. Murders are committed and reprisals planned, and thousands of warriors assemble to confer on strategy and methods of revenge. Those who relish a burning love story staged in the burning sands of the desert by a genuine sheikh lover will find this story after their own heart.

STILL more thrilling and replete with the fantastic creations of a most fertile Oriental imagination is the present installment of the serial Ali Zaibaq. Our hero in his present exploit goes out to seek the All-Seeing Eye in the Enchanted Isle. You will be thrilled by his extravagant adventures in encountering the ever-playing swords that reduce great stones to powder. And you will be more thrilled when you follow the hero on his return journey, expecting to meet the king, and, incidentally, his beautiful daughter, only to find the city besieged by a great army of Blacks. Follow Ali Zaibaq in his adventures and you will be fully compensated.

BUT not all the material of this issue is of this nature. The article on the economic conditions in Syria, based on consular reports, will prove most instructive. The general information it contains on the resources of the country and the efforts of the government is most comprehensive.

THOSE who ponder the peculiar social order in America

will appreciate the editorial entitled Racial Considerations. There are facts continually challenging our attention which we just as persistently overlook or ignore. The case in point here cited should give Syrians in America ample food for thought.

THE department About Syria and Syrians is always interesting. It may prove extremely so now to those interested in the future of this publication. The report of the dinner held in New York to discuss the Syrian World Corporation gives an idea of what our leading men think about our racial heritage and the means of preserving it.

There is also in this issue a liberal amount of poetry by such outstanding names as Rihani, Gibran, Alkazin and Asa.

Political developments in Syria are, as usual, treated concisely and comprehensively. Palestine, Syria proper and Lebanon are undergoing remarkable changes which are here faithfully recorded.

THE SYRIAN WORLD

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What Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know

TIMELY ADVICE TO THE SYRIAN-AMERICAN
GENERATION

By REV. W. A. MANSUR

"THE idea of this publication," said S. A. Mokarzel, founder of THE SYRIAN WORLD, "was conceived in the spirit of service to the Syrian-American generation." He stated that, "... one of our chief objects in helping Syrian-Americans discover themselves is to breed in them a consciousness of appreciation for their racial qualities and inheritances so that they may comport themselves with a befitting sense of honor as citizens of this great American nation." (Syrian World, Vol. I, No. 1, July, 1926.)

When Syrian boys and girls know that their ancestors are among the greatest people of all times they will become proud of their race. When Syrian boys and girls understand that their forefathers gave to humanity the greatest legacies of all ages they will appreciate the splendor of their fame. When Syrian boys and girls realize that they are descendants of a most illustrious race, that they possess superior talents, and that they are destined to become foremost among the peoples of the earth they will become enlightened as to their place in the world.

Now is the time for Syrian boys and girls to become intelligently informed about their race history, race ancestry, race talent, and race heritage. Now is the hour for Syrian boys and girls to become enlightened about the glorious place of the native

land of their race and its relation to the races, nations, and peoples of the earth. Now is the period for Syrian boys and girls to awaken to the appreciation of their race history, their superior race talents, and their potentialities for race progress to a foremost place among the races, nations, and empires of the earth.

Therefore in order to awaken Syrian boys and girls to an intelligent understanding of Syrian race history, to arouse them to appreciation of Syrian race inheritance, and to spur them to high achievement through race appreciation, race pride, race solidarity, and race progress, I thought it good to write of some elementary things every Syrian boy and girl ought to know.

I. Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know the Importance of the Geography of Syria.

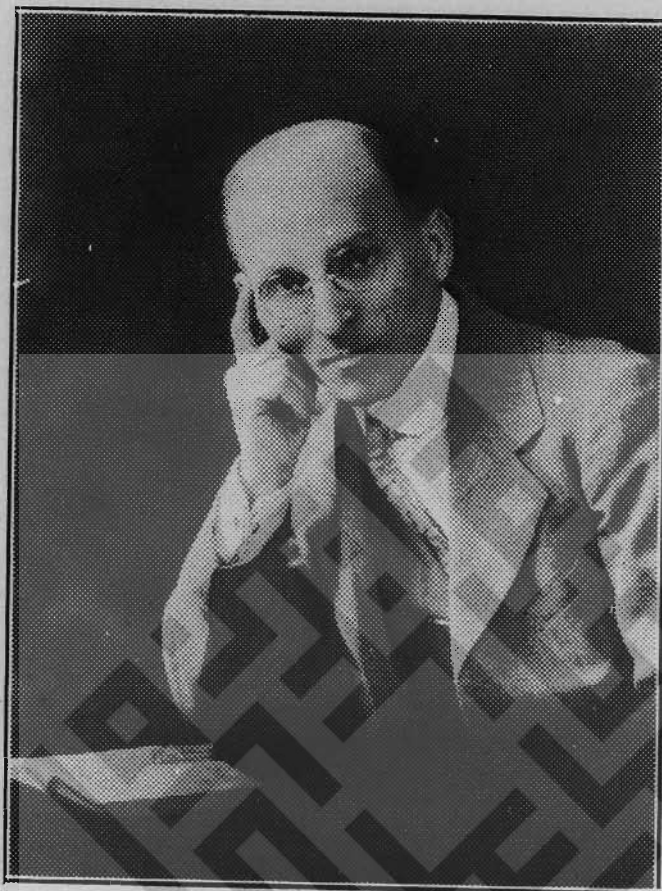
Of vital significance to the right understanding of the Syrian race, its character, its history, and its future is the knowledge of Syria's geographical location, its topographical condition, and its relation to the rest of the countries, races, and nations of the earth.

"Syria, the name given generally to the land lying between the easternmost shore of the Levantine Gulf and a natural inland boundary formed in part by the Middle Euphrates and in part by the western edge of the *Hamad*, or desert steppe. The northern limit is the Tauric system of mountains, and the southern limit the edge of the Sinaitic desert. This long strip extends, therefore, for about 400 m. between 38' and 31' N. lat. with a mean breadth of about 150 m." (Encyclopædia Britannica, article, SYRIA.)

The physical geography of Syria is one of the most important keys to the right understanding of Syria, Syrians, their character, their history, their problems, their religions, and their world view. Syria's location on the map will reveal its relation to neighbouring nations, races, and cultures. It will show Syria's relation to ancient world empires: Egypt, Babylonia, Nineveh, Assyria, Macedonia, Greece, and Rome and others.

Syria has been called a battle-ground, a market-place, and an international highway between empires, races, and cultures. Syria has been called a hub, a bridge, a link between Asia, Europe and Africa. Syria has been called the mother of religion, the cradle of civilization, and the promoter of commerce.

Already Syria is becoming the center of world interest. With the awakening of the Syrian race, with the entrance of the Syrian



Rev. W. A. Mansur

Minister of the First Methodist Church of Winside, Nebraska,

nation into modern civilization, and with the rise of surrounding nations into the family of modern nations, Syria will again become the center, the hub, the bridge, and the highway of world activities.

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know the geography of Syria, its relation to other countries, races, and cultures, and its effect on the Syrian race: its character, its religion, its problems, its culture.

II. Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know the Origin of the Syrian Race.

The modern Syrian race is caucasian of race, Semitic in stock, and white in color. The racial stock of the Syrian race is of Semitic origin. Being centrally located, Syria became the meeting place

of races, nations, and cultures. Into Syria came, repeatedly, various racial admixtures. This explains the highly mixed character of the Syrian nation, the Syrian race, and the Syrian culture. This explains the presence of a variety of people in modern Syria. This explains the presence of numerous religions in modern Syria. This explains the nature of the problems of modern Syria.

"The modern Syrians," says Philip K. Hitti in "The Syrians in America," "are the remnant of the ancient Phœnician-Canaanite tribes who entered Syria about 2500 B. C., the Aramean-Israelite hordes who arrived about 1500 B. C., and the Arabs who drifted, and still drift in, from the desert and gradually pass from a nomadic to an agricultural state.

"With this Semitic stock as a substratum the Syrians are a highly mixed race of whom some rightly trace their origin back to the Greek settlers and colonists of the Selucidæ period, others to the Frankish and other European Crusaders, still others to Kurdish and Persian invaders and immigrants."

The Syrian race has survived many recurring invasions: military, racial, and religious. The language of the invaders and conquerors became the language of the land: first the Aramaic, then the Arabic.

S. A. Mokarzel, leader of the Syrian-American awakening, said: "In the same manner that the Americans are a highly mixed nation because they are drawn from many racial strains, so are the Syrians. Drawing an analogy, we may safely state that the Syrians, ethnologically, are the Americans of the Old World." (Syrian World, Editorial, May, 1930.)

The Syrian-Americans are progressive in spirit, possess religious moral insight, promote mutual welfare, law-abiding and abide by the vote of the majority, highly intellectual, adaptable, industrious, home-loving, and country defending citizens.

III. Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know the Syrian Race Legacies to the World.

Edward Gibbon says in *The History of the Roman Empire*, "Yet Phœnicia and Palestine will forever live in the memory of mankind; since America, as well as Europe, has received letters from the one and religion from the other."

George Adam Smith says in *Syria and the Holy Land*, "Syria, chiefly, because it includes Phœnicia and Palestine, has been of greater significance to mankind, spiritually and materially, than

any other single country in the world."

William A. Masson says in *A History of the Art of Writing*, "Yet these two Semitic nations, the Phoenicians and the Israelites, have influenced more profoundly the western civilization and the culture and refinement of Europe than all the civilizations that have preceded them."

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that Syria, because it includes Phœnicia and Palestine, is the greatest benefactor of the nations, races and countries of the earth. Every continent, every race, and every civilization is for all time indebted to the Syrian race and its native-land. While Greece gave her culture, Rome her law, Syria is eternally giving the world the Syrian Gospel: the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the Kingdom of Universal Peace.

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that Syria is great in the annals of mankind, spiritually, morally, and materially. Our ancestors, the Phœnicians, gave mankind the alphabet, the art of navigation, and trans-marine commerce. Our forefathers, of the pre-Christian era, produced the highest ideas in religion, morals, philosophy, and society. Our forbears, of Christian times, initiated the spirit that Christianized mankind. Our mediæval fathers carried civilizing influences to Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that they are the custodians of the legacies of the Syrian race, that they are the carriers of the blood strains of the great peoples of the past, that they are destined to become one of the greatest people in modern times.

IV. *Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know the Reasons for Syrian Emigration.*

We Syrians emigrated to escape the deadlock which dominated our beloved motherland in search for religious, political, and economic freedom in the world. With the breakdown of military autocracy, economic exploitation, and intolerable ignorance, the modern Syrian went everywhere in pursuit of religious freedom, political liberty, and economic independence. We have found freedom from overpowering religious intolerance, we have found liberty from oppression by autocratic control, we have found independence from enslavement by economic exploitation.

N. A. Mokarzel, with true insight, says, "The only influence in the East that should be reckoned with is that of the clergy.

The whole political structure seems to be still raised on religious foundations." He says further that ".....the real influence governing the peoples in all walks of life is paramountly religious." (Syrian World, May, 1930, in editorial, Al-Hoda, Feb. 28, 1930.)

S. A. Mokarzel, with true observation, says, "Religion seems to be in that country the axis upon which revolves all human activities and with which is inalienably involved the whole social fabric, from the family, to the clan, to the whole nation." (Syrian World, May, 1927, The Religious Problem in the East.)

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that the backgrounds of the political, economic, and cultural life of the Syrian people are different religious philosophies of life. They ought to know that from such religious backgrounds developed the deadlock which in turn brought on the causes which eventuated in the Syrian emigration to the ends of the earth.

With the understanding of the background of the thought, feeling, and life of the Syrian people we shall understand better the causes of their emigration. Philip K. Hitti, with true historical accuracy, says, "The primary impulse for Syrian emigration can be traced back, in the main, to economic causes, yet it cannot be wholly explained on that ground. The movement is the resultant of a combination of political and religious forces as well."

We Syrian-Americans have found religious freedom, political liberty, and economic independence in our American homeland.

Syrian boys and girls, descendants of the foremost race emigration, race expansion, and race progress in modern times, guard well the spiritual heritage entrusted to thy keeping for the glory of God, home, and posterity!

V. Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know the Patriotic Loyalty of the Syrian Race to America.

S. A. Mokarzel, leader of the Syrian awakening, says, "During all the time they have been in America, the Syrians have proven themselves most law-abiding and loyal to the institutions of the country." (Syrian World, Radio Address, The Syrians in America, May, 1930.)

G. K. Gibran says in "To Young Americans of Syrian Origin," "And I believe that it is in you to be good citizens." (Syrian

World, July, 1926.)

Talcott Williams says of the Syrians in America, "None more swiftly feels the American spirit....". (Syrian World, June, 1930.)

We Syrian-Americans became Americans first in our hearts. We have chosen to make America a permanent homeland. We have decided to uphold America's Constitution, laws, and institutions. We have proven our American loyalty by an honorable record of upright citizenship.

We Syrian-Americans stand for America first and nothing else. Let it be remembered that we still hold in loving memory the native land of our race, that we will maintain the identity of our race, that we shall preserve the traditions of our famous ancestors. We want to be clearly understood, without equivocation or mental reservation, that we give first place to our American homeland, that we uphold single allegiance to our country, and that we will always be ready for America's defense against all enemies. We Syrian-Americans urge our posterity to abide by the Constitution, to acquiesce in the vote of the majority, to stand for religious freedom, free speech, free press, loyal citizenship, and for the nation's defense.

