

great ribbon in many folds beneath our eyes. There, far in the distance, lay the sickle-like sweep of the bay of Beyrout, the white-washed houses amid their green gardens coming more distinctly into view. In the neighbourhood of the city is the most remarkable pine forest I have ever seen. The trees rise, a stately brotherhood, without a limb to the height of eighty feet, and then spread out a broad green top like a huge umbrella. The shade is dense and the solemn cathedral-like forest aisles are the favourite resort of the people. They suggest the famous grove of pines of Ravenna described by Dante in his great poem.

Beyrout is a charming spot in which to spend the Sunday. It is the most prosperous town in Syria and is a strange blending of the Orient and Occident. Here are the consular agents of the principal nations of Europe each of which has its own post-office—Austrian, French, German, English, Turkish and the like. It was known as Berytus by the Greeks, and abounds in architectural remains of that ancient civilization. It is of special interest, however, as an educational and missionary centre of the Presbyterian Board of Missions. For half a century they have occupied this field. Their college, a large and commodious building, occupies a magnificent site and receives students from all parts of that wide field, ranging from Alexandria and far up the Nile to the interior of Asia Minor. The following statistics will be of interest:

The American mission, founded in 1820, preceded all other agencies in the work of education. Thousands of youths have been taught, and there are now under its care one hundred and four schools, with more than four thousand pupils, a college and medical institution, three female seminaries, and eight high schools. It has seen Beyrout rise from a town of eight thousand to a city of eighty thousand. Other foreign societies have opened schools for girls and boys, until there are to-day in Beyrout three thousand five hundred children in Protestant schools, and seven thousand in the schools of the native societies. Of the twelve journals now published in Beyrout, seven are in the hands of Protestants, four belonging to native Syrians. In Syria and Palestine are 242 Protestant schools, with thirteen thousand children. The number of American and European labourers is 120, with 432 native teachers and preachers. The American, British, and German Protestant seminaries for girls are training hundreds of the choicest daughters of Syria. The Maronite, Papal, Greek, Mohammedan, and Jewish academies are educating a vast body of youth.

At the recent meeting of the American Board of Missions at Madison, Wis., Henry Harris Jessup, D.D., missionary of the Presbyterian Board in Beyrout, Syria, gave an intensely interesting address. To the American Board belongs the honour of founding the first evangelical mission of modern times in Western Asia. Following upon this came the organization of the first Reformed Evangelical church in Syria since the days of the