



# The Ramallah Messenger

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Northampton, Mass., June, 1910

No. 2

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“Arise, Shine; for thy Light is come.”

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Stone Lodge at the Gate of the New Boys' Training Home Grounds

The guardian in his sheepskin coat plies his trade of yarn making. He receives forty cents a month to sleep in the house and have a watchful eye to the property. He is responsible for the safety of tools and supplies.



## The Ramallah Messenger

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ALMY CHASE GRANT, Editor, 24 Massasoit Street, Northampton, Mass.

Vol. VII                      JUNE                      No. 2

Officers of the Board of Foreign Missions for New England Yearly Meeting:

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FORM OF BEQUEST—I give and bequeath to the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, the sum of \$—— for their use in Missionary work in Palestine.

A blue pencil mark here means that your subscription is due. Will you kindly send us 25 cents a year and help us to continue the paper? Any fund intrusted to us for bettering the "Messenger" will be gratefully received and faithfully applied. The continuance of your paper and the omission of the blue pencil mark will be the receipt for your subscription money. Remittances of 50 cents or over will be acknowledged personally.                      Managers

G. T. H. stands for the Girls' Training Home and School at Ramallah, ten miles north of Jerusalem, Syria. B. T. H. stands for the Boys' Training Home and School in the same village. It is a Christian village, population about four thousand, largely attached to the Greek Orthodox Church. Ramallah dominates a district of many smaller villages, Moslem and Christian.

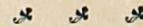
The Spring meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions for New England Yearly Meeting was held in Boston, May 9. Timothy B. Hussey and his son Arthur Hussey were present and gave graphic reports of work at the Ramallah Mission. Ahzeezie Rafeedie was present also, having come from Syria with Timothy Hussey. She is a graduate of the Girls' Training Home and has taught in North Day School, Ramallah. Her uncles in Cleveland, Ohio, sent for her.

Absalom Rosenberger was pushing the work of quarrying and dressing stones for the new boys'

building until the 12th of May, when he was to sail for the homeland for a few weeks. During his absence from Palestine all building preparations will cease so as to leave a minimum of outside responsibilities for Alice W. Jones and Katie Gabriel, who are to spend the Summer at Ramallah. Absalom Rosenberger expects to return to the field in July. Great satisfaction was expressed at the able way in which the Superintendent is taking hold of the work and of his deep interest in it.

The publishers of THE MESSENGER hope the following will not be amiss. A missionary service is needed to the imagination. The most arduous work on the paper is the collection of twenty-five-cent pieces which are greatly shrunk by the expense of postage. We write scores of letters because the law forbids dunning by postal card. A simple word to us asking that the paper be discontinued would be intelligible where silence is not. We blue-mark the paper first. Then during the year we send a notice or two and perhaps a letter or two. In half the cases no notice is taken, which produces a funny sensation at our end of the line. When a response comes it often omits to say whether we are to stop the paper or continue it.

We are so thankful for those who pay at the first or second nudge, and sometimes a friend sends a surplus to be used to increase the circulation. We half expect that it will be only such friends who will really see this notice and take it seriously.



### THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

A. ROSENBERGER

For some years past the Friends at Ramallah were diligently engaged in collecting funds and making preparation for a new meeting house. About a year ago they found themselves in possession of an amount deemed sufficient to purchase a beautiful lot situated half way between the Mission Home and the new grounds purchased for the Boys' School. It occupies a commanding position on the rocky ridge that forms the water shed between the Mediterranean and the Dead Seas. The location is a choice one in every way. From its elevated position may be seen the far-away mountains of Moab, fertile valleys to the south and a long stretch of the white sands of the beach and the blue waters of the Mediterranean down toward the far-famed Philistine City of Gaza. Much do these features add to the attractiveness of the site, making it, like Jerusalem, "beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth."

The house is a plain, substantial structure with a seating capacity for three hundred worshippers. The funds were contributed by Haverford and Philadelphia Friends whose generosity is well known. T. B. Hussey and family have built of hammered



stone a beautiful wall along the front, twenty-five meters long and a front gate in corresponding good taste, as a memorial to their wife and mother, who laid down her life in the land she so dearly loved. Excellent stone sidewalks extend from the door in front to the gate and along the whole wall next the street. The wall and sidewalks are models of neatness and good taste.