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that loyalty to America is fundamental to the honor of the Syrian name, the prosperity of our posterity, and the progress of the Syrian race everywhere.

VI. Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know the Progress of the Syrian Race in America.

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know of the splendor of the Syrian race progress in America: materially, religiously, morally, patriotically, and culturally. S. A. Mokarzel says with pride in an article on the *History of the Syrians in New York*, "The Syrian community in New York may well be taken as an example of all other communities, although in some respects it enjoys certain distinctions which cannot be claimed by all others. In general, however, what is said of the Syrians of New York applies equally to all sister communities." (Syrian World, Nov., 1927.)

We Syrian-Americans, sons and daughters of the famous Phœnicians, are now duplicating achievement and glory similar to that which was enjoyed by our illustrious ancestors. Arthur

Brisbane, commenting on the Phœnicians, who are Semites, says, "Time has wiped out the empires of Alexander and of Rome. And on the other side of the Atlantic, crossed by Semitic ships so long ago, Semitic trading genius rules in a new world. There is more organized Semitic trade between Fourteenth and Fifty-Ninth streets in New York than there ever was in all Phœnicia and Carthage." (Jan. 6, 1930.)

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that intelligent understanding of our race progress will create self-appreciation of our racial inheritance, arouse race pride, and inspire the mind and heart toward high ambition, noble living, and glorious achievement. Probably no race in America can boast the miraculous prosperity that has been achieved within the lifetime of the Syrian pioneers in America.

Our Syrian race progress may be exemplified by N. A. Mokarzel, the Journalist; Antonius Bishallany, the Pioneer; G. K. Gibran, the Poet; Ameen Rihani, the Traveller; Philip K. Hitti, the Historian; and S. A. Mokarzel, the Leader. Many others are rising to prominence through splendid achievement.

In the fields of business, industry, and commerce; in religion, morals, and citizenship; in journalism, literature, and scholarship; in leadership, philanthropy, and progress, the Syrians in America are second to none in their rise and achievement to a foremost place among the races in America.

VII. Every Syrian Boy and Girl Ought to Know the Challenges of the Hour to Syrian-American Youth.

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know they are being challenged to great achievement because they are the custodians of the Syrian race heritage, because they are the founders of the Syrian race in America, and because they are the ancestors of the glorious Syrian race posterity.

We pioneers of the Syrian race in America bequeath it as our last will and testament to our posterity to uphold the honor of our Syrian name in America. We urge you to maintain our Syrian race identity among the races in America. We challenge you to law-abiding citizenship; to constant industrious living; to continued mental, moral, and religious enlightenment; and to preserve mental, religious, and political freedom.

Talcott Williams says of the Syrians in America, "No more intellectual immigration has come to us in the past forty years.

None more swiftly feels the American spirit, or retains more tenaciously the spirit of Syria and the Syrians." (Syrian World, June, 1930, or, Hitti's *The Syrians in America*.)

Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that the blood of our ancestors calls upon them to maintain the splendor of their name by high achievement. Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that the illustrious legacies of our forefathers challenge them to uphold the glory of their fame by great progress. Every Syrian boy and girl ought to know that we Syrian-American pioneers urge them to glorify the honorable foundation for Syrian race greatness laid down by the Syrian pioneer fathers in America.

We Syrian-American pioneers in America believe Syrian youth will ever honor the Syrian name by their race awakening, race achievement, and race progress. We are confident because of our reliance upon their race heritage. We are certain because of our faith in their race pride. We are sure because we have laid a glorious foundation for Syrian race enlightenment, race achievement, and race progress in America.

Song

By G. K. GIBRAN

A great singer is he who sings our silences.

How can you sing when your mouth is filled with food?

How shall your hand be raised in blessing if it is filled with gold?

They say the nightingale pierces his bosom with a thorn when he sings his love song.

So do we all. How else should we sing?

The song that lies silent in the heart of a mother sings upon the lips of her child.



Economic Reconstruction in Syria Proceeds Slowly

*Public Works Program Expands—Crop Returns Improve, But
Prices Lower—Credit Stringency Continues.*

Based on Reports From Vice Consul D. F. McGONIGAL, Beirut,
and Official Sources.

(From Commerce Reports, Oct. 13, 1930.)

RECENT developments in Syria point to a gradual expansion of the public-works program, with a view to expediting the economic reconstruction of the country. Activity has been particularly evident in port improvements, road extension and repairs, and exploitation of the water-power resources. While funds for this work have been limited by the adverse economic situation, the growing need of these projects has brought about a moderate increase in allotments from Government revenues. The plans were aided somewhat by the less unsatisfactory economic conditions in 1929, when crop returns were considerably larger than in the preceding year, though prices were lower and industry was more active. Domestic trade continued to suffer from the impaired purchasing power of the population as a result of the poor crop returns in 1927 and 1928, and this was reflected in the difficulties of many importers and the continued credit stringency. Budget revenues have been fairly satisfactory, with a small surplus indicated. Increased imports in 1929 resulted in a larger adverse trade balance, and trade with the United States expanded.

Agricultural Production Larger.

After two years of poor yields, returns for 1929 showed bumper crops for the country's leading products. The benefits from these favorable returns were, however, considerably reduced by a sharp decline in the world prices. The fruit crop was excellent, with the orange output about twice the normal returns, or approximately 40,000 metric tons. Orange exports were favored by the opening of the Russian market. Grape production was

larger, but marketing was difficult because of smaller domestic demand. The olive output was larger, but this crop also was affected by diminished demand from both local and foreign sources. Activity in the licorice-root trade was restricted by the imposition of a heavy tax.

Cocoon production totaled 3,500 metric tons, as compared with 3,350 metric tons in 1928. The development of cocoon culture continued during the year, with free distribution of mulberry trees by the Government. Further progress was made in the culture of cotton, production in the State of Syria amounting to 2,466 metric tons in 1929 as against 570 metric tons in 1928. In the Alaouites the cotton crop totaled 710 metric tons, as against half that amount the year before.

Government nurseries and agricultural experiment stations were active during 1929; in the Alaouites, 250,000 trees, mostly orange and pistachio, were distributed.

The number of sheep in the State of Syria increased from 1,934,000 in 1928 to 2,239,000 in 1929, with similar increases in other regions, due to favorable weather. As a result, the wool clip was reported to be excellent.

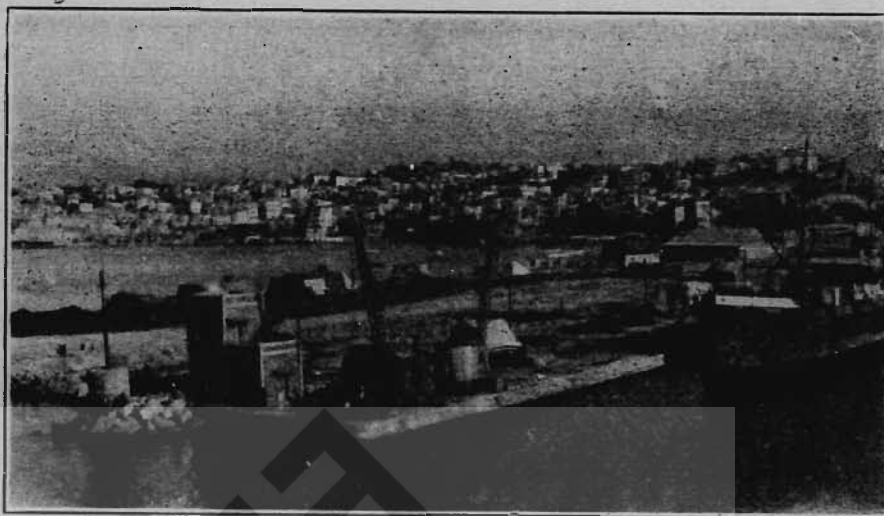
Industry Active.

Industry, which is relatively small in Syria, was fairly active during 1929, textile manufacturing showing the principal gain. Modernization of industry in general continued, with the establishment of many workshops and small manufacturing plants in Damascus and Aleppo. These included principal tanneries and plants for the manufacture of textiles. A cement factory near Tripoli, nearly completed at the close of 1929, is expected to produce about 50,000 tons in the first year of operation.

With a view to stimulating the creation of new industries and encouraging development of existing ones, the Prime Minister of the State of Syria on June 7, 1929, issued a decree authorizing the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to form an industrial bank with a capital of 500,000 Syrian pounds (\$392,000), part of which will be furnished by the State Bank. A commission was appointed to study this project.

Credit Situation Unimproved.

Owing to numerous bankruptcies in 1929 there was no change in the credit situation, extreme caution prevailing. While bankruptcies were due in part to domestic trade conditions and to over-



Entrance to port of Beirut where extensive facilities are being created as part of the public-works program.

extensions of credit by certain foreign exporters, they were also attributable in part to the ease with which "judicial liquidations" were arranged, thereby enabling settlement of debts at a fraction of their value. Action by the authorities in the latter part of 1929, however, soon put an end to this practice, which had tended to undermine legitimate business operations.

Budget Surplus Indicated.

Preliminary data on budget operations in the mandated territory for the year 1929 indicate a small increase in revenues and a slight decline in expenditures, as compared with 1928, the surplus amounting to 3,794,200 Syrian paper pounds as against 3,462,000 Syrian paper pounds for 1928 (the Syrian paper pound equals 20 French francs, or \$0.784). Revenues are estimated at 21,905,200 and expenditures at 18,111,000 Syrian paper pounds; the respective figures for 1928 were 21,639,000 and 18,177,000. The decrease in expenditures is attributed to the failure to utilize total funds allotted for public works. In the State of Syria revenues totaled 12,748,210 Syrian pounds (11,950,000 in 1928), and expenditures 10,567,190 Syrian pounds (9,950,000). Budget estimates for 1930 anticipate a decline in both receipts and expenditures from 1929.

Syrian Exchange Stable.

The Syrian-Lebanese paper pound continued stable during

1929, averaging \$0.784, or practically unchanged from 1928. The Turkish gold pound, which with silver still continues to serve largely as a currency of commerce in the interior, was slightly lower at \$4.34, par being \$4.40. The value of Turkish silver currency, however, slumped sharply toward the end of 1929, in sympathy with the drop in the world price of silver.

The policy of encouraging the use of Syrian instead of Turkish currency was continued during 1929 in the form of lower rediscount rates for the former. Official rediscount rates written in Syrian paper currency averaged from 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and bills written in Turkish currency from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 per cent. Private rates, however, were much higher.

Small Increase in Note Circulation—New Silver Coinage.

Notes in circulation on December 31, 1929, totaled 8,730,000 Syrian-Lebanese pounds, according to the Banque de Syrie et du Grand Liban; this compares with 8,610,000 pounds at the close of 1928. The volume of Turkish currency in circulation in the interior was unofficially estimated to be almost equal to the Syrian currency, although efforts are being made to replace it with Syrian currency.

The issuance of silver coins to the nominal value of 10, 25 and 50 Syrian piasters (100 Syrian piasters equal 1 Syrian pound) was authorized by the French High Commissioner by decree of April 16, 1929. The maximum amount to be issued was fixed at 1,500,000 Syrian pounds, or about 50 piasters per inhabitant. This money was expected to be put into circulation in 1930. The decree provided further that one-third of the profit resulting from the issue should be placed in the reserve fund and used for currency stabilization, and the remaining two-thirds given to the Agricultural Bank.

Ottoman Public Debt Agreement.

An agreement was signed at Paris on January 19, 1929, between the representatives of the bondholders of the Ottoman Public Debt and the States under French mandate, under the terms of which the Syrian States paid during 1929 the equivalent of 1,364,910 Syrian pounds (approximately \$1,070,000) in pounds sterling. The annuities, 244,000 Turkish gold pounds (\$1,073,600) until 1935, reach 415,000 Turkish gold pounds (\$1,826,000) at the highest, and then gradually decrease until

the year 2017, when the payments will end. The customs receipts are pledged as security for payment.

Under this agreement the Syrian States' share of the capital of the old Ottoman Debt amounts to 10,870,000 Turkish gold pounds (\$47,938,000), or 8.41 per cent. of the total.

Transport Extension gradual—Shipping Increases Slightly.

The year witnessed a normal amount of repair, improvement, and extension of existing roads. A regular bus service was inaugurated in October, 1929, between Beirut, Tripoli, Latakia, and Aleppo, and work was begun on the only interurban electric railway in the mandated territory, to run from Damascus to Douma, 12 kilometers (7½ miles) northeast of Damascus; this line will carry freight as well as passengers.

The volume of traffic over the transdesert route between Damascus and Baghdad was well maintained during 1929, despite the increasing competition from airplane service and the railroad to Nissibine, which connects with Mosul and Kerkuk (Iraq) by auto service.

Airplane service between Beirut and Marseille (France) was started in June, 1929, with weekly trips maintained throughout the year. This line is part of the proposed route from France to French Indo-China.

Preliminary data on shipping for 1929 indicate a small increase over 1928 in the total number and tonnage of vessels calling at Syrian ports. For Beirut, however, the principal port, a small decline was recorded.

