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LIGHT FROM THE EAST

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1950

Vol. 2

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No. 2



PATRIARCHAL EPISTLE

Easter Message

The message of the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ is as full of meaning to the believer today as it was to the small group of His followers scattered throughout Palestine, Syria and Assyria, at the time of the resurrection itself.

It is a message that will never lose its meaning so long as the human race exists.

It is a two-fold message. It heralds the deliverance of the children of Adam from the bondage of sin and death, and to the believer it is the charter of the true resurrection.

This He initiated two days before the event by the sacrifice of His Qnuma which He offered on the top of Mount Calvary, and fulfilled it by the resounding victory of His resurrection from the dead.

In the words of the apostle; "O death, where is thy sting? O Sheol, where is thy victory?"

"Qamleh Maran"--Our Lord has risen!

This was the message which kindled the faith and the spirit of the innumerable band of apostles, martyrs, and confessors of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, who by the power of the Holy Spirit carried the message of the risen Lord to the four corners of the earth.

Both Europe and farthest Asia were their missionary field. Rome, Peking and Delhi, all were the headquarters of their holy enterprise.

Emanating from the land of Beth Nahreen, --- the Land of the Two Rivers, the Garden of Eden, the Cradle of Mankind, the birth-place of both the first and second Adam --- these missionaries of the Holy Church went all over the world. In the words of a historian; "The thing that amazes one is not where they did go, but rather, where did they not go!"

When we compare the work of these pioneers of the early church with present-day missionary enterprises, we realize the words of our Lord in His promise to His followers;

"But the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom My Father will send in my name, He will teach you everything, and remind you of everything which I tell you."

No legions of the Caesars, no battle cruisers or destroyers, no foreign offices or boards of missions, spearheaded or stood behind these missionaries of the Church of the East!

It was truly the Paraclete that led them. With the power of the Holy Spirit they brought millions of souls, of all races, colors and tongues, to believe and be saved through Maran Eshoo M'Shikha -- Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the meaning of Christianity lies not in the number of converts we make, but rather in the methods we employ in making them.

It is the salvation of the soul that Christ seeks, and not the increase in numbers of those who profess membership in this or the other church.

No cloth converts, Mammon proselytes, or rice Christians can ever be true followers of Christ!

These pioneers of the Cross have thrown a mighty challenge to all those who profess the name of the Risen Lord, and especially so to those of the Assyrian race, or their spiritual and lineal descendants, namely, that we should follow their example and teaching, which is the only way whereby we may establish God's kingdom on earth.

To every challenge there must be a response! The defeat suffered by the first Adam at the hands of the adversary of our race was redeemed by the Second Adam!

How then can we, following this, example, answer the challenge confronting our own generation? The answer is; -- the youth holds the future of every generation! The future of the Church of the East lies today in the hands of its youth. The question is; is this youth preparing to answer this great challenge?

Are the Assyrians of today going to show themselves worthy of their wonderful heritage?

The answer is to be found in the events now taking shape, as will be seen from the news appearing in the pages of this issue of "LIGHT FROM THE EAST."

The workings of the Holy Spirit are manifest in all that is taking place throughout the Church, especially in the land of Japan.

Reports reaching us from the Middle East all speak of a spontaneous movement among Assyrian youths in general, for a return to the Church and resumption of this most holy enterprise started by their forefathers!

The challenge is thus taken up. Now it is for the youth to prove worthy of the task. It is to them on this occasion that we especially address ourselves.

In sending you our Apostolic and Patriarchal blessing, we greet you, our children in Christ, with these words from the Qyamuta.

"Manifold joy urges me today to repeat the words of the prophet;

"This is the day which the Lord has made, let us be happy and rejoice in it!" AMEN.

Handwritten signature: Selhai Shimon
By Grace
Catholicos Patriarch
of the East

Important News from Iran

Cordial Visits Exchanged

His Holiness has received from the Visitor General of the Church in Iran, Samuel Kelaita, of Tehran, word concerning very significant visits exchanged with the Imam Jumaa, supreme head of the Moslem religion in Iran.

On Feb. 16, in response to an invitation from Dr. Sayid Hassan, Imam Jumma, Samuel Kelaita, together with the Ref. Ruwil Arsanis, Mushey Barkho, and Rabi Giwargis Sergis, called on the Imam, and were received by His Eminence with great honor and cordiality.

Two days later this visit was returned by the Imam Jumaa, who called at the home of Mr. Kelaita, and spent an hour in pleasant conversation with the same group who had visited the residence of His Eminence.

The honor thus paid by the Imam Jumaa is of great significance. It is a reminder of the close relationship which existed for centuries between the Khalifs, the Imams, and the Patriarchs of the Church of the East., expressing the cordiality felt between Islam and the Church.

