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Forbid Them Not

(Emily C. Wheeler.)

To-day as the Master stands looking at hundreds and thousands of Armenian and Syrian children who are wandering about in that land of the Bible growing up to be vagrants and beggars and being lost even to the name of Christianity, he turns to his disciples of every name and says, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not': for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'

'Forbid them not' when they walk weary miles, coming even four days' journey to enter the orphanages where, washed and clothed, sheltered and fed, they may be taught of him who will indeed even now take them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and bless them.

'Forbid them not' to learn the trades and industries which shall make them self-supporting men and women in the future. 'Forbid them not' the education in the missionary schools, given to those most promising, which shall fit them for teachers and preachers among their own people. 'Forbid them not' the blessing of conversion which comes to many, changing the children so wondrously that, owing to their good behavior and studiousness, three-fourths of the prizes given in some schools are given to the orphans. Twenty-five dollars a year on the average places the child in an orphanage, and



ORPHANS IN EVERY-DAY DRESS

the children never laugh." Trees are not increased perceptibly, but the happy faces and merry laughing of our orphans refute the latter part of the statement. Nothing, indeed, is so hopeful in Turkey as these children, and while the care of them comes to us missionaries as an extra department, of work we rejoice in our privilege.'

Does it pay in this age of child study to invest in such a work? Does it pay to obey the Christ who says, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto me.' Hear the testimony of one missionary after another telling of the little tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, cabinet-makers, book-binders, potters, rugmakers, cooks, embroiderers, and so on. The boys are making the cloth which the girls weave, into coats. Other girls spin all the yarn and knit the stockings, while yet others cut and make the underclothing.

In Harpoot ten boys are enthusiastic over the silk culture business, and the little tailors there are at work with a leading tailor making custom work. A Vali Pasha in Sivas noting the skill of one of the orphan cabinet-makers, in making cane-seated chairs with carved backs, engaged him to assist in making the furniture for his new house in Constantinople.

Mrs. Lee, of Marash, has greatly encouraged the orphans' carpentry class by giving an order for school furniture, on which they are at work with zest, anxious to please her.

Orphan girls from Egin are now going to orphanages in other cities to give lessons in rug making. Two of their rugs were recently bought by a merchant to bring to America for eighty-nine dollars. In Marsovan they are hoping to introduce the weaving of Turkish towels, an excellent trade in that land. Girls go out to make homes happy. One young Armenian wrote from this land to a mission station in Turkey saying that since his younger brother came back with his new

wife, an orphan girl from there, their home has been like heaven, and begging for his brother's wife's sister, now in an orphanage, as a wife for himself, that their happiness might be complete.

Young teachers are going out from the Van orphanage. Of one of these the Reis of the village said when it was proposed



ALTOON, AN ORPHAN, AS SHE CAME TO US.

donors may, if desired, receive the description of the child, a letter of thanks and a photograph.

Does it pay to save an orphan in this way? Watch the children in school at their work, at their play.

'Miss Shattuck writes:—Twenty-seven years ago I was told "You are going to a land where there are no trees, and where



ALTOON, TWELVE MONTHS LATER.

to close the school, 'Why, I never knew it was wrong to swear, and have always been accustomed to do so, but one day last winter my little girl who has been in Manatsagan's school, heard me swear, and she cried and told me it was wicked to swear, and you may be sure I am not going to let that school be closed.' A very