

April 1st.--We had finished breakfast at our personnel house, during which time we had told of the jokes that had been perpetrated upon us in the early morning by the fun-loving Armenians of our personnel, and were preparing to leave the table when the sound of four shots in succession caused us to exclaim in chorus, "What is that? has the massacre begun?" These first shots had been fired from ~~an~~ street just south of the American Mission buildings and perhaps thirty rods away in the vicinity of a Turkish police station. We all rushed to the balcony to learn the cause of the trouble and saw that already crowds of people were pouring into the Mission compounds both at the hospital and at the seminary. Firing was kept up steadily for perhaps fifteen minutes while the Turkish positions were being advanced to Mardin Hill to secure better command of our institutions including a boys' orphanage of about 1000 inmates, a girls' orphanage of about four hundred, a Rescue Home of two hundred, and a hospital. Many Armenians were in the early morning market in the Turkish quarter at the time that the trouble began. It is reported that a number were killed outright and some taken prisoners. More than twenty-five were more or less seriously wounded in the forenoon of this first day's trouble. Some had been struck over the heads with blunt instruments, others had been shot with dum-dum bullets (all the Turks are armed with Mauser rifles used by the German Army) while others bore ugly gashes made with knives. Several of these wounded bore both the bullet and knife wounds. Sniping continued throughout the day in spite of the fact that we had run up the American flag on all of our institutions at the time the trouble commenced. Several persons were wounded in our compounds and one of my boys instantly killed in an upper room of the orphanage, the same bullet striking another boy and inflicting a depressed fracture of the skull. Some, of course, have been frantic, but for the most part the Armenians have been very level-headed and are bearing their burden with great fortitude. There have been many willing hands to-day to make and fill sand bags and to do other things necessary in such a crisis. The young Armenian men had long been preparing in their feeble way for such an emergency, as they were determined to fight their oppressors this time when trouble came, and had purchased rifles and pistols whenever possible sometimes paying as high as \$100 for a single rifle. Some two months ago a distinct Christian quarter had been described, and this mornign into every street leading to the Christian quarter stone walls were hastily ~~the~~ thrown up and barbed wire entanglements rolled into place. This has proven effective for none of the Turks have been able to gain access to the Christian quarter. It seems remarkable that the Armenians have been able to refrain from returning this fire, but it is probable that they have done so in order that the Turks cannot truthfully accuse them of provoking the attack. Then, too, they are none too plentifully supplied with ammunition which they wish to use sparingly, not knowing what assistance the French will be able to give them. If nothing is done by them God only knows what will be the end. To-night we have had a double wall constructed along the street from the door of the seminary compound to the entrance to the hospital compound. This will make it safe to pass between the two places since our various duties demand this. More than 4,000 persons flocked to us to-day, and perhaps 800 are sleeping to-night in the basement of the hospital and on the grounds. The fact that the number is so small is because with the coming of night all firing ceased, and the majority have gone to their homes to spend the night. We have been greatly worried about Miss Pearson, an English lady, having an orphanage of some 125 boys and girls on Mardin Hill, about 3/4 miles from Aintab. Through glasses we saw the ~~the~~ Turks break open the gate of the compound surrounding her buildings and saw at various times from 25 to 50 filing in and out. They seem to be intrenching themselves near the house. We fear the worst as she has some large girls who will probably share a fate worse than death as to-morrow is Friday (Good Friday, at that) and the Moslem sabbath, and Friday is always



the day when they are fired with the greatest enthusiasm, we are expecting a ~~happy~~ terrible day with a heavy toll of life.