The Visitor General reported the Imam Jumaa asked especially that his salaams might be conveyed to the Patriarch, an action which was deeply appreciated by His Holiness.

Charters have been given to the Patriarchal See of the Church of the East by various Moslem rulers, the most important of these having been from the hands of Mohammed himself, along with the famous knife, also given by him and which was inscribed with the Fat'ha from the Koran.

There was also a charter from Ali, and another from Omar. These were unfortunately lost during the disturbances of the last century, with the exception of the one from Omar, which remains in a hiding place in the mountains of Kurdistan.

This fact was well known to Islam in the Middle East, and as a result a Moslem would eat an animal slaughtered by a member of the Patriarchal house, Moslem law, also, like the Mosaic law, prohibits one of its followers from eating any meat slaughtered by a non-Moslem.

Rising Tidal Current Bringing Assyrians Back to Church

All over the world a strong tide of returning faith is bringing Assyrians back to the Church of their forefathers.

All Assyrians without distinction are rooted in the Church of the East. Each of them has a historic stake in it. Under the changed circumstances in which the Assyrians now live, it was inevitable that there should be a general movement of all Assyrians -- especially among the younger generation -- back to the church of their forefathers, to rejoin it and to serve it.

This is particularly noticeable in Iran. There the young generation is saying: "Why should we be divided among competing foreign groups? Why should we be Presbyterians, or Congregationalists, or Romans? Why not belong to our own church? We have our own faith, the faith of our forefathers, the true and original church. Why should we continue these divisions?"

In Chicago this returning tide is setting strongly. At every service the little Church of Mar Sargis is jammed. During Lent the congregations both on Sunday and during the week tax the capacity of the church.

Kashisha Elisha Oshana, newly ordained priest of California, wrote his son in Baghdad, telling of his ordination. The son, Robert, read this letter in the Presbyterian congregation which his father had served so long.

One of the oldest members of the congregation rose and said: "Do you believe in and trust this man?" They all responded: "Yes."

"Has he done wrong?" "No."

"Will you follow him?" "Yes." and the next Sunday the whole congregation was in the new Church dedicated by Mar Yosip, the Metropolitan.

We are beginning to see the design of God in this great manifestation.

In the Book of the Acts it is written that by the persecution which arose in Jerusalem after the stoning to death of St. Stephen, believers were scattered all over Palestine and Syria, preaching the word everywhere.

By the great misfortunes of two Wars, Assyrians likewise have been scattered over the world. In the divine design, these scattered folk are returning to the Apostolic church, drawing across all lands a network of the original Faith.

Let us say, with proud exultation: "Nehweh Suyanakh, Marya"--Thy will be done, O Lord."

On Dec. 22, the following cablegram was received from TEHRAN via RCA, Dec. 1949.

His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun, Patriarch of East
Chicago

Assyrian Community of Tehran sends you season's compliments. Expresses its gratitude for all your efforts and undertakings on behalf of all Assyrians, especially our people in Iran. Wishing you long life, success for your work and welfare of the church and nation.

ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY

California

Great hopes and long-held dreams came to full fruition during the month long visit of His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun, to California, during which a beautiful church was consecrated, a priest and several deacons ordained and new centers established in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Chief purpose of the visit of His Holiness to California was to consecrate the splendid new church building at Turlock. This was done with all the ancient ceremonial of the Church of the East, attended by a congregation of more than 400.

The church is dedicated to Mar Addai Shlikha (St. Thaddeus the Apostle).

During the whole time the Patriarch was in Turlock, daily evening services were held. Attendance at each was far beyond expectations, and increased daily. Between 150 and 200 people were present each day, including not only members of the Church of the East, but also Assyrians belonging to other denominations, such as Roman Catholics, Presbyterians and Pentecostals, without distinction. All of these showed deep interest in the church of their forefathers.

These services, and the entertainment tendered the Patriarch and his family, the Lady Helen and the Rab Khaila d'Mar Shimun, are listed in another column.

At all the four main services, the Qurbana Qaddisha on Dec. 25, (Western Christmas), on Jan. 8, (Eastern Christmas) the ordination of the Rev. Elisha K. Oushana and his assistants, and the consecration of the church, such crowds attended that the building could not contain them.

Father Oushana will be in charge of Turlock and also of California in general, including new groups formed in San Francisco and in Los Angeles.

The new priest, is a native of the village of Serie, in Urumia Province, and a former Presbyterial minister. He recently came to the United States from Iraq. He is a graduate of the Presbyterian school in Urumia known as Kala.

On meeting the Patriarch he expressed a desire to serve the remainder of his days in the church of his forefathers, and gladly agreed to comply with all the cononical laws and regulations of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East. He was therefore admitted and ordained by the Patriarch, together with one of his former elders in the Presbyterian Church of Turlock, Sargis Khobayar. Shamasha Khobayar's father was the first Assyrian to join the Presbyterian church in Iran, a century ago.

