

Northern Messenger

Lillie Pozer

328397

VOLUME XXXI., No. 18.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 27, 1896.

30 Cts. Per. An. Post-Paid.

[For the 'Messenger.'

Dr. Grace Kimball.

Dr. Grace N. Kimball, the missionary heroine of Van, in Armenia, returned this fall to America, having just concluded four years of service of a character that should win her the gratitude of Christian people throughout the world.

Miss Kimball went out to Van, in Asia Minor, in 1882, with another lady under the



DR. GRACE N. KIMBALL.

American Board of Missions, to establish schools among the girls of that country. This work grew to be very interesting and prosperous. Miss Kimball says: 'The Armenians are a most progressive race, and as they were determined to have education at all hazards, we felt an obligation to give them a Christian education.'

In 1888 Miss Kimball returned to her home in America for a year's vacation: while at home she felt providentially led to study medicine. She took her medical degree at the Woman's Medical College, New York, in 1892, and at once returned to Armenia as a medical missionary.

She had in Van a large dispensary, also outside practice, which was the greatest need. But the local doctors combined to oppose Dr. Kimball, and when, in July, 1895, the relief work sprang up, she gladly gave all her time and strength to that work.

We quote her own words on the subject from an article in the 'Christian Herald':—

'The people have been oppressed more and more; fresh taxation has been imposed by the authorities, so that the poverty has increased year by year. The years preceding 1895 were very hard times, and business was at a low ebb. The people were reduced to great straits in order to get the barest necessities of life. This was especially the case in the interior of the province; many of the husbands and fathers had gone to Constantinople and other places in search of work, leaving their families in a state of dreadful destitution.

The ranks of the poor in the city of Van were largely increased from these helpless women and children in the country. They looked to the missionaries for relief, and we

had to give them help from our own scanty personal resources. This was a very heavy drain on us, and we felt that some way must be found of securing relief for the starving people. It was then that the idea of helping them by providing relief work occurred to me. I bought wool and cotton, and started the people spinning and weaving. As I was out of medical practice, we gave up the large dispensary to the work, and the applicants rose from a very few to scores and hundreds, and eventually to thousands.

In October and November, 1895, our Van villages were largely pillaged; 500 villages out of the 550 were raided by the Kurds. I made a report to that effect, and the Sultan was good enough to call me a liar; but the facts remained the same. We had hundreds of refugees crowding into the city of Van. They had been robbed of everything, even of clothing. So we clothed and fed these crowds of country refugees. Bakeries were opened by the help of contributions sent by the readers of the 'Christian Herald' of New York.

Just after my acceptance of the post of resident physician at Vassar College, New York, had been cabled to America, the massacres in the city of Van took place. They began on June 14. One-third of the Armenian houses in the city were either burned or pillaged, and about 600 Armenians were killed, while in the outlying districts the villages were practically all pillaged to the very last vestige of property, and most of the arm-bearing men were killed. The others were in many cases driven from the villages into the city, and everywhere there was confusion and distress. In the city all industries have been practically stopped since Oct. 23 of last year (1895), and that, of course, means great poverty.

In the villages throughout the large province of Van some 10,000 able-bodied men have been killed, leaving a great host of women and children who were dependent on them. While the wheat harvest has been extremely abundant, no ploughing or

sowing has been done for next year, so that the outlook is bad. They may not have a famine, but there is certain to be very great suffering amongst a large portion of the people.'

The relief work in Van is now under the protection of the British Vice-Consul, and is being carried out by Dr. Reynolds, the senior member of the American Mission.

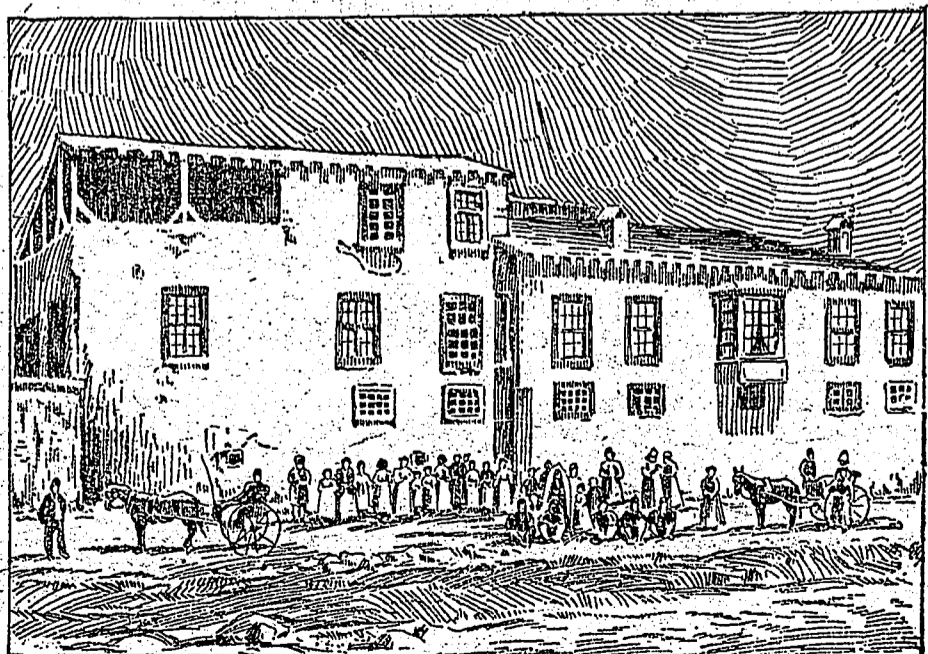
The readers of the 'Christian Herald' of New York sent in over forty thousand dollars for the Armenian relief fund, all of which was sent on to Van to be dispensed by Dr. Kimball.

Dr. Kimball is quite worn out with the hard work, of the past fourteen months especially, and has accepted the post of resident physician of Vassar College. She brought with her from Van sixteen Armenians, including several women, all being true, earnest Christian people. Dr. Kimball paid for their passage herself, that they might be rescued from the peril of death at the hands of the fanatical Moslems. No Armenian children are permitted by the Sultan to leave Turkey.

No Harm in Grumbling.

Mrs. Ash came downstairs late one February morning, feeling rather out of sorts. She had overslept herself a little, which put her behind with her work, and spoiled her temper. It seemed as if she had got out of bed the wrong side, and everything conspired to keep her on that side, if one might judge from the constant stream of complaints and grumbling which she kept up all day without stopping. She grumbled at the weather—at its coldness and dulness, yet when, later in the day, the sun shone she grumbled because its rays almost put the fire out. She grumbled at the shopkeepers and their prices, but they did not abate one farthing for all that she said; at the work she had to do, and at her children, who, she said repeatedly, were the worst children she ever came across.

A night's rest seemed to put everything



HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICAN MISSION IN VAN, ARMENIA.