

A Little America Close by Jerusalem's Wall

Where a Noble Band of American Men and Women Have Been Holding for Nearly 40 Years a Lonely Outpost of American Civilization in a Strange, Far-Off Land, Overcoming Persecutions, Poverty and the Hardships of the World War, by Following the Golden Rule and Living a Life of Christian Charity.

BY JAMES MORGAN.

AFTER the fall of Jerusalem an airplane, flying across the desert world the first detailed news of the city in nearly two years. One of the first items in the report was that the American colony was safe and that it had been the means of aiding thousands in the last demoralized months of Turkish rule.

Many readers in this country must have wondered why there should be an American colony in Jerusalem, and what it could be doing there. It is a strange story, which opens with a shipwreck in the Atlantic, 40 years ago, when an American woman, on her way to France, was rescued from floating wreckage, but her three daughters—all her children—were lost. "Saved alone," the mother called to her husband, Horatio G. Spafford of Chicago, who wrote a revival song under the title, a song which Sankey made familiar to the multitudes who attended the big Moody meetings.

Burned Their Bridges Behind Them.

"It is Well With My Soul" is another hymn by Mr. Spafford, which is better known today. A great host of churchgoers will ask for no better introduction to this founder of the American colony in Jerusalem than these well-remembered lines from his pen:

When sorrows like sea billows roll,
When woes like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say:
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Mr. and Mrs. Spafford were stirred by the conviction that they were spared to each other for some higher purpose than they had been pursuing. He was a prosperous lawyer and they had both been active workers in a big Presbyterian church in Chicago; but they resolutely turned their backs on their former life and turned to the service of God and of their fellowmen.

A few zealous spirits rallied about the standard of sacrifice, but everything they had into a pool and sailed away to Jerusalem in the hope that there they could more surely overcome temptation and sin than in the midst of the great city by the shore of Lake Michigan.

Here were 14 American men and women, with five children, pulling up roots that were deep in the soil of our new world and transplanting themselves in the alien soil of Asia. They left forever home and kindred and native land—everything—to live and work and die far off beyond the seas among strangers in race and religion, in speech and dress, not to be burned their bridges behind them; they turned their backs on their former life and turned to the service of God and of their fellowmen.

