

the State Department, 'the incident is closed.'"

—But even the Grand Turk has a soft side to his nature, and on occasion, now and then, is liable to do something positively handsome. A case of this kind occurred last January, when by His Dread Majesty an *iradé* was issued to the American Girls' College at Scutari, a document the most sacred possible, which bestows certain rights and privileges irreversibly, and places the institution under the especial protection of the government.

—"Among the Syrians the fetters of custom are almost as strong as those of religion. The rule of the Fez cap proves this. For a prince as for a menial, there is no other head-covering. No law prescribes it, and yet all Syrians wear it, whatever their creed. The long, flowing garments, which have been worn since the time of the prophets, and which make one of the simplest expressions of dress, have been abandoned by the majority of Christians. A Syrian hesitates before he adopts the European costume, but public opinion forbids him to adopt the European hat. The same remarks apply to the *izzar* or body covering. This white sheet is the symbol of Oriental exclusiveness, and custom in Syria sternly prescribes its use. The *izzar* sometimes reveals some olive-tinted faces of much beauty, lit up by a pair of clear brown eyes, to which its whiteness forms a pleasing contrast. Sometimes, also, when the hands are occupied, the *izzar* is drawn into the corner of the mouth and held there by a set of pearly teeth. The *izzar* is a useful covering, which excludes the dust and sun, though it fills the streets with a dull, harsh pallor."

—The *Christian World* learns with regret that Rev. Dr. Bruce, of Persia, who is well known as one of the most devoted missionaries of the Church Missionary Society, has resigned his position after thirty-six years of service. Dr. Bruce was practically the pioneer of Christian work among the Moslems

of that country, and commenced work in 1869.

India.—English physicians gave medical assistance to 14,000,000 natives in one year.

—A missionary writes thus of the poverty of the land: "It is, doubtless, true that there are from forty to fifty millions of these people who are chronically on the verge of starvation, and are rarely able to satisfy the cravings of appetite. It is well known that the average *per capita* income of the people of this land is only about \$7. If this be the average, what must be the minimum! To missionaries who live among the people it is a constant source of wonder that the people can live *at all* on their income. I know of many who, during several months of even a very good year, enjoy only one meal a day, and that a very miserable one."

—Eighteen native ministers in the Northwest Conference of the Methodist Church have volunteered to relinquish their salaries, and trust entirely for their support to the contributions of their own people.

—Mr. Hazen writes from South India: "Last year our women at their weekly prayer-meeting asked for 100 additions to the number in our station, and the Lord gave 200. Encouraged by that we have all taken hold and asked for 300 this year, and we have got them. We asked for 15 souls in Manamadura village, and we have got them. Of their own accord and without any stimulus from us they have maintained a daily prayer-meeting here for three weeks from this ingathering."

—The progress in the Laos Mission in all its departments is an inspiration. There are 4 mission stations and 3 out-stations. "So complete and joyful have been the successes," that there was no room for discouragement; indeed, the only discouragement is the limited number of workers for the constantly increasing work. Last year a new station was established and 5 new workers sent out. In the past eleven