

INTRODUCTION

IN the summer of 1914 the position of things in Palestine was entirely peaceful, and certainly among the English, American and French any idea that things could ever come to hostility between themselves and the Germans and Austrians, or even more with the Turks, would have seemed preposterous. The members of the different religious communities were in friendly co-operation, and at public gatherings connected with either Mission Schools or Hospitals, members of each community attended as a matter of course. The meetings or excavations of the Palestine Exploration Fund, the lectures of the German Biblical Archæological Society, of the American Archæological Society, and of the Dominican Fathers of the French University of St. Etienne were attended by the studios of the various communities as a matter of course, and new discoveries and points of view were shared by all.

Shortly before the war an excellent "International Health Bureau" was started under German stimulus and connected with the Hamburg School of Tropical Medicine. Representatives of all the leading Powers co-operated to make it a success, and the director, a German Professor, made every effort to obtain British official support. At the German schools at Jerusalem and Beirut, British and American children attended for years and seemed to be welcomed by the head teachers with friendliness.

With regard to the native people of the land the Syrian people have by tradition been uniformly friendly to the British, French and Americans. Perhaps in Palestine, on the whole, the British were the most looked to; in