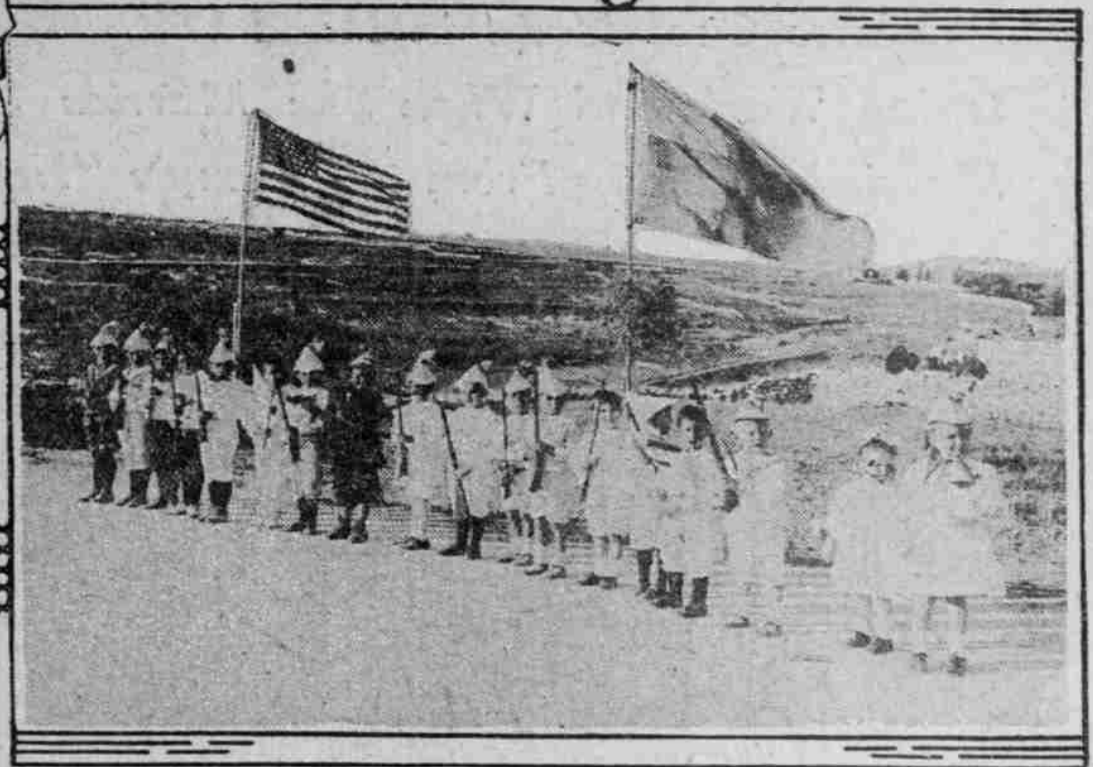
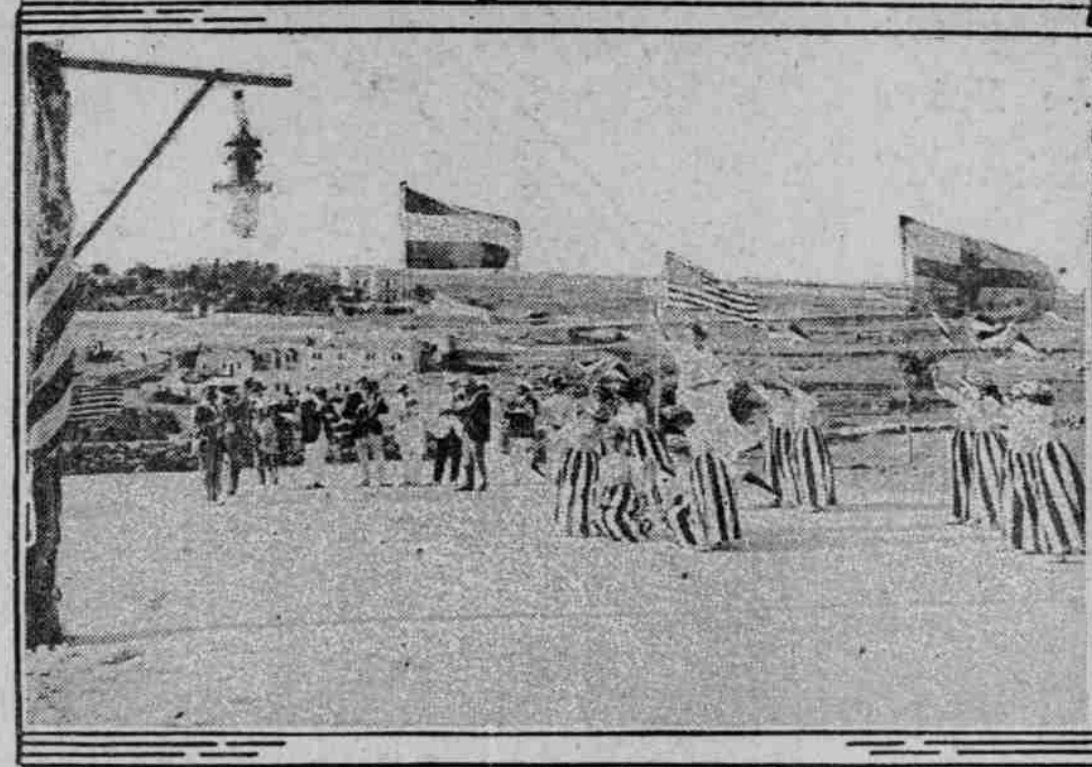
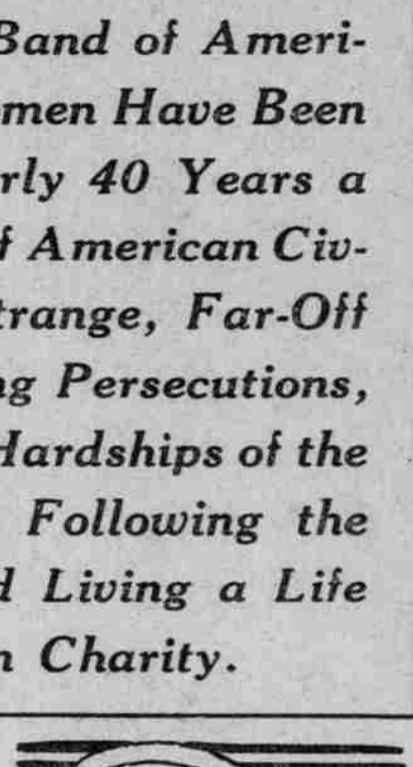
The triumphs of the little band of pilgrims over persecutions, poverty, epidemics, the perils and hardships of the great war; their astonishing successes in overcoming obstacles, their eleven-hour deliveries from disaster would be a tale more easily told. . . . If this were an age of miracles.

