

ings are considered. Assessments are only taken about once in ten years, so that the poor man is heavily laden, while the rich and well-to-do often flourish. Taxes are levied on grain, or what a man is supposed to realize. This system nearly clears heavy property owners, while the poor man who owns nothing is even taxed of that which he "seemeth to have" and has not, viz., the daily bread necessary for him and his family.

This state of affairs may be attributed to a poor government; but I am of the opinion that the people are quite as much to blame. They make no effort to improve. Their houses are according to the climate and not according to comfort, or the handiness of building material. Here in the warmer climate, where winter is very light, they live in rush houses along the foot of the mountains of stone and timber. In the colder country, where the winter is severe, they build houses of mud and occasionally of stone, put up in the most rude style. They spend hours in smoking, and the more religious in praying as well; but when that is done nothing but sheer necessities are attended to. Upon the journey I have seen many travelling companions praying three times after arriving at the inn in the evening, and some of the prayers were of about half an hour's duration. This and smoking have taken up the evening till about eight o'clock. Well, prayer is undoubtedly good, but everything in its season, and limited to a reasonable extent. Is it not, moreover, necessary to work as well as pray? I don't mean to say the Turks ruin Turkey by praying, but I do believe they would realize greater blessings from God by working more and praying less.

Turkey is not only sick financially, but it is literally sick. The fever, chills, and other kindred diseases are raging to a fearful extent, so that if it were in some European country where statistics are kept the disease would be declared epidemic. In cities of about 50,000 or 60,000 inhabitants from fifteen to twenty persons die daily; but there being no way to ascertain the number, the natives live in ignorant bliss. They are also the most helpless of any people I have yet met with. Most individuals know of some remedy or other, but these people seem to be unaware of one. Their sick lie for months without medical aid or kind of assistance, until nature effects a cure or finds relief

in death. Now this is very deplorable. Still the people possess some good qualities that at present lie dormant. The cause for this is only known to the Creator. But let us hope that the sweet influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which has now reached this once hallowed land, will secure the bringing of many honest souls to Zion. Much good has been done, and a footing has been gained by degrees. Of this I shall give a full account at some other time.

We have been doing a great work in preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles. This is, however, but small compared with the labor that is before the youth of Zion—not only of preaching the Gospel to this great Asiatic nation, but also of bringing about a temporal reformation by teaching them the arts and sciences of life, and that not for the sake of gain but for the love of God; thereby effecting the true restoration of man to his primitive state of usefulness, as created by God. These nations are living in total ignorance of the coming of the Son of Man; wherefore He will certainly have great mercy on them at His coming, when Babylon will be destroyed.

Many of these will undoubtedly live during the millenium, and, as it is written, the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth. Will there then not be a great work in bringing that knowledge with its consequent blessings to those far-off peoples? Though they may worship according to their own desire, yet they will not be left ignorant of the "reign of peace" of the only One whose right it is to reign. I have seen many who I feel certain would surely follow a good example.

With kind regards to all my friends in Zion, and ever praying for the triumph of right and the deliverance of the oppressed,

F. F. HINTZE.

P.S.—I go from here to Haifa, Palestine, in which land I expect to winter. If I have the opportunity I will perhaps write a little from there concerning present life in the Holy Land.

ALEXANDRETTA, December 13, 1888.

A WISE COURSE.

THERE is something decidedly commendable in the step just taken by James G. Blaine, Jr. Realizing, perhaps, that a name and correlative advantages enjoyed now are not re-

liable capital with which to combat the world, he has determined to become a practical mechanical engineer, and to that end applied to the Maine Central Railroad shops in Elmwood the other day for a position. The foreman looked at Blaine's face, then at his delicate hands, and proceeded to explain to him the nature of the business, how hard and dirty it was and how little the pay for an apprentice, which was, of course what the young man would have to be to master the calling. He was not to be daunted, however, and made an engagement then and there. The next morning early, with the overalls and other garb of a machine shop apprentice on, he was seen proceeding from the Elmwood Hotel with his dinner pail in hand, tripping along as lightly as though he were going to join a junketing party. He went to work and is at work now—hard, real work, too, for which he will receive for the first six months the munificent sum of eighty cents per day.

The late Louis Napoleon had his son, the Prince Imperial, apprenticed to a printer, and was careful to see that no favors were extended and no relaxation of the rules permitted because of the boy's exalted social station. This looks now almost like prescience on the Emperor's part; for it was not long after that that the populace who had "tossed their ready caps in air and lifted their voices in servile shouts" at every sight of his majesty, was converted into a seething mass of carbonari and petroleuse, who tore down the monuments to his and his predecessors' triumphs, the costly buildings he had caused to be erected, burned all that would burn and scattered the rest indiscriminately, some being stolen, the remainder going into the Seine; while he himself, first a prisoner, then an exile in a foreign land, was mentioned only to be execrated. The entire family was expatriated, and the Prince was left to his own resources. If he had then put the knowledge acquired in a printing office to use, and not gone off to Africa to engage in a fight in which he had not even a remote interest, with a people who had never injured him, he might have been alive and prospering today.

There is nothing like learning a trade; there is no telling when it may be useful in a practical way, and is an excellent thing to know whether it is ever brought into requisition or not.