On Third Month sixth the first meeting for worship was held in the new house, at which some 250 were present, including a few tourist visitors. No effort was made to have any kind of dedicatory services or formal exercises. A song in Arabic and one in English were sung by the congregation, a chapter read in Arabic by Katie Gabriel and then the same in English by Alice Whittier Jones and a prayer offered, after which T. B. Hussey arose and gave a brief but most interesting account of the raising of the funds both here and in America, closing with an earnest exhortation to the membership to worship God in spirit and in truth. Dr. Walter R. Betteridge, a Professor in the Theological Seminary at Rochester, New York, was present and gave a short but most helpful discourse on belief, love and Christian living. It was esteemed a great favor to have his earnest and thoughtful words so appropriate to the occasion. Some of the native Friends spoke in an acceptable manner and to the edification of those present; viz., Dr. Maalouf, Principal Ameen, Elias Oudi, and Isa Abu Shallah.

The day was ideal, being warm and sunny, and the hearts of the people light, happy and worshipful. The local Friends and visitors seemed deeply impressed with the simple Quaker hour of worship in the new meeting house, and all hearts were filled with praise to the bountiful Giver of every good and perfect gift, and all heads bowed before their Prophet, Priest and King.

#### Brief Statement by Dr. Betteridge

It was a rare privilege to attend the dedicatory services of the first chapel of the Friends' Mission in southern Palestine at Ramallah on March 6. The day was perfect, beautiful sunshine, bright, clear air and a magnificent view. From an adjacent hill-top we could see the spires and domes of Jerusalem, trace the long, sandy coast of the Mediterranean and look over to the purplish hills of Moab. The comfortably attractive chapel was filled with eager and devout worshippers—the bright-eyed, fresh-faced boys and girls of the schools and the mature adherents and friends of the Mission. It gave one a thrill to sit on the platform and look into their faces and to appreciate the fact that their lives are gradually being transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is being taught and best of all, being lived among them. It was sweet to recognize the grand music of the Church in the Arabic hymns which the assembled congregation sang with so much earnestness, and the hymn of dedication sung in English by a group of the girls was very effective.

The touching words of the grand old patriarch, Mr. Hussey, went home to the hearts of the hearers and we all felt that in this Mission with its schools and now with its attractive and commodious chapel, he has assisted to rear a monument more enduring and more precious than any stately column of marble or granite could ever be. The earnest addresses of the brethren were inspiring, though they were spoken in Arabic and we could catch only a word or two now and then.

With all my heart I congratulate the Friends' Mission on what they have already accomplished in Ramallah. I rejoice with them in the happy event which must make March 6, 1910, a notable day in the history of the work, and I pray that with the blessing of God upon them they may go forward to still greater conquests for the Lord Jesus Christ in this land in which He lived and died. In the coming transformation of the Nearer East for which we hope and pray the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ must be a potent factor if the transformation is to be of the right kind. And it is to just such agencies as this Friends' Mission at Ramallah that the Christian world must look to supply the Gospel both in word and life to the slowly-awakening people. As I began, so I close by saying it was a pleasure to be present and to have a slight part in the simple but memorable service.

WALTER R. BETTERIDGE  
Rochester, N. Y.

Ramallah, March 6, 1910.

#### GOOD WORDS

From an ex-Vice-President of the United States Who  
Visited the American Friends' Mission at Ramallah, and from Another Visitor

EXCELSIOR HOTEL, ROME  
1st February, 1910.

PROF. A. ROSENBERGER,  
Ramallah, Jerusalem.

Dear Dr. Rosenberger:—

I avail myself of the first opportunity to answer your note of the 4th January. We certainly enjoyed our visit to your School to the utmost. While our time was limited and we at first thought it impossible to stop because of the engagements ahead of us, we are heartily glad that we accepted your invitation and made the little inspection of your School. We are greatly pleased with what we saw and learned. The fact is your Mission is well conducted and is doing excellent work. Your building is well constructed and every thing about it is suggestive of a wholesome Christian-like atmosphere. The new building in course of erection is upon one of the finest sites I have seen, and, when constructed, will be thoroughly creditable to your Mission.

