

Canadian church is now directly interested in missions to Turkey, an article on the country and its people may not be entirely amiss nor altogether uninteresting to the readers of THE COLLEGE JOURNAL.

Let me speak first of—

THE CLIMATE AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

These vary with the locality. But this is an advantage, inasmuch as one can have a change of climate whenever he desires it, and that without much difficulty or expense. There are some districts—as for instance the plain on which Tarsus stands—where the heat is intense for three or four months in summer, during which period no rain falls. In general however, such places are not far distant from the mountains, and railways now in course of construction will make travel of less account than heretofore. The missionary in Turkey who, for the sake of his health, goes to some mountain resort, does not necessarily lay aside his work or take leave of absence from the people. Wherever he goes he will find abundance of work surrounding him, and multitudes whose dense ignorance of the truth and of the way of life will make it impossible for him to sit at ease or hold his peace. There are but few instances, however, in which missionaries are obliged to change their residence for any part of the year. Within the past two summers cholera has visited many of the cities of Asia Minor, but missionaries everywhere have remained at their post, ministering to the sick and dying without fear of infection. The accounts contained in English and American newspapers of the ravages of this disease are very often incorrect and exaggerated. To one who knows what precautions to take against it it has less of dread than certain other diseases which cannot be warded off so easily and surely. Even the sluggish and fatalistic Moslem, by enforcing a strict quarantine during the late outbreak of cholera, succeeded in preventing the spread of it to an alarming extent.

The scenery of this part of the country cannot be said to be either grand or varied. As the people are all gathered into towns and villages, the eye of the traveller is never relieved by the sight of farm-houses surrounded by cultivated fields or any other sign of human life and industry, save that now and then a shepherd may be seen tending his flocks, and living, doubtless, very much after the same manner as Abraham and the patriarchs of Old Testament renown. Thus it is that large sections of the country are solitary wastes, uninhabited and uncultivated. The Cilician gates—the famous pass of the