

From Beersheba to Berlin, Via Bo

IN these days when the souls of men are being tried, and the value of a race of immigrants is judged by its loyalty to the country, there is one race of immigrants which hitherto has attracted little public attention, but which is now showing evidences of the most intense patriotism and staunchest loyalty. This race does not come from Europe nor from any country which is allied with us in this war, but strange to say, from a country which is allied with Germany. Syria is under the government of Turkey, and anyone informed concerning that country will appreciate the reason for the foregoing statement.

Probably no people in the world are such bitter enemies of Turkey as her Christian subjects, and the sturdy race of Syrians coming from the beautiful mountains of Lebanon, who have for centuries maintained the Christian religion in spite of persistent persecution, are today the most enthusiastic supporters of our foreign policy. A letter from a Syrian member of Pershing's expeditionary force illustrates the intensity of patriotism which even the young Syrians feel.

May 27, 1917,
El Paso, Texas.

Co. H, 16th Infantry.
Dear Father, Mother and Sister:
Your letter received and I was very glad to hear from you—Father, I joined the army because I thought it was up to me to do my part in this war to fight for the Red, White and Blue, also to help free our country from that godless people of Turkey.

Father, we got orders to leave El Paso by June the 1st to N. Y. State. We stay there about 3 weeks and then take a boat to Paris, France, and drill on back of the firing lines for 4 to 6 months and then go and fight with the France people.

Father, I don't know where we are going to yet, only to N. Y. State, so when you answer this letter address it to El Paso, Texas, and our mail will be forwarded to us wherever we are, also I will write you when we get there, also I will send you my picture in soldier's clothes. I am having some made, also I will send you some to send to Uncle Joe, Uncle Edward, Uncle Sam also Salim Munyer, because I don't know their addresses. When you get a letter from Uncle Edward or Uncle Joe tell them I will be in France inside of one month, also watch the papers because they will tell when we leave N. Y. State for France.

Our company will be the first to go to France, also they were the first to cross the border and stayed 11 months.

Father, if anyone tells you about your son, I want you to be a pure blooded American and tell them that he is going to do his Duty, also he was the first boy in his town that heard the call of the flag.

Father, I must close for this time. Father, tell my most beloved mother that her son will leave for France and she may never see him again. And if I live thro this war I will come home, for home sweet home is the only place to be but my colors called for me now.

Father, also tell sister that her brother

The Little Known Zeal of New England Syrians in Flocking to the Colors to Fight Their Ancient Enemy, the Turk — An Example to Other Friendly Aliens

By M. M. Maloof

is going to war and may never see her again. Also tell Wm when he get big that his uncle gave up his life for this country. Pray for me for my safe return. Love and kisses to all.

You may never see son —
Alexander N. Munyer.

No Hyphen in the Syrian

Syria is called the country without a flag. Perhaps this is the reason they embrace ours so fervently; or perhaps it is because the escape from the oppressions of the tyrannical makes them love their new found liberties with something of the spirit and reason of our Pilgrim Fathers. There is no hyphen in the Syrian. He has no other country which claims the slightest part of his allegiance. He is first, last and always an American in spirit and in actions.

A splendid example of Syrian patriotism is the proportionately large numbers of the race who have enlisted as volunteers in answer to Wilson's call. The exact figures are not available but it is known that over 300 have gone from the State of Massachusetts alone, which is remarkable in view of their small numbers.

The Syrian is not a conspicuous member of our body politic. Coming from a country where even the poorest man is a landowner, he is naturally a conservative. In politics Syrians are predominantly Republicans. They are never associated with any radical movements and there is no such thing as a Socialist or Anarchist among them. In their business enterprises they never undertake anything spectacular or involving great risks, but are steady and persevering; generally following well-tryed and safe ventures. And as for crimes, our police records are remarkably clear of Syrian names.

These are negative virtues, but indeed important ones. Our whole immigration problem would be of easy solution if the same could be said of the bulk of our latter-day immigrants. But the Syrian has some very positive virtues, so deep grounded in his nature that several generations of outside influence must elapse before they can be obliterated.

First and foremost is his religion. Religion with the Syrian is not a creed nor a conviction. It is an innate part of his being, born with him, intermingled with his everyday vocabulary, entering into his thoughts on almost every occasion and in

the commonest action. The he said of all people coming lands.