I wish to congratulate you and those associated



with you in the heartiest manner possible upon what you are doing. The Friends have good reason to be proud of it.

Mrs. Fairbanks joins me in very kindest regards to you and your co-workers.

I remain yours sincerely,  
CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS

TO THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDS' MISSION WORK AT RAMALLAH.

I am an American Methodist preacher studying and traveling for two or three Winter months in Palestine. I have been visiting the mission work so far as I could. Ramallah has been a surprise to me. The town itself, to use an American expression, is the most "up and coming" one I have found. I had noticed its modern appearance from the hills to the south as I had been traveling among them for many days. Now I am here; in fact, have delayed here two days longer than I had planned, largely because of my very kind and hospitable reception by the Friends of the Mission here and of my growing interest of what they are doing.

Eighty bright-looking boys and girls they have in the schools here. Six other day schools they have in the villages about. Oh, how bright and neat and clean they look to me after having traveled through so many dirty and unhopeful-looking villages in the country! The Ramallah Friends are doing a splendid work to show what may be done for these people in the Gospel of Christ. Time does not permit me to dwell upon details. Suffice it to say that their work shows itself in the whole town and community. I hear "good morning" and "good evening" from these children, and not "backshish, backshish," as in so many places. God bless the Ramallah Friends in their work for the boys and girls and men and women of Palestine. The Christian educational work they are doing is sure to bring into the Kingdom of God the people of the beautiful and interesting land. Oh, for a hundred places with a work like Ramallah in Palestine!

Sincerely,  
C. A. SHARP  
Madison, N. J.



[This graduate taught in the Girls' Training Home and proving to be an excellent teacher was sent to Beirut for further preparation.]

BRITISH-SYRIAN TRAINING COLLEGE  
BEIRUT, April 16, 1910.

MY DEAR MRS. GRANT:—

It is a great pleasure to write you this letter and tell you a little about my school life. You have heard already, I am sure, that I have come here to study for a year in order to be better fitted for a teacher.

In this as well as in all other things we can realize the care and guidance of the loving Father

whose eye is ever open to watch over His children. This was a great privilege to me to come again and learn, and I am sure that it is God's will for me to be here. I pray God that this year may be a blessing to me and to many others.

Our School is situated in the most healthy part of Beirut. There are about seventy boarder girls and eighty day girls. The two college classes are trained as teachers that they may be laborers in the great field.

I am one of the college girls and I am getting on well, and enjoy my school life exceedingly. The lessons are very interesting and we are learning some educational subjects, besides Scripture, history, physiology, zoology, rhetoric, logic, science, etc. This week is the end of the examinations, for which we worked very hard.

We have very interesting prayer meetings every Friday evening, in which we remember our friends and the missionaries who are labouring to spread the light of the Gospel in the dark places. We also hold a missionary meeting in which we study the different religions of the world.

In the midst of the busy hours of study we have a special time to read our Bibles and have a short time of communion with God.

I ask you to pray for me that I may be helped by His spirit and be a true witness to His precious word. Please give my kindest regards to Mr. Grant, and many kisses to the baby.

Now I must close with love to yourself. I remain  
Your loving friend,  
WADEAH MITRIE



