

## IX

### POLITICAL CHANGES IN PERSIA

REV. L. F. ESSELSTYN, PERSIA

**T**HE late Ali Askar, Attabeg, Minister of the Interior and President of the Council of State at the time of his assassination on August 31, 1907, when speaking on the floor of the National Assembly shortly before his death, referring to the prominence into which Persia has come before the world, truly said: "Formerly not a paragraph was printed about Persia once a month, but now the European press contains columns every day." During the last few years, Persia has been so constantly and prominently before the world that everybody understands that she is in a transition state of evolution. In view of the general familiarity with what has taken place, we give only a brief outline of the political changes which have occurred up to the present time.

In order to better understand these changes and the present situation, let me say a few words about the character of the Persians, my opinion being based on observation and experience during the twenty-three years I have lived in the country. The characteristic Persians are mild, and easy to get along with. Travellers, and even some foreign residents sometimes express another opinion. The Persians' mental processes and their code of morals are so different from ours that they are sometimes very trying to us Westerners. Knowing them intimately for many years, I have found them kind-hearted and hospitable.