

— enterprising, shrewd, and industrious. They have been called "the Anglo-Saxons of the East." The country is full of ancient traditions. The people themselves claim that their race sprang from Haig, the son of Togarmah, mentioned in Genesis 10: 3 as the grandson of Japhet. Hence they call themselves *Haiks*. Originally a part of the Assyrian Kingdom, Armenia fell into the hands of Alexander the Great. Since that time it has changed masters many times and fought many battles for independence. Christianity was introduced into it very early, and became the State religion in the beginning of the fourth century. Many have been the persecutions of the people on its behalf. In 1583 Armenia was overrun by the Ottomans who treated the people with such savage cruelty that great numbers of them fled the country. The larger part of it was annexed to Turkey: the rest was divided betwixt Russia and Persia. The Bible was translated into the Armenian language as early as A. D. 410, and is still found in the churches, but as the old Armenian is not understood by the people, it is, practically, a sealed book to them. They believe in the worship of saints, the confessional, and penance: they hold to transubstantiation, baptismal regeneration, and priestly absolution: they have a multitude of fast days. The authority of the patriarch has been, until quite recently, despotic. About twenty five years ago, Messrs. Wheeler and Allan, missionaries of the American Board, entered upon this field where the work has since been prosecuted with remarkable skill and success. The following are the latest statistics,—four stations—*Harpoor, Erzroom, Van, and Mardin*: 119 out-stations: 33 churches: 14 ordained missionaries—2 of them physicians: 23 female missionaries: 61 native pastors and preachers: 123 teachers: 30 other helpers: 2000 communicants. Two of the missionaries are Canadians—The Rev. Robert Chambers, formerly of Whitby, Ontario, and his brother, the Rev. W. N. Chambers. They joined the Mission in 1879 and are stationed at Erzroom. From the first, the object of the American Board here, as elsewhere in Turkey, has been to introduce a self-sustaining and self-propagating church. Their plan has been to ordain elders in every congregation, to leave each to choose its own pastor and to undertake his support. One-half the congregations are now self-supporting, and the Board is already beginning to entertain the idea of withdrawing from the field and leaving the natives entirely to their own resources. The college at Harpoor is flourishing in all its departments, having 147 pupils at the present time. On the whole, there is a marked improvement in the condition of the people. The cause of temperance has been advanced.

Woman has been wonderfully elevated in the social scale. Family worship is observed. The Sabbath is respected. Already there are in Armenia *twenty-five* Young Men's Christian Associations.

The Eastern Turkey Mission did not confine its attention wholly to the Armenians. It extended its influence southward to Oroomiah and Mosul, thus carrying the Gospel into the region of "the Fall." Here the missionaries came into contact with another ancient race that for many centuries held an important position among the Christian churches—the NESTORIANS. These derive their name from Nestorius, a native of Syria, who became bishop of Constantinople in A. D. 428, but who was soon afterwards deposed and banished to Egypt for alleged heretical opinions. Many, however, in the east, espoused his opinions; a new "school" arose, and in course of time the Nestorian became the State religion of Persia, and entered upon a long career of usefulness. Its missionaries travelled over all Asia and planted missions in China and India, in the 7th century, of which traces remain to this day. The Nestorians are now a very poor, illiterate people, numbering about 140,000, whose intellectual life has been crushed by the persecutions of Papists and Mohammedans. They are more orthodox than the Armenians. The Bible is recognized by them as the supreme canon of faith: auricular confession, image-worship, and the belief in purgatory are abjured. Among this people the American Board began a mission in 1833, when Mr. and Mrs. Perkins were appointed missionaries to Oroomiah. Two years later they were joined by a medical missionary, Dr. Asahel Grant, who soon acquired a wonderful influence over the people. He advanced to Mosul, on the lower Tigris, immediately opposite the site of Nineveh. He penetrated the mountain fastnesses of Koordistan, and wherever he went he met with a kind reception from the Nestorians. But this "beloved physician" was stricken down with fever and died at Mosul, 24th April, 1844. He had been the life and soul of the Mission, which survived him only a few months. For reasons which need not be entered upon, the Board withdrew from the field in the course of that summer, and the surviving missionaries, Dr. Smith and Mr. Laurie, were attached, the former to the Armenian, the latter, to the Syrian Mission. The American Presbyterian Board now occupies this interesting field. At Oroomiah they have established a college, a female seminary, and an hospital. They have *eight* ordained missionaries; 14 female missionaries; 87 native pastors and preachers; 28 churches: 1321 communicants, and 2000 scholars in the various schools.

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