

now my friends, I am reading you a letter that was written just to you, and I am sure they thought it was just to them for they stole my watch. They stole it because they didn't know any better. This is what they learned by heart that night before they left me: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." And now remembering that these people did feel the truth with such sufferings as that before them.

"I want to tell you a story which is a little incident of one of my girls. Because as I am Secretary for the Y. W. C. A. tonight, I want you to know that out there in the heart of Turkey is a Christian Association which is being faithful and true. I will tell you something of what happened to this girl in Turkey but before I begin, I want you to see some of the Turkish costumes, so I have brought with me someone dressed in the costume that this girl's grandmother once wore some seventy-five years ago. This girl, whose story I tell you, never wore a costume like this because she came to us so young, but her grandmother wore it and her mother wears one like it. Every Turkish woman wears a wrap like this, exhibiting the costume, called a sheet, the weaving is done by the women. Some times they weave it of silk or of satin, if they are rich enough, but generally they are of cotton and are made at home. Once in a while the sultan thinks they are not covering their faces carefully enough, for they sometimes get the American spirit and cover their faces only with a thin veil and he issues an order saying that the women must shut their faces as they call it there. If any one calls upon them they take off this outside garment, throw it back and then they wear a dress like this, showing the dress. Our school girls dress just exactly as you do. This dress is made of what is called damask satin and costs even more than a tailor made gown. There was very little sewing done before the missionaries went to Turkey, so they did not often get a new dress, and when they did, they took care of it. You can imagine how little sewing was done when I tell you that there was only one needle for every three or four houses and one pair of scissors in a street.

Of the country from which this little girl mentioned came, she said:

"It looks very much like this country, except that they get all their water from springs. The children carrying it in pitchers. I have often seen children walk up and down the mountain side with a pitcher of water on their heads. Few speak any language any one can understand, except themselves, and most of the people are uneducated and not ambitious, but this girl belongs to a family whose father wanted his children to learn something. I will tell you something that happened to this girl's grandfather when he was a young man. One day while in a neighboring town found a Bible that had been laid down by someone. Having nothing to do, he picked it up and began reading. He could not read very much, but from what he read, he thought he would like very much to own one, so when the owner came and claimed it, he asked her how much they cost. He found out that it would cost him half as much as his cow's worth. He only had a cow, and depended on it largely for food, but he wanted the Bible so much that he sold the cow and bought it. When he came home his wife was very indignant and said: 'Can we live this winter with only that book to eat? Will it take the place of sugar and bread and milk?' Later she said 'My husband has gone crazy; he sits with that book in his hands and points to the lines and mumbles and mumbles and talks to himself. He spells the words and reads them slowly until he got their meaning and then read it to others who came to listen to him. The people who came to hear him became so much interested that they talked it over with him and concluded they would like someone to come and teach it to them. So they asked

that a missionary be sent out, and when the missionary did come he found that nearly the whole village was ready to believe."

And she says: "B—— was a grand daughter of this crazy old man who read the Bible."

"When this little girl came we thought it quite strange that nothing was the matter with her, for there generally was. We hardly ever received and who were not sick or maimed. The people who had a child who was blind, sick or deformed would say, 'They are of no use, we will give them to the missionaries. And when one was well and strong we were thankful.'"

Of this girl, Miss Gage says: "She learned easily and was taught to sew, wash dishes, and do all kinds of house work, but she often did harder duties. One day after she had been with us a long time, she came to me and said, 'Oh teacher, will you give my heart to Jesus?' I told her that I could not, but I said you may if you wish, she said, 'I do want to, but I do not know how, and then she said her first little prayer. She was then 12 years old. When she was 16 years old she came to me and said: 'Miss Gage, I want to join the church, I am trying to be a Christian.' I noticed she went around with her face sort of turned upward, as though that would make her good. But I did not think she was ready to join the Church, so I told her to wait a while, for she had not always shown a Christian spirit. She would spend so much of her time in thinking of being a Christian that she would sometimes neglect her room or her other work. So I told her a Christian never neglected their work and that she must show that she was ready before she joined the church.

"On one occasion this young girl had joined her classmates in declaring that they should all leave the school if they were not allowed to buy their own provisions. They thought they would get better for the same money, than the managers did. So they called on me one evening. She says: 'And told me that if they were not allowed to buy their own provisions, they would all leave next morning. I told them we could not allow them to do this and told them if they go. When I went to bed I did not know whether I would find one of them there in the morning. They did not go, but the next morning B—— came to her teacher and speaking up boldly admitted they were in the wrong and everything went on as before.

Miss Gage says: "It is a very dreadful thing for a Turkish girl to speak aloud, unless she is spoken to and she knew that her classmates might think badly of her and say: 'B—— is not a good girl. B—— is bold.' "This girl was of a mischievous nature and often did things which caused her trouble. One time she did something that was particularly naughty. I guess I will tell you what she did. She dressed up in men's clothes and came to my room to show me how she looked. I reproved her for telling her it was not the right thing to do. She looked at me so earnestly and said: 'Miss Gage I think you are wrong.' I admitted her for this standing there and telling me so honestly. 'Miss Gage I think you are wrong!' I told her to think it over and tell me in the morning, what she thought of it. She said she would for she had always said that I told her who was right. Next morning she came to me and said, 'Miss Gage, you were right after all and I was right, and she showed me a place in the Bible where it said it was wrong for woman to put on men's clothes. I did not know it was there myself.

Miss Gage told how after B—— wanted to join the Church, she tested her religion by asking her to take a school out in China. The pay was very poor, but B—— needed the money for her father was very poor. At first B—— did not want to go, and said it was very little and she could not go among those people. "But," I said, says Miss Gage, 'Would you not go to keep your father from starving?' But still she would not go. She was little selfish, at last though she decided to go, and is now working in China and doing excellent work. She is the wife of a minister there and their work is highly praised."

Miss Gage also told us of the custom of collecting money for the marriage dowery of a girl. The girls receive presents of money from her friends from the time she is small, these she strings and hangs about her neck. If she belongs to a rich family she has received a great many by the time she marries. If to a poor family she of course has less. At any rate it is all she receives at her marriage.