Port Improvements.

Developments during the year indicate a definite program for expansion of port facilities. New customs warehouses at Beirut, having a floor space of 7,000 square meters, were completed during the year, and an area comprising about 30,000 square meters of the bay was filled in; the latter area is now available for loading and unloading operations, as well as for warehouses. Work was begun in October on the deepening and improvement of Latakia harbor. When this is completed in about two or three years, ships of average tonnage will be able to enter the harbor. With a view to supplying northern Syria and southern Turkey with gasoline, construction of storage tanks was begun in the port of Alexandretta. Proposed construction of a port for airplanes at Tripoli was also announced early this year.

Adverse Trade Balance Larger.

Syria's foreign trade position in 1929 was less favorable than in the preceding year, owing to an increase of 10.4 per cent. in the total value of imports and but little change in the value of exports. Consequently, the adverse trade balance totaled \$37,187,000, as compared with \$30,802,000 in 1928.

Among the imports the principal increases occurred in cotton and cotton goods, wool and woollen goods, vehicles, animal products, oil, machines and tools, rubber, and chemicals. Some of these, to a certain extent, reflect the increasing needs for reconstruction and development work. Declines occurred chiefly in purchases of cereal and cereal products, fuel oils, and silk goods. The continued heavy imports of cereals in the early months of 1929 were necessitated by the failure of the crop in 1928.

Exports and reexports, exclusive of precious metals, compare favorably with 1928, despite the lower price obtained, as the large increase in volume over 1928 indicates.

Wider Exploitation of Water Resources.

Important progress was made in developing the water resources of the country during 1929. A hydroelectric plant on the Kadisha River, which will supply electric current to the city of Tripoli and environs, was completed; work was begun on a dam and hydroelectric plant on the River Orontes, to supply the cities of Homs and Hama, and a similar project was begun in the last quarter of 1929 at Nahr el Safa. The latter station will supply power to Beirut, the villages of Deir el Kamar, Damour, Aley, Souk el Gharb, and Bhamdoun, as well as the radio station at Khalde and the D. H. P. Railway shops and the military airplane shops at Rayak. In addition, studies are also scheduled for electric-power projects on the Euphrates, Khabour, and Yarmouk Rivers.

Radio Service Extended.

A direct radio service between Beirut and New York was inaugurated on September 3, 1929. Formerly messages were relayed via the French station, Sainte Assise. In October, 1929, radio communication between Aleppo and Deir ez Zor was established.

France Chief Source of Imports.

Imports in 1929 came chiefly from France, which furnished

13.9 per cent. (14.8 in 1928) of the total. It was followed by the United States with 11.8 per cent. (9.8); England, 10.9 per cent. (10); Italy, 8.4 per cent. (8.7); and Turkey, 6.7 per cent. (7.5).

Exports and reexports went principally to the United States, which took 17.5 per cent. (15.1 in 1928) of the total. Palestine was next, with 16.9 per cent. (15.04); Egypt, 14.5 per cent. (19.2); France, 12.9 per cent. (17.5); and Italy, 6.9 per cent. (5).

Trade with United States Increases.

Imports from the United States in 1929 totaled 8,586,150 Syrian-Lebanese paper pounds (\$6,723,000), or 11.8 per cent. of total, as compared with 6,466,370 Syrian-Lebanese paper pounds (\$5,063,000), or 9.8 per cent. in 1928. Automobiles and accessories, cereals, and various machines and agricultural implements, show the principal increases; declines occurred in purchases of petroleum products, textiles, and leather.

Exports and reexports to the United States in 1929 amounted to 4,472,240 Syrian-Lebanese paper pounds (\$3,502,000), or 17.5 per cent. of total, as compared with 4,022,340 Syrian-Lebanese paper pounds (\$3,149,000), or 15.01 per cent., in the preceding year. Exports declared to the United States through the American consulate at Beirut were valued at \$5,032,770, as against \$4,349,300 in the preceding year. Shipments of wool, goatskins, nuts, camel hair, and rugs increased in value over the previous year; the principal declines were noted in foodstuffs, licorice root, and sheep casings.

The End and the Beginning

By AMEEN RIHANI

The deed is done, O Kings: the blood is shed:
The sword is broken:—broken, too, the Cross.
But she, the mother eternal of the dead,
Though sorrow-laden, smiles at the loss.

You go down grimed with the blood and smoke of wars;
Your armies scattered and your banners furled;
She comes down covered with the dust of stars,
And gives her life again to build the world.

The Two Seas

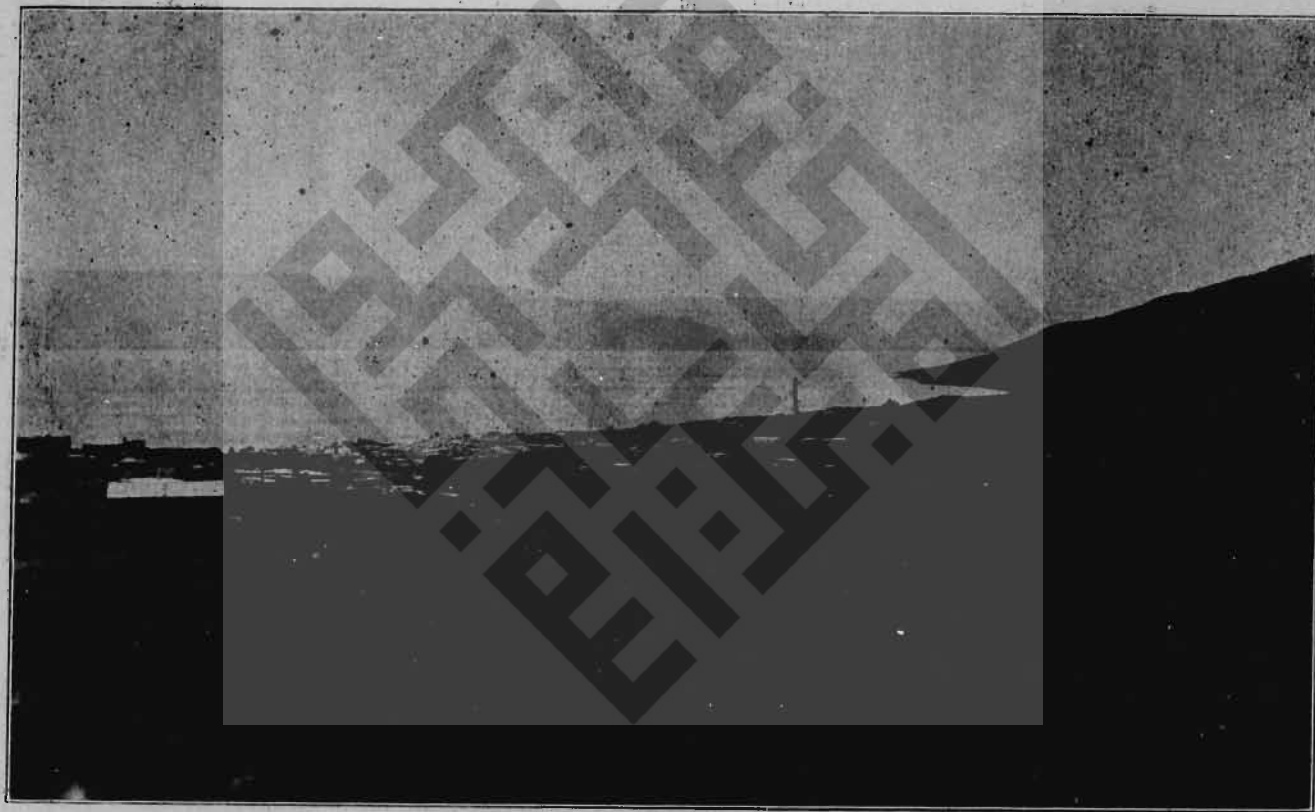
By PHARES ANTON BEHANNESY

(The following is the text of an address given by Mr. Be Hannesey at the Lions Club of Hollywood, Calif., of which he was President in 1927. Enthusiastic admirers of Mr. Be Hannesey had thousands of copies of the address printed and handsomely bound for discriminate distribution. We are glad of the opportunity to give it further publicity.)

IN the very heart of my native land there lie two bodies of water that are remarkable for their physical features, past history and present aspect. The name of the one is the Sea of Death, that of the other the Sea of Galilee. These two inland lakes are only a few miles apart, and yet the character of the one is as far above the other as the heavens are above the earth. Both receive into their bosoms the same sweet waters of the Jordan, as well as those of other mountain streams, and yet the water of the one is intensely bitter, salty and poisonous; no life can exist in its fatal depths, while that of the other is fresh and wholesome, sweet to the lips of man and beast. It is especially famous for the countless variety of fish which therein abound.

The country surrounding the Sea of Salt is as dead and barren as the Sea itself, and nourishes but two kinds of trees, and both of those are worthless. The one is that out of which was composed the Crown of Thorns for Him who died on Calvary; the other has fruit resembling golden apples, which, when you offer to taste them, crumble to ashes on your lips.

The region adjoining the Sea of Galilee is wonderful for its surpassing fertility. Almost the year around it is a perfect paradise of beauty. Not only oranges, lemons, laurels and magnificent oleanders flourish there in profusion, but the entire country is embellished with luxuriant wild flowers and crested with the clinging fingers of a thousand vines; and as one inhales here the sweet air of blossoms, and hears the chorus of the nightingales as they chant their heavenly music, he realizes that his youthful dreams have been fulfilled; at last Galilee with its beautiful Rose of Sharon is all he fancied in childhood.



The Sea of Galilee on which border hills and plains of enchanting beauty, in marked contrast to the scenery of the Dead Sea.

To him who may chance to visit these two unlike seas the contrast is wonderful beyond description. It is a never-to-be-forgotten moment when he looks for the first time upon the shining waters of the Dead Sea as they extend before him to the very horizon. Strange and memorable scene! High mountains tower above them to the east and west and seem to rise from the gloomy shores heavenward in their robes of purity as some celestial visitors might withdraw from the dark, evil passions of mankind. To the south extends a long, narrow belt of sand and ashes. From the north flows slowly the mighty Jordan, desirous apparently to prolong its luxuriant meanderings in the silent valley, reluctant to pour its sweet and sacred waters into the accursed bosom of a sea doomed to inactivity. Not a cloud breaks the blue serene of heaven and not a breath stirs the air. Scarcely a ripple relieves the glassy surface of the lake. The silence is most oppressive. Oh, for the voice of a bird, the hum of an insect to break in upon the overwhelming monotony! Oh, for a screen of leafy boughs to shelter from the glow of the sun and the glare of the sand!

What an impressive evidence there exists along this barren strand of the conflict between the forces of life and death! Here and there are scattered trunks and branches of trees—venerable patriarchs of the forest—rent by violent floods from their ancient dwelling places near the sacred river Jordan, dashed into the Sea of Salt; then, after being steeped in brine, flung upon the dreary beach to petrify into mute memorials of the past. Dead, yet they live. Voiceless, yet they speak, and with a voice in comparison with which the mighty roars of Niagara are but a whisper.

But why should one linger amid such gloom? Let him but behold the Sea of Galilee and he is at once enraptured. On every side the scenery is charming. Glorious indeed are the glimpses which he gains of the Galilean shore, to which history, poetry and legend give undying interest. Blue beneath the Syrian sun, flecked with light shadows of the passing clouds; or dark and wrathful beneath the storm, this Sea is a constant source of pleasure and fascination. Paths of ideal beauty wind about its shores, sun-sheltered by the trees, rendered cool and fragrant by the breezes from those calm waters upon which the Man of Galilee walked and, in His majesty, spoke peace to the angry winds, hushing the surging waves to silence beneath His feet.

Anticipate what you will, you never can be disappointed in

the Sea of Galilee. In the words of the Queen of Sheba the astonished traveler exclaims, "The half has not been told!" Nor does familiarity with its glorious and charming scenes lessen their effect, for, according to that immortal poet, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Whatever else may be forgotten in this crowded life of ours, such a vision of this glorious Sea will linger like an inspiration with him who has stood on its shore, until memory shall have lost its power, until his eyes shall have closed upon the finite to behold the Infinite.

In remote ages the Sea of Death was as beautiful as the Sea of Galilee; its scenery as charming. That was the time when the fated cities of the plains flourished in its vicinity till their crimes drew down from above the consuming fire and they were withered from off the face of the earth. When we consider that once the contrast between these two seas was almost imperceptible, the first thought that comes to the mind is, "Why such a contrast today?" It is a well-known fact that every inland lake must sooner or later become salty, bitter and poisonous if it has no outlet; and this is precisely the cause of the existing condition of the Sea of Death. Situated as it is, in such a low crater-like basin, fourteen hundred feet below the sea-level, it receives great volumes of water from every direction, giving nothing out except what is forced by evaporation. Thus it becomes still more bitter, salty and poisonous. It is even seven times more salty than the ocean, while the Sea of Galilee becomes sweeter and more beautiful as the countless ages sweep into fathomless eternity, for underlying its action is the fundamental law of the universe of God, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

These two seas, so near and yet so unlike, represent two types of human life; the one governed by selfishness—the other, by love. How low must be the impulses of him who absorbs the resources of others to gratify his own selfish desires. If he were not living on such a low plane, fourteen hundred feet below the level of the Heart of Humanity, he surely would be conscious of that sacred power, so lofty and sublime, implanted in every human breast, which, if not perverted into selfishness, would fling outwardly upon society and even upon the brute world. As the Sea of Death receives great volumes of water and never becomes full, so is that nature that absorbs, always having a sufficiency but never enough. The time at last comes when there is not even a sufficiency and it is the means of its own destruction. As the

Sea of Galilee pours out its sweet and sacred waters forever, and never becomes empty, so is the human soul made infinite in power to love and serve; the higher mortal ought to mourn that he has thus far lived having helped so few with this godlike thing—the lingering image of the Great Creator.