April 2nd.-- We were agreeably surprised that a general massacre did not take place to-day. Thanks to the defense of the Armenian young men!! Sniping has continued intermittently since 8:30 this morning. Armenians have replied, to-day, and the French have not been entirely silent as the report came in this evening that a lone French soldier defending the Catholic church had seven Turks to his credit during the day. To-night a platoon consisting of an officer and twenty-five soldiers has gone to his assistance. This was considered very dangerous so the Colonel called for volunteers. French soldiers were also sent to guard the hospital and orphanage after darkness came so that it was possible to elude the Turks. Since they were stationed there have been several sharp conflicts. Our institutions have been under fire all day and hit many times although no one here or in the city has been wounded. About 10:30 last night the Turks made an attack upon the French. Several volleys were exchanged before the French let loose with some grenades. This proved too much for them and everything remained still until morning. My men made several trips to the house we evacuated when trouble started, to remove wood, food, and cooking utensils--things needed very badly since we are feeding the refugees, although their number has been still further reduced by many going back to their homes upon finding their quarter so well defended. I have been working hard barricading all our windows with sand bags. Thanks to the army, the experience I gained there will help me through this emergency. This morning, my boy who was killed yesterday, was buried in a grave with three other people in a ~~corner~~ corner of the hospital compound. We have just been (11 P.M.) viewing from our loopholes a little skirmish below the seminary. Flames attracted our attention to that section, and to all appearances the Turks ~~are~~ are burning the abandoned ~~Turkish~~ houses in the Kurdish quarter. There was cause for rejoicing this morning when we received news of Miss Frearson's safety. Yesterday the Turks ordered her to open her gates, and when she refused they broke them open. Once inside they told her that her boys and girls would not be molested for they were all brothers and sisters. They demanded though, the surrender of her buyer, saying he was wanted for political reasons. He had sought refuge in an underground closet and later in the evening when the Turks had gone out telling Miss Frearson they had government orders to spend the night away (they, it seems, were members of the party who later attacked the French about 10 P.M.) and for her to bar the gates, the man made his escape, and creeping down through Jewish and Moslem cemeteries made his way to the Christian quarter where he made himself known in the early morning, and gave news of the escape and of the safety of Miss Frearson and her family. The American Mission has asked the local Mutassarif (governor) to grant safe conduct to them to come to us. We shall undoubtedly have his answer to-morrow. An Armenian messenger left this evening for Kilis and thence to Aleppo carrying a message to the Armenian Union, one for us to the Aleppo headquarters and one to the American Consul informing him of our precarious condition here. We are hoping the French also may have sent one asking for reinforcements. The weather of the past two days has been in favor of the present situation to the advantage of the Christians. May it continue so while so many have to sleep out of doors!!

April 3rd.-- Last night there was sharp fighting between the Armenians ~~with~~ with the assistance of the twenty-five French soldiers on one side, and Turks in the vicinity of the Catholic Church. Hand and rifle grenades were used and it is thought that many Turks were killed. Dr. Baghdadian, brother-in-law of my interpreter, and in command of one of the sections, came to visit me this morning and ask my assistance in securing rifles and ammunition for them from the French. This was latter arranged and



ten rifles with about 1500 rounds of ammunition was secured for them. The French have not yet turned their cannon upon the city for it was learned to-day at the Mission that some thirty French soldiers with an officer were imprisoned on the morning of the first day when they were in the market making their usual purchases, and that the French are not strong enough here to demand the surrender of these men. A meeting of Armenians and Turks, to which a member of the American Mission was invited, was held this morning. The Turks propose terms of peace, but such that it is unsafe for the Armenians to accept. The American member has spoken strongly in favor of the French and the Armenians, and asked the surrender of the French soldiers and officer. This was acceded to, and they were to be released at seven this evening. When the time came, news came that the Turks had decided to keep them until morning. We had a brief note from Miss Frearson, on Mardin Hill, this morning saying the brigands had evacuated her place leaving one regular and two irregular gendarmes. She, also, is apparently being held as hostage. To-day the French sent out an officer to view the Armenian strongholds. Evidently this report was very favorable for the French decided to establish liaison and have appointed the officer. Already more extensive fortifications have been begun and others perfected. In short everything is being prepared for a long siege. About noon to-day there was great rejoicing when a French aeroplane flew above our grounds. Everywhere from the hills toward the Turkish quarter hundreds of bullets were fired at the plane, but without effect except that the aviator was unable to land. Mail and news for the French were dropped and I think the pilot understood the situation very well so that he can report our condition whether our messengers reach their goal or not. One of our personnel went to visit the Armenian positions to-day. From one point he saw in an exposed street the body of a woman being torn to pieces by dogs. She had evidently been killed, or wounded on the first day when many were massacred, and being in an open place nobody could reach her. Refugees are steadily decreasing in numbers as their confidence in their positions increases, and more are returning to their homes.

April 4th.--Easter Sunday! And in the land where more than 1900 years ago our Savior lived and died. I was awakened this morning by the sound of ~~the~~ heavy firing which lasted for about two hours. There seem to have been no more shots exchanged to-day than on any previous day, although there were only six casualties among the Armenians-- one man was killed by a grenade he was attempting to throw at the Turks, and five people were badly burned when a child threw a lighted match into a quantity of powder which was being made in an Armenian house. It is thought that the Turkish casualties to date amount to nearly two hundred. The Armenians have already improvised two cannon from hollow cylinders used in mangles for making the gloss to the hand-woven native cloths. To-night the French officers and four of the soldiers held prisoners by the Turks were released. The promise has been given that the rest of them will be delivered to-morrow.