Although the colonists arrived in Jerusalem without a word of Arabic, they quickly learned enough of the language of the people to begin to teach their new neighbors the simple rudiments of modern American education and Mahometan and Jew flocked to them until they had had at times as many as 1000 pupils. The only thing they promised at the outset not to teach was theology. So well did they overcome the natural suspicion of the Moslem church and earn its trust that these American Christians have had the unique experience of holding school within the sacred walls that rise above the ruined halls of King Solomon in the holy inclosure of the Haram esh Sherif, or Place of the Temple, now the chief sanctuary of Mahometanism in the Holy Land.

Arabic is now almost a mother tongue with the teachers in the colony. The most prominent among them, Brother Jacob, is a man of wide and deep culture and of a noble humanity as well.

It is enough to say for these Christians and Americans that the grand mufti of Egypt, who holds a place second to none in the Moslem world of Syria and Palestine, entrusted his son to the colony, the youth living with the colonists as well as going to school to them. One of the oldest and closest friends of the colony is the last mayor of Jerusalem under the sultan. To him fell the hard duty of lowering the crescent, which had waved 500 years above the gates of the holy city and of bearing the white flag of surrender to the British forces.

Practicing the Golden Rule.
This Faidy Effendi, who has in the past held the delicate post of Turkish governor of Bethlehem, where he guarded the manger in the Church of the Nativity, who has been a alia- judge and a member of the parlia-



Young ladies of the American colony in patriotic exercises with the colony band playing for them.

How the Fourth of July is celebrated by the American colony.



Young Americans sleighing in the streets of Jerusalem, where snow seldom falls. The main building of the American colony is in the background.



American colony girls representing the allied nations at the Armistice day celebration last year.

ment at Constantinople, sent both his daughter and his son to the American school. The son received from his American teachers much of the early instruction that prepared him to enter the great English University of Cambridge.

"I have always proclaimed," this high Moslem official has declared, "as the grand mufti himself has proclaimed in a speech in Paris, that if I ever accept the Christian religion, I would unhesitatingly try to enter the American colony as an active member."

Moslem and Jew and Christian have been brought together by the colony in a common fraternity. "These Americans," said one of their graduates, the son of a Jewish banker, "lives the real life of love to the neighbor as taught in the Bible. I always pray that the rest of the world may learn to live such a life as they."

