

certain rights by treaty "capitulations." Although originally instituted by the Ottoman government for convenience in dealing with the rights of foreigners whose presence in the country was desired, these "capitulations" have in recent years become very distasteful to the Turks. There is a popular but mistaken idea that the "capitulations" have been forced upon the Turks by superior European authority. Undoubtedly from the Mohammedan point of view they are a reproach. They provide for residence and travel of foreigners, freedom in religious customs, inviolability of foreign dwellings and certain other privileges relative to arrest and punishment of foreigners.

But while the missionaries were thus to some extent free from the oppressive and arbitrary acts of Turkish officials, the inquirers and converts who gathered around them were subject to arrest, imprisonment and exile. From the beginning the chief activity of the missionaries was among the Greeks and Armenians. In 1846 a severe persecution of the newly formed community of evangelical Armenians was carried on by the Gregorian Patriarch. Turkish judges and police officers joined in giving effect to the Patriarch's orders. This persecution was finally checked by the interference of Sir Stratford Canning, the British ambassador. In 1850 the efforts of the ambassador culminated in the granting of an Imperial Firman recognizing the Protestant community as independent of the ancient Gregorian Church and giving it the same rights as had been accorded to the other Oriental churches.

At the same time Sir Stratford (afterwards Lord Stratford de Redcliffe) was exerting his whole strength to secure the annulment of the law inflicting death upon apostates from Islam. In 1843 an Armenian young man had been cruelly executed in the streets of Stamboul be-