



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

P.S. I employed a girl yesterday as secretary, & find  
she is a niece of Samuel Melkongan of Tarsus!!  
She knows how to keep books, run a typewriter,  
speaks French, English, Turkish & Armenian,  
is just 19 yrs. old. Some sec'y!!

Marash, Turkey.

Mar. 28, 1920.

Dear Family,

As long as this is Sunday P.M.  
I will ~~&~~ write a letter, but I can't  
see much use, as there is no mail  
these days - at least it goes & comes  
mighty little. Three evenings ago  
a lot of mail came three Turkish post  
by way of Aintab, & I was swamped  
with business letters from Aleppo,  
Constantinople, etc. & one lone letter  
from home written Nov. 28, together  
with two packages of Literary Digests &  
one of Sunday School Times. It seems  
that all of these had been captured  
by the bandits who killed Johnson





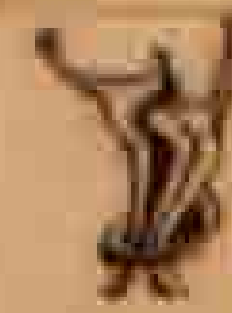
<sup>2</sup>/ and Perry near Aintab, but apparently the Turks had recovered the mail for us. So Mother, your letter telling of the high price of sugar had quite an eventful & tragic journey. I was glad to get it, even if it was four months old, & the Literary Digests were in great demand. According to them you are having a grand old time back in U.S.A.

My but I'm glad I renewed my contract to stay on here in Marash! The others who said they could not stay are still here, simply because they can't get out with enough assurance of safety to encourage them to try. Instead of getting better, conditions in this country are getting to be more "doubtful" every day - that is, no one knows just what is

<sup>3</sup>/ to come next. And here in Marash we hear no real news, only rumors, which are certainly not very encouraging.

But first I must tell about Mr. Lyman. If you got the letter I wrote last Sunday you remember I told about Mr. Lyman going to Islahie, & the report we got of his being attacked by the French. We all thought the story quite a fine one, but too much so to be true. So when a few days ago a troop of Turkish gendarmes rode by the hospital in the rain escorting two Americans I ran thru the rain to the college to get the first news. Lyman had returned with Dr. Bell, accompanied by ten gendarmes & a Turkish "interpreter" from Constantinople. (Bell is here for medical work, and apparently not political.) Lyman confirmed the story the Turks had told about him. When he approached the end of his journey a French machine gun opened fire





4/ on him, killing two horses. Later when he reached French office quarters the two Turks with him got tired of waiting & escaped. Mr Lyman spent the night with the officer in charge, & heard his account of the retreat from Marash. This I will tell about later. At Islahie Lyman found Dr. Bell, but went on to Adana by rail, then returned & with his company set out for Marash.

At Islahie they say eight carloads of food supplies are stored waiting opportunity to be sent to Marash by camel. We don't want the stuff, as we can buy it here cheaper than the cost of carrying it from Islahie. They should have sent clothing & other things we cannot buy. But Bell brought 2000 Liras (10000) which certainly was a fine thing, for we were already in debt here. The trip back was uneventful, except that it rained all the time. Along the road were the skeletons & bodies of the Armenians who perished

5/ during that awful retreat from Marash on Feb. 10-13. Bell took some photographs which I developed, & will enclose some.

The news they brought us from Islahie was rather scanty - they knew only that the British had taken Constantinople - that there was no communication with Aleppo either by rail or telegraph, & that the Turks were continually breaking communications between Islahie & Adana. At present we have no communication with Constantinople at all. The Turks here take orders from Mustapha Kemal Pasha, in Sivas & recognize him as their leader.

A leading Turkish merchant of Marash was in a few days ago & in addition to talking business spoke about the loss of their capital. He said it means much to all Moslems, for when the Sultan is not in power no Moslems are called to prayer - since the Sultan is the head of their religion, & calls the Moslem world to prayer. He spoke also





6/ about Enver Pasha & Halil Pasha, who he says are bringing two Bolshevik armies from the Caucasus to attack India.

The leading Turks here are very much disturbed about something just now, & are selling out and packing up. They bring their gold & me & take drafts on Aleppo instead. One man would not even take a draft or receipt, & even offered to pay us if we would store his goods in our houses. There is a reason. Our Muteserref is to leave Marash, & another man has come to take his place - & the rumor is that he is here to start a Bolshevik regime. The rich men here, knowing that this means the government will seize their property, naturally are exchanging all they have for checks. One big Moslem advised me secretly to fill our bins with all the food we need for some time, which we have done.

Other rumors float in - for example a few days ago some Turks came in with fresh wounds. They had been surprised by some French not very far from Marash, twelve of them were killed & twelve wounded. So the Turks now have trenches dug in front of the city, & are sending soldiers to Adana & Ischia to fight. I don't think the

French have any time to come back here. They are too busy keeping the railroad open.

