

Their company pleased us very much, because the Arabs we here see are far from being the true type, being so much mixed with other races. But as they only spoke Arabic and our Turkish was of but little use, we could not learn anything from Mecca which would have pleased us much. They were mounted on tolerably fine horses, and on a sandy beach they gave us a slight exhibition of the fleetness of their steeds. These they managed well, and appeared to keep well. They were dressed in white underclothes, and covered with a dark mantle of a light home-made material. About their heads they had a white, gold embroidered handkerchief tied in the same way as an American lady would tie her scarf, with this addition—they had a cord about three-fourths of an inch thick, closely wrapped in what appeared to be gold threads, systematically fastened twice around their heads, the ends hanging down their back. Under their cloaks they displayed a large pistol, heavily mounted with glittering material. Their manner was pleasing, but very dignified, and bespoke much firmness of character. They are not unlike our American Indians, save in the color of the skin, which is very dark. They are of medium height, and, though slender, yet appeared strong and capable of enduring great fatigue. Their features are intelligent and earnest. The writer only regretted that he could not converse better with them, and have told them what God is doing to redeem His children, so that they might have carried the good news to Mecca.

On arrival at Beyrouth we put up at a *khan*. The next day being Sunday, and our neighbors hearing we were "Mormons," called in and asked us to preach to them, with which request we gladly complied. We explained to them the first principles of the Gospel, and how God through His angels had restored the Gospel and its blessings. They listened very respectfully, but seemed disappointed that we did not tell them how they could obtain a plurality of wives. This was, however, no part of our mission.

Beyrouth is the chief shipping point for Syria, and as a matter of course is a very fast place, casinos and dens of vice being quite prominent. Some fine houses are to be found in the consular's quarters. It is a great pity that, as civilization advances, the poor heathen must be ruined by the train of wickedness following in its trail.

Here at Beyrouth several thousand Maronites have left Mount Lebanon for America; but as the government has forbidden emigration to America, the boys overcome this small obstacle by giving the police one-and-a-half Turkish liras per man, as *backshish*. The police let them pass unmolested in the dark, and once on the French steamship they are out of danger.

One needs no extra amount of explanation to understand how weak a government must be whose officials can with such impunity override its mandates.

Here we boarded the French

steamship *Messina*. Yesterday we called at Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean, under the English government. Its port regulations furnish a fine contrast with those of Turkey; and an old Scotch gentleman, a fellow passenger, whose nose indicated that he was a better judge of wine than of navigation, said: "What an effect the flag can have on the weather. Immediately on crossing from Syria to Cyprus, we have English weather at once." Cyprus is fertile, but the inhabitants seem to think it is not much better off for progression now than in the hands of the Turks, save that they are more sure and free in their possessions. Cyprus has about 180,000 inhabitants, all told. The most of them are Greek, and a few Protestants, the remainder being Musselmans.

As many of the servants of God have had to do before, it also became our lot to take deck passage. We have, therefore, our places on the deck, where our bed is spread out, and we have a fine opportunity of studying the character and disposition of our fellow passengers. We have to watch our things closely, as the people are not very scrupulous about helping themselves when they think they are unobserved. One bad feature is their noise when conversing. It appears to us, from their gestures and manner, that they are quarreling, but everything soon seems to be quiet, and tranquility again reigns.

Opposite to us we see the good old Arab praying and performing his devotions to "Allah" without the least embarrassment the Greeks playing cards and the Turks smoking their "nargilla," while the Europeans walk around, and wonder how we can all live in our humble condition. One Swiss passenger, evidently wishing to show us a little contempt, said to me, "I would rather stay at home and pound stones on the road for my *kroul* than travel in this way." I volunteered a little information for his consideration; i. e., that these people he here saw were thoroughly at home. The ship was quite clean, the weather fine, and they had their "furniture" with them—a mat. No other "furniture," as a rule, graces their homes. Hence, I said, they were not so much to be pitied, and we were fast learning to be content with the same—a mode of traveling not to be refused when one wishes to combine a cheap journey with comfort of its kind.

F. F. HINTZE.

On board the *Moeris*, Mediterranean, March 28th, 1889.

### EUROPEAN TOPICS.

The news from Stanley, the great African explorer, and the flight of Boulanger have so engrossed public attention that other events of no small importance have been passed by unnoticed. Of these, the return of the Duc d'Aumale to his ancestral home at Chantilly is by no means unimportant. To understand the influence which this prince may exert on the politics of

France, we must recollect that the ancestors of the Duc d'Aumale, namely the house of Conde, held a prominent place in that important period of French history during the Reformation. Those who have read the history of Catherine de Medici and her sons are well aware that at one time France was very nearly becoming a Protestant country. It was then that the princes of Conde showed themselves valiant in the cause of right. So great was their influence that at one moment it would seem that Catherine felt inclined to throw her influence and that of the royal authority on the side of Conde and the Protestants.

True to the instincts of his ancestors the Duc d'Aumale is a Protestant, and anyone who will pause to reflect may easily perceive the influence he may exert on the politics of France.

While the English-speaking populations of the world are interested in the wonderful career of Emin Pasha and Henry M. Stanley, there has suddenly appeared in Europe another character, nearly or quite as wonderful. Five years ago M. Marie-David de Mayreana was an officer in the French "Corps des Guides," having previously served in the Franco-Russian war. He was also a journalist and member of the "Cercle de la Presse." Now he is Marie I., King of the Sedangs.

In the year 1885 he was sent by the French minister to make reports concerning certain affairs progressing in Sumatra. Having performed his duties, he crossed over to Cochin China, and travelled for a few months in the Annam country. There he fell in with some Jesuit fathers bound on a religious mission to the interior of farther India. M. de Mayreana learned that there existed between Annam and Siam a vast territory fully as large as England, which was not claimed by the Annamites nor yet by the kingdom of Siam. In the French maps this country is marked independent; and on the English maps is delineated a large tract of country northeast of Siam and between the Mekong River and the Annam boundary. This is the kingdom of Sedangs, which has always been recognized by the neighboring States as independent. Until lately this country has been ruled by native chiefs, and but little intercourse existed between the inhabitants and the outside world except when European traders ascended the Mekong River to barter with the natives.

M. de Mayreana conceived the idea of annexing this province to his native country, France, and having assured himself of the vast undeveloped riches of the region, he returned to Paris in the fall of 1885, and, having laid his scheme before the minister, M. Constans, he asked for government assistance.

The minister did not acquiesce in this idea, but gave M. Mayreana three thousand francs and a commission as the French agent to trace the sources of the Mekong River. Armed with this and twenty volunteers Mayreana again started on his travels. At Quin-Hon he again