The second virtue of the noting is his deep abhorrence that borders on immodesty true among women is taken is their religion. In fact, feeling that it sometimes extremes, especially among rians. There is no such men and young women, or going out together, e Often a swain matrimonial court the parents, and could his choice after marriage. ute chastity is assured a for granted. The contrary in any Syrian community.

Possibly for this reason known and domestic dist most total strangers to hold, and of no race in the so truthfully said that on ried only once.

Temperate in Taste and

Possibly because of his his domestic habits, or his the Syrian is very temperate and habits. Drunkenness among them. A prominent of Boston once said that work in the Syrian community she had never seen a Syrian intoxicated and only one man.

So much for the character. Syrians. Now, how are they lated? For, after all, the people in this country lies in human resources, in v those qualities necessary

In this respect the Syrian remarkable progress. Government from which he c tutions to which he is ac portunities (or lack of education, and the short in our midst, he is being remarkable rapidity—mu almost any other class grant. This is because h intention of making this eager to learn.

Syrian immigration began ago, but did not attain to proportions until late in day there are about 250, States and over 4000 in Boston as a typical example Syrians earnestly striving organized. Of course they rants and cafes, their and even their newspaper; but these are all means enlightenment, and are n among other races, mean and do not tend to keep to the motherland. On

number of years, there is an increasing number of those who collect Americana; and our large libraries are more liberal buyers of books of this sort.

Changes in Collecting Fashions

The fashion in books changes, as in everything else, and works which were once considered among the treasures of the rich collector's library are now available to the man of moderate means. It is not worth while here to discuss the reasons which in-

first edition, London, 1608, advertisements for unexperienced 1631, \$1300, and his "Descr England," 1616, \$3950; Edw "Good News from New England" 1624, \$1600;throp's "Humble Request. These are the cornerstones land history, and the prices one books show the eager collectors to secure the regardless of their cost.

the commonest action. This indeed, may be said of all people coming from the Holy lands.

The second virtue of the Syrian worth noting is his deep abhorrence of anything that borders on immodesty in women. Virtue among women is taken for granted, as is their religion. In fact so strong is this feeling that it sometimes reaches ludicrous extremes, especially among the older Syrians. There is no such thing as young men and young women keeping company or going out together, even if engaged. Often a swain matrimonially inclined must court the parents, and courts the woman of his choice after marriage. Women's absolute chastity is assured and always taken for granted. The contrary is never known in any Syrian community.

Possibly for this reason divorce is never known and domestic disturbances are almost total strangers to a Syrian household, and of no race in the world can it be so truthfully said that once married, married only once.

Temperate in Taste and Habits

Possibly because of his religion, or of his domestic habits, or his national traits, the Syrian is very temperate in his tastes and habits. Drunkenness is unknown among them. A prominent social worker of Boston once said that in eight years of work in the Syrian community of this city she had never seen a Syrian woman intoxicated and only one case of a Syrian man.

So much for the characteristics of the Syrians. Now, how are they being assimilated? For, after all, the value of any people in this country lies in what they add in human resources, in virility, and in all those qualities necessary for citizenship.

In this respect the Syrian has made remarkable progress. Considering the government from which he escaped, the institutions to which he is accustomed, the opportunities (or lack of opportunities) of education, and the short time he has been in our midst, he is being assimilated with remarkable rapidity—much quicker than almost any other class of modern immigrant. This is because he comes with the intention of making this his home and is eager to learn.

Syrian immigration began about 35 years ago, but did not attain to any considerable proportions until late in the nineties. Today there are about 250,000 in the United States and over 4000 in Boston. Taking Boston as a typical example, we find the Syrians earnestly striving to become Americanized. Of course they have their restaurants and cafés, their clubs and societies, and even their newspapers and magazines, but these are all means of education and enlightenment, and are not, as is the case among other races, means of propaganda and do not tend to keep alive the loyalty to the motherland. On the contrary, the

whole spirit of the community seems to be to encourage Americanization of the Syrians. They meet in their coffee houses to discuss current events, their newspapers and magazines reflect the news of our press, and the whole tone of their conversation and writings is one of utmost loyalty to and interest in our Government and life. There is always an earnest desire to learn from us and copy our ways.

In this process of assimilation the societies play an important part. There is not a single society or club among the Syrians for purely social purposes. They are too serious for that. They are all for educational or philanthropic purposes.

