

Islam is avowedly the state religion, and the Constitution will be operative only so far as it does not conflict with Mohammedan law and custom. Missionaries were once regarded much as foreign consuls. But the spiritual nature of their work is now understood and the government no longer feels obliged to strive for their protection. Nor does the government protect in any special way the communities under their charge. No doubt this also is of God. The Gospel of the Cross of Christ must be presented in the spirit of peace and without worldly power. From this point of view *opposition* may be interpreted in terms of *sacrifice*.

Indeed, there is reason to take heart and thank God. In a list of questions submitted to experienced missionaries in Constantinople, Salonica, Van, Marash, Aintab, Sidon and Beirut I closed by asking, "On the whole, have you reason to feel encouraged by the present attitude of the Ottoman government towards Christian missions?" The answer was unanimously affirmative although touched with the shadow of approaching trial. Assuredly this gives hope of a glorious consummation to a very dark part of the world's history.