The colony feeds hungry mouths as well as hungering minds. Its first rule is never to turn anyone from the door. Many years ago it was

nearly eaten out of house and home by 300 unwelcome, but not unwelcome guests, who threw themselves on its mercy. These were a strange people, who believed themselves to be of the Tribe of Gad, and, in accordance with their peculiar reading of an Old Testament prophecy, they suddenly appeared in Jerusalem after 25 centuries of wandering.

The purse and the ladder of the colony were then almost empty and the colonists hardly knew where the next meal would come from. Nevertheless, they mortgaged everything to keep the supposed Gadites from starting and to help them to become self-supporting.

When the money that the colonists had brought from America was gone they found themselves facing want in a land where it would seem impossible for an American to make a living. But the bread they had been casting on the waters began to come back to them in wondrous ways and with strange timeliness.

For example, the colony had taken

his pension paid to him as an ex-soldier, into 115,000 francs. The police released him, after giving him a little advice about counting his wealth in public parks while slightly under the influence of red wine.

Billigot invested 50,000 francs in a life annuity the next morning, bought a suit of clothes, shoes, etcetera, and before departing for Saint Cloud race track called on the friendly police sergeant and gave him a tip on the races for that afternoon. The horse won. The newspaper L'clair has offered him 100 francs per day for his racing selections until the end of the season.

never before or after been known at Tangier. The English cruiser having steam up stood out to sea and safety. The French, German and Italian vessels could not ride to their anchors, and were driven on the beach. The Portuguese war ship rested like a sea gull on the waves, unheeding the tempest. They gave the Portuguese admiral the highest orders they had to bestow and made him commander-in-chief of the Portuguese navy, and every one said—"What a head! What a head!"

He attracted the attention of two gendarmes for he had apparently been drinking too much wine. He was taken to the station.

The desk sergeant was bewildered when the ragged man explained that the little slips of paper he was counting were good bills of the Bank of France and that the figures he was mumbling represented their amount. He had 115,000 francs.

"I won this money at the races," explained the denizen of the park.

It developed that the man was one Billigot, a former colonial soldier, at times street newspaper vendor, known to the citizens of Grenelle ward in Paris as "Father of Luck" or "Father Cherry" (the little fruit being known in the parlance of the Paris gambling circles as the emblem of luck). He had run up 140 francs, the amount of

CLERICAL ADMIRAL PROVES TO HAVE WONDERFUL "HEAD"

Youth Rises From Cadet to Highest Office in Portuguese Navy as Result of Freak Advice, Although a "Landlubber" on Board.

J. B. Thornhill, in New York Herald.

A YOUNG naval cadet entered the Portuguese navy, time when Portugal was a monarchy. He was given clerical work at the admiralty. Without ever having boarded a ship he gradually climbed to lieutenant, to commander, to captain, to admiral. When the king and queen of Portugal took a trip to Tangier, so well was he thought of that he was charged with the duty of taking them there. The captain of the man-of-war on which our office boy admiral had hoisted his flag asked for the order of departure.

The admiral replied, "You know your business—give the order." They steamed out to sea the captain asked for the course. "You are capable of setting the course?" questioned the admiral. "Certainly," answered the captain. "Well, then, set it." Later when they were taking the ship's position the admiral was handed a sextant, and he made a pretended observation, and then pretended to make calculations. The captain approached him, showing his calculations, giving the latitude and longitude. The admiral glanced at them and said—"Excellent—they almost agree with mine." On the arrival at Tangier the captain, who was getting a little tired of the office-reared admiral, wanted orders for anchoring. The admiral tried his old tricks. "Your know your business." But the captain asked the admiral point-blank how many cables he should put out.

Here was a quandary. The admiral scratched his head and, determining to be on the safe side, said, "All." The captain, cursing the admiral under his breath, turned to carry out the order. All that day the Portuguese sailors, to the jeers of the crews of the foreign battleships, toiled at putting out anchors, until the Portuguese boat looked like the center of a spider's web. That night it blew a hurricane, such as had

Poilu With 140 Francs Wins 115,000.