Higher Education Encouraged

First, there is the "Syrian Educational Society," composed of young men who have received a college education. The Boston chapter of this society has sixteen members, mostly graduates of Harvard, Tech and the American College of Beirut, Syria. The object of this society is to encourage higher education among the younger generation of Syrians and to better fit all Syrians for American citizenship. Funds are collected by the members for the purpose of giving scholarships to deserving Syrian youths and maidens in any American university. Part of a letter recently received by this society from a Syrian girl gives an idea of the ambitions inspiring these younger people and of the consequent demands upon the society.

"My ultimate aim is graduate work at Columbia, in their School of Philanthropy, but even beyond college and study is the desire to work among my own people, to help in any way possible to make life better among them.

"Perhaps if one girl gets through college and is able to show mothers and fathers that it is most worth while, our little children will have better advantages because they have educated mothers. Then, too, the education of our girls as well as boys is another thing I long to see a reality."

Incidentally this letter shows what America's influence has been upon the minds of these Oriental women, unused as they are to privileges of higher education. It certainly promises a great future for the race.

Another organization is called the "Syrian-American Club of Boston." This is composed of prominent Syrians who are naturalized. The object is to encourage Syrian immigrants to become American citizens, and as a means of doing this it enters into our political and social life, and encourages a study of all our national, state and civic problems, and in every way

possible fits men for the duty.

Talk of Allegiance to U. S.

The public spirit and patriotism of the Syrian club is truly remarkable, and its sincerity cannot be other body in America. Over \$2000 was subscribed for the Loan and through their efforts more was subscribed. A sight was the Flag Day arranged by the society. There was a meeting of Syrians, the children fully drilled in patriotic songs and the hall was beautifully flags. In all these United States of allegiance to this emblem of opportunity was never taken nor with such a deep feeling of significance.

This club is now organizing a Scout movement in the colony. No doubt we will see quite a number of brown-eyed youngsters who have also taken up Red Cross work with very satisfactory results.

These are only a few of the signs of progress among the Syrians in America, and the outlook is encouraging. Their minds are quick to learn, their bodies are vigorous, their intuitions are keen, they are quite free from prejudices. Social workers are quick to recognize the inherent worth of this people and willingly to encourage them. The object of the society is to be specially commended among the Syrians. In conclusion it is only fair to appeal to all American citizens that in every immigrant, of any other nationality, we see the future of America. The unwrinkled brow, the horny hand, the tongue of this foreigner, the outside crust of a soul that has told dangers and terrible things, they themselves may never be of such stock as this which is the bone and sinew of our great nation. Beautiful epic poems have been written in the pure Arabic, which of the Syrian, and as the men sit about in the coffee houses drinking their fragrant coffee, one who perhaps cannot read or write is singing verse after verse of real Tales. Thus his imaginative gift of God to any man, is many a Yankee of old stock who has lost this possession.

number of years, there is an increasing number of those who collect Americana; and our large libraries are more liberal buyers of books of this sort.

Changes in Collecting Fashions

The fashion in books changes, as in everything else, and works which were once considered among the treasures of the rich collector's library are now available to the man of moderate means. It is not worth while here to discuss the reasons which in-

fluence the change. Captain John Smith's "True Relation," the first edition, London, 1608, \$4500, his "advertisements for unexperienced Planters," 1631, \$1300, and his "Description of New England," 1616, \$3950; Edward Winslow's "Good News from New England," the second edition of 1624, \$1600, and John Winthrop's "Humble Request," 1630, \$2000. These are the cornerstones of New England history, and the prices of these twenty-one books show the eagerness of American collectors to secure the rarest of works, regardless of their cost.

This indeed, may come from the Holy

of the Syrian worth the horror of anything desty in women. Virtue taken for granted, as fact so strong is this mes reaches ludicrous among the older Sy-such thing as young men keeping company er, even if engaged. nonially inclined must courts the woman of age. Women's absol-ed and always taken strary is never known mity.

ason divorce is never disturbances are al-to a Syrian house-in the world can it be at once married, mar-

and Habits

of his religion, or of or his national traits, temperate in his tastes enness is unknown ominent social worker that in eight years of ommunity of this city a Syrian woman in-one case of a Syrian

characteristics of the are they being assim-ill, the value of any lies in what they add in virility, and in all ssary for citizenship.