Among other accomplishments during the stay in Turlock were the reorganization of the Sunday School, the starting of a Bible and Liturgical school for the older members, and the launching of a branch of the Aramaic Institute, newly chartered by the Patriarch. This Institute already is assuming a world-wide scope, requests having come in from other countries to take part in this work of teaching the Lord's Language.

A number of Assyrians who have been attending other religious bodies rejoined the Church of their forefathers during Mar Shimun's visit to California.

Father Oushana came to Chicago in February for a stay of a month at the Patriarchate. During this time, while studying with His Holiness and the Archdeacon, he has spoken many times to Chicago Assyrians, strengthening their faith.

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Iraq

Magnificent New Church Dedicated on Christmas Day in Baghdad

On Christmas Day (Eastern style), Jan. 8, the Metropolitan Khnanishoo dedicated the new Church in Baghdad. It is in the camp of Gailani, and is the largest erected in recent years in Iraq by the Church of the East. It is built according to the traditional architecture of the church, and is beautifully decorated inside.

The Metropolitan celebrated the Qurbana Qaddisha, at which there were 1,000 communicants.

This is indeed a most historic and epoch-marking event. Baghdad was the seat of the Patriarchs of the Church of the East during the reign of the Khalifs of Baghdad for centuries, when the Patriarchs were very close in their relationship as leaders of the Christian community. It is not far from Seleucia-Ctesiphon, which was the prior seat of the Patriarchs and the center of the great and glorious Church of the East, extending from the Pacific to the Mediterranean.

The Metropolitan gives special praise to those chiefly responsible for raising the money, and also contributed generously of their own money and labor. Those specially mentioned are Richard Matthai of Kelaita, Deacon Guliad Antar, Shallita of Iqwanis, Mikhail Hormis of Tergawar, and the son of Kashisha Shallalo of Marbeesho.

Many others helped says the Metropolitan, but these were worthy of special commendation.

The Patriarch, delighted to hear of this glad news, sends his blessing and prayers for all those who have undertaken this work to the glory of God and the progress of his holy church.

India

India Gives Generously for Paper and Schools

Reports from India made by the secretaries for the Patriarchal Pence and subscriptions to Light from the East express deep satisfaction over the response made and the interest shown by members of the Church in India on these projects. In both cases sums of money have been deposited in the church banks, and are awaiting transfer to the Patriarchate. Unfortunately the financial situation of the world prohibits sending of money from that country to this. Efforts are being made to find a solution for this problem.

This is also true of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran where similar conditions in regard to exchange prevail.

The Patriarchal Council hopes to be able to arrange for the exchange. Meanwhile collections should not slacken. These sums should be increased and kept in trust in the banks.

Patriarchal Aramaic Institute Given Charter by His Holiness

Under a charter granted by His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, the Patriarchal Aramaic Institute has begun its activities in Chicago. In the old language it is Madrashta Pataryarkheta d'Lishana Aramaya.

Its head is the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, president of the Patriarchal Council. On the faculty, in addition to him, are the Rev. Saul D. Neesan and George Lamsa, assisted by Prof. R. A. Bowman of the University of Chicago who has agreed to give lectures. Members of the board of deacons of the Church of Mar Sargis form the trustees. Some of them also will give lectures.

The student body consists, at present, mainly of young women who intend to be teachers in the Church school. Deep interest is expressed by many others.

To house the Institute, the trustees have been working for months to put into readiness the building owned by the church at Menominee and Orleans street. The big basement has been given a new floor, the walls reconditioned, the ceiling repaired and repainted, new lights installed. This will provide not only an assembly hall for the school, but a meeting place for dinners and gatherings, which formerly were held in rented buildings.

Classrooms have been put in readiness.

First of the institute gatherings were held during the Lenten services in the Church of Mar Sargis. At one of these Father Tucker gave the keynote of the undertaking, saying:

"You are now in the United States, where all nations are equally welcome. We have put into effect that saying in the Book of the Revelation concerning the City of God; 'And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.'"

"Every nation coming to these shores must bring some gift to enrich the treasures that are here for all. When my ancestors, the Pilgrim Fathers, landed, the country was a wilderness. They hewed down the forests, tamed the hills, and built here a glorious, free nation. It is not just that those who did nothing to gain these rights and this treasure should enjoy them without adding something to them. Every nation brings a gift. The Germans bring music; the Italians, art and gaiety, the English free government; the French, the Russians, the Greeks, every nation had something to offer.

"What of the Assyrians? What gift do you bring? There are those who tell you you must bring nothing; but must cast away all that was yours in the old land, and grab all you can of what has here been amassed by others.