April 5th)) This has been the least eventful day since the trouble started. We have examined the homes of some of the refugees and find them to be perfectly safe since the situation has apparently settled down, so we have compelled many of the people to go back and remain until a further change may come. There has been very little shooting, and true to their promise the Turks released the rest of the French prisoners. The general opinion is that the Turks are trying to appease the French until more Turkish fighters are collected from Marash and elsewhere. Last evening we heard that our courier had been obliged to turn back, but the Colonel sent two Armenians disguised as Turkish villagers to Kilis with a message asking for help. This may bring a force sufficient to break the deadlock.



I again visited the Armenian positions and found the defences remarkably well constructed. But both the French and Armenian positions are being strengthened each night. By morning a complete line of communication will have been established between French headquarters and the American Mission buildings, and thence to the Armenian positions. Among the Turks killed to-day was a prominent Moslem hodja (priest) and member of an important Turkish committee.

April 6th.--Comparative quiet has reigned to-day. Drs. Merrill and Shepard of the American Mission continued peace negotiations with the Turks. They asked for the release of the thirty Armenian prisoners and renewed the request for safe conduct for Miss Frearson and family. It was arranged for the two Americans with two Turks,--Sheikh Effendi, the highest local Moslem leader, and the Chief of Police, Asad bey, to visit Mardin Hill. Both sides were ordered not to fire, and with a man bearing a white flag made the ascent. The proposition to leave was put to Miss Frearson. She will decide by ten o'clock to-morrow. Upon their return to the city the party was fired upon three times.

April 7th.--It seems that we are certainly in the care of a merciful God for to-day a Turkish house was entered in the Christian quarter and about 1000 bushels of wheat and corn were found. This is nothing less than a God-send since food-stuffs of all kinds are not very plentiful as the other Moslem houses looted had rendered only small quantities. The Turkish-American party again visited Mardin Hill and brought Miss Frearson and family safe to the city. They are now more or less comfortably ensconced in the clinic building. Their story was very interesting and some of the details were very amusing. Every nook and corner in their house had been searched, and their recital of the suspicions of the ignorant Turks at seeing American stoves, etc. was surely funny. A corset found among some old clothes was thought to be nothing less than an infernal machine. I re-visited all Armenian positions again and found them much stronger than on my last trip. The Armenians have made another cannon using scraps of iron, keys, locks, door knobs, etc. for shrapnel, and have nearly one thousand lances made for fighting men who have no guns. They have already formed a commission form of government to look after the affairs of the Christian quarter during this crisis. To a person they are behind in heart and soul, and their morale has been greatly strengthened by the French sending them about twenty-five more soldiers and some machine guns to strengthen their weakest positions. To-night a general attack was made upon the French and the Christian quarter. It came when we were at dinner, and such a fusillade of shots was rather disconcerting after the quiet of the past two or three days. The French answered with machine guns and with rifle and hand-grenades, and were not obliged to use any of their cannon. At one of the weakest Armenian positions about 100 Turks attacked, but were easily repulsed with the hand-grenades made by the Armenians themselves. During the firing a bullet passed through a thin wall at the hospital and whizzed past the head of the Superintendent. This evening five persons were badly burned when a child threw a lighted match into a pile of powder that was being made in an Armenian house.

April 8th.--After the events of last evening Dr. Shepard has been thoroughly convinced that the Turks have not been at all sincere in their request for an armistice, and he has determined to lend every energy to increase the efficiency of the Christian defenses and the organization in general. Telephone wires were cut in three places last night by firing, but communications within our quarter were re-established this morning. Ador Livonian, the leader of the Armenians, ~~was~~ and who during the war held a commission in the Intelligence Corps of the British Army, and who during the past six



months has been the worthy assistant of the American Y.M.C.A. Secretary, is the hero of the hour and is daily gaining in popularity among the Christians. His Lieutenant, Avedis, is also a popular hero. The French have sent a few more soldiers to-night expecting a recurrence of the events of last evening.

April 9th.--To-day has been again rather quiet. We finished barricading the hospital and other buildings so that we now feel quite well protected from rifle fire. Thirty Senegalese (French colonials) soldiers came last midnight for Armenian positions--principally near the Mission buildings. While passing between Hospital and French headquarters Dr. Shepard was shot at several times.

April 10th.--To-day we received the following telegram from Admiral Bristol; the American High Commissioner: "Bristol wants to know your health and needs Wire Miss Allen c/o Mustapha Kemal Pasha, Angora." The message appeared rather phony to us since it came in care of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the Nationalist leader. We held a meeting of the personnel and were undecided as to whether we should answer it or not. As no decision could be reached it remained unanswered thinking if it were genuine a second one might be sent. There has been rather sharp rifle and hand grenade firing during the day, and it continued into the evening. In spite of this the Women's Brigade completed their section of wall between the Seminary and French headquarters.

