

## PERSECUTION IN TURKEY.

Letters from missionaries in Turkey, shew that the government of that country is interfering seriously with the work of evangelization and education. A change for the worse has been going on ever since the present Sultan came to the throne—twelve years ago. Dr. Barnum states that educated Mohammedans have often assured him that the deplorable condition of their country is due to the wrath of God for their departures from the law of the Koran. Protestant places of worship, even though they be in private houses, are declared illegal unless they have special permission from Constantinople; and a church cannot be built without a *firman*, which it is extremely difficult to obtain. The opening of new schools became almost impossible, and schools of long standing were threatened unless they would conform to the law, and subject themselves to official inspection. When the missionary assented, and the Government was asked to discharge its part of the arrangement, new obstacles were continually interposed.

The U. S. Government intervened on behalf of the missionaries, and an agreement was arrived at—that schools would be authorized in case they conform to Turkish school laws. The latter clause has caused a good deal of trouble. Books of the best character have been condemned for the most absurd reasons; and now it seems that the law is about to be so changed as to render obedience to it practically impossible, the aim being to kill the schools. The proposed law prescribes:

1. That no foreigner shall be allowed to open a school without a special *firman* from the Sultan himself—and such a document is not easily obtained.

2. No Ottoman subject shall be allowed to attend such a school until after he shall have had a course of religious instruction in one of his own schools.

3. Foreign schools are to refrain entirely from religious instruction.

4. All existing foreign schools which do not conform to this and certain other conditions, and obtain the Sultan's authorization within six months are to be permanently suppressed.

It is expected that the representatives of all the powers will join in opposing the enactment of this law.—Turkey fears the

light, and seeks to quench it without delay.—*Sel.*

## A PRAYING PRESIDENT.

The editor of the *Advance* tells a story which he had from the lips of the renowned elocutionist, James E. Murdock. He said:—"I spent three weeks in the White House with Mr. Lincoln, as his guest. One night—it was just after the battle of Bull Run—I was restless and could not sleep. I was repeating the part which I was to take in a public performance. The hour was past midnight. Indeed it was coming near the dawn, when I heard low tones proceeding from a private room near where the President slept. The door was partly open. \* \* \* It was the President kneeling beside an open Bible. The light was turned low in the room. His back was toward me. For a moment I was silent, looking in amazement and wonder. Then he cried out in tones so pleading and sorrowful, 'O thou God that heard Solomon in the night when he prayed for wisdom, hear me; I cannot lead this people, I cannot guide the affairs of this nation without thy help. I am poor, and weak, and sinful. O God! who didst hear Solomon when he cried for wisdom, hear me, and save this nation.'"

Then Mr. Murdock added, \* \* \* I think from that time the clouds which which had hung low and threatening over the affairs of our government began to roll away, the skies were brighter, the smile of heaven was upon our President. God heard his prayer and sent deliverance."

May a kind Providence send us more such rulers, men after his own heart.

PROHIBITION IS A CERTAINTY.—Prohibition is a certainty in this country, and that within a very few years. Every civilized nation on earth is looking for some cure of the greatest evil that affects the earth. the fact that all countries are trying to regulate it is an admission that it is an evil, and the centuries have demonstrated that there is no sense whatever in trying to regulate the evil. Evils are to be killed, not regulated. The question of to-day is whether the individual man shall have any right, by means of a poison, to demoralize mankind for profit. It is a question every workingman, every employee, every father and mother has a right to answer.—*North American Review.*