

Through Macedonia.

G. F. Abbott of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has completed his story of "A Tour in Macedonia," which represents part of an expedition carried out by him under the auspices of the University of Cambridge, with a view to studying the folk-lore of that country. The results of his researches, which have been issued by the University Press in England, will be published here next week by Longmans, Green & Co. Mr. Abbott says in his prefatory note that his aim "has been merely to describe things as they presented themselves to his own eyes, without favor and without fear." In endeavoring to be fair to all, he has probably succeeded in offending all. "But," he adds, "even Zeus himself, when he rains, fails to please every one." The present volume is timely, in view of the present trouble in Macedonia, but it is written from the tourist's point of view and not from a diplomat's standpoint.

On Aug. 27, 1900, "we crossed the Servian frontier," the author writes, "and, soon after, the train drew up at Zebevtche, the first station in Turkish territory. The halt, though brief, was quite long enough to give one a foretaste of the joys attending on Turkish travel. Everything from a portmanteau to an umbrella, and from a hat box to a French novel, had to be opened and carefully examined beneath the low roof of the barn-like building which did duty as a custom house." From Zebevtche the party went to Salonica. While there the author witnessed an Eastern jubilee, saw dancing, became a journalist. Next we find him at Serres, which he describes as being one of the few towns in Turkey that are "thoroughly and delightfully Oriental." He continues:

Its narrow, crooked, silent lanes and blind alleys, with the projecting upper stories of the houses often meeting in a close embrace overhead; its roofed bazaars perfumed with the drowsy spices of the East and always cloaked in mysterious twilight; the glorious green vines and purple wistaria trained across the roads, and the many mosques and "khans" are all suggestive of a Haroun-al-Raschid world.

The author describes his visit to Demihissar, Menelik, Petritz, the south of Serres, Nigrita, Tachino, Provista, Anghista, a pilgrimage to the Holy fount, and has a chapter on the lotus eaters. In touching upon the Turkish Post Office, Mr. Abbott tells of an incident in which he figured. He had to wait seven days for some letters that had arrived at Serres during his absence, and it was only through bribes that he got them. The Mohammedan rarely writes any letters, and, because they are opened by the Post Office employes, the Christian residents "are forced to employ private couriers of their own creed and nationality, and the muleteers frequently, though secretly, discharge the functions of postmen." In May, 1901, Mr. Abbott tells us, many of the Ottoman Post Office employes of the Ottoman Post Office at Salonica were dismissed because, contrary to orders, they had allowed letters to pass unopened. There is an index as well as a map of Macedonia in the volume, and several illustrations of the country through which Mr. Abbott traveled.

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