

Last month I visited the Bayazid District and for a part of the journey I enjoyed the company of majestic Ararat. I fell in, too, with a couple of old men who remember the Arguri Catastrophe of February 2nd, 1840. "Arguri" is a compound word meaning "He planted a vineyard." Tradition says that this is the veritable spot where Noah commenced husbandry after the flood. I was interested to find that in the Ancient Armenian version of the Bible, made in the beginning of the 5th century, the expression rendered in our version "planted a vineyard" is given "Arg-uri."

The destruction of the town of that name as mentioned in Smith's Bible Dictionary under the article "Ararat," is attributed to volcanic action. I herewith translate and condense from an article in a late Constantinople paper, the story of Arguri as described by the Russian author, Murarieff, in his work "Armenia and Poland," published in 1848. "The Karasoo stream bursts from the mountain side and is supposed to be fed by an immense interior reservoir where, percolating the soil, collect the waters furnished by the melting snows. Arguri was situated in the valley of this stream, and its destruction may be attributed to the sudden giving way of one side of the surcharged reservoir. My guide in this visit was an old man, one of the survivors of the dreadful scene, which took place June 20th, (old style), 1840, at 6 o'clock in the evening, and involved 5,000 souls. His story (much abridged) was as follows: "I was village headman. In my house were 25 souls—brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, daughters-in-law and grand-children. My wife had gone to the pastures below the mountain. Twice she called me to her but I was not able to go till towards evening. My little seven-year-old grand-child, putting his arms around me, entreated me to take him along. Oh! why did I not? I had scarcely left the town when from within the mountain came forth a terrible roaring. The fierce wind swept down the valley and the darkness of midnight covered me. I fell to the earth and know not how long I remained there. When I arose all was calm, our rich vineyards on the hillsides were undisturbed, but Arguri was not! Again I dropped to the earth and called for death; but, remembering my wife, I arose and went to join her. Only seven souls escaped, one of whom, a child, was rescued by the Koords who, hearing of our disaster, came to plunder and found the child half buried but still alive." The pathetic story of the old man was frequently interrupted by sobs and tears. I too was deeply moved."

This is said to be the second disaster of the kind which has visited the same valley, and yet, so strong are the home-loving instincts of this people, the survivors actually attempted to rebuild their houses on the ruins of the old town. They found it too difficult, however, to remove the great boulders which covered the old site, and so they removed to a little distance and builded their Arguri.

Two British Vice-Consuls—those of Erzroom and Van

—attempted the ascent of Ararat last August, but were compelled to desist from the attempt after 22 hours severe labor.

Wishing you abundant prosperity, I am, your fast friend,

R. CHAMBERS.

EXCHANGES.

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL, from Kingston, Canada, combines many of the qualities which go to make an attractive, sensible college paper. The typography is excellent, the matter abundant and of a high literary order.—*College Rambler*.

The QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL, Jan. 26th, 1887, is got up as usual in the best form as to both matter and style.—*Presbyterian Record*.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL is the representative of an excellent college. In it we can see a very clear reflection of the character of its institution. In presenting college life freshly, naturally and vividly, we think it excels the majority of our exchanges. In attaining this excellence it has reached one goal of success.—*S. W. P. U. Journal*.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL is better than in past years. We never much cared for its style; but being the organ of the Medical, Theological and Arts departments it has probably been as well conducted as might be under the circumstances. The omission of—to put it mildly—irreverent jokes is an improvement.—*Knox College Monthly*.

In regard to Professor Dupuis' address, published in the December and January Nos. of this magazine, we commend the extract from the QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL. The Journal is a good representative of what a college paper should be.—*Canada Educational Monthly*.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL reaches us very punctually, and is a very welcome visitor. The JOURNAL this year, perhaps, is better than it has been for some years past. We do think, however, that more space might be devoted to subjects of general interest, and less to topics of a purely local character.—*Manitoba College Journal*.

In scanning the pages of the QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL we came to the Medical department. We were not prepared for any surprises, but were destined to meet one. We noticed a new term was used to designate a new science, or something of that nature. "Thingmajigology" is the word used. Now we have waded through a good many "ologies" in our time, but if this "ology" is going to be introduced, we will object. The very name itself is too long to be repeated, and we are sure, if it were introduced, it would be reduced to "jigology."—*Delaware College Review*.