



Chose of Other Days



From the Far East.

Beirut Syria, Oct. 25, '03.

Dear Nebraskan:

Perhaps a few words about the recent "unpleasantness" in Beirut would not be out of the way just now, and the impressions received from my European jaunt can be given in my next epistle.

The beginning of the trouble, as you doubtless know, was the attempt on the life of Vice Consul Magellisen. As he was passing down one of the streets one evening, a shot was fired, the bullet passing through his carriage, but fortunately missing him.

Whether it was premeditated or accidental is not certainly known. It may have been done from personal hatred; or merely with the hope that the act would bring the interference of the powers and with that interference better government; or it may have been an accident, as the Turks claim.

Whatever was the motive, the result was the stirring up of the old religious hatred between the Greek-Christians and the Moslems. A riot ensued and about seven people were killed.

There is no doubt that much bloodshed was averted by the prompt arrival of the war vessels. It is said that a mob was gathering in a certain part of the city, but when the search lights were turned upon it, it melted away, through fear of the warship's guns. All is quiet at present, but one never knows when the smouldering embers may blaze forth anew.

The situation, I am told by old residents, is just this:

The root of the trouble is both religious hatred and desire for better government. In Beirut the Greek Christians are in the majority. Riots are incited with the hope that the powers will intervene as they did forty years ago, and give a government to Beirut similar to that given to the Lebanon district. This means freedom from excessive taxation and military oppression and a Greek-Christian governor; the latter is appointed by the sultan, approved, however, I believe, by the powers; and a fixed tribute only is paid to the Turkish government.

There seems to be no special animosity against Europeans or Americans, but they are harmed only when they get in the way, or as a result of fanatical mob violence.

Americans should bear in mind that newspaper reports are often grossly exaggerated, and consequently misleading; though at other times they only tell half the truth.

I have met Admiral Cotton, Captains Knox and Walker, and young Captain Thorp, who has been ordered to Abyssinia. The officers and men come up to the campus frequently to visit, and several games of baseball have been played by them on our athletic field.

College opened last week with 600 students.

SAMUEL ANDERSON, '03.

Syrian Protestant College, Beirut, Syria.

The Palladian society is in receipt of a letter from R. W. Thatcher, '98 and '01, who is head of the chemical department of the agricultural experiment station at Pullman, Wash. Mr. Thatcher says:

"I am very pleasantly located here and have no desire to return to the east, except that I would like to visit some of my old friends. The Pacific northwest is the garden spot of the United States, and I would need some very strong inducement to make me think of returning to Nebraska or any other eastern locality whose conditions I am familiar with, as far as opportunities for work or pleasure are concerned. I spent a month last summer climbing snow clad mountains, trolling for salmon in the ocean and getting near to Nature's heart in the pine woods, and after that I have no longing for the prairies of Nebraska.

We have quite a Nebraska colony here at the Washington Agricultural College. Fulmer, '85, is head of the chemical department and state chemist, Beatty, '96 and '98, is acting professor of botany, and I am head of the experimental department of the experiment sta-

tion. We are already preparing to fight out the Thanksgiving day game with the men from Illinois on our faculty here. Stand up for Nebraska! You can hardly imagine with what eagerness we old timers look for news from the University, or how quickly we turn to the football page of the Spokane paper on Sunday noon to hear how it has gone on the old Uni. gridiron the day before. Last Saturday I read the score of the first half of the Iowa game in the Spokane afternoon paper at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, so quickly does news travel in these days.

Our school here is a flourishing 10-year-old infant with a corps of forty instructors and seven hundred students. We have everything we could reasonably ask for in the way of facilities for investigation and instruction and future prospects are very rosy. We have just moved our chemical departments into a new \$30,000 building, which is as commodious and more convenient than the old chemical laboratory where I spent so much of my Uni. time. I have a very pleasant suite of four rooms for my own private quarters and need no say that I feel very comfortably fixed."

How Fast the World Moves.

At the close of a very flattering notice of Dr. Charles Kuhlmann's article on "The Breton Club During the Revolution," in a late number of the University studies, the Revue Historique of Paris has the following to say:

"In reading, with the interest which it merits, this monograph which has come to us from the land of the Platte and the Missouri, we can not help reflecting on the prodigious rapidity of the development of modern civilization.

"How astonished would these members of the Breton club of 1789 have been if they could have known that 100 years later, in a corner of the vast plains of North America known to them only under a barbarian name and inhabited only by Redskins and the chance trapper, there would exist a university, publishing a scientific work concerned with them and their history."

Cards from Per Axel Rydberg, '91 and '95, indicate that on the 11th of this month he was married to his cousin Miss Amanda Rydberg in Mount Vernon, N. Y. Dr. Rydberg is well known to the older botanists of the University as a most enthusiastic work-worker in the department and a deep student of plants, who, after graduating here went to New York, where he has been for a number of years in charge of the Herbarium of the New York botanical garden.

Ernst A. Bessey, '96 and '98, is a student in the University of Halle, in Germany. He is studying botany, zoology and philosophy, the first being his major subject. He hopes to complete his work for the degree of doctor of philosophy sometime in the spring. After receiving his doctor's degree he intends to spend a semester in the University of Munich, where he will devote all his time to botanical work under Professor Goebel, the well-known plant morphologist.

A. J. McClatchie, '90, for many years a professor in the University of Arizona, is engaged in writing a work on the natural history of plants. Portions of the manuscript were submitted to Dr. Bessey some time ago, and he has given his hearty approval to the new book as far as he has seen it. Professor McClatchie was one of the "botany boys" who did excellent work in the early days of the botanical department.

Mr. Sam Anderson, '03, of Beirut, Syria, reports that he is well pleased with his position as treasurer of the Protestant college at that place.

E. A. Moore, a former student of the University, is pastor of the Methodist church at Emerson, Ia.

Miss Elizabeth Meier, '03, is principal of the Neeley high school.

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