

IMPRESSIONS OF JERUSALEM. EASTER 1904.

Not among the least interesting, though unaccounted for at Jerusalem, is that of our own English Church, which after many years of doubt and difficulty, was happily completed and consecrated in the early part of the present year.

Let us then define the melancholy picture of English religion, as exhibited to the Christian and Mahometan world in the countries adjacent to the Levant. In Constantinople itself, the head-quarters and focus of European intrigues, where the old strife between Rome and the Eastern Church is still fought with unrelenting vigor on the part of the former, backed up, at least till very recently, by French and Austrian political influence, our own Church is at the very weakest, even if she can be said to have a name in life.

Let us turn again to Alexandria, the commercial capital of Egypt, a country where English political influence and English commerce are so widely extended. Here, again, a half-hearted English church, planned upon a scale which reflects the utmost credit upon the spirit and liberality of the small body of English residents, who at least have not been wanting in their part towards this good work, has stood still for two years.

The existence of this painful state of things in other parts of the Turkish empire must be borne in mind, to account for the satisfaction with which the English Churchmen find that at least in one city of the East, and that the Holy City itself, the English Church and nation are more suitably and honorably represented in the eyes both of the Christian and Mahometan world.

When we consider the immense importance of the external profession of religion in the East, and the high respect in which the name and political power of England are held, it is difficult to exaggerate the value of the adequate testimony which is borne, at least in Jerusalem, to the reality of England's profession of the Faith, and to the marked and definite character of her Church.

First, we have the church itself, rising upon very high ground, just within the Jaffa or western gate—built in a cross form, and a most prominent object of view on every side, especially to the gaze from the Mount of Olives.

The internal arrangements of the church are very satisfactory, and its extreme cleanliness and purity are a striking contrast to most of the Christian churches to be met with in the East.

religion, from the small hospital which is connected with the church. Though chiefly designed for the Jews, its benefits are, as far as may be, extended to all classes and religions alike, and are readily sought for.

It would be most ungrateful in any English Churchman to forbear to make thankful mention of the practical exercise of hospitality and kindness towards their brethren and countrymen by the Bishop and other members of the Mission, which tends to increase that home feeling with which an Englishman may now regard himself in Jerusalem.

Such acts of kindness and hospitality have long been rendered by the several ecclesiastical bodies to the members of other communions at Jerusalem. It may surely be a matter of just satisfaction and thankfulness that they are now so largely and readily presented to the English Churchman as well.

On the whole, then, I cannot but think that the practical view given at Jerusalem of English Christianity and of the English Church, as well as of the religious character attached to our national diplomatic establishment (for all is under the protection of the British ambassador, and is a part of the consular establishment), are most important and beneficial results, which have flowed from the establishment of the English Bishopric at Jerusalem, and should be borne in mind by all who would form a right estimate of the consequences of that much-disputed step.

It may, however, be urged, that the formation of the Bishopric being wrong in point of principle, as an intrusion upon the province of the Greek Church, or the canonical rights of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, no apparent good results should be quoted in its favor. But here, again, it would seem that a consideration of the actual state of things at Jerusalem and the present condition of Eastern Christendom, ought very much to affect the view taken of the case.

With whatever feelings of regret we may view the expiration of that period in the history of the Church Catholic when each See, with all its Christian inhabitants, was presided over but by one Bishop, we cannot deny that it is a state of things long past, and, with reference to which it is simply impossible to legislate in our day.

And if this be once allowed, I cannot see that the smallness of the flock is in itself an argument why the English Church, being in point of fact a separate communion of the Church Catholic, should not be represented at the Holy City and at the tomb of her Lord by a Bishop. So far from making her out as occupying a singular position for sinister objects, such a step practically puts her on the same level as the other ancient communions who have from time immemorial delighted to be so represented.

There remains only the question of the German alliance in the matter of the Jerusalem Bishopric. Here again, without being concerned to defend either the expediency or the legality of the particular convention entered into with the King of Prussia, I would content myself with reporting from observation, that in point of fact, and surely it may be allowed to view it as a very providential fact—that convention appears to have ended in no practical result.

I do not profess any special admiration for the present system of the Greek Church as administered in Jerusalem. I should fear that the ruling Greek Bishops are sadly disposed to lord it over the native Arab clergy and people, of whose language they are for the most part ignorant, and to thwart their urgent desire for greater spiritual knowledge and superior education.

And no one would more rejoice than myself were they to follow the example of their episcopal brethren in Greece—Proper, and sanction the honest endeavours of the English Church to raise the tone both of priestly and lay education, without any attempt at proselytism. But it is just because all such prospects of gradual improvement would be indefinitely postponed, and nothing but confusion, indolence, and every evil work would in the long-run follow from any attempts to remove the Greek Christians from the communion to which they belong, and that discipline and authority which seem so essential to the support of faith among them, that I would deprecate such projects as those above alluded to.

If clergymen and others in London have means to spare from the evangelization of the multitudes of heathen who surround their own homes, to conduct missionary enterprises in Syria and the Levant, let them undertake the noble work of evangelizing the heathen Druses under the superintendence of the Bishop at Jerusalem. Or, again, let them turn their regards to that most crying case, the neglected spiritual condition of multitudes of our British sailors in the ports of the Levant. But let them pause ere, by sanctioning what would be tantamount to a direct breach of faith, they do evil that good may come, and throw back that real improvement of the Eastern Churches, which those Clergy of our Church who have been longer resident in those countries are all agreed can only be brought about through the instrumentality of those Churches themselves.

These remarks on the present condition and prospects of the English Bishopric at Jerusalem are offered to the attention of the readers of the Colonial Church Chronicle, in the earnest hope that they may observe the cause of truth and charity.

STATIONS OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

Table listing military stations and regiments, including 1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards, 3rd Life Guards, etc., with their respective locations and commanders.

Advertisements section containing various notices and small ads, including 'THE SUBSCRIBER begs to inform' and 'EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BOOK AND JOB WORK'.

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Advertisement for W. MORRISON, WATCH MAKER AND MANUFACTURER JEWELLER, SILVER SMITH, & C.

Advertisement for FEW IN ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH FOR SALE. Also T. HAWORTH, BRITISH AND AMERICAN HARDWARE.

Advertisement for THE LOW PRESSURE STRAINER BEAVER, CAPTAIN BELL. Also WILLIAMS & HOLMES.

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Advertisement for MAPS FOR SCHOOLS, &c., PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

Advertisement for PERIODICALS For Sale at the Depository of The Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto.

Advertisement for THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. ESTABLISHED 21ST AUGUST, 1847.

Advertisement for THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. CAPITAL, FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS.

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