SIXTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Greek Evangelical Union
(formerly "Alliance")

Founded in SMYRNA in 1883.
(For the Year 1898.)

It is with a note of praise we send out the Report of the year that is closed. The Lord has been gracious to us in many ways, showing us that His grace is sufficient, and assuring us of His watchful care over His own Work in the various parts of the field.

Yale Divinity Library
New Haven, Conn.
First—regarding the Finances.—At the beginning of the year the prospect was anything but cheerful; the American Board lessened their yearly grant to us being compelled to do so by the reduction of gifts in the Home Churches; again a generous friend of the work in the Smyrna field was called to the Home above; and also the Committee could not resist the appeal made to augment the educational part of the work in the schools at Magnesia and Ordoco, besides having to provide for special needs in other stations. For these reasons a large deficit was impending; and the Lord permitted our faith to be tested in some measure till almost the end of the year; but He graciously delivered, not only supplying the need, but leaving us with a surplus in hand. This we regard as a double blessing; first for its own sake, and then as an evidence that He owns what is done in His name.

A second cause of thanksgiving is the peace that has reigned in the different stations, there having been no harassing opposition from outside, except just what is needed to avoid stagnation; so that we may say that "the churches had rest and were edified."

Thirdly, that in all the stations but one there have been numerous additions to the Church membership; although this step requires great moral courage on the part of those who wish to follow Christ fully.

A fourth cause of rejoicing is that no church members have had to be disciplined, while there has been a
MARKED INCREASE of the spiritual life in most of the congregations, the christians being more and more desirous to know the power of the Christ-life in them.

And lastly, that there has been an UNUSUAL STIR among the people of the "Orthodox" Church, especially in Smyrna, where a society originating from the lay members of the church, was formed to support preachers from amongst themselves to hold preaching services both in churches and in schools; only one of their number is an ordained priest. Although this effort was started in opposition to the Evangelical Church, we rejoice inasmuch as it leads to a spirit of inquiry after religious truth; and we pray that the Lord may effectually work in the midst of them.

Now we proceed to give a short account of the work in the different stations of the Union.

Smyrna.—Minister: X. P. Moschon, Ph.D.—The usual services have been continued all through the year; viz. two Sunday services, one prayer meeting on Tuesday, one Evangelistic meeting at the Rest on Wednesday evening and a more informal gathering at the minister's house on Monday evening. These two last meetings were discontinued, as before, during the summer.

The average attendance at the various meetings has been again larger. Sunday morning 101 (6 more than last year); afternoon 83 (18 more); Tuesday prayer meeting 64 (15 more); Gospel service at the Rest for the first five months 38 (10 more). Attendance at the
Mission Sunday School decreased from 85 to 51. These numbers are very encouraging, knowing as we do how Satan is ever on the alert to prevent souls from coming within the sound of the Gospel and to encourage the existing prejudice against the Evangelical Church.

The women's prayer meeting has somewhat widened its circle; being carried on from house to house, two more houses have been opened to it: and almost all the sisters take part, expressing more lively interest.

Two Bible Classes are held on Sunday morning by competent members of the congregation; one in Turkish, attended by a few Greeks, Armenians, Jews, and one Bulgarian; and the other in Greek mostly for the strengthening of the young christians.

Last year a prayer meeting was started by the young men amongst themselves, which was continued also this year and kept up with more or less interest. We rejoice to say that fruit has resulted from this little meeting.

There have been two marriages, three deaths, six children baptized, ten new members have been added to the church by profession, and some others have publicly confessed Christ as their Saviour.

This year we have been specially privileged to welcome amongst us some of the Lord's servants from various parts of the world.
In the beginning of February the Revs. F. Paynter, J. J. Luce, and Dr. Elder Cumming were with us for four days, holding many meetings for the Deepening of the Spiritual Life, in English, very helpful to those who could follow the language, and thus derive all the benefit that the Lord meant from their visit. Dr. Elder Cumming spoke once to the Greeks by interpretation and once to the Armenians, and many of his words are still remembered. Later on, in June, Mr. Henry Devine, who is working at Athens, stayed a week in Smyrna and preached (by interpretations) twice to a mixed audience, twice to Christians, and once to women; his addresses were edifying to many. Immediately afterwards the minister of the Greek Evangelical Church in Constantinople, Mr. Michaelides preached to us three times and gladdened us by his personal presence. In August also Mr. Nicolas Kouzoudjakoglous, an Evangelist from Alatsam in Pontus preached three times by interpretation from Turkish into Greek; and lately we had the pleasure of a visit from Alexandros Vazakas, a preacher from the Piræus. We thank the Lord for all these special privileges and pray that fruit may abound more and more to the glory of God.