A Syrian of the tenth century, feeling the littleness of himself, once said, "A bird could fly across the whole heavens, and why can't I enter into wider realms of truth?" Our age would reply, "There is nought to hinder. Let him fly everywhere and see the extent of the human-divine kingdom." No bird can race in the great blue sky against a noble soul. In a single hour America's love and sympathy fell, like a shower of manna, upon the earthquake victims of Japan.

Though we climb fame's proudest height,
 Though we sit on hills afar,
 Where the thrones of triumph are;
 Though all deepest mysteries be opened to our sight,
 If we win not by that power
 For the world a richer dower,
 If this great humanity share not in our gain,
 We have lived our life in vain.

Though our lot be calm and bright;
 Though upon our brows we wear
 Youth and grace, and beauty rare,
 And the hours go swiftly, singing in their flight;
 If we let no glory down
 Any darkened life to crown—
 If our grace and gladness have no ministry for pain,
 We have lived our life in vain.

But the life of men and women in this sort of work is not thus to be spent; their souls are not dumb, but eloquent. There is no value in education unless we can act out the wisdom of the school. There is no merit in culture if sleep and stupor can fill its place.

It cannot be that an era so powerful, a country so vast and marvelous as this, asks only for the common pursuits that bring us daily bread for the table or shelter from the storm. There must be something more than this, and today, more than ever,

there is a flag of progress and service waving over every hill and tower. Happy are we if we can see this divine banner, if our ear can from the noises of this world separate the whisper that asks us to be soldiers of mankind. As such, in our highest form, we must be in ceaseless action, with an Americanism simple in creed but rich in activity; and, like the Americanism of Abraham Lincoln, let it all be incarnated in life; like the red in the rose, let Americanism be in us; let it be our color, our very form of being. We may find times for patience with radical theories of government, but let us be as impatient of their wrong application as a good musician is impatient with discord; and all of this will soon form into a river, the streams whereof will make more and more glad the whole of humanity and our God.

In The Garden of Love

By DR. SALIM Y. ALKAZIN

THE cypress swayed with ecstasy,
The roses flushed with anger,
When on her lips I pressed my lips,
And on her heart my finger.

Beside the violet bed, beneath the jasmine vine
There dreamed the rivulet, the daisies seemed to pine.
But not a word we spake,
For fear the spell to brake—
Our hearts were speaking—
But from her eyes I deeply quaffed the ancient wine.
With magic reeking.



Love and War in the Desert

An Actual Love Drama Among the Bedouins and its Sequel

THE eternal forces of love and hatred, of injury and revenge, as intense and relentless as the heat of the desert sun, still exercise their sway among the Bedouin Arabs as in the remotest times of the past. Just as the mode of life of these sons of Ishmael has not changed for countless centuries, so have their characteristics, born of the hard life of their inhospitable surroundings, remained immutable. Even to our day and in the face of the great strides the world has made in science, invention and methods of transportation, we read of raids and feuds and wars of retaliation such as we are wont to find in the lore of the remotest ages.

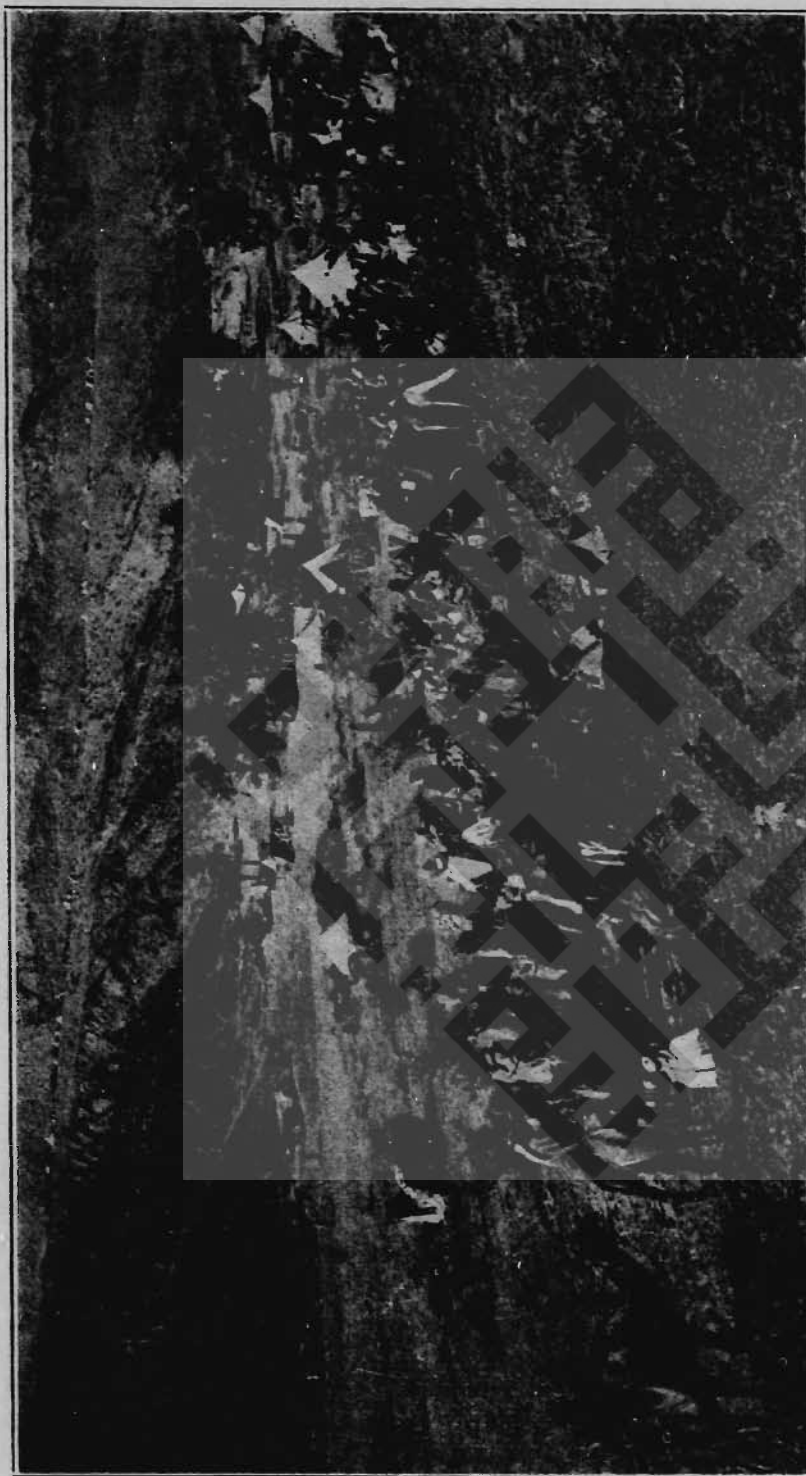
The Syrian press has of late been full of sensational details of the rising of the bedouin tribes of the northern Syrian desert to what threatens to develop into a general war—war as fierce and relentless as only the Arabs in their mad desire for revenge can wage. Already several casualties have occurred which served to fan the fire of passion into greater flame. An emir was murdered in cold blood in defiance of the laws of hospitality which has been held unbroken among the Arabs of the desert from time immemorial, and the indignation aroused by this action has swept the land as a great conflagration. Immediately the scattered sections of the tribe of the murdered chief rallied from all parts of the desert bent on retaliation, and those of the enemy tribe did likewise for self-defense. Only the timely intervention of French armed forces comprising tanks, airplanes and artillery prevented a general clash. But the French admit that they have a serious problem on their hands in dealing with these untamed sons of the open sandy wastes who are still dominated by their age-old traditions and refuse to be appeased unless revenge is had in their own way. In this case the injured tribe would be satisfied only if a man of equal rank from the attacking tribe is offered as a propitiatory sacrifice, and to no other solution would they consent, even if they were to kill hundreds and thousands of common enemy men. Revenge among the nomads of the desert is a sacred tradition considered most essential for pur-

poses of self-respect. It is to them an assertion of power that serves as warning to enemies that their attacks and depredations will not be permitted to go unpunished. This has been the law of the desert from time immemorial and no civilizing influence can eradicate from the breast of the bedouin this deeply-rooted tradition so long as he adheres to his roving instincts and is apparently far from the reach of organized agencies of the law.

As would be expected, the cause of strife was a woman. Sabha, the belle of the Hudaïdi tribe, and reputed the most beautiful among the women of the desert, was desperately sought by rival chiefs. An emir of her own tribe was a suitor, as well as a young emir of the powerful tribe of the Mawalis, Nawaf El-Ahmad by name.

Emir Nawaf had at first followed the prescribed tribal tradition governing such cases among the Arabs and asked the hand of Sabha of her elder brother, to whom he paid the sum of £150 in gold as dowry. But it later developed that the brother acted without sufficient authority since the father of the girl was still alive and his consent had to be had in preference. Furthermore, the accepted custom among the tribes is that no union with another tribe is to be consummated unless the permission of the ranking chief is first sought and granted, and remonstrances by the latter engendered fear in the heart of the young emir that he would be denied possession of his beloved.

Acting in the impatience of youth, emir Nawaf set out one night to execute a bold plan. His consuming love for the bedouin maiden would brook no interference and it mattered not to him if he plunged the whole population of the desert in bloody strife. Accompanied by his young brother and another brave of his tribe, he surprised the girl while asleep and proceeded to carry her away in the most approved romantic style. But her father, awakened by the commotion, raised the alarm among his townsfolk who hastily armed themselves and rode out in pursuit. The posse overtook the kidnappers in the outskirts of the village and engaged them in battle. The sheik-lover placed the girl in charge of his companion and with his brother held the pursuers in check, but owing to the latter's superior numbers they were gradually closing in upon him. The guardian of the girl was quick to perceive the danger of the situation and hastened to the assistance of his companions. It was then that the girl seized the opportunity of this momentary relaxation of the vigil and made a



A typical Arab camp by an oasis in the desert showing the mode of life the Arabs have maintained from time immemorial.

dash for liberty. But her strength was not equal to the task and she fell exhausted in the line of fire. A member of the posse made a desperate effort to rescue her but was felled by a well-aimed bullet. Another braved the danger in the same effort and met the same fate. Then the father boldly dashed to save his daughter, but instead of shooting him from a distance the embattled Romeo engaged him in a hand-to-hand tussle and finally laid him helpless on the field with a dagger in his side.

None of the pursuers now dared brave the fire of the kidnapers, who carried the girl and rode swiftly away on their fleet Arabian horses and were swallowed by the night.

The posse carried its dead and wounded back to the village and sent news of the attack to members of the tribe in the locality. Soon the news spread all over the desert with amazing rapidity and there was great indignation over the manner in which the deed was committed. The sympathy of the bedouins was all on the sides of the girl's father and his tribe of Hudaidis.

But something soon occurred which caused a most serious change in the situation and reversed the sentiment in favor of the Mawalis, the tribe to which belongs the young emir-lover who was responsible for the kidnapping. It came about in the following manner.

Emir Abdur Razzak, ranking chief of the Mawalis, had hastened from the city of Hama to the scene of the disturbances in an effort to bring about peace since emir Nawaf, the kidnapper, was one of his relatives. He had reached the district of Marrah, about midway between Hama and Aleppo, which is considered within the territory of the Hudaidis. He pitched his camp and awaited the opportunity to enter into negotiations with the Hudaidis on the assumption that the kidnapping incident was but a trivial matter which could be easily smoothed over. But he had reckoned ill with the temper of the emir of the Hudaidi tribe who was a suitor to Sabha and had been promised her hand in marriage by the father. No sooner did the emir of the Hudaidis, Naif, learn of the presence of emir Abdur Razzak within his territory than he rode at the head of fifty of his men bent on revenge. At their approach Abdur Razzak came out of his tent unarmed and made them a sign of peace. He expressed regret at the action of the rash youth who caused this unpleasantness to arise between the two friendly tribes and promised to use his authority and influence to make redress. But the Hudaidis had

DECEMBER, 1930



French desert police in Syria standing guard over a group of Arabs.

murder in their hearts and would entertain no such course, and to the blunt question of the Mawali emir as to what they finally wanted the Hudaïdi emir replied: "We will be satisfied only with your life." Saying which he levelled his rifle and sent a bullet through the heart of the Mawali chief. He was about to kill more but his followers restrained him and induced him to return with them to their camp.

