

FUTURE CHRISTIAN LIFE OF GREECE.

Editor Presbyterian Review.

DEAR SIR,—Now that all events are flashed across the seas and continents one feels that anything sent by post loses its freshness, but there may be aspects of our struggle with which the most enterprising correspondent troubles himself little, but which to the Christian and philanthropist are of primary interest, namely the possible and probable influence upon the people,—whether they are likely to be crushed by the terrible disappointment or lifted to a higher level through the discipline. We believe that God's dealing with nations as with individuals is intended for good even when He appears in judgment. The result of the war, undertaken on the part of the people with great confidence, has been widely different from what was anticipated, and many are seeking for the deeper reasons.

It is quite evident that neither king nor government had any serious intention to prosecute a war though some brave words were said which made the people believe that they were in earnest, and greatly increased the enthusiasm.

There is no doubt that the people desired war, first for the liberation of Crete, and in general to strike a blow which would lead to a more righteous adjustment of the Eastern question than any likely to result from the action of the powers, yielding to the popular feeling an attitude was taken by the king and government which could hardly fail to lead to war, and yet no adequate preparations were made for it, not even such preparation as was quite within their power, and which would in all probability have secured a very different result. This became apparent as soon as the war began. The soldiers fought bravely, but when the superior members of the foe made it necessary to call for reinforcement at any point instead of the needed support there came usually an order for retreat. Then the army lost confidence in its leaders, and the people in their rulers. The country seemed on the eve of revolution, but wiser and more patriotic counsels prevailed. The ground of anxiety was not from the ordinary Greek public which delights in free discussion amounting even to license, but is seldom betrayed into violence. The danger was, from the heterogeneous elements brought together in the capital, roaming idly about the streets, who should have been aroused at once and put under drill to get ready for the front. But there was neither arms nor clothing ready for them. It was those people who broke into the gunsmiths' shops and helped themselves to what they could find, and then went through the streets clamoring against king and government.

It speaks well for the Athenian community that order was so promptly restored. A stranger looking at the excited crowd could not realize how many thoughtful citizens were everywhere giving utterance to quieting words, appealing to a wiser patriotism. Each retreat has awakened anew the popular indignation but it has still been restrained, and it is to be hoped that the danger from this source has passed. Now people are beginning to look for the deeper reasons, as I said before, of this failure of a Christian nation in its struggle with the Moslem. The dissatisfaction with both military and political leaders is leading men to ask what has been the cause of this general want of reliability, and they are finding the answer in the decay of vital truth. People have been trusting to culture, to the "grand rational idea, Philhellenism, inherited religion, without conformity to its higher teaching." The idea of duty as a controlling principle of daily life has been too much overlooked.

Now there seems to be an awakening to the consciousness of all this. People here always look upon trouble as a punishment for sin, but now many recognize it as the natural result of sin, and say we must turn away from it.

Naturally the first thought is given to the crying abuses in political life, but there is also a growing recognition of individual responsibility even for that, so there is a promise of good in the midst of our sore humiliation and our sorrow for desolated homes. God grant that it may not pass only as a temporary impression. Every patriot and every Christian must be inspired to greater effort to help secure the blessings veiled in this adversity. With all its shortcomings this

is yet an heroic people, with great capacities if rightly developed and rightly guided. Will you not dear Christian friends, pray that there may come to it a great spiritual awakening which will fit it for the execution of an important work wherever it is scattered through the entire East.

Mr. K. and the pastor of the Athens Church are both now with the army distributing Gospels and tracts, the armistice affording the men a little time now. Pray that this effort may be blessed to the salvation of many souls. The British and Foreign Bible Society has made a grant, too, of Scriptures for hospitals which was gratefully accepted.

I cannot close without thanking you for the REVIEW which is not only a welcome visitor in our home but often affords material for our own publications. To me personally it has a special interest, keeping me in touch with the dear home land, as I am a child of Canada, and cherish a warm affection for it, rejoicing in its progress and in its Christian activity.

Sincerely yours,

MARGARET K. KALAPATHEKES.

ATHENS, GREECE, May 19th 1897.

SCOTTISH MODERATORS.

THE MODERATOR OF THE JUBILEE U. P. SYNOD.

The Synod has paid a highly deserved compliment in electing as its Jubilee Moderator the Rev. Dr. John



DR. HUTCHISON.

Dr. John Hutchison of Bonnington, Edinburgh Other United Presbyterian ministers may have filled a larger space in the public eye, but he has won the esteem and affection of his brethren in a quite exceptional degree.

Born in Glasgow about sixty years ago, he studied at Glasgow University proceeding afterwards to Germany, where he spent fully a year, and laid the foundations of his extensive knowledge of the German language and literature. Having received license as a

preacher, he was called in 1864 to be first pastor of the congregation at Renfrew. During his ministry there, the church and manse were built, and by his ability and fidelity he gathered around him an attached people. His scholarly gifts, shown in his admirable expository discourses, gradually gained recognition, and his Alma Mater conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1877 he accepted the invitation to the newly-formed church at Bonnington, where he has since labored. For the last two years he has had as junior colleague, the Rev. Robt. Small, M. A., formerly of Ecclefechan, and no collegiate charge has been worked under more fortunate auspices.

Dr. Hutchison has carried through life the passion of the student. His sermons are invariably marked by exegetical power, and few men equal him in the capacity of bringing out and applying the precise meaning of a New Testament passage. The best proof of this is to be found in the expository lectures he has published on the Epistles to the Thessalonians and the Epistles to the Philippians, and in his volume on "Our Lord's Signs in St. John's Gospel." Each of these volumes bears the stamp of a refined and cultured intellect. Not less remarkable than the accurate scholarship is the wide and genial sympathy which lays all departments of literature under contribution. He gathers equally happy illustrations from the Latin and Greek Fathers, from mediæval hymns and modern poetry. And penetrating his erudition is a keen spiritual appreciation, all which illuminates and uplifts. More than one minister has confessed that he has derived more stimulus from these