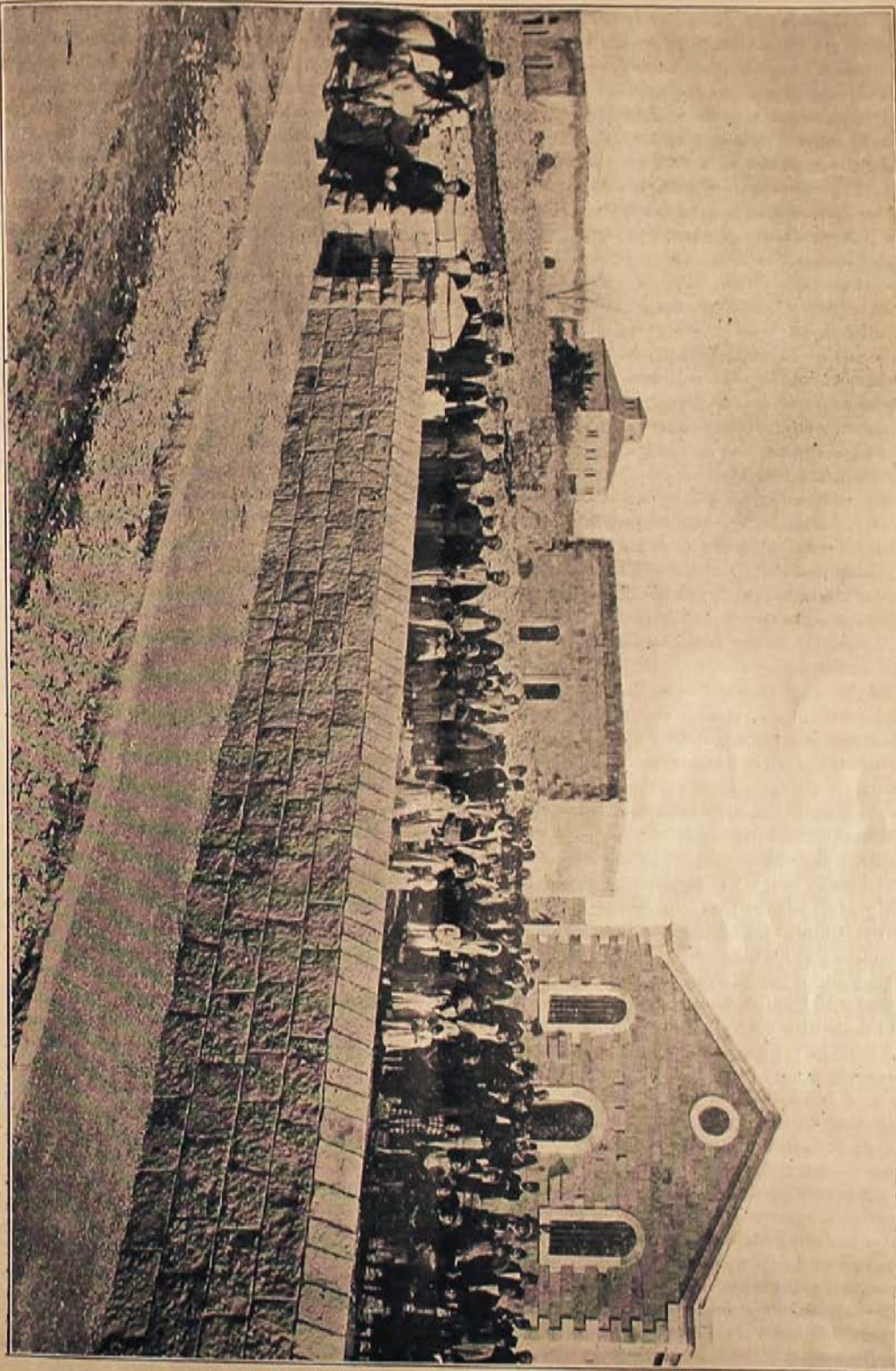
A STORY

A. W. J.

CHAPTER IV

It was not many weeks before Beheeya felt quite at home in the new School. She helped the older girls with the housework, each week helping in another part of the work so as to learn it all; only the learning to cook was left until she should be a "first class girl." School work came five mornings in the week and on Monday and Friday afternoons. On Tuesday afternoon the girls did the mending; on Wednesday afternoon they learned to make needle-lace, which every Syrian girl must learn, or sometimes they would go for a long walk, especially in Winter, when there were many flowers in the valleys; on Thursday afternoon they learned sewing, and as Beheeya hemmed dust-clothes or darned old towels and bedspreads she wondered if she would ever know how to make aprons and dresses like the big girls. On Friday afternoon after school the Junior Christian Endeavorers met and Beheeya liked the meetings. Then on Saturday such a sweeping and scrubbing as there was from top to bottom of the big house, and then every girl was





The New Meeting House at Ramallah