Now the women of the murdered emir whom he was bringing with him from his city residence were witnesses to the crime and the cry they raised was echoed throughout the desert with such force and speed that within less than twenty-four hours tens of thousands of armed bedouins of the Mawali tribe and their adherents had responded to the call of danger. The scenes which followed were considered sinister forebodings of coming events, and the French authorities prepared for eventualities.

The funeral of the murdered emir was described as one which the desert has not witnessed for many a generation. Thousands of horsemen swore that they would not dismount until they had taken revenge and rode in the funeral procession fully armed. Their women, who were ever in Arab history the sustainers of the spirit of the men in war, gave vent to the most pitiable wailings and lamentations. Their praise of the beauty, the generosity, the hospitality and the youth of the murdered emir incited the men to greater frenzy. Their spirit of anger and impatience seemed to be transmitted to their fiery steeds which strained at their reins as if anxious to plunge into action.

Marching in the cortège with their slow, measured gait, were hundreds of camels draped in black silk and lending a strange and sombre aspect to the procession. Riding on their humps were more wailing women who at times stood at full length and made wild gesticulations while emitting piercing shrieks. All this had the effect of arousing the already enraged tribesmen to the highest pitch of frenzy.

The body of the murdered chief was carried on the shoulders of some of his men. Behind them walked his afflicted sister dressed in a manner calculated to further arouse the anger and steel the determination of the tribesmen. She had donned her brother's garb, even to the riding boots and the head dress, consisting of koufia and ighal. She had girded herself with his cartridge belt and slung his rifle across her back. On her left swung his long curved sword and on her right hung his short

ornamented dagger. "The dogs did not give you a chance to fight, but I shall show them how terrible will be our revenge," she shouted once and again, and her spirit ran like fire through the immense throng.

Word had reached the Hudaidis of the war preparations of the Mawalis and they engaged in similar preparations. But word also had reached the French military authorities of the threatening danger and they were no less prompt in taking action. Soon a squadron of airplanes were hovering over the district and the armored cars and the several batteries of artillery which followed arrived in time to wedge themselves between the two tribes arrayed for battle and prevent an actual clash.

Col. Bonnot, French military commander of the Northern Syrian district, offered to act as mediator and strained every effort to convince the warring tribesmen of the futility of engaging in continued strife. The chiefs promised to use all their influence to hold their followers in check. But the Mawalis were most frank in stating their position. "We do not wish to drench the desert with blood," they said, "but our sense of self-respect will not permit us to let the murder of our emir go unavenged."

"But emir Nawaf, when he carried away the girl Sabha, killed two of the Hudaidis and wounded the girl's father," pleaded the French officer.

"Even so the scale is in favor of the Hudaidis," replied the Mawali emirs. "We may kill thousands of them and not feel fully avenged. We will rest only when we have spilled the blood of their emir or one of his sons, for then there would be an equality in rank, and they would have more respect in the future for the great reach of our arms."

No words could carry a plainer meaning of the intent of the Mawali bedouins. It is said that they are not as strong numerically as their enemies the Hudaidis, but they have a reputation throughout the desert of being the fiercest and most desperate warriors. And their passion for revenge may smoulder but will never die.

Under the conditions the French authorities are taking no chances. They are keeping a strong armed force in strategic positions and are prepared for all eventualities. To let the fierce bedouins follow their natural bent would soak the whole desert with blood.

Nor would the fighting be confined to the desert but there is

every danger of it spreading to the border cities which the bedouins are known to frequent. About the end of October, when news reached Aleppo of the tragedy which was enacted in the desert resulting in the murder of Emir Abdur Razzak, Emir Abd Ibn Ibrahim Pasha of the Mawalis was in conference at the Intelligence Bureau of the French military authorities, and upon learning the news he left in great anger bent on proceeding immediately for the desert to engage in the war. At the entrance of the building he met an emir of the Hudaidis, the tribe which had committed the murder, and without parley or explanation he drew his pistol to kill him. But another emir of an impartial tribe who happened on the scene stepped between them and prevented another tragedy.

Meanwhile, young emir Nawaf who had plunged the desert into this condition of turmoil and unrest because of his uncontrollable love for a maiden of another tribe, still remains at large in the desert. News at one time reached Aleppo that a posse had overtaken him near the banks of the Euphrates, preparing to plunge still further into the trackless desert. But he gave his pursuers battle and escaped with his prize. The same determination that prompted him to resort to kidnapping has not forsaken him in still defying the machinery of law and braving the wrath of the whole Arab society through his mad love for the girl he set his heart on possessing.

O 1 His Friends

Translated from the Arabic by J. D. CARLYLE

With conscious pride I view the band
Of faithful friends that round me stand,
With pride exult that I alone
Can join these scatter'd jems in one:—
For they're a wreath of pearls and I
The silken cord on which they lie.

'Tis mine their inmost souls to see,
Unlock'd is every heart to me,
To me they cling, on me they rest,
And I've a place in every breast:—
For they're a wreath of pearls, and I
The silken cord on which they lie.

ALI ZAIBAQ

(*Quicksilver*)

THE UNPARALLELED ADVENTURES OF THE
CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE CALIPH HAROUN
AL-RASHID, OF THE CITY OF BAGDAD.

Translated from the original Arabic by

SALLOUM A. MOKARZEL and THADDEUS S. DAYTON

CHAPTER IV

THE ISLE OF ENCHANTMENT

QUICKSILVER tarried seven days while preparing for his journey, and on the eighth he rode forth on a camel and proceeded in the direction of the Island of Enchantment. But Hasan said to him as he departed:

"O my lord and companion, I desire to go with you and serve you in whatever you undertake, and I entreat you to give me permission to do so."

But Quicksilver answered him that it was impossible, and that in order to realize the accomplishment of his quest and the task that was imposed upon him he must proceed alone. Thereupon he bade him farewell, and pursued his journey.

For six days he continued with but little rest and finally reached the shore of a sea where he found a village in which he spent the night.

On the morrow Quicksilver gave the man who had sheltered him ten pieces of gold and asked him to provide a boat so that he might reach the Island of Enchantment. The fisherman was overjoyed at the munificence of the payment and made haste to comply.

Thereupon they embarked and rowed a long distance through the sea until they reached the island. There Quicksilver left the boat in the keeping of his companion while he proceeded to explore the place.

In the center of the island he perceived two opposing swords

which played swiftly in the air, up and down, without striking each other. At sight of these he stood transfixed with wonder at their diabolical, never-ceasing movement.

Finally he lifted from the earth a huge stone which he cast between the swords, and they instantly reduced it to powder. Thereupon he retired a little distance to a secluded spot and stood pondering upon his predicament, not knowing which way to turn or how he should go about it to make the swords pause in their incessant motion.

While thus engrossed with his thoughts sleep overcame him and he saw in a dream a celestial being who addressed him saying:

"Arise, Quicksilver, and toss at the ever-playing swords the branch of the palm tree which you brought from Egypt."

Quicksilver awakened from his slumber, took the branch of the palm tree and threw it between the ever-moving swords.

It came to pass exactly as had been foretold in his dream; their action immediately ceased. At the same moment the heaving sea became calm and the island shook with the tremors of an earthquake, after which the swords disappeared completely and there came into view a great dome whose only entrance was a brazen door upon which was inscribed in letters of gold the following legend:

"Oh thou, who enterest this place, pass without fear, and take thy booty, the magic box of the All Seeing Eye, and depart."

No sooner did Quicksilver read this inscription and comprehend its meaning than he advanced and set his hand against the brazen door whose ponderous weight immediately yielded to his touch. He entered and found within a vast circular chamber beneath the dome enormous quantities of gold and jewels which shone with a radiance that dazzled his eyes. In the midst of all this treasure, resting on a pedestal beneath the center of the dome, was the magic box of the All-Seeing Eye, at sight of which his reason almost fled from him. Recovering himself quickly, for he dared not delay an instant, he advanced and lifted the enchanted box upon his shoulders and bore it swiftly out of the place without pausing to gather up any of the vast riches that lay heaped within. But no sooner had he passed across the threshold than the brazen door closed with a thunderous crash and an awful voice that resounded to the heavens cried:

"To the end of time! To the end of time!"

Quicksilver looked back in fear and was amazed to perceive behind him Hassan who had emerged from the portal by a hair's breadth before the closing of the door. Upon perceiving his companion Quicksilver was seized with rage and demanded what had brought him to the Enchanted Island, to which Hassan replied:

"O my lord, may your wrath be appeased. When you left me in the Enchanted City I followed your footsteps taking care not to let my presence be known to you, and I continued to pursue you until you reached this place. I followed closely when you entered and as you lifted upon your shoulders the magic box I hastily gathered these precious stones which I brought forth with me. I had no thought but to render to you whatever aid might be within my power, for to you I owe my life."

Quicksilver, whose anger had now cooled, marvelled at Hassan's words and took the jewels saying:

"Verily, I entered this great treasure house and came away without thinking of gathering any of the vast stores of jewels that lay about me. I will take these gems as an offering for the shrine in Egypt."

Thereupon both men made their way to the shore of the island and crossed to the mainland where they mounted their camels and pursued their journey for nights and days until they came within sight of the Enchanted City. There they were surprised to see about the walls a vast armed camp and to hear a deafening noise which filled the air and rose to the skies. It was then night and Quicksilver, who was at a loss to discover the reason for the presence of such a great army before the city, said to Hassan:

"Wait for me here a little while until I can ascertain what peoples these are that have come here in such war-like array."

So saying he dismounted from his camel and made his way on foot without detection until he reached the outskirts of the encampment. There he discovered that the multitude was a mighty army of Blacks and it became clear to him at once that the King of the Blacks and the Soudanese had come all the way from his own country to avenge the death of his emissaries who had been destroyed and to take by force the daughter of the King of the Enchanted City.

Quicksilver being as wise as he was brave, saw that his un-

aided strength could not prevail against such a great host. He therefore retraced his steps to where Hassan awaited him. His companion counselled him to evade the besieging army and to make a detour about the Enchanted City with the hope of finding some place to enter it.

"Such is not my plan," responded Quicksilver, "my intention is to capture the King of the Blacks by artifice and to bring him forth from his camp to this place, after which the rest will be comparatively easy."

Thus saying he ordered his companion and friend to make a fire over which he placed a pot into which he poured water dissolving therein a powder such as spies use to disguise themselves in time of war. After letting the water and the powder boil for a necessary time he took the liquid which had now become of an inky blackness and bathed himself with it, straightway becoming as though he had been born a black slave.

Then in order to more successfully achieve his purpose he bound his left arm in a sling and proceeded towards the encampment of the army of the Blacks. There he mingled with the soldiers, lifting his voice in a plaintive cry, and perfectly imitating their vernacular, he said:

"O sons of my maternal uncles, I am now under the wing of your protection. May curses fall like torrential rain on the heads of the Whites!"

Perceiving him in the pitiable condition which he had assumed, the Blacks gathered around him in great numbers demanding the cause of his outcry.

"To none other than the Whites do I owe my grievous condition," answered Quicksilver. "It is they who have covered me with wounds and from them I have received this broken arm. But my story is long to tell. Take me therefore to our most powerful and gracious King so that I may inform him of all that has befallen."

The Blacks, unsuspecting of his identity, conducted him to the royal tent within which Quicksilver immediately perceived the King, seated in the center surrounded by his officers and aides with drawn swords, his countenance resembling a tower of anger.

Immediately Quicksilver raised a great cry of lamentation which attracted the attention of the King who ordered the supposedly wounded soldier to be brought before him. Whereupon Quicksilver, after saluting the King, said:

"Know, O my Lord, that this night, in company with some of the sons of my uncle, I bethought myself of approaching the gates of the city with the hope of discovering something of importance relative to the enemy. When we neared one of the gates we were surprised to find it was open and immediately rushed in, but a great number of soldiers sprang at us from an ambush and there ensued a battle in which our small company fought valiantly but was finally overcome. All my companions were killed and I alone succeeded in escaping, as though by magic. Thereupon I hastened to inform your Majesty of this affair and of the treachery of our enemies."

Upon hearing this the king became terribly enraged, his eyes seemed to start from their sockets and he swore by the fire that he worshiped that he would put the inhabitants of the Enchanted City to the sword.

To Quicksilver, as a reward for his services, the King promised a beautiful white maiden as soon as he was able to effect the capture of the Enchanted City.

After expressing his gratitude, Quicksilver withdrew from the royal tent and mingled with the King's body-guard outside feigning that he was cold. These took compassion on him, gave him clothing and asked him to spend the night with them, as he appeared weak from his wounds.

Quicksilver wished for no better opportunity for carrying out his designs, and remained awake until he was assured that all the guards were plunged in heavy slumber. Then he took from his bag some antidote for benj which he placed in his nostrils, and taking a bowl of metal he filled it with a mixture of benj and dried herbs which he lit, causing it to smoke so furiously that soon the tent became filled with the poisonous fumes, straightway stupefying all of the King's body-guards. Thereupon he proceeded stealthily to the royal tent where he repeated the same stratagem so that the King also completely lost all consciousness.

That night being dark and the whole army asleep, Quicksilver bound the King with heavy cords and wrapped him as a carpet. Then Quicksilver lifted the King upon his shoulders and succeeded in getting clear of the camp and reaching the spot where he had left Hassan, whom he acquainted with what he had done. They then hastened to the great gates of the Enchanted City where the guards on the high walls greeted them

with a shower of arrows, thinking that they were enemies, but Quicksilver cried out to them:

"Withhold your hands! We are friends of your King! I am Quicksilver whom I hope you have not yet forgotten."

