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THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.—JOHN 8: 32.

E. C. TRACY, EDITOR.

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WHOLE NO. 778.

GREECE.

LETTER FROM MR. BENJAMIN, DATED AT ATHENS,
24TH AUGUST, 1840.

Political Events—Translating and Printing— Education Society.

The Society mentioned in the first paragraph was an association organized among that portion of the Greeks most attached to the forms and ecclesiastical usages of the Greek church, and of course not much inclined to favor toleration in religious matters. They were also supposed to take little interest in the general diffusion of knowledge among the people, and to entertain designs unfriendly to the present government.

In Greece we can say that during the present year there have been some important changes. The king's eyes have been somewhat opened by the discovery of the Philorthodox Society, and especially a few weeks since, when he saw the influence of the society to be so great that the leaders were acquitted at his courts. The moment he heard of this proceeding he turned his state's attorney out of office, and banished from the kingdom, by royal decree, Capo d'Istria, the civil head of the society, and Niketos, the military head, is exiled to Egina, and is there awaiting a military trial. More recently the king has taken a decisive step in changing most of the members of the synod. You, of course, heard at the time of the removal of Glarakis, the minister of the interior. The Russian secretary of legation at this court was recalled in the winter, and the salary of the ambassador withheld. The ambassador (count Catacazi) has this week received the order for his recall. This is in consequence of their connection with the philorthodox affair.

Mr. King, I believe, has written you respecting the late work of Pharmakides, this great champion of civil and religious liberty in Greece. This work he calls his "Defence," and in it he has treated patriarchs, bishops, and synods with little ceremony, and his book cannot but produce an immense impression. A second edition is just issuing from the press. The work is written with great ability, and must carry conviction to many minds, and I can only regret that the author does not always shew a truly christian spirit. He surely ought to be a frequent subject of our prayers, that God may sanctify his powers, and make him altogether a consistent, faithful, and disinterested advocate of the truth.

I am at present engaged in printing the Youth's Book of Natural Theology; and the History of Josiah; the Child's Book on Repentance, Child's Book on the Soul, Part II, which I translated two years since, and Gurney on the Sabbath, are all about ready to go to press. I have just printed a little book translated by Mrs. Benjamin, called Scripture Stories. Wilberforce's Practical View is in process of translation.

On the 8th of September, Mr. Benjamin writes—

I do not remember whether I have ever mentioned to you in particular terms the institution in Athens called the Philekpaidsutike Etairia, Education Society. This society is composed of the literary men of Greece, and the principal men of Athens have shown a noble spirit of generosity and enthusiasm in establishing and supporting it. It was at first unhappy in its choice of officers, but at present it is under the management of men of truly liberal and enlightened views. Mr. Perdicaris, consul of the United States, is one of its most active and esteemed officers. The society has an excellent boarding and day school for girls, for which establishment it has resolved to procure an English lady as superintendant, and our worthy friend, Mrs. Leeves, now in England, has been authorized to procure a person for this office. Several professors of the university and gymnasium give gratuitous lessons in this school, which secures to it the best instruction in the higher branches of education, and affords at the same time an example which cannot be found among men of their rank, I venture to say, in any other nation.

A primary object of this society is to provide a juvenile literature. In the attainment of this object it has been pleased to recognize your missionaries as fellow laborers, and besides formally approving and giving its name to the title-page of some of our publications, it has done me the

honor to appoint me a corresponding member. Having presented to the society for the use of its school, a few copies of the little book translated by Mrs. Benjamin, I have received to-day from the committee a note, approving of the book and expressing very kind and grateful sentiments towards myself, as a member benevolently and zealously co-operating for the accomplishment of the useful designs of the society.

Mr. Perdicaris is ever our cordial friend, and efficient supporter, and we owe him much for having on all occasions used his influence to remove misapprehensions from the minds of his countrymen in regard to our characters, and the objects of our mission. It is of great value to us to have so true a personal friend in one so certainly in the confidence of the Greeks.

Allow me to add in reference to a topic of the preceding pages, that I think it is due to the Greeks that the American public should know that they (the Greeks) are doing something themselves for the promotion of female education, and that some statements presented to American readers by a Christian press are the farthest possible from the truth.

FROM MR. LEYBURN, DATED AT AREOPOLIS, 31ST
AUGUST, 1840.

Progress of Inquiry and Discussion.

Some little controversy has sprung up among the more enlightened ecclesiastics on matters of vital importance to the Christian system. The translation of the Scriptures into the spoken language of the people, the diligent study of them by all classes in the community, their being regarded as the only rule of faith, the necessity of an enlightened and pious clergy, and the regular preaching of the word, with some other subjects of a kindred nature, have been ably defended by men whom we might justly compare, in some important respects, at least, with the most distinguished reformers of the sixteenth century. It is true the controversy has at present more of a political than a religious aspect; but from whatever motives these glorious doctrines may be spread before the minds of the nation, we rejoice to see them there so well unfolded and coming from the source they do. We confidently believe that the inquiry which has thus been started will not stop in view of political objects, but will advance unto the higher and infinitely more important field of religious faith and practice. If this should be the case, then the Bible will become a new book. It will teach wondrous news to the wonder-seeking Greek, and all our little tracts and other publications will come in opportunely to the aid of those who will feed their inquiring souls on the word of life. The thousands therefore of those little messages of mercy, which we now lament to see neglected and despised, may be intended by a merciful Providence to serve ere long a glorious purpose.

The government of this nation is becoming more liberal and enlightened. The efforts of a despotic synod have been frowned upon by the more intelligent of the nation, and it has been found too late in the day to stop the progress of political and religious freedom among Greeks. We have the happiness to state, therefore, that we have never been more encouraged in view of the state of our mission, and especially in view of the state of this nation, than at present. Oh that some few, at least, among the thousands of praying Christians in our beloved land might be excited to importunate, agonizing prayer in behalf of us and of this rising people.—*Herald.*