"Father of Luck" Found by Police Counting Gains in Public Park.

PARIS, July 3.—Ragged, haggard and practically shoeless, an elderly man was sitting in a park on the south side of the Seine a few nights since, muttering to himself, 50, 60, 70, the while stacking thin little slips of paper one upon the other.

He attracted the attention of two gendarmes for he had apparently been drinking too much wine. He was taken to the station. The desk sergeant was bewildered when the ragged man explained that the little slips of paper he was counting were good bills of the Bank of France and that the figures he was mumbling represented their amount. He had 115,000 francs.

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PHILIPPINE ARMY REDUCED

Regular Officers and Men Number Approximately 11,000.

MANILA, P. I.—The return here of all of the 2000 American troops who went to Siberia during the year 1918 has brought the number of regular army officers and men in the Philippine islands to approximately 11,000. In addition, the Philippine scouts, composed entirely of natives under the jurisdiction of the United States war department, number close to 7500 men.

The Philippine constabulary, or the police force of the islands, is composed entirely of natives and is under the supervision of the Philippine government.

Major General William A. Graves, who was in command of the United States forces in Siberia and who returned here recently, is now at Baguio, a mountain resort, 180 miles north of Manila, where he expects to remain while preparing a detailed report to the war department of the operations of the American army at Vladivostok.

After completing his report, General Graves will take command of Fort McKinley at the outskirts of Manila.

Eggs Hun Legal Tender.

BERLIN.—At Haisensee, near Berlin, a general store has been opened for a moneyless interchange of country products and town-made articles. Country farmers barter their dairy produce against boots, shoes, cotton yarn, candies and similar commodities. The accepted unit of value is eggs.

WIRELESS AND AIRPLANE COMMUNICATION PLANNED

Marconi Offers to Build Big Station in Roumania—French Aviators Contend Aerial Service Between Cities Practical.

BUCHAREST, July 3.—This city will become a huge communication center for south Europe, both for wireless and aviation, if present French plans are carried out. The Marconi company has offered to build a huge wireless station in Roumania, which would handle business from the east as well as local business to the west, but it appears likely that the Roumanians will either continue their own wireless service, in connection with the Eiffel Tower and other stations in France, or else permit the French to establish such a station.

Both British and French firms, backed up by their governments, are attempting to arrange a complete airplane service. The French propose to connect Paris, Vienna, Budapest, Bucharest and Constantinople in a general way, with branch services including Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece. It is hoped later to extend this service into Russia.

French army aviators began last summer to establish a tentative post service between Constantinople and Bucharest, connecting with the express train to Paris. This service is being now developed, but owing to its great cost it is felt necessary to have each of the governments over whose territory the airplane service will be conducted to contribute a pro-rata share to maintain the service.

Airplane Service Planned.

It is estimated that the cost averages \$100 for each hour the machine is kept in the air.

In view of the poor conditions of the railway systems in South Europe, business men have generally given their support to these plans.

Due to the mountains of central and southern Europe and waters of the Black sea, the Adriatic and the Mediterranean, practical aviation is constantly severely tested.

Flying into Russia does not present the same difficulties. Since the armistice huge German machines carry-

ing passengers and contraband moneys and other articles of a speculative nature have made frequent trips between Moscow and Berlin. Now and then these machines come down, but it is generally because of motor trouble. During the bolshevik regime in Hungary, frequent trips were made to Moscow, though the aviators had to cross the Carpathian mountains from Budapest.

Passenger's Viewpoint.
From a passenger's point of view such trips do not present any difficulty, once the passenger has overcome the preliminary apprehension of danger. This apprehension is much diminished by the new limousine type of machine, where the passenger suffers neither from cold nor wind nor motor noise.