Upon hearing this the guards informed the King who straightway came to meet Quicksilver, accompanied by his Vizier and all the dignitaries of his court. The King ordered that ropes should be let down from the top of the wall so that Quicksilver and his companion might be hoisted up.

Now Quicksilver was still black with the dye of his disguise at which the King wondered exceedingly, but Quicksilver hastened to inform him of the reason, and took the heavy burden in which was wrapped the King of the Blacks and laid it at the feet of the King of the Whites, saying:

"Here, my Lord, is a gift I have. The burden that lies at your feet is none other than your greatest enemy, the King of the Blacks himself."

At this the King became speechless with joy and showered many honors upon Quicksilver, congratulating him upon his safe return and the many feats of valor and strategy that he had performed.

Quicksilver accompanied the King to his palace where he was greeted by the Princess in whose safe keeping he placed the magic box of the All-Seeing Eye. He inquired of her the reason for the presence of the army of Blacks about the city, and she replied:

"O my deliverer, may Allah ever preserve you as our guardian and protector! Two days after you departed, this army of Blacks made its appearance before our city, commanded by the King in person, in order to avenge his emissaries whom you put to death after delivering me from them. I have been sick with fear of being captured and delivered over to the cruel fate that has been awaiting me, but now my heart is filled with joy over your return and I feel that my safety and the safety of our kingdom is once more assured by your presence.

"Fear not, O my Princess," answered Quicksilver, "for I will surely disperse this invading host this very night."

"This prodigious feat of arms has been told around many a desert caravan fire," said the tale teller, "but little has been narrated of the amazing adventures of Quicksilver in the City of Enchantment. All these I shall recount tomorrow night, and they will be well worth the hearing."

(To be continued)

The Gardener

By THOMAS ASA

UN-ARRESTED qualms a day beset me,
Ephemeral visions of an unknown shore;
Chaotic hopes and fears that would decree
The truth of pages from forbidden lore—
But divine revealment was not to be,
For swiftly closed again the unseen door.

Then I started from my chair in great confusion,
And in thoughtless haste I left the chambered gloom;
But, uppermost, my mind had touched the grave allusion,
Wherein reposed the secret of eternal doom;—
Oh why had Fate so stirred the hoarded fusion,
And transformed my soul into a darkened tomb!

And then unheeding of the darkened sky,
And like a madman thru the hiding night,
I fled as from pursuit the damning Lie,—
Punitive Hand that dawns with guarded Light—
Unbroken Watch that keeps the fearful Eye,—
The destinies of Life in Godly sight.

Along a winding path, with unseeing eyes,
I fled, my thoughts in blinding, searing haze;
And high above, with ill-portent, the hov'ring skies—
But none of this I saw in fevered mental craze,
While, over humble fields which fall and rise,
Simple peasant folk would stare in great amaze.

My strength had gone from soul's exertion,
So perforce I stopped to gaze in doubt
On an unmarked grave in rank desertion,
That lay half-hidden amidst a leafy rout.
What had led me here but His assertion,
To best my probing mind with soul devout.

Silent-voiced and vision fastened to the mound,—
And then I heard the summer shower break,
And cool the fevered brow and still the sound
That my madly struggling thoughts would make—
What form from which new faith to found,
And in what wise the sentient lesion wake?

And, in grateful pension of the cooling rain,
Stood in rigid silence with uncovered head,
With my mind once more, in common, sane,
And pondered whereat my tortured soul had led;
The restless doubt, in past long years inane,
Has come to light as from the secret Dead.

And then anon the summer shower ceased,
And from the dampened foliage rose
A scented vapor, from the earth released,
As with reluctance from the grave it goes.
But what ghostly sight is that from out the East?
As from the sodden earth the vapor rose.

The ghostly mass took form before my faltering sight,
And nearer drew it to the crumbling grave;
And then on the nonce a ray of super-light
Flashed at its base, as though the way to pave;
And back I stepped in preternatural fright—
To stop, for from without a Hand doth wave!

And, like a graven image, stood I there
To see the ghostly sight a human born,
In hallowed robes of snow-white blinding glare—
Then to bend o'er the wasted grave, and shorn
Soon lies the alien weed, and blossoms fair—
And bloom,—my questioning Faith in like reborn!



EDITORIAL COMMENT

RACIAL CONSIDERATIONS

AMERICA has not as yet passed the stage of racial considerations. Evidences of this condition continue to assert themselves in various ways despite claims to the contrary. The condition seems to be one that not only cannot be ignored but is given tacit approval and even taken advantage of on various occasions. This by no means should be construed as division in the American nation, but rather a natural attempt by each ethnic group to assert itself and vindicate its moral rights in the face of similar policies on the part of other groups. The situation would seem to justify the conclusion that just as much as the American government is one of parties so is it one of racial groups.

One can hardly think of the government of New York City, for instance, without associating it with Tammany and the Irish, nor of some Mid-Western States without affiliating them with the German element. The senatorship of a certain State has even become the heritage of a particular family controlling the votes of a racial element. No secret was made of

this fact in the last general elections.

But these remarks are not prompted by happenings of long ago. Something more recent and of equally strong significance has been enacted on the stage of New York politics which again brings racial considerations to the limelight. And there was no mincing of words about it. The discussion was freely indulged in not only in the public press but in the courts. The very expression "racial considerations" is borrowed from the official records.

This came about through the investigation into the appointment of ex-Magistrate George F. Ewald to the bench in 1927. Supreme Court Justice McCook, presiding at the trial, is thus reported by the N. Y. Sun of Nov. 26, 1930, to have reviewed the case in his charge to the jury.

"Justice McCook said that in the spring of 1927, Mayor Walker was considering a vacancy about to occur on the magistrates' bench. Magistrate Oberwager, a German-American, was to be retired, and the Mayor might have had it in mind to choose a German-American to be his successor. In any event, the Mayor received

letters recommending Ewald from the Steuben Society (German organization) and from Victor A. Ridder, the publisher of the Staats-Zeitung (German newspaper)."

"According to the prosecution," he continued, "Ewald knew he must get Healey's backing if he were to be appointed a magistrate, while the defense contended that Ridder, the German-American Steuben Society and *racial considerations* were the only factors involved in Mayor Walker's choice."

So racial considerations still are very much in evidence in America. Racial organizations deal out their recommendations for political favors and political favors are granted on racial considerations. We say this neither in a spirit of approval nor of criticism, but as a mere statement of facts.

Our only reason for stressing the point is to bring the subject closer home to Syrian-Americans. Syrians are late comers to America and should for that reason be the more race conscious. They may be so individually but they certainly fail to show any traces of such consciousness collectively in any organized form. It would seem, under the circumstances, that they are wanting in the practice of an accepted American tradition.

If coming together on racial

principles were against the interest of America we would unhesitatingly disapprove of it. Not alone that, but we would be the first to combat it and use every means to stamp it out. Our loyalty should be to our adopted country whole and undivided. THE SYRIAN WORLD has always stood for the principle of Americanism unflinchingly and without equivocation. And other than this course it will never follow—other than this policy it will never entertain.

But it is not here a question of loyalty. It is a question of group interest signs of which we observe all about us at all times and in various ways. The inescapable conclusion is that what is permitted to others could not within reason be denied us.

If, therefore, we advocate race consciousness and race solidarity it is for the service of ourselves as an integral group in America and for the service of America through our united effort. We would claim our rights as we discharge our obligations. We would maintain ourselves in the standing due every self-respecting group or community.

Leaving aside political considerations we urge first the development of that which is best in our racial heritage for perpetuation as our contribution to

America. Let us admit that we cannot make an impression as a political force, but there is no end to our potential contributions along more constructive and enduring lines. To secure these benefits we must first develop that consciousness of power which alone is the incentive to achievement. The development of this consciousness depends largely on a proper estimation of our inherent racial qualities which our younger generation fails to appreciate through inadequate methods of enlightenment. Our efforts, therefore, should be directed towards self-enlightenment as a means of proper self-appraisal. An interest in racial organizations sponsoring cultural programs, as well as in other mediums for the spread of proper knowledge bearing on our history and past achievements, should not fail to bring about their desired results.

SYRIAN SOCIETIES

THE growing movement for united, organized action among the Syrians of America, so much in evidence of late, is a most welcome one. It is a sign of reawakening that holds great portents. It is an unfailing indication that the Syrians are coming to a realization of their latent powers and are striving to develop them.

In this issue of THE SYRIAN

WORLD several new Syrian societies are reported organized in widely scattered parts of the country. What is more significant is that they are invariably the result of the efforts of the younger generation. Syrian young men and young women are coming together on a new basis of understanding and racial consciousness. They have come to appreciate their especial situation and to vision their opportunities. Untold benefit could come from this movement if the various organized units were brought together under a national federation along the line once suggested by this publication. Perhaps it has been for the best to have held the consummation of the movement in abeyance after once having aroused widespread interest in it. Its resumption in the future might prove of immensely greater benefit owing to the larger possibilities offered. We shall await the opportune time to again take up the task of forming the federation.

In the meantime, we cannot urge too strongly the necessity of forming a Syrian-American society wherever the size of the community warrants. This will not only bring about close cooperation among members of the particular community, but will pave the way for the larger possibility of national solidarity.

Readers' Forum

SYRIAN-AMERICAN LEADERS

Contributions of Rev. W. Mansur Hailed as Inspirational.

Editor's Note—The writer of the following letter, a prominent physician of Flint Mich., is a typical Syrian-American of open mind who bases appraisal of service purely on merit. We publish his letter not so much for its laudatory references to *The Syrian World* as for its expressions of appreciation for the very valuable contributions of our many collaborators. We especially welcome his suggestion of publishing biographical sketches of our pioneers and leaders in various fields of endeavor and trust to be able to take up the task in the not distant future.

Editor *The Syrian World*

As you well know, I have been a constant reader of *The Syrian World* ever since its infancy. I can honestly say that I have read every article ever published in *The Syrian World*; I have presented it at least to one friend and introduced and praised it to many others. I ask neither praise nor reward for doing so, because I do not care for praise, and because the growth and the flourishing of *The Syrian World* is my greatest reward. May it grow, may it flourish, and may it endure as a guiding star to our Syrian-American people. I hope you will live long enough to guide its footsteps.

My reason for this correspondence is to tell you how much I enjoy *The*

Syrian World and how much I benefit by it. My second reason is to compliment Rev. W. A. Mansur on his article viz:—"Great Syrian-Americans of Our Times." I think it is a most timely article. I want Rev. Mansur to know that I join him in paying tribute to the great Syrian-Americans in general and to those whom he wrote about in particular. I would also ask him to give us an epitomized biography of those great men whom he wrote about in the October issue of this year, because there are many Syrians who do not know much about these great men. I myself had the good fortune of reading *Al-Hoda* daily and therefore I have known quite a bit about N. A. Mokarzel. He is a man I admire but I was never as yet lucky enough to meet him personally. I have had the good fortune to read the articles of the other men, and to meet Mr. Ameen Rihani in Detroit last year and Dr. Ph. K. Hitti in Chicago a few years ago while I was studying medicine. I also had the good fortune of reading every article that Rev. W. A. Mansur wrote for *The Syrian World*. I hope some day to meet Rev. Mansur or at least to read about his life and works in *The Syrian World*. His articles have always been inspiring to me. I also believe his articles were inspiring to many others. The more he writes and tells us about these great men, the more we progress, because we begin to imitate and copy after him and after such great men.

I wish you would please accept a great deal of my tribute to yourself and to *The Syrian World*, for you have been a great mediator, and a

great influence in bringing an appreciation of culture, information and education to our people. You are in my estimation just as much a pioneer in this field as N. A. Mokarzel in his. That is a great influence indeed.

Jos. A. Macksoud M. D.
Flint, Mich.

PROUD OF ORIGIN

Editor, The Syrian World

... Since we have been reading The Syrian World we have gained so much valuable information about our country of origin that we now feel proud of proclaiming our Syrian descent. It is only now that we can appreciate the value of this publication in English which is the only means of enlightening us on the past history of the mother country of our parents and the wonderful achievements of our forbears. To praise the pioneering spirit which made possible this invaluable means of public service is but to express the natural gratitude of those who are deriving such concrete benefits from it.

Syrian-American Modern Society.
Oklahoma City, Okla.

AN OPINION FROM EGYPT

Editor, The Syrian World

I began receiving The Syrian World with the September issue and have enjoyed reading it exceedingly as it gave me a wider conception of the activities of the Syrians in America. The publication fills a long-felt need in the Syrian world. To the Syrians in America it is invaluable as it helps to keep them in touch with the mother country and acquaints them with the literature, culture and traditions of their fore-

fathers. To non-American Syrians, on the other hand, it should be of great benefit in giving them a new notion of the industrial and cultural activities of their fellow countrymen in the New World.

I feel confident that in the very near future The Syrian World will have a far-reaching influence, drawing nearer and binding together the Syrians all over the world, and thereby achieving that which it has set forth to accomplish.