April 11th.--Americans held another meeting to consider the answer to the telegram of Admiral Bristol, but no decision could be reached. We were notified last evening of the arrival in Aintab of four prominent Armenians from Marash. They were brought by the Turks, and for the purpose of influencing the Armenians here to join forces with the Turks, using as their cue the fact that the French in Marash withdrew leaving the Armenians to their fate. Drs. Shepard and Merrill received them on the Christian side at the Y.M.C.A. and after the conference the Marash Armenians decided not to see those of Aintab for, as usual, the case had been misrepresented to them by the Turks.

April 12th.--We had another letter from the Mutassarif asking us to reply to our telegram from Angora. We held another meeting and decided this time upon a reply. We were cautious not to include anything in it that could be used against us later, and consequently we all felt that it was rather weak. The Turks fortified a minaret about 150 feet from our hospital compound. This menaced our position more than any other intrenchments they had made. Late in the afternoon after a heavy fight lasting about one hour the Armenians and French took the minaret, and drove all the Turks from that quarter. At once preparations were made to level the minaret as the Armenians did not feel they were strong enough to hold the position against a very strong counter attack. Masons set to work to remove the foundation stones, but darkness had by this time fallen making it necessary to leave it until morning. This evening came word from the Mutassarif asking two American missionaries to go to the Turkish quarter to-morrow morning for conference with the Turks and the Marash Armenians. The Turks made a counter attack after dark to retake the mosque, but were easily repulsed.

April 13th.--Dr. Shepard refused to go to the conference this morning and we all strongly urged Dr. Merrill not to go, but to no avail. He could not agree with the Turkish policy and became rather alarmed when they said, "Perhaps if we keep you a couple of days on this side you will change your mind." To this another said in an undertone, "No, not this time." As he was ready to leave news came in that the minaret had fallen. It was like the dropping of a bomb upon them, I suppose, and during the excitement he left them. The Turks in general were furious about this destruction, and made a fierce attack, but had to fall back in the face of grenades, neither of which the Turks seem to have. The Armenians also burned two more Moslem houses that



menaced their positions. Dr. Merrill presented our telegram to the Mutassarif, who asked that we send a fuller statement of our condition and needs.

April 14th.--This morning we sent a message to Admiral Bristol, and as I recall it, after the following fashion "Aintab besieged for two weeks. American flag fired upon continuously. Condition desperate. Send help of all kinds immediately." We haven't much confidence that the message will be sent as written. Dr. Merrill went this morning to visit some Turkish families in the Christian quarter who had remained on this side when the trouble began. The Turks thought we were holding them prisoners, so we gave them the opportunity of going to the Turkish side. This they refused to do. There are also two Turkish women patients in the American hospital who do not wish to leave. Last evening there was another fierce attack on all sides but especially at the YMCA where Turks again used machine guns. The Marash delegation of Armenians actually started back to-day. We had thought the Turks might hold them or treat them badly because of their failure to do anything here.

April 15th.--Things have remained very much the same as yesterday. There has been an occasional exchange of shots and one woman, - a native nurse was shot and killed in one of our compounds. News has come to-day of the capitulation of Ourfa (the Ur of the Chaldees) It is said that 5,000 Arabs allied themselves with the Christians of Ourfa against the Turks and after the arrival of French re-enforcements the city was bombarded for six hours when the Turks decided to give up. The French here are further entrenching themselves and tchetes (brigands) are seen working industriously on the surrounding hills. Another messenger left to-night for Kilis bearing a long letter from the Americans here to our Consul in Aleppo, and also a message, in code, from the French to their headquarters in Kilis. It is rumored that the Mutassarif addressed a vast assemblage of Turks last night during which he urged them on to fight, saying, "Allah would have it so", and told them it was their last chance and the only hope to save their nation. The expected attack of last evening failed to materialize, due probably to the fact that the heavy rains made the enemy trenches untenable.

