

as a member of their literary society, which was formed a short time ago. Although they said it was strictly for Osmanlis, yet 'to one who knows the Turkish language as he does, and who knows and sympathizes with our habits of thinking, and who, moreover, is a native of that country which leads the world in all learning and fame, and which is our staunch friend, we do not see why we should not request him to become a member of our society.' I was then requested by the gentlemen present to become a member. It was necessary to procure the consent of the society at their next meeting. But they consulted the leading members who expressed their cordial willingness.

"You will at once see the importance of this, as bringing me in contact with Turkish minds and Osmanli litterateurs. Some of those gentlemen despise the Koran, and think it is the great weight which presses down their country and its genius. They say, 'We must never flinch from the task of declaring that God's word and works cannot be at variance.' The only thing which keeps me back from this important offer is feeble health. But enough of this for the present. You will, perhaps, tell me that my letters are rose-colored: that such openings are scarcely to be expected in Turkey. I reply that my letters are characterized by the very opposite thing. They are far *below* the truth. .

"Let me call your attention to one fact I have mentioned. Setting aside the hundreds of people I meet and speak to about Christ and God's plan of salvation, out of doors, is it a light thing to preach the gospel to an average of one hundred and twenty souls a month; and some of those, the greater part of them, are always changing? You, dear friend, have a fair idea of Constantinople, and you know its extent and difficulties. Have you such a mission carried on by any single agent *without funds*? If I speak of this I am met by the reply, 'We cannot provide for our own salary, much less anything else.' I wish I could do without a salary; I would soon get rid of this objection. I do not require much. I only desire of you as much as will provide a place of worship and instruction, and as much as will board three young men as students. I suppose you cannot do anything now in the way of assisting me with the education of these young men; but the

more the committee keep this in view the better. . . .

"I hope that the Church will send out to this land a thoroughly equipped mission. They will then find their way paved; but it is not very likely that they will find *me*, if my health continue to sink as it does now."

SYRIA.

MURDER OF MR COFFING, AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY, BY ROBBERS.

The following sad intelligence is conveyed in a recent letter forwarded to us for publication:—

ALEXANDRETTA, *March. 31, 1862.*

REV AND DEAR SIR,—Last Wednesday, whilst preparing for the journey to Aleppo, I received a note from Mr Levi, our Vice-Consul at Alexandretta, informing me briefly that Mr Coffing, in coming from Adana around the head of the Gulf, had been attacked by robbers and most dangerously wounded, and asking me to come down immediately. Mr Calhoun kindly consented to accompany me. We had a sorrowful and anxious journey, as you may imagine, and two hours before reaching, we met a man conveying the intelligence that Brother Coffing was no more. This to our great grief, on our arrival we found to be true, and instead of doing what was in our power to save his life, the sad consolation of cheering his departing spirit was denied us, and we could only look upon his mutilated remains. I will now give you a narrative of such circumstances of the case as we have been able to gather:—

Brother Coffing left Adana, Monday morning, March 24, and was accompanied by the native preacher at Adana, and some other Protestants, as far as Missis. From this place he took three mounted guards, and reached an Armenian village named Najjarly, being about thirty six miles from Adana, and next morning continued their journey to Koord Koolak, whence the guards returned, and they took three others, who accompanied them nearly to Pargas, ten hours from Najjarly, and four hours from Alexandretta (an hour is about three miles.) Soon after leaving Koord Koolak, they fell in with a number of guards, who had been in the direction of Adana with the Turkish post and were returning to their station, a village two hours north of Pargas. Here Bro