Before closing I would like to draw your attention to a small error occurring on page 16 of the September issue where College Hall of the American University of Beirut is erroneously named West Hall.

Albert A. Mirshak.
Cairo, Egypt.

A SUGGESTION

Editor, The Syrian World

* * * It is my hope that you will in due time publish your travel articles which have been appearing in the pages of The Syrian World in book form. I have been enjoying them immensely, and would like to see them in book form and made possible in that manner to the public.

Rev. W. A. Mansur.
Winside, Neb.

A CORRECTION

Editor, The Syrian World

You make mention of Tartus as the birthplace of St. Paul, while his birthplace is the city of Tarsus, in Asia Minor.

One of your contributors mentions that inscriptions at Nahr El-Kalb commemorate, among others, a Napoleonic invasion while Napoleon never reached so far north in Syria.

A Reader.
New Kensington, Pa.

Political Developments in Syria

PALESTINE QUESTION

STILL UNSETTLED

The Palestine Question cannot be expected to be settled by the simple issuance of a British White Paper, although the British declaration of policy may be said to have materially altered the situation existing up till then in Palestine. It has had the effect of causing a reversal of sentiment in the two opposing camps in a wholly unexpected manner. Where the complaints and the howling came heretofore almost exclusively from the Arab side, the expression of grievances now has apparently been monopolized by the Jews. Judging by the moderated tone of the Arab press, and the official pronouncement of Arab leaders, one cannot escape the conviction that the Arabs are now disposed to cooperate with the British in all matters short of a definite renunciation of their basic national rights.

Press dispatches from Jerusalem of November 19 report that the Arabs are believed ready to cooperate with the legislative council, though an Arab opposition leader is reported by the New York Times correspondent to have said that as long as the mandate and the Balfour Declaration remain the White Paper must be considered incompatible with Arab aspirations. "Though the Arabs will accept the White Paper," he is further reported to have said, "they will continue to struggle for obtaining full independence and a United States of Arab countries."

Although this statement unmistakably indicates a policy of conciliation and cooperation on the part of the Arabs despite the expression

of adherence to the larger national demands, a truer indication of the present Arab feeling may be had through the declaration of the Arab paper *Falastine*, in its English edition of November 22 commenting on a statement by the Jewish leader Dr. Bergmann. "The Arabs are neither averse to an understanding, honorable and just to both peoples," it remarks "nor do they undervalue the gain from cooperation, but they cannot bind themselves to statements which are falsified by actual practice. * * * An honest Zionism may prove the salvation of both peoples. As it is, it has ceased to respond to the spiritual call. Rachel mating with Israel could not leave behind the gods of Laban, and Zionism mating with Palestine has brought with it the gods of Europe. It came to find its soul; losing the way it has set up as the high priest of Baal."

But it would seem farthest from the intention of the Jews to relinquish the fight for a Zionist Palestine conforming with their original conception. Press dispatches from Jerusalem of November 19 inform us that the National Council of Palestine Jews, which is the supreme body of Palestine Jewry, issued on that date a statement denouncing the British government and expressing its determination to forever continue to struggle. On this point the statement reads: "Palestine Jews call on Jewry the world over to fight against the repeated attacks of his Majesty's government. No abuse from any government will break the eternal bond of Palestine and the Jewish people. Our rebuilding and the regeneration

of our country will proceed."

Meanwhile conferences continue in London between the British government and representatives of the Jewish Agency on the government's policy in Palestine. Lord Passfield, Colonial Secretary, defended the government's Palestine policy in the House of Lords on December 3, stating that the government would not prohibit the purchase of land in Palestine or prevent the exclusive employment of Jewish labor on land held as the inalienable property of the Jewish people. This is taken by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to mean a marked retreat by the British government from its recently announced Palestine policy.

The next Zionist Congress will be held in February, probably at Carlsbad, and it will serve as an indicator of the fate of Zionist leadership, which is to be discussed at the congress as a result of Dr. Chaim Weizmann's resignation.

MAJOR CHANGES EXPECTED IN SYRIA AND LEBANON

Palestine figures more prominently than other sections of Syria in current news because of its Jewish associations and the greater activities of the Jewish news agencies. For news about Syria and Lebanon we are therefore reduced to dependence on the native press which accounts for the fact that this particular news is comparatively late.

Aside from the economic depression, which perhaps is as acute in Syria as anywhere in the world, the uncertainty of the political situation continues to be the absorbing topic of the country. After almost eleven years of mandate the people are still struggling to define their political status and reach a proper understanding with the mandatory power. If such a result is to be

achieved perhaps no man can bring it about better than the present High Commissioner. Although slow in reaching a solution he is conceded honest intentions and conscientious efforts in devising a plan that would at once meet the reasonable demands of the Syrian Nationalists and be compatible with the dignity and alleged rights of France. But despite all efforts no solution has so far been reached and the country is anxiously awaiting the return of the High Commissioner in the hope that by now he must have exhausted his studies and formulated the long-awaited solution. Surely his unusually long stay in Paris cannot be barren of some concrete results.

The return of M. Ponsot, according to reports of the Syrian press, was definitely set for November 25. As a part of his political program, he is said to be contemplating a stop-over of several days in Egypt for conferences with Dr. Shahbandar and other exiled Syrian leaders. He is also reported to have engaged several prominent economic advisers to assist in the rehabilitation of the country.

According to what seems to be authentic reports M. Ponsot's first efforts will be directed to economic reform. Large projects are contemplated which are expected to greatly enhance the economic prospects of the country. Included in his program are important irrigation enterprises and putting into immediate operation the general economic council.

The political question, important as it may seem, only comes second in order in the High Commissioner's program. Surely it is not proposed to delay unduly an attempted solution of this question, but owing to the delicacy of the situation and because matters have dragged so long, no hasty action is contemplated, a

policy seemingly consistent with M. Ponsot's method of procedure. The latest date given by any observer for holding elections however, is summer of the coming year when it is hoped the country would have had the opportunity of digesting the plan which the High Commissioner proposes to lay before it.

Granting Syria a fuller measure of self-government seems to be taken for granted, as well as a proposal to substitute the present form of mandatory administration by a treaty agreement. But to elect a de jure government capable of negotiating the contemplated treaty is what may prove the stumbling block in the successful carrying out of the program. The present Syrian government is described as resorting to frantic efforts to perpetuate itself in authority and for that reason using all its prestige and the advantages of its position to influence the coming popular elections. But the important Nationalist bloc cannot be left out of the reckoning, and if they should decide to take part in the elections their former success at the polls may be repeated and they would be in control of the Assembly. The Nationalist principle of first asserting national sovereignty is well known, and it is for the purpose of averting such complications that the High Commissioner is said to be abiding his time before calling the elections.

Credit is given M. Ponsot for having influenced the decision of French and American interests in Mosul petroleum to favor Tripoli as the terminus of the pipe line which it is proposed to lay across the desert to the sea. England had steadfastly stood for the port of Haifa in consideration of the fact that it is within British mandated territory, and in view of the uncompromising British attitude the other interests

involved decided to act independently of England. This decision is bound to bring incalculable benefit to Syria as a whole and to the cities of Tripoli and Homs in particular. Tripoli might develop into the first seaport of Syria and already Beirut is showing no little uneasiness over the future. As to Homs, being situated inland directly east of Tripoli, it will become the emporium of the plain owing to its advantageous location.

Negotiations for this new development have progressed far beyond the initial stage, the press of Beirut reporting that early in November a representative of the Iraq Petroleum Company arrived in Beirut and held several lengthy conferences with the President of the republic, following which the President called a meeting of the cabinet and laid before it the results of the negotiations.

If reports of the native press may be taken as a criterion, the population of Damascus is overwhelmingly Nationalists in its sympathies and ever ready to do the bidding of the leaders despite all efforts of the government to stifle the popular enthusiasm. One of the most popular and effective weapons employed is that of passive resistance as expressed in the cessation of all business activities in the city to the accompaniment of peaceful demonstrations.

Early in November Damascus shut down in protest against an attack on the popular Nationalist leader Fakhry Bey Baroodi by several men supposed to be henchmen of the president. Had it not been for the issuance of a timely statement by Baroodi enjoining the populace from resort to violence there would have been every likelihood of clashes with the military.

About Syria and Syrians

SYRIAN WORLD CORPORATION LAUNCHED

Prominent Leaders Endorse Publication and Pledge to it Moral and Financial Support.

The Syrian community of New York expressed its unqualified approval of The Syrian World as a racial organ and pledged itself to its liberal support, both morally and financially, at a dinner held at the Sheik Restaurant on December 8. The attendance was representative of the best professional and business elements. The Board of Directors of the Syrian World Corporation, living up to their promise of restricting the meeting to a conference on the future of the publication, refrained from any attempt to sell stock, but it was evident that the reaction of all those present was most favorable to the new move of having the public share in the financial responsibilities—and assured benefits—of the corporate enterprise.

In opening the discussion Mr. George A. Ferris dean of Syrian lawyers in New York, who presided, gave a brief sketch of The Syrian World, its mission and its possibilities. Having himself drawn the articles of incorporation he explained that the publication had an established good-will value and has been conducted for nearly five years on the personal initiative and effort of the founder. Now that it has proven its merit "I and some others felt and feel that the continuation of this magazine is so important to us all that it is a matter of civic duty

and civic pride to get behind it." He went on to explain the terms of the incorporation, stating that the 1000 shares of capital stock, at \$25.00 par value, bear 7 per cent. interest and are all offered for sale to the public. To every holder of a unit of four shares of preferred, however, goes one share of common stock in the form of a bonus. It is not necessary, he further explained, to sell all of the preferred stock to effect the transfer of the publication to the public, but what was immediately intended was to raise a sum of \$5,000 to effect the reorganization and make possible the carrying out of the program of enlargement. In laying these plans before the public he asked those present to give free expression to their opinions and called on Dr. Philip K. Hitti for a few words.

Dr. Hitti, the foremost Syrian educator in the United States, who had come especially from Princeton to attend the conference, prefaced his remarks with a historical outline of Syrian immigration to America. Although some Syrians may have reached the United States in the middle of the nineteenth century, the immigration movement en masse started only in the early eighties. That, he explained, may be termed the pioneer stage, the stage of economic dependence, when the Syrians bent all their energies on establishing themselves and insuring a means of earning a living for themselves and their children. Then came the second stage, that of economic independence, which he defined as being that period of affluence between the beginning of the World War and the present year.

Proceeding to the description of what he termed the third stage he outlined what he believed was the duty of the Syrians as a racial group in this country.

Syrians' Duty Defined.

"Beginning with the year 1930, we are facing a new stage in our development as a people in this country," declared Dr. Hitti. "We have come to the point where we have to share in the intellectual, educational and spiritual life of the country. There are, of course, various ways in which this can be done, but I believe that *The Syrian World*, and what *The Syrian World* can be with your fuller cooperation and interest, will be one of the finest means by which we can usher in this new stage. We want to educate the American people further about our history. We want our children and coming generations to take part in this higher life that we are being ushered into. *The Syrian World* is one of the most potent mediums by which this can be accomplished."

No less emphatic was the endorsement of the eminent author, lecturer and traveler, Ameen Rihani. He not only visioned in *The Syrian World* an inestimable medium for the perpetuation of what is best in our racial heritage, but expressed the confidence that it could be made into a tremendous financial success. This opinion he ventured on the strength of his observations during his extended travels throughout the country and his personal contact with the young generation Syrians everywhere.

Rihani Stresses Cultural Heritage.

The following are extracts from Mr. Rihani's address:

"We all agree that culture is a

good thing, and that the spirit of culture is essential to the welfare of civilized peoples. But my remarks this evening shall be on a feature of foreign culture in this country. The people of the Old World, whether from Europe or Asia, who have immigrated in the past, and are still immigrating to this country, have not come here without any capital at all. They may be poor, they may be ignorant, they may be truly devoid of resources, but they have come here with a capital. They have come here with racial heritage and culture. This is fundamentally human. It may have some things in it that are obsolete, but in essence, I say, it is a vital thing. It is vital and vitalizing, it humanates and mellows the character of an individual or of a people. That is true of every foreign group that has come to this country. We Syrians, although we are the youngest of the foreign groups, have a culture that is very ancient, a culture that is of real significance morally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. This culture I maintain, is independent of education. For a Syrian may be illiterate, and yet be well bred. That is to say, thoughtful of the feelings of others, courteous in his ways and manners, generous in his dealings, and on the whole, mellow and not selfish. You take for instance, a Syrian peasant who may be illiterate, and a longshoreman who reads his newspapers on his way to work. Which of the two would you prefer to sit with to dinner? Which of the two has a deeper insight to life, has more common sense, has more generosity, more courtesy and more thought for the feelings of others, who has more endurance in the face of adversity? That is what I call racial culture and heritage. The foreign groups of this country strive

to show the best there is in their racial heritage and make of it a vital addition to American life, and we Syrians should be in the first rank in this matter, because we are not a very important foreign group numerically. In other words, I do not think there can be more than one sound opinion on the subject—the best of our heritage we should stick to, and at the same time we should do our best to secure the best of what America can offer us. But how can we stick to the best that is our heritage outside of our mother land, if we do not keep ourselves and our children in touch with the historical past and present of our mother land? That is the word that was left for me to say. It brings me down to the subject of this night's meeting.

