# CHURCH INTELLIGENCE

## MISSION FIELDS.

### ANTIOCH.

**A Visit to That Ancient City and Neighborhood.**

To the Editor:

The writer has just completed a three week's trip to the ancient city Antioch.

A little over 1800 years ago Antioch witnessed stirring times when the doctrine now called "Mormonism" first reached that place and was called Christianity in honor of the founder of all true religion. Antioch is not what it then was. It is but an insignificant Turkish town of about 25,000 inhabitants. Its only industry is a few soap factories which have sprung up lately and they are only on a very primitive basis.

The city is located on a narrow strip of land between the mountains and the river Orontes, now called Asi (ki) by the Turks. The city was formerly upon the east side of the mountain, most picturesque in its situation, but as it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times the old site has been abandoned and the more easy ground chosen near the river. The present city is built on about twelve or fourteen feet of debris from the old ruins and as such is a veritable anti hill. The streets, in comparison, are narrow, crooked and filthy as are all Oriental towns. Earthquakes have also helped to reduce the city. Several times many of its poorly built houses have been shaken to the ground without being replaced by anything better. A few old houses are yet in sight at the palace or government building, and two marble sarcophagi.

A number of coins are offered strangers by the people as antiquities gathered in among the ruins. It is said that gold nuggets are frequently found after a violent rain, the floods from the mountains having washed them here. A stone bridge spans the river just opposite the town. Viewed in the city is a small mound called by some Crusaders' Hill. There the crusaders camped prior to the taking of the city proper. Here one obtains a fine view of the city as it now is and as it once stood on the mountain side. The old site is now covered with olive and fig trees. The surrounding country also looks inviting from this interesting hill. To the east is the Akhouk, a large open valley with the lake or Antioch swamp in the center, and feet above sea level. It is about five miles east of this point with a fine open bottom locked out by a small hill running across like a scallop. To the south is the Rhosi hill, and mountain, about three miles distant. The country is a gentle rise toward the south, adaptable rolling so as to make it naturally picturesque. Several streams flow rapidly down the mountainside and after watering the small plain empties into the Orontes. Under the mountains are several villages located in the different small valleys of other process unknown to the ancient dwellers. These villages are surrounded with gardens and in many places these villages look much like the Dutch country settlements such as Sonnenberg and Canaseraga. Each house is located in a garden by itself and differs from other Turkish towns in this that there are no walled in the prisons but are open and free.

To the west one looks toward the Mediterranean distant about twenty miles. The country looks well, but when one travels over it, it is not so nice. Much of the land is hilly and worthless as it is poor subsoil clay with a liberal amount of round cobblestones strewn over it. Some is hilly and not tillable, but must be terraced and planted with special crops of fruit suitable to such soil and climate. This country, the Turks will never do, and though the Christians would do something toward it, they will not permit them to do it.

Much of the land along the Orontes and on the creek beds is fertile and good crops of fruit and grain is grown, but quite much of the land is hilly and made productive and paying if handled properly. On the north side of the lake is the village of Kaus, North Harbey, Yarsos, Ghiz, Kikhar and Ain Kahous are about 1200 families all Arabians. These people are a fine people of the Arabian stamp, good and intelligent and very clean. Our conversation has a big hold here and the people are very anxious for us to come. These people live also largely in their own gardens and as it looks rather thinly peak, it gave me a good impression. It also gives them a good chance to work down. Feeling is not confined to and the people are a little inclined to boast. They were heard saying that the old Armenian teachers, for though it was proved that natives had carried their peaceful mission home about the last about one hundred years, the people and strangers was found in the place yet they were collected from the Greek.

The government, Turkish, though Christians who, it is said, hold to all of their old ideas, but a multitude of Christians without any organization. Christians Armenian mission, or Armenian church, just then either by accident or by design was not in the place. Our work is feeling a need. But the Greek church is the leading church in the place. It was not in the Greek church that Christ was organized. Christ was organized in the upper room, and the Greek church only takes the first step taken to give the name to a church of Christ. Our work is in the Greek church, and the people are the Greek people and the Greek church. The Greek church is the Greek church, and the people are the Greek people. The Greek church is the Greek church, and the people are the Greek people. The Greek church is the Greek church, and the people are the Greek people