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THE OLD AND THE NEW RÉGIME IN TURKEY

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THE attitude of the Turkish government towards the pioneer missionaries who came from America in 1820 and the following decade was not uniform. Usually the officials ignored the newcomers as of no political consequence. Occasionally suspicions were aroused and interference resulted. In 1824 Mr. Bird was arrested in Jerusalem on the charge of distributing books which were "neither Jewish, Moslem nor Christian." But he was shortly released. And even during the disturbances which were caused by the war with Greece the provincial officials afforded protection and freedom of passage for the missionaries in their extensive pioneer journeys.

In 1834 Dr. Goodell recorded that it was gratifying to see the respect shown by high Turkish officials for American citizens. Their rights of residence and travel, however, were no more than were granted by various treaty agreements to Europeans.

When the mission work began to exert a wider influence, in the decade 1840-1850, there were repeated efforts to remove the missionaries from the country. The American minister, however, declined to take any such action and the attention of the Sublime Porte was turned to other matters.

The missionaries as foreign citizens were thus afforded