"I found during my travels last year that the new generation does not read Arabic, although very much interested in their people's affairs. This is one of the reasons why I have repeatedly recommended *The Syrian World*. When Mr. Mokarzel wrote to me about it the news gave me a thrill. Here, I said, is a man like Columbus. He just saw the thing, it was a simple thing open to plenty, but he was the first to get it. I wrote him and said this was going to fill a great gap in the life of the Syrians of America, and I now feel that *The Syrian World* is necessary to our life here, necessary for the enhancing of our standing, necessary for our prestige, and I am going to add another word, and this also I say with conviction: the magazine can be made a commercial success. Now I say this not as an amateur, although I have no knowledge of commerce, but as a practical observer. During my travels last year through the United States, I came in contact with Syrians everywhere.

I spoke to them about Syria, and I found them so eager to know about Syria. They all felt that they were being deprived of something. So, I say, there is a desire, and this magazine can be made a commercial success if the merchants get behind it. The cultural importance of it, I have tried to impress upon you. The practical side of the subject has been placed before you by our Chairman, and I think it is up to you gentlemen to give us your practical suggestions of how to promote and make good this magazine and bring the benefits of it to a greater number of Syrians in America."

Other Prominent Speakers.

The audience being drawn from the best elements of the Syrian community, the chairman called on some others for their opinions. N. A. Mokarzel, dean of Syrian editors in New York and publisher of *Al-Hoda*, spoke in Arabic. Having his fingers on the pulse of the Syrian people in America, his opinion was eagerly looked to in the present situation entailing the support of an English publication. But he was unhesitating in his advocacy of the necessity of *The Syrian World*, adding that the public's backing of such a worthy enterprise was a true test of the Syrians' fitness for cooperative action in all phases of national life.

Other speakers were Dr. Salim Y. Alkazin, well known to readers of *The Syrian World*, Henry Hadad, manufacturer, Peter S. George, lawyer, and Alexander Maloof, composer.

John Trabulsi, manufacturer, and A. K. Hitti, steamship agent, both members of the Board of Directors of the Syrian World Corporation, announced that they had each secured one thousand dollars in subscrip-

tion to stock from their respective friends.

The spirit of the gathering was one of high hopes for the success of the new corporation, auguring not only the future stabilization of the publication but its greater enhancement as a cultural and unifying racial organ.

AMERICAN PROFESSOR DIES IN BEIRUT

Alfred E. Day, professor emeritus of natural sciences at the American University of Beirut, with which he had been associated for forty years, died in Beirut on December 5 after a long illness, according to a cable dispatch from President Bayard Dodge of the University received by the Near East Colleges Association in New York.

Professor Day was born in Jacksonville, Ill., June 11, 1867, and at the age of 22 was appointed to the faculty of the American University of Beirut, where he first held the chair of natural sciences, then that of botany and geology. He contributed many articles to magazines on these subjects. In 1924 he was a member of a scientific expedition that sought new material on the "vexed subjects of the Cities of the Plain" Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zebolim and Zoar. Professor Day's last book "Geology of Mount Lebanon" has just been published.

Readers of *The Syrian World* will recall Professor Day's article on the Geology of Syria and Palestine published in our issue of June, 1927. He declares himself of the opinion that the country is not sufficiently rich in mineral resources, but "if the higher parts of Lebanon, which are unsuitable for cultivation, are ever covered with forests, they will be the greatest asset of the country."

SYRIAN LADY ENDOWS CHAIR OF ARCHÆOLOGY

Through the munificence of a Syrian lady who prefers to withhold her name from the public, the American University of Beirut has been endowed with a chair for archaeological research, according to an announcement by the Alumni Monthly, organ of the American University.

So much pains has been taken to shield the identity of the donor that not even her country of residence is given, other than to state that she is a Syrian. This at once gives rise to many conjectures, with opinion favoring the assumption that the donor is from the United States. However, out of deference for the donor's motives, it would seem best for the public to be satisfied with the knowledge that a genuine movement of scientific giving is already taking shape among the Syrians.

In making the announcement the General Secretary of the Alumni Association of the American University characterized the Syrian lady as being of "princely generosity... does not crave for fame or publicity, but is only gratified to know that her money will serve science and will bring untold good to her people and to the other peoples of this part of the world. Like many other patriotic persons in this land she has for a long time felt that some of the educated young men of Syria and the Near East should be trained to do original archaeological research work in their own countries."

Amplifying on the purpose underlying the gift, the Alumni Monthly describes the richness of the field for research in Syria and the benefits bound to accrue from a fuller knowledge by Syrians of their ancestry. "These historic lands," it states "were for centuries in the past the centres of education, civil-

ization and culture. Invasions, wars and time left traces of their work in demolishing or concealing under Mother Earth the marks and evidences of past civilizations. Historians, archaeologists from Europe and America, either singly or in groups, and expeditions representing governments and institutions of learning have for many years been spending time and money in excavating old towns and cities and in digging out and bringing to light the rich treasures of the civilizations of the past, and in studying in the ancient ruins the arts and the customs of the past as they are depicted by these ruins."

Already Dr. Harald Ingholt of Denmark has been engaged for the chair created by the Syrian lady's endowment. He will assume his duties in 1931, devoting the first semester to teaching at the University and the second to excavations he has already started in the neighborhood of Hama.

We heartily subscribe to the sentiment expressed by the Alumni Monthly in its concluding paragraph: "All honor to this gentle and cultured philanthropist who has raised high the name of the Syrian woman and has set up such a noble example for other rich men and women of the East to emulate."

RIHANI LECTURES ON ARABS' CONTRIBUTIONS

An audience that filled the main hall of the American-Syrian Federation building in Brooklyn heard Mr. Ameen Rihani, author and lecturer, discuss the Arabs' contribution to civilization on the evening of December 2.

The speaker traced the progress of Arab civilization from the time of the flourishing of the Arab empire

in Al-Yaman many centuries before the Christian era down to the time of the Arabs' long occupation of Spain and their close contact with Europe. The Abbaside era in Baghdad Mr. Rihani characterized as the golden age of Arab culture, when not only the caliph Al-Ma'moun encouraged learning but himself engaged in debates and wrote treatises on controversial questions. To the Arabs the lecturer attributed most of the credit for the preservation of Hellenic culture and its transmission to Europe. He also gave comprehensive sketches of original works by many Arabs whose names are familiar to all Western scholars such as Avicenna, Avirroes and others.

Mr. Rihani's lecture was given as the first of a series in an educational program which the American-Syrian Federation has planned for this season.

SYRIAN ARTISTS ENTERTAIN CELEBRITIES

The New History Society of New York on December 7 entertained the celebrated Hindu poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore at the Ritz-Carlton. Mr. Louis Styvesant Chandler, leader of the Bahai movement in the city and president of the society, arranged to have address the gathering several speakers of international reputation. We are pleased to state that the musical entertainment was supplied by two Syrian artists, Mrs. Fedora Kurban, the singer and Mr. Alexander Maloof the composer. Mr. Maloof made a special composition for the occasion of which he presented the original copy to the distinguished guest.

The same society held a reception December 14 in honor of the famous German scientist Professor Einstein.

Also on this occasion our gifted musician Mr. Maloof was engaged to furnish the musical program.

POLITICAL APPOINTMENT

John Mansur Shadrawy, born in Hadath Jebbe, Mt. Lebanon, and for the last few years a resident of Boston, whither he came from Vermont, has been appointed by Governor Frank G. Allen of Massachusetts assistant examiner of the Insurance Department of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Shadrawy is the first Syrian appointed to a political post of consequence in the city and it is hoped that by his conscientious devotion to duty and native ability he will achieve a rapid rise in the political life of the city and state.

SYRIAN BOY ORATOR

The University of Oklahoma had a special Armistice Day program broadcast over its own station WNAD on November 11. Those taking part in the program had each won either a state or a national contest, according to the Daily Oklahoman. Their subjects dealt with government and world peace.

Among the speakers was the Syrian boy Louis Dakil of Jeddat Marj-Ayoun, who had competed in many oratorical contests and won many honors and prizes, being at one time state oratorical champion. At present he is a student at the University of Oklahoma.

TWO SYRIAN GIRLS HEARD ON RADIO

On November 30 Miss Louise Yazbeck, the gifted Syrian music teach-

er of Shreveport, La., gave an Oriental music program over station KWKH of that city. We are pleased to learn that Miss Yazbeck's musical talents are meeting with such public recognition that she is frequently called upon to take part and at times take full charge of musical functions in her city.

While visiting Shreveport in September, Miss Ruth Shadid of Elk city, Okla., was extended the courtesy of the same station to make a radio address and send her greetings to her home town, an opportunity of which the Syrian young lady availed herself to the best advantage for extolling her race.

NEW SYRIAN SOCIETY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

A promising Syrian organization has recently been formed in Columbia, S. C., under the name of the Syrian-American Society. It is modeled along the lines of other associations of that nature in that it stands for the promotion of Americanism without losing sight of the rich cultural heritage of our race.

Officers elected for the first year were: S. A. Sabbagha, president; E. S. Mack, vice-president; S. Koosa, secretary, and N. J. Marsha, treasurer. The Board of Executives consists of George Alexander, Norman Khoury and N. J. Marsha.

The Syrian World has every reason to believe that this society will be particularly successful in its efforts to promote the ends for which it was established. One of the initial efforts of its president was to urge every member to become a constant reader of The Syrian World considering that it is our only publication in English striving to con-

serve the best in our native culture. The response to his appeal was most gratifying, resulting in over fifty per cent. of the members becoming subscribers. When an organization of Syrian-Americans is capable of displaying such a spirit there could be left no room to doubt that success will crown its every endeavor.

SYRIAN YOUNG WOMEN FORM ORGANIZATION

A group of young women in Oklahoma City, Okla., have formed the Syrian-American Modern Society and immediately engaged in many public activities. Their objects are charitable, social and patriotic. They plan to hold evening classes for the teaching of Arabic as a cultural asset, and have already started a Who's Who contest for popularity and Civic usefulness. On Dec. 20 they will give a play entitled The Birth of Christ whose proceeds will go to charity.

The following officers were elected: Mary Bashara, President; Eva Kouri, Vice President; Camella Eddie, Secretary; Rosa Farris, Assistant Secretary; Lillie Nayphe, Treasurer, and Louise Rahill, Assistant Treasurer.

AL-ARZ CLUB, GLOBE, ARIZ.

A correspondent of Globe, Arizona, writes that the younger generation of Syrians and Lebanese in the Globe-Miami district have formed a social club to which they have given the name of Al-Arz Club. They were moved primarily by cultural considerations and plan to devote their energies to the cultivation of those native characteristics which they consider to be their richest racial heritage and their most valuable con-

tribution to this country. Naturally, when a large group is brought together by a single purpose the mere fact of their meeting under such auspicious conditions will bring untold benefits to them individually and collectively in the form of social entertainment and otherwise.

Al-Arz Club was first suggested by Miss Julia M. Rais, a teacher in the public schools of Globe, who was elected President. Other officers elected were Sam Kiamy, Vice President; Alex. Zude, Secretary; Genevieve Kiami, Corresponding Secretary; Anis Nader, Treasurer.

The Club is non-sectarian and has already held several social and educational functions. The enrollment is so far about thirty members of both sexes.

SYRIAN-AMERICAN CLUB, TUCSON, ARIZONA

A Syrian-American Club has been formed in Tucson, Arizona, through the efforts of some patriotic Syrians who realize the value of organization for constructive effort. This club represents the new trend of thought among the younger generation and is non-sectarian and dedicated to the purpose of promoting a better understanding between Syrians and Americans. Its object also includes social and political activities.

The officers elected were Faris F. Ganim president; William E. Jacob, vice-president; E. M. Courey, secretary; Taft Jacobs, treasurer; John Mabarak, sergent-at-arms, and Edward Aboud, councillor.

The Lebanese government has appropriated \$400,000 for repairing the ruins of Baalbek and building a road between Baalbek and the Cedars.

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We will make talking pictures of an Oriental character which will acquaint our people in the American continent and in the East with our historical deeds and cultural attainments. This we will perform directly and through various theatrical groups.

We will also produce pictures of various phases of Syrian life in the different cities and countries and present them to our countrymen in other parts of the world and at home together with pictures of famous men and great events in both the East and foreign lands and wherever Arabic-speaking peoples may be, so that they may be informed of each other's leaders and affairs.

We intend to train the talented ones of our race in music, singing, acting etc., in order to have our own professionals and thus provide them with employment.

Will you help us to attain that goal? Be a stockholder and gain the privilege and credit in making this corporation a success.

You will not be risking anything. Your money is amply protected by the laws of the state of California which guarantee you that only 10 per cent. of what you pay for the stock will go toward the preliminary expenditure if the company does not raise the necessary capital for the work. Otherwise your investment will be very profitable.

The general sales agent, Edward Gillett, will travel throughout the United States in the interest of the corporation. Application for subscription to stock may also be made to the corporation's headquarters in Los Angeles or to any of the Syrian papers, or to the corporation's representative in New York State, Mr. A. G. Milkie, 160 Greenwich St. New York City.