

MISS BARTON'S MISSION

She Starts for Constantinople to Relieve Suffering Armenians.

TO MAKE AN APPEAL TO THE SULTAN

Members of the American Red Cross Society Say Farewell to Her on the Steamship New-York.

The flag of the International Red Cross Society fluttered in the breeze from the mizzenmast of the steamship New-York of the American Line as she backed out from her wharf yesterday morning on starting on her trip to Southampton, England. It was displayed thus conspicuously in honor of Miss Clara Barton, the venerated President of the American Red Cross Society, who is a passenger on the steamship.

Miss Barton is on her way to Constantinople, her mission being to succor the suffering Armenians and to distribute among them the relief funds which have been contributed for that purpose in this country. She is accompanied on this mission by Dr. J. B. Hubbell, Field Agent of the American Red Cross Society; George H. Pullman, her private secretary; Miss Lucy Graves, stenographer and typewriter, and Ernest Mason, who will act as interpreter.

Miss Barton and those who accompany her on her mission arrived from Washington by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. The party was met at the foot of Liberty Street by Mrs. Charles H. Raymond and a committee representing the New-York Society of the Red Cross, among whom were Dr. Gottlieb Steger, Miss Bettina Hofker, Sister Superior of the Red Cross Hospital; Dr. A. Monae Lesser, and S. E. Barton, a nephew of Miss Clara Barton. The members of the party were at once taken to Delmonico's, where a breakfast was given in their honor by Mrs. Raymond. Among those who were present at the breakfast were Justice George C. Barrett of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Mr. Olarovsky, the Russian Consul General, and Mrs. Olarovsky, Dr. Lesser and Mrs. Lesser, Miss Myrtis Barton, a cousin of Miss Clara Barton; C. H. Cotrell, Mrs. Harriett Reed of Boston, Col. Richard Hinton, Mrs. S. E. Barton, and Mrs. C. P. Cross.

At the breakfast Miss Barton talked about her projected trip to Armenia. From Southampton, she said, she will proceed immediately to London. Thence she will go to Paris, Geneva, Baden-Baden, and Vienna. From the Austrian capital she will go direct to Constantinople, where the headquarters of the relief movement will be established. In England, France, and Germany she will consult the heads of the Red Cross Societies in those countries, and at Geneva she will receive the benefit of the advice and counsel of the heads of the international society, with the view of intelligent co-operation in the movement for the relief of the suffering Armenians. Miss Barton said that it is proposed, should occasion require it and permission be given, to erect post hospitals at Alexandretta, on the Mediterranean, and at Trebizond and Sansoun, on the Black Sea.

Miss Barton told her friends that her trip is due to her desire to investigate for herself the reasons which actuated the Sultan in his opposition to the members of the Red Cross Society going to Armenia to distribute the money subscribed to ameliorate the suffering of the people in Armenia. She is anxious to make a personal appeal to the Sultan to withdraw the interdiction as promulgated by the Turkish Minister in Washington, Mayroyeni Bey.

When Miss Barton and her party reached the steamship New-York they found a large number of friends and well-wishers on board, to wish them godspeed on their errand of charity. Among them were Hagop Boggian, Secretary of the Boston Armenian Relief Society, and M. H. Gilles, Secretary of the United Friends of Armenia, both of whom are native Armenians, and are now residents of Boston; Arsham Andonian, the Rev. H. K. Samuelian, an Armenian clergyman; S. Kebabian, and several other native Armenians, who are interested in Miss Barton's mission. There was also a large delegation of members of the Red Cross Society of New-York among the visitors. A large basket of roses was sent to Miss Barton, as a tribute of respect from Armenians resident in this city, and there were also other floral offerings from friends. Miss Barton held a reception in the ladies' saloon, and all pressed forward to shake hands with her and wish her success.

To a reporter for THE NEW-YORK TIMES who asked her for information as to her plans, Miss Barton said:

"I really have no definite plans. I had intended to go direct to Constantinople, but I think now that it would be better for me to stop at London, Paris, and Geneva for consultation with the Red Cross authorities at those places. It may be three weeks before I reach Constantinople. I cannot tell until I reach Constantinople what I may be permitted to do. Of course, I shall consult with United States Minister Terrell before taking any steps whatever. I hope to enlist his sympathies, so as to facilitate my application to the Turkish Government.

"There is no bravado in this trip. I am going simply as the agent of the charitable people of this country to distribute the funds which they have contributed for the relief of the distressed Armenians—not only to relieve suffering Christians, but to feed the hungry and succor the distressed of all denominations who may be found in need. I cannot understand why this has been interdicted by the Turkish Government, and I want it distinctly understood that I have no desire or wish to antagonize the authorities in the places which I am about to visit. I am simply a woman bent on a humane and difficult mission, and I therefore ask for assistance and not opposition. I depreciate everything that has been said and written denouncing the Turkish Government. I have never joined in these attacks upon the Sublime Porte. They do no good, and are calculated to increase the difficulties of my mission. I have never said, as reported, that I would get funds to the Armenians whether the Sultan liked it or not. Such statements as this have greatly mortified me.

"I appreciate fully that I have undertaken a delicate and difficult mission, and if the newspapers will kindly state my position truly they will help me greatly. To say that I am going to carry out my intention despite of the Turkish authorities only hinders what I have in view."

Dr. Hubbell said that the party will strive to show the Sultan that the Red Cross Society always maintains strict neutrality, and that in the present mission the party is entirely friendly to him and his Government.

"We have received no word from Minister Terrell as to the nature of the reception we may expect at Constantinople," continued Dr. Hubbell. "Should Miss Barton succeed in winning the friendship of the Sultan, she will send for the funds that have been raised in America by the Armenian Relief Society. We go with no official letters from Secretary Olney, the Secretary not desiring to commit the United States Government in our behalf or seem to take sides in the controversy so far away."

The New-York sailed soon after 11 o'clock, and Miss Barton and her companions stood at the rail waving farewell to their friends on the pier until the beautiful steamship was out of sight.

At a meeting of the National Armenian Relief Committee yesterday afternoon resolutions were adopted approving the action of the American Red Cross Society in sending a mission to Turkey and expressing the hope that the aid of the International Red Cross Society may be enlisted in the effort to obtain the consent of the Turkish Government to the proposed work of relieving distressed Armenians. The resolutions also state that the committee will continue the work of collecting funds throughout the United States. "In case the Red Cross Society," the resolutions say, "is officially excluded, which we do not anticipate, an arrangement has been made by which the National Committee is able to give assurance that all sums shall reach the sufferers through other responsible agencies."