The establishment of these wireless and airplane communications are a continuance of the French policy of keeping eastern and western Europe connected. It is due to the French that since the armistice express trains have been run between Paris and Warsaw, passing the intervening cities of Prague and Vienna, and also between Paris and Bucharest and finally between Paris and Constantinople. These three, which are known as the Warsaw, Simpon and Orient expresses, were first under French army control and are now under commercial control of the International Sleeping Car company.

British Charities Increase.
LONDON.—The cost of British charities has increased 1000 per cent in the last 20 years, despite the enormous expenditure on insurance, unemployment, old age pensions and various other form of public assistance. E. H. Marriott, member of parliament, has told the Charity Organization society that he estimated the present charity total at £25,000,000 for the year as compared to £25,000,000 20 years ago. "We are manufacturing pauperism at an appalling rate," said Mr. Marriott.

other treasures of the storied east. They also gather and press for Sunday schools and other church organizations the wild flowers that are mentioned in the Scriptures, a New England botanist, who graduated from Bowdoin college, being most active in this department.

When the colony had weathered the storms of more than 30 years and seemed to have emerged into the sunlight, it was caught in the hurricane of the world war, which brought years of cruel hardships but which also brought the colonists an opportunity for greater usefulness than ever before. The story would fill a book, and some day a book should tell of this lonely little outpost of American men and women in the enemy's country, following the armies of their foe to minister to the sick and wounded in the desert, battling with a plague of locusts, braving the cholera and typhus and fighting hand to hand with hunger at their door. Enemy aliens and Christians though they were, the Americans were entrusted by the Turk with the manage-

ment of the government soup kitchen, where they fed 3500 people daily for two years, and they were also placed in control of four military hospitals. With few doctors to aid them and with a woeful lack of disinfectants, of cotton for bandages, of soap and even of water, the devoted men and women of the colony dared the deadly germs that infested the Turkish army while they nursed thousands of sick and wounded, whose cause they hated but whose sufferings they pitied.

The Germans could not share the simplest trust of their Turkish allies in this example of Christian charity, and when General von Falkenhayn came he sternly commanded that the entire colony, regardless of age or sex, should be driven from home and deported. The Turkish officers loyally stood by the colonists and finally succeeded in having the deportation limited to the six American men who were of military age.

While those six were waiting to be sent away from their wives and children—to meet, perhaps, an Armenian fate—Falkenhayn and his Germans themselves found it prudent to leave in haste, for the British were rapidly advancing. And the Turks let the Americans stay. When the Turks also abandoned the city, Ali Fouda Pasha, the sultan's commander, announced to the colonists: "Tonight we leave Jerusalem. We have decided not to take the six Americans a way with us, and we leave you all to care for our sick and wounded. You have not been serving us; you will not serve the enemy; you are serving God."

When General Allenby and his British troops came, they were greeted by these soldiers of the cross from America, who had advanced upon Jerusalem so many years ago and taken the city, though they marched without arms or banners. On the next Fourth of July a band of little warriors, with toy guns and paper helmets, paraded along the road that runs from the Damascus gate behind the colors of England and the Stars and Stripes. They were the children of the colony, celebrating both the independence of the United States and the delivery of the holy city.

Naturally its experience and high standing in the community make the colony peculiarly useful to the new government, with its strange tasks, and various colonists have received important parts in city planning and in the fight against tuberculosis.

Among the newspaper and magazine illustrations of the capture of Jerusalem, which were published in this country, was a picture of the reaction which the colonists gave to the captor, with General Allenby standing by the side of a woman of gentle and handsome presence. This was Mrs. Spafford, widow of the founder, who still is spared to grace the colony.

Most of the original members sleep now in the American cemetery on a slope of Mt. Scopus, but their children and grandchildren keep alive the spirit of the pioneers. Within very recent years there have been ten weddings among the colonists and 23 births. With the recruits that have come from the United States Sweden and other countries, there are, in all, more than 100 persons in this little America close by the hoary walls of Jerusalem, where an American welcome to an American home—with an American kitchen!—gladdens the heart of an American visitor.