"These are false leaders, betrayers both of you and of us. You Assyrians have a treasure, the greatest treasure any nation ever had or ever can have. You bring us the knowledge of the language of Jesus. You bring us as a living speech that Aramaic tongue in which the Gospel was first preached and first written. You bring us a direct link with the Lord himself, that Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, which still professes the same faith he taught, without admixture and without loss.

"That treasure you have brought us. You must not cast it away. Children coming to a party always bring gifts. What kind of a guest would throw away the birthday present before sharing the birthday feast?

"This institute is the means whereby you can share with us that inexpressible treasure, the Language of God."

Syrian Government Officially Recognizes Theological School

The Patriarchal School in Tel Tamer, Syria, has been given official recognition by the government of Syria as a theological institution. Four of the students have completed their education sufficiently to be qualified for ordination as deacons. They are awaiting the coming of the Metropolitan of Iraq to be admitted to this order of the ministry. Eventually they will be ordained priests.

Bumper crops are expected in Syria this year. Snow has fallen deeply in all parts of the Middle East, to a depth unknown in living memories. This assures ample water supply during the summer. All the Assyrian settlements in the Khabour Valley area, so sorely stricken a year ago, are confident of a bountiful harvest. One more year of this will remove the heavy burden of debt under which they have struggled so long.

Thirty-seven subscriptions to **LIGHT FROM THE EAST** have been received from Yacob Malik Ismail, chief of Upper Tyari, from the Khabour Valley settlement.

Clippings from the Cyprus Mail, daily newspaper, report that the whole island of Cyprus is under a blanket of snow in the heaviest snow-fall in sixty years. The Patriarchal family sent the clipping.

Letters

From Youab Toma de Shamesdin, of Kirkuk, Iraq, comes word that some 40 Assyrians are desirous of subscribing to the **LIGHT FROM THE EAST**.

Alfred Aghajen Daniel, of Habbaniyeh, writes:

"I have read the first two issues of **LIGHT FROM THE EAST**, and most eagerly express my appreciation.

"The magazine promulgates news of vital importance. For instance had I not read the magazine I would not have known of the existence in Japan of Assyrians and their church.

"We Assyrians in Iraq express our warm appreciation to the government of Iraq for permitting the circulation of this magazine. Now that permission has been granted I will shortly communicate with you with a view to subscribing for the magazine.

Yours in the Love of Christ,"

From the Church of the Brethren mission in Umalla, Broach District, Republic of India, the Rev. W. G. Kinzie, manager, writes to enroll in the Aramaic lessons. He works in the Gujerat jungles, where a number of missionary bodies are in operation, and where he believes many will be deeply interested in learning the Lord's language.

Iran

Theological School Opens in Iran, Lot Purchased for Tehran Church

The Visitor General of the Church in Iran Samuel Keleita, reports tremendous progress made during the year. Two notable men have become members of the General Council of the Church of the East in Iran.

One of these is Rabi Givargis Sergis, of the village of Ada, of Rezaieh, now living in Tehran. He is a man of great learning and a profound theologian, besides being a successful merchant whom God has prospered.

The other is Rabi Joel Amrikhas. This man also is very well known, and has attained great success in business.

Both are now active members of the council. Animated by deep love for the Church of their forefathers, each of them has made very great contributions to the building of the new church in Tehran.

A lot has been purchased in Tehran. The sum of 50,000 tomans has been collected, and more is being raised.

The theological school of Tehran is now in operation with the Rev. Ruwel J. Arsanis, president of the General Council, as director.

In addition to the students already enrolled, a large number of young men are waiting for the opportunity to become students, and prepare themselves for the priesthood of the church of their forefathers.

The Patriarch sent \$600 from the Patriarchal Pence here for the opening expenses. It is hoped that the Pence Can system will be established in Iran at the earliest possible moment.

Assyrian National Federation Convention Denounces Brazil Hoax

President J. J. Durna, of the Assyrian National Federation, reported to the sixteenth annual convention held at Yonkers, N. Y., Dec. 1, 2 and 3, as follows:

"During the year a very serious problem arose because of action taken by a group of men overseas. Illiterate people were used as guinea pigs by a group of clever men. We were confronted with issues and powers stronger than ourselves, powers without. The Federation came very close to falling into a trap. Poor living conditions of our people in the Khabour made them an easy prey to these schemers. They wanted to further divide our people in the Khabour area, and falsely told them the government of Brazil would receive them with open arms. Desperate as they were, our people contributed money to these self-styled leaders, so they would be able to go to Brazil.

"To this day no documentary proof of the reliability of this report has been offered. From reliable sources we were told that this group was the tool of an unfriendly power.

"The Federation, with the cooperation of the Mar Shimun, has been laboring for solution of the national problem."

At this point Mr. Durna introduced the Federation's Declaration on Syria denouncing the instigators of the Brazil hoax. This was unanimously approved.