In the mail which came a few nights ago was a telegram sent from Constantinople on Feb. 12 saying "Family inquiring for Stanley here. Will answer." It is impossible to answer now, but I'm sure you have had cablegrams galore by this time from Arnold, Lambert & Crathern. You must have had news early of the trouble in Marash if you cabled before Feb. 12. Thanks for such prompt attention! I hope you never got the letter I wrote two nights before that, because I was sure it was "goodbye" when I wrote my postscript, & I wrote it in such a hurry I suppose it must have been anything but assuring.

We had a letter from Dr. Crathern also, whom you will remember left with the French in order to care for the American women & for the Armenian refugees on the way & at Ischia. His description of that retreat was the same we heard from others - it was terrible! So from the start the weather was fearfully cold, but on the third day, when they were only six hours walk from Ischia, the great snow storm began. It became a blinding blizzard & a thousand fell in a few hours. One out of every three perished. Dr. Crathern, almost 70 yrs. old, walked every step of the 75 miles, but our ladies rode part





8/ way & some had frozen feet. From Islahie they all went to Adana. Then the Americans took a boat from Mersine to Beirut. Craithen came up to Aleppo & intended to come back to Marash, but Lambert had already come, so he went back to Constant.

The French officer with whom Mr. Tynan stayed the night before he reached Islahie (last week) had been in that terrible retreat. (He had been among the French reinforcements which came to Marash on Feb. 8, & had thrown the French troops around the city till communication was made with the commander here.) Then on the night of the evacuation he & his troops remained on the edge of the city till five o'clock the next morning in order to prevent cover the retreat & protect the rear from attack by the Turks. The French officer who had stayed behind in the college that night & later started out at three A.M. got thru safely. Then all the troops left at five o'clock. The officer who was telling this to Mr. Tynan said he had seen seven years of war, but had never experienced or seen such terrible suffering as that three days retreat to Islahie.





Naturally, those of us who stayed behind are not sorry we did so, but at the time of the evacuation the others were either telling us we were fools to stay or admitted that they were running away from duty.

Another thing Dr. Crathern said in his letter will interest you. In my first letter home (~~written~~ Feb. 10 from here) I told how those Zeiton <sup>mailed</sup> men carried a telegram with them back to Zeiton, & had promised to take it over the mountains to Hadjin. I gave them two copies on tissue paper and a draft for \$100 payable to the man who delivered the message. Dr. Crathern tells us that from Zeiton five of these Armenian mountaineers set out for Hadjin with the telegram but on the mountain pass they met a terrible blizzard. Three of them perished. The two remaining carried the message to Hadjin & received the reward. That was the first news which reached Aleppo of ~~our~~ the situation in Marash. I remember when we gave the message to those Zeiton men that night someone asked "Do you think you





10 "can reach Hadjin?" They answered, "If we cannot, no one can. We will carry the message till we die." Three of them did carry till death.

The latest rumor is that the British have landed big forces at Alexandrette & are now at Katma. A Turk here claims to have seen a big column of British & Italians on their way to Hilla, which means on the way to Marash. Turks here deny this, but 'evidence' makes me believe it.

Two days ago the Government requested Dr. Wilson to turn over all able bodied French soldiers under American care. Fifteen of them went, as prisoners of war, for the Turkish government says the French & British have broken the terms of the Armistice by fighting, so Turkey is now in a state of war. Tomorrow they are going to send some of these prisoners to Aintab. ~~Let~~?

11/ This morning a telegram came from Mustafa Kemal Pasha - (the head of this Turkish military movement) to the governor here in Marash stating that Armenians and Americans must have no communication with the enemy. The Turkish interpreter who brought the message to Dr. Wilson explained this ~~meant~~ ~~we~~ was a war measure, & meant no dealings with French, British or Italians. When Mrs. Wilson asked if this meant they could not go to Aintab, on the way back to America, he answered that they could not go back in that direction, but they could go by way of Sivas - which would mean they must head for the Black Sea & take a boat to Constantinople. So the chances are no Americans will leave Marash just now.

The Relief work is of course our most important duty, & every day is spent





THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

12/ feeding the "ten thousand", cleaning up orphans, dressing the wounds of the war, making clothing for everybody, etc, etc.

Our menu is approximately this for 9,000 people. - 5.5 oz. bread & 4.5 oz. rice

per person per day, with dried peas, beans, etc. substituted once in a while for rice.

The cost per person is about 35 cents a week. So we feed on a wholesale plan.

Even men who were millionaires before the "war" are now begging for blankets, shoes, anything. Not 5% of the Armenians can provide their own food. They are living sometimes 100 in a house. Our job is to see that they keep clean, get food, & what little clothing we can make. No Armenians have dared even yet to open their stalls in the markets.

We hope America is taking some definite action on the Armenian question, now that they see it is not settled yet. Recognizing Armenia as a nation does no good until a good government exists in Turkey. The Turks themselves want good government & would welcome a mandate by England or America. Must close now & write more later. Loads of love to all at home, from Stanley.