Syrian has made re-Considering the gov-he escaped, the insti-is accustomed, the op-of opportunities) of hort time he has been being assimilated with -much quicker than lass of modern immi-use he comes with the this his home and is

n began about 35 years ain to any considerable e in the nineties. To- 250,000 in the United 00 in Boston. Taking example, we find the -iving to become Ameri-they have their restau-oir clubs and societies, papers and magazines, means of education and are not, as is the case means of propaganda keep alive the loyalty On the contrary, the

whole spirit of the community seems to be to encourage Americanization of the Syrians. They meet in their coffee houses to discuss current events, their newspapers and magazines reflect the news of our press, and the whole tone of their conversation and writings is one of utmost loyalty to and interest in our Government and life. There is always an earnest desire to learn from us and copy our ways.

In this process of assimilation the societies play an important part. There is not a single society or club among the Syrians for purely social purposes. They are too serious for that. They are all for educational or philanthropic purposes.

Higher Education Encouraged

First, there is the "Syrian Educational Society," composed of young men who have received a college education. The Boston chapter of this society has sixteen members, mostly graduates of Harvard, Tech and the American College of Beirut, Syria. The object of this society is to encourage higher education among the younger generation of Syrians and to better fit all Syrians for American citizenship. Funds are collected by the members for the purpose of giving scholarships to deserving Syrian youths and maidens in any American university. Part of a letter recently received by this society from a Syrian girl gives an idea of the ambitions inspiring these younger people and of the consequent demands upon the society.

"My ultimate aim is graduate work at Columbia, in their School of Philanthropy, but even beyond college and study is the desire to work among my own people, to help in any way possible to make life better among them.

"Perhaps if one girl gets through college and is able to show mothers and fathers that it is most worth while, our little children will have better advantages because they have educated mothers. Then, too, the education of our girls as well as boys is another thing I long to see a reality."

Incidentally this letter shows what America's influence has been upon the minds of these Oriental women, unused as they are to privileges of higher education. It certainly promises a great future for the race.

Another organization is called the "Syrian-American Club of Boston." This is composed of prominent Syrians who are naturalized. The object is to encourage Syrian immigrants to become American citizens, and as a means of doing this it enters into our political and social life, and encourages a study of all our national, state and civic problems, and in every way

possible fits men for the duties of citizenship.

Talk of Allegiance to U. S.

The public spirit and patriotism of this club is truly remarkable, and greater loyalty and sincerity cannot be found in any other body in America. Out of fifty members \$3000 was subscribed to the Liberty Loan and through their influence \$20,000 more was subscribed. A truly inspiring sight was the Flag Day arranged recently by the society. There was a mass meeting of Syrians, the children had been carefully drilled in patriotic songs and speeches and the hall was beautifully decorated with flags. In all these United States, the oath of allegiance to this emblem of liberty and opportunity was never taken so sincerely nor with such a deep feeling of its true significance.

This club is now organizing the Boy Scout movement in the colony and in time no doubt we will see quite a few of these brown-eyed youngsters in khaki. They have also taken up Red Cross work, with very satisfactory results.

These are only a few of the indications of progress among the Syrians in Boston and America, and the outlook is truly encouraging. Their minds are fertile and quick to learn, their bodies are strong and vigorous, their intuitions are keen, and they are quite free from any vitiating tendencies. Social workers have been quick to recognize the inherent possibilities of this people and willingly tender much aid and encouragement. The Special Aid Society is to be specially commended for their work among the Syrians of Boston.

In conclusion it is only just that we appeal to all American citizens to remember that in every immigrant, whether Syrian or other nationality, we see the seed of Future America. The uncouth manners, wrinkled brow, horny hands, and strange tongue of this foreigner are merely the outside crust of a soul that has dared untold dangers and terrible hardships in order to satisfy the longings for a higher life. They themselves may never be more than mere immigrants, but it is the offsprings of such stock as this which forms the very bone and sinew of our great Republic.

Beautiful epic poems have been preserved in the pure Arabic, which is the language of the Syrian, and as the apparently idle men sit about in the coffee houses sipping their fragrant coffee, one of their number, who perhaps cannot read or write, is reciting verse after verse of real Arabian Nights Tales. Thus his imagination, a veritable gift of God to any man, is kept alive, and many a Yankee of old stock may well envy him this possession.