April 16th.--Early this morning machine guns in the quarter occupied by the French and Armenians began their rat-tat-tat. The French column was coming in from the direction of Hadja Koyoun and Turks were escaping before it, and being shot down by machine gun and rifle fire. French officers tried to induce the Colonel to bombard various parts of the city, but he remained obdurate and would not permit the guns to be used before afternoon. About noon the vanguard of the incoming column appeared on the distant hills, their advent being heralded by a fierce barrage from their cannon to clear the way. (Evidently their commander was not afraid to have their guns used.) Shells were dropped upon and near the citadel (Saladin's forces fought the Crusaders from this fortress) and from my post in the old orphanage in the lower part of the Christian quarter, I saw five shells dropped upon and near the government ~~the~~ buildings. Am sorry the day was Friday--Moslem Holy Day--as the Mutassarif and Sheikh Effendi, the two ring-leaders, might have been in their office in the building. By this time dozens of Turks were seen ~~run~~ running away through the Moslem cemeteries trying to escape before the oncoming French. Only until then did the Aintab Colonel order his guns to be fired, and those frightened from their hiding places fell victims to the machine gun and rifle fire. When we saw them running I sent a message to the Armenian commander, and soon he and five riflemen were shooting from the upper windows of this abandoned orphanage. The Kurdish quarter was afterward bombarded for about two hours--one of the minarets being hit twice. One company of new soldiers entered and occupied Miss Frearson's house on Mardin Hill, the cavalry occupying the house of Sheikh Effendi's farm, while the bulk of the troops is encamped around the city waiting for the coming of day and another column from Kilis. Here's hoping they hang the Mutassarif



and Sheikh Effendi, and destroy enough lives and property to subdue these devils for all time!!

April 17th.-- I was aroused this morning by the cannonading from the guns of the new troops who arrived yesterday. This is certainly sweet music! The Machine guns in several sections broke loose and continued intermittently until noon. During the morning a courier came in and reported that the column coming from Kilis would reach Aintab about one o'clock. We had an ~~anxious~~ early luncheon so as not to miss anything that it was possible to see from our sand-bagged windows. The first welcome sight to meet our eyes was two armored cars--the first to enter here since the British left. Immediately behind them came a troop of cavalry followed by infantry and artillery (the battery being composed of six of the famous 75's) besides the trucks and native wagons bringing supplies for the soldiers and for the Armenians. They met with no opposition on the road although the troops who came yesterday from the east met with a stiff resistance. One officer told me he never went through a heavier rifle fire during the Great War than they met with outside Aintab after coming from Hadja Koyoun yesterday. No sooner had the new Kilis column taken up positions than they began pouring ~~shells~~ shells into the city, despite the fact that the Mutassarif had sent a pretest to the Colonel this morning against the bombardment!!! We understand that the French will send an ultimatum to the Turks to-morrow morning and if it is not complied with a general bombardment will take place. ~~Mr~~ Sheikh Effendi has been reported to be on his way to Aleppo to raise a force of 1,500 Arab ~~tchetes~~ ~~tchetes~~ to assist the Turks. The Armenians advanced their positions again to-day and captured the house of a hodja (priest). It was found to contain 600 bushels of wheat, about 300 bushels of corn and barley, besides 15 kantars (five tons) of figs, raisins, and pekmez (grape molasses). These things will augment the fast dwindling food supply of the Christians.

April 18th.-- The sun rose this morning in a cloudless sky and over a city whose Christian population was never more light-hearted and happy, but, alas, as noon approached rumor came that the Kilis column would evacuate on Tuesday leaving the city in a state of siege, and it had become noised abroad that five of the American personnel were leaving with it. The fact that these same Americans had been waiting weeks to get out to civilization since their contracts expired, had no effect upon the Armenians who thought the Americans scented danger with the withdrawal of any of the troops. The Americans held a meeting this afternoon to determine what demands should be made upon the French for protection to ourselves and our charges, and what persons should be sent out with the troops. An ACRNE nurse and I shall remain here with five members of the American Mission who are also assisting in ACRNE work. During our meeting the welcome whirr of a motor was heard, and looking out we saw a French aeroplane about to descend. Troops and the armored cars soon took up their positions and the aviator landed--the first time in about one month. He brought new orders that entirely changed the plans. The Kilis forces will remain and a ~~general~~ general bombardment of the city will take place to-morrow. This was very welcome news to all Christians. General de la Motte will arrive by aeroplane early to-morrow before the firing begins. To-night the Armenians are happy again knowing that the column will remain and that the Americans ~~will~~ will consequently have to remain longer. We expect a veritable "exodus" of Armenians, however, when they do go. Who can blame them?

April 19th.-- This has been another quiet day as far as things military are concerned. In this respect it has been rather disappointing after what we were told yesterday. About eight o'clock the aeroplane came bearing the general, and one hour later word came that part of the Kilis column would leave to-night for Kilis and Katma to bring supplies of food and ammunition. The five Americans decided to go with them and everything was in a bustle of excitement to get the packing done on time. All the