

Syria proper, *e.g.*, Beirut, Damascus and the Lebanon, the French and Americans. Unquestionably, in spite of (or perhaps partly because of) all the pomp and show of the Kaiser's visit to Palestine—well calculated to impress the Oriental mind—the mass of the people remained decidedly pro-British, and to a considerable extent even anti-German, except among the circle who had had the benefit of their excellent institutions. The mere fact that the German Government was known to be so intimate with the Turks of Constantinople only bred suspicion of them in the minds of the people.

It must never be forgotten that the Syrian people are not Turks either ethnologically, linguistically, or in character and temperament. The Turks—as far as the original stock goes—are all of Turanian origin; the Syrians are Semites, at least predominantly, with a mixture of Greek and other strains. As regards language, the language of the Turks, though written in Arabic characters, is in every way distinct from Arabic. Few Syrians outside Government circles in Palestine know Turkish, and their native language (Arabic), of which they are justly proud, is banned by the Government, who transact all their business—or did before the war—in Turkish or French. Students at the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut wishing to get their government diplomas in medicine or pharmacy, were not allowed to present themselves for examination in their own language but in Turkish or French. All legal documents had to be drawn up in Turkish. The Syrian having legal business had to engage an interpreter just as if he were a foreigner. The Turk never indeed ceased to treat the Syrians as a vanquished people, and the land as a conquered one.

The Governors sent from Constantinople were almost without exception Turks and knew only Turkish or French, sometimes indeed only the former. Their period of appointment was precarious and always short,