Patriarchal Pence

With the opening of the new theological school in Tehran, to supplement the school in Syria, and the establishment in this country of the Patriarchal Aramaic Institute (Madrasha Pataryarkheta d'Lishana Aramaya) the Church of the East is beginning to attain its former role as the teacher of the Faith of Maran Eshoo Mshikha.

To support these schools is a prime necessity. Since the system of the Patriarchal Pence was started, a stream of money has been coming in steadily. It increases in volume with every family that takes part in the glorious enterprise.

In Chicago, Deacon Sayad has been named Penceman. He has undertaken to see that each family receives a Pence-Can and returns it regularly. The rule is simple; a penny per person per meal. If any one desires to give, instead of a penny, the price of a dish of ice cream or the price of a movie, the support of these schools will be multiplied many-fold.

It is estimated that \$6,000 a year will maintain the two schools in Syria and Iran. This means \$500 a month, or \$75 a month from each of the seven parishes in this country.

These parishes contain an average of 75 families. So if every family puts aside \$1 a month, the schools will flourish and send forth a stream of new life into the Church in Asia.

No other religious organization in the world has such an opportunity to witness for Christ and his church in Asia. Our people are on the ground, ready, willing and able to be used, if they only have the means. Once an executive organization has been set up these countries will be able to maintain their own schools. Meanwhile they must be helped from America. God has blessed us richly in this land. Give!

Patriarch Speaks at University on History of Church

On Monday night, Feb. 13, His Holiness the Patriarch addressed the History of Religion club at the University of Chicago. Although the night was the worst of the year, with a storm of sleet and ice raging, some 25 members of the club, composed of faculty and students of the federated theological schools, attended.

The Patriarch addressed them on the history and doctrines of the Church of the East. The Rev. Joseph Kitagawa, who has been acting as Japanese translator for the Patriarch, arranged the meeting.

A lively question period followed, at which much interest was shown in the liturgy and doctrines, the present condition of the church in the Middle East and Japan, the relation of the Church to other groups such as Orthodox and Anglican, and the future of the Church in Japan.

Prof. Johann Wach presided, and gave warm commendation to the efforts of the Church of the East to reestablish and regain its former glories.

Patriarch Sends Congratulations

Following are the telegrams exchanged between His Holiness and the Iranian Ambassador, Hussein Ala, on the occasion of his appointment as Foreign Minister of Iran.

His Excellency Hon Hussein Ala

Feb. 28, 1950

Iranian Ambassador, Washington D C

Wish to congratulate your excellency on your appointment as foreign minister, and pray for your success.

Patriarch Mar Shimun

His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun

Feb. 28, 1950

Gratefully appreciate your message. Will need your prayers in exerting best endeavors to serve Iran.

Ala.

Prof. Sakae Ikeda Named Resident Commissioner For Japan

On Feb. 9th His Holiness the Patriarch sent the following letter to Prof. Sakae Ikeda, in Osaka, Japan:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that we hereby appoint Prof. Sakae Ikeda, formerly of Kyoto University, as Honorary Resident Commissioner in Japan, for the purpose of acquainting the people of Japan with the history of the Church of the East, especially as it relates to its missionary enterprise in that historic land, and with a view to reestablishing the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East in that country.

It is our earnest prayer to Maran Eshoo Mshikha (Our Lord Jesus Christ) that his efforts to that end may be crowned with success.

Eshai Shimun
By Grace, Catholic Patriarch
of the East

Prof. Ikeda has been carrying on an active correspondence through the Japanese press, and by means of circulars and pamphlets, throughout Japan, in regard to the high position enjoyed by the Church of the East in Japan 1,000 years before the coming of Francis Xavier.

In the Kyoto Mainichi for Nov. 14, this letter appeared, opening the correspondence:

"As you know, Nestorian Christianity prevailed once in Syria, India, Burma and China. The Shokunihongi (History of the Shoguns) says that in 786 A.D. a Nestorian missionary came to Japan. He is identified with Milis, a Bactrian, by Mrs. R. A. Gordon, in 1920.

"But most of the Japanese believe at present that Nestorianism does no more exist in the world. We must recall, however, the very recent event that when the National Religious Mass Meeting was held in Tokyo, the whole text of the following message from U. S. A. was recited by Chairman M. Ando:

"As the head of the Church of the East, known as Nestorian, by whose missionary enterprise the Christian faith flourished in Japan in the reign of the Empress Suiko, we send our greeting and apostolic blessings to the National Religious Mass Meeting, and pray for the success of its noble endeavor, namely, peace for all mankind.... MAR SHIMUN, Patriarch of the East."

"The message adopted my assertion as to the history of Nestorianism in Japan, which had been reported via the American Press to U. S. A. In a letter from Mar Shimun to me, dated Oct. 4, he informed me of the above telegram to Mr. Ando, and said as follows:

"..When the time is ripe we hope to send you one or more clergy and perhaps a Bishop, to ordain clergy from among the Japanese themselves."

Yes, Nestorianism still progresses in U.S.A., as well as in Asia. The Patriarchate of the East is now located in Chicago, Illinois, and his Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East and of the Assyrians CXIX, is anxious to reinstate the Church of the East in Japan and China.

"Whosoever may want to help reintroduce Nestorianism from Chicago to Japan, in order to promote the friendly relations between U. S. A.

people and Japanese, or to know about Nestorianism, is requested, irrespective of his religious faith and nationality, to write me or to visit the office of the Association for the Reinstatement of the Church of the East (Abbreviated ARICE) recently established at 27 Honmachi, 4-Chome, Higashi Ward, Osaka, and recognized by Mar Shimun.

Sakae Ikeda

Kyoto City

Former professor of Kyoto University

On Nov. 22 the Kyoto Mainichi published the following:

"Mr. Ikeda's letter which appeared in a recent issue of Mainichi is most interesting and informative as touching the Nestorian province of the ecclesiastical realm. I have read elsewhere that in composing the "Irohauta" which embodies the Kano syllabary, Kobo Daishi derived inspiration from a Nestorian hymn and have noted that the final syllables of the lines of the irohauta compose the sentence "toka nakete shisu" (He died faultless) of which the reference would seem obvious.

"As regards Mr. Ikeda's letter, I note a difficulty presented by the chronology attaching to the citations which compose the essential part.

"It is a reasonable assumption that the establishment of the Nestorian church was begun subsequent to the banishment of Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople, which was enacted in 428; and that it is on record that the Empress Suiko of Japan departed in 628.

"If then the Nestorian church flourished in Japan during the reign of that empress an incredibly rapid growth of the Church is postulated.

"Moreover, according to the Shogunininhongi, as quoted in the letter, a Nestorian missionary arrived in Japan in 736, assumably the year in which the doctrine was introduced.

"Marco Polo found the Nestorian church firmly established in China in the 13th century, and enjoying the favor of the greatest of mundane monarchs; and he tells of a Tartar Khan who became a Nestorian convert and received the ecclesiastical title of Johannes Presbuteros. (Prester John).

"But the affirmation of the establishment of the Church in Japan six centuries before the three travel worn Venetians were welcomed to the court of Kublai Khan is surely worthy of searching attention."

C. E. Brown,
Tarumi-ku, Kobe.

Reply by Ikeda. December 31.

"...Hearty thanks for Mr. C. R. Brown's letter.....But there is only one point to be considered.

"...It is true that Nestorius, patriarch of Constantinople, was excommunicated by the enemies of the truth in the thirties of the fifth century. But, paradoxically, the so called Nestorians had previously subsisted, long before Nestorius. The "Nestorian Church" is a false name given to the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, which has existed up to this time since its establishment in the early part of the first century.

"This long history of the Nestorians is borne out by the recent discovery of the Peshitta, the original Scripture in Aramaic, in Persian Kurdistan after the downfall of the Ottoman Empire. Thus "Nestorians" existed prior to Nestorius, hence the possibility of the flourishing of the Nestorian Church under the Empress Suiko.

"At any rate, Mr. G. E. Brown's logic as to the chronology of Nestorianism deserves searching attention. I owe much to both his kindness and his erudition. Whoever, including Mr. Brown, desires to have me show the Nestorian historic sites in Kyoto, and writes me to that

effect, is always welcome. My address is 60 Murasakino-Kamigoshodencho Kamikyoku, Kyoto, and I wish that I had Mr. G. E. Brown's address.

Sakae Ikeda."

"Kobo Daishi" of whom he speaks, was the most famous of all Buddhist saints--preacher, painter, sculptor, calligraphist and traveller. He founded the great monastery of Koya San, on the level top of a mountain nearly 3,000 feet above the plain of Yamato, the Holy Land of Japan.

Activities of Mar Shimun in California

- Dec. 23 - Reception committee consisting of Cyrus Moorad, Pres. of Assyrian National Association; Eprim Thomas, Vice President; Jessee Yohanan, Chairman; Joash DeKailta Program Chairman; Joel Khubyar, Toastmaster; and Louis O'Dishoo, Philip Paul, Alex Baba met His Holiness and escorted him to the Church of the East where he gave a greeting and blessing, after which he was escorted to Avesha Yohanan's home in Denair.
- Dec. 24 - Mar Shimun relaxed after his long trip.
- Dec. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY (Western) - Communion Services - Breakfast and Lunch at Sam Pera's home in Ceres
Dinner with Eshoo Shapiro in Turlock.
- Dec. 26 - Tea with The Rev. Papageorge of the Greek Orthodox Church in Modesto.
- Dec. 27 - Spent the day at the home of Eshoo Shapira.
- Dec. 28 - Spent the day at the home of Mike Benjamin.
- Dec. 29 - Spent the day at the home of Shabander Daniel.
- Dec. 30 - Had lunch at the home of Avesha Yohanan.
Bishop Sumner Walters of Stockton, Calif., of the Episcopal Church, The Rev. Gordon Reigler of Turlock, Deacon Joash DeKaita and Mr. Louis O'Dishoo were guests.
- Dec. 31 - DINNER with Mike Evan of Turlock.
- Jan. 1 - BAPTISM - The following were baptized:
 - Robert N. Essa, Jr. - Ceres
 - Sarah Ann Essa - Ceres
 - James Cooper - Keyes
 - Janie Cooper - Keyes
 - Richard Lazaar - Turlock
 - Israel Benjamin - Turlock
 DINNER with Mrs. Sherin Yonan of Turlock.
- Jan. 2 - Lunch with Warda Joseph and Family.
- Jan. 3 - Jim Caldý and Shimun Zaya were hosts at a dinner given at the Youth Center at Turlock, Calif. for His Holiness the Patriarch. 60 guests were present.
- Jan. 4 - Dined with Mr. and Mrs. Rustam Edgar and family. Officers of the newly-formed auxiliary of the (Assyrian National Association) were guests also.
- Jan. 5 - Guests of Sam Badal of Turlock.
- Jan. 6 - Guest of Mrs. Anna and Miss Penna Lazar.
- Jan. 7 - Lunched with Philip Paul and family.
7:30 P.M. The Assyrian Civic Association of Turlock honored Mar Shimun with a banquet given in his honor at which 350 persons were present.

- Jan. 8 - CONSECRATION OF THE NEW CHURCH -
"St. Thaddeus - Mar Addai"
Guest of Fred Tamimi of Turlock.
- Jan. 9 - Guest of Saul Warda and family of Hughson.
- Jan. 10 - Guest of Nicholas Paul.
- Jan. 11 - Afternoon Tea with Shushan Eshoo, after which dined with
Cyrus Moorad of Hughson.
- Jan. 12 - Guest of Kena Yonan of Keyes, Calif. for lunch, Deacon
Samuel Badal of Delhi, Calif. for tea; Newyia Essa of
Modesto, Calif. for Dinner; Joel Khubyar of Turlock for sup-
per.
- Jan. 13 - Afternoon Tea with George and Mrs. Nazar. Guests of
Jesse Yohanan for lunch at the Hotel Carolyn.
CHURCH OF THE EAST honored His Holiness with a din-
ner given at the Youth Center in Turlock. About 200 persons
attended.
- Jan. 14 - The American Assyrians of San Francisco gave Banquet hon-
oring Our Patriarch at the Crystal Room of the Bellevue
Hotel in San Francisco. 300 persons attended.
Honorable ELMER ROBINSON, Mayor of San Francisco, and
the City Representatives Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Gieger were
guests, also.
- Jan. 15 - ORDINATION OF PRIEST AND DEACONS.
Priest - Rev. Elisha K. Oushana
Deacons: Sargis Hoobyar
Bob Sayad
Sub-Deacons: John Zayia
Narsay David
Kena Yonan
Abraham Badal
- Lunch
Afternoon Tea } Home of Mr. and Mrs. Avesha
Dinner } Yohanan of Denair.
- Jan. 16 - The Patriarch and his party started back for Chicago.

Geometry

Clay Schoolbooks Show Geometry Taught In Beth-Nahreen In 2,000 B. C.

Geometry, once taught as an invention of the Greeks, was studied by schoolboys of Beth-Nahreen fifteen centuries before Euclid. This is proved by discoveries in Iraq which have stunned historians.

Under date of Jan. 8, the New York Times reports finding near Baghdad of clay tablets dating from about 2,000 B.C., containing Euclid's famed triangle problems and their solution, as demonstrated by school-boys four thousand years ago.

This discovery was made in the little Sumerian country seat of Shad-ippur now known as Tel Harmel.

During the last six excavation seasons, 2,400 clay tablets have been uncovered, 200 of them in the season just completed.

These clay text books of the schoolboys of Shadippur give an encyclopaedic outline of the scientific knowledge of that time, which requires sharp revision of the history of science.

Albion Ross, writer of Times article, says the tablet on which one triangle problem is presented is so clear that not a line of the drawing

has faded. Cuneiform specialists can understand every word of the text.

The Director General of Archaeology of Iraq, Dr. Naji el-Asil, has asked the American School of Oriental Research for assistance in translating all these tablets, expecting to uncover much more information of vital importance to scientists. A catalog of mathematical problems has been deciphered, showing mathematics at that early date had reached a state of development scientists had held impossible.

Excavations show Shadippur had about 500 houses and four temples, with a protecting wall about four and a half feet thick. It was the administrative center of the small Sumerian kingdom of Eshunna. The clay textbooks were found in private houses where the schoolteacher and schoolboys apparently laid them aside.

This discovery destroys the theory now so tenaciously held that knowledge of scientific geometry began with the Greeks. These people were only gatherers of crumbs that fell from the rich tables of Beth Nahreen. Just as the great universities of Nisibis and Edessa, which kept the torch of knowledge alive during centuries when Europe was sunk in mud and ignorance, have been ignored by educational histories until recently, so has the fact been unknown that learning originated in the East, and that only smatterings of it were picked up by the Mediterraneans.

What remains of this knowledge in the Aramaic tongue shows how great was that treasure both of information and devotion. Hence the establishment of the Aramaic Institute, with its branches throughout the world, is of supreme importance.

Splendid Edition of Daily Prayer Book Issued by Mar Narsay Press, in India

From Mar Narsay press, at Trichur, India, the Patriarchate has received a shipment of 50 copies of the Qedemwathar--In English, "Before and After" - which is the daily service book of the Church.

It is a wonderful demonstration of the excellent printing done by this Church press in India. The paper is of the finest quality, the binding excellent, and the imprint clear. It is in two colors, red and black.

Every priest and every deacon of the Church of the East in this and in all other countries should have a copy of this splendid work. Its price is \$6, Order of The Patriarchate, 6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago.

\$150 Will Support One Theological Student One Year

For the sum of \$150, one student can be supported for one year in the two new Theological Schools of the Church of the East. One is in Tell Tamer, in Syria, and has been given official recognition by the government of Syria as an accredited theological institution. The other is in Tehran. In both schools the number of students is limited only by the money available for their support.

What American Assyrian is able and willing to support one student for one year in these schools? The Patriarch will give a certificate of thanks to each person or group of persons complying with this proposal.



Turlock Congregation and its new priest, Rev. Elisha

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shamasha Shumuel Badal. | 2. Shamasha Sargis Hoobyar. |
| 5. Shamasha Emanuel Yohamman. | |



Oushana, with the deacons surrounding Mar Shiman.

Shamasha Joseph De Kelaita. 4. Shamasha Baba Bayad.
 6. Jerry Bacus. 7. Bob Yohamman.



NEW BRITAIN CHOIR

Rev. Sargis Biniamin on the right and Deacon Yonan J. Jones on the left. Back row, from left to right, the teachers Margaret Okasie, Joan Jones, Lucy Abraham, Agnes Sargis, Florence Yonan.

Crops in Syria Plentiful, Cotton Yields Big Results

This year crops of wheat have been exceptionally good in Syria. Letters speak of "oceans of wheat". The grain is so plentiful that it is reported grain merchants have not sufficient room to store it. Bags of wheat have been known to be piled above the walls of the caravanserais where they are stored.

One reason is that this year the ground has been worked by the use of tractors. Another is the fact that rainfall has been plentiful.

So far the chief crops grown in the Khabour Valley have been wheat and sesame, (shishma) a grain which produces oil. This year, however, certain Assyrian farmers are turning their minds toward the growing of cotton.

An experiment was made by Youab, son of Dinkha Malik Ismail, with wonderful results. On a cultivated area of 15 dumeena, he raised a crop of cotton on which the profit was 1,800 Syrian liras.

Dwellers of the Jezireh are especially happy over this news. It is predicted that the whole of the Khabour Valley will be cultivated as a cotton growing area, as the result of this demonstration.

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פֿאַר אַלע זייערע גוטן טאטות וואס זיי האבן
 געווען צו אים אין אלע זייערע לעבנס יארן.
 און ער האט אים געגעבן א גוטן רעכטער
 שטימונג.

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1. אֲנִי הָיִיתִי בְּיָמַי הַהֵם בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּלְאָכִים הַשְּׁמַיִם
2. וְהָיָה כִּי אֶזְכָּר אֶת אֵלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתַי
3. לֵאמֹר הָיָה כִּי אֶזְכָּר אֶת אֵלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתַי
4. כִּי הָיָה כִּי אֶזְכָּר אֶת אֵלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתַי

5. דָּבָר שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר לֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֱלֹהֵינוּ
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9. מִיָּדָיו הָיָה כִּי אֶזְכָּר אֶת אֵלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתַי
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28. כִּי הָיָה כִּי אֶזְכָּר אֶת אֵלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתַי

הקדמה

המחבר מודה להנהלת המוסד להדפוס על שנתנה לו את האפשרות להדפיס את הספר הזה. הוא מודה גם לרבותי על שנתנו לו את האפשרות להדפיס את הספר הזה. הוא מודה גם לרבותי על שנתנו לו את האפשרות להדפיס את הספר הזה.

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