The contributions of most of the Brethren to the Lord's work have been very liberal, taking into consideration the difficulties of the times we are passing through; though we feel that just a few might give more than they do. Besides the regular contributions 470 piastres were collected for the poor, out of which 430 piastres were given away. To the fund of the hall piastres 337 were
contributed up to October, which was added to the sum collected during the past years. But as this fund was growing very slowly, it has been amalgamated with the "Special Fund of the Church of Smyrna," which has started since October. While all the other stations of the Union have their own buildings for the preaching of the Gospel and for the pastors house, the central station of Smyrna alone is without this convenience. The aforesaid Special Fund is for meeting this need; and any donation given for this object will be gladly received, if the donor will kindly specify the exact object for which it was sent.

Tracts have been sent this year both from Constantinople and from Mr. Devine, at Athens, besides some hundreds of illustrated copies of St. John's Gospel given by a kind friend of the work, Mr. J. W. Gordon-Oswald.

With regard to the spiritual condition of the church, we desire more and more to understand these two things; first, that of ourselves we are altogether unworthy and powerless, but dust and ashes before the holiness of God; second, that the power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ are infinitely sufficient to cover our impotency and to make us what He would have us be. And we believe that so long as we heartily accept both these truths, we are safe, because "He abided faithful." Correspondence has been kept up from time to time with enquirers, absent members of the church, and in this way 68 letters were written.

Union Mission School, Smyrna.—This School has been closed as a Day School during part of the year, owing to
the teacher appointed since September proving himself
unworthy of his post, which necessitated his immediate
dismissal; but it has been kept open as a Sunday School,
and the report is on the whole encouraging, although
there have been some disturbances from boys and girls of
the lowest class. Those who labour in the School,
however, are trusting in God, who can even "from these
stones raise up children unto Abraham." The average
attendance has been 51; every Sunday a collection is made
and the farthings contributed are given to the French
Mission in Madagascar.

Magnesia.—Minister: G. B. Campouropoulos.—Average
attendance at the Sunday morning services 105 (12 more
than last year); afternoon Bible lesson 87 (13 more); in
the women's prayer meeting 22. Four children have been
baptized, seven deaths took place, and nine new members
were added to the church.

The contributions exceeded the gifts of last year by
about 700 piastres; not that new members were added to
the Union, but that the brethren felt compelled to give
more liberally to the work of the Lord. Extra to the
usual donations Li.T. 32 were spent for repairs and
alterations in the buildings, and Li.T. 8 for lighting,
heating, and other items.

This church is going on consistently according to the
Gospel, running the race with patience, looking unto
Jesus, and taking a lively interest in each others spiritual
welfare. The week of prayer was duly observed and the
congregation every night was nearly as large as on
Sunday, notwithstanding the rain and cold; even mothers of families were not kept away. The children's Sunday School has also gone on well. At the weekly prayer meeting many of the brethren take part; some, however, seem disposed to bury in the earth the talent the Lord has given them.

For a long time it has been felt that the Evangelical Schools at Magnesia needed enlargement; and last September a new departure was made, the Union voting Li T. 22; so that a more competent teacher was secured, and things have progressed more satisfactorily. The schools, however, are far from being complete, and still further advance is necessary. The brethren there are looking to the Lord for the help needed.

Baındır.—Evangelist: Evangelos D. Panousses.—The state of things in this station has not shown any great change. Besides the usual members of the congregation 10 or 15 have attended the services, but not continued coming although they seemed to be pleased with what they heard; they confess their hopeless condition, but cannot believe it is possible to bring christianity into practical every day life. The services were kept up except when the preacher was absent, itinerating in other places. The usual attendance was 10—12. Among these some are showing signs of growth in spiritual life. In August the minister from Smyrna visited the place, and one new member was added to the church, and a child baptized. A sister was taken Home lately who was noted throughout the little town for her piety. Even Mohammedan women
expressed their admiration for her. We are expecting much from the fact that the pastor is now married, and we trust that the testimony of christian family life will bear much fruit. Please, remember Baidir specifically in prayer.

Ordoo.—Minister: Panteles Philadelpheus.—The report from this station begins with a note of praise. First, that the church members have remained true to Christ; although a degree of anxiety is felt for some who go for work to Roumania, Bulgaria and Russia, and who are more or less influenced by their surroundings, living, as it were, like Lot in Sodom. Some, however, resemble the three children in the furnace, which gives cause for thanksgiving. Second, that there never was a time without some strangers attending the meetings; and that this interest has spread to the orthodox community, who commenced giving religious instruction on some evenings of the week as well as on Sundays. Third, that in consequence of the increased appropriation voted by the Union during the year they were enabled to enlarge the boys' school by engaging a more competent teacher; and now they look for a parallel increase in the girls' school. A fourth cause of thanksgiving is that the church which was erected and roofed in mainly by the efforts of Rev. L. S. Crawford, at the cost of £150—160, is now by his and Rev. Dr. Parmelee's continued efforts being finished so as to make it available for meetings. Lastly, that a house belonging to a man who had gone to America and situated close to the church, has been secured as a home
for the minister. The purchase was facilitated through the kindness of the aforesaid friends, the brethren contributing Li.T. 80, to be paid by instalments.

The usual services have been continued, the attendance being always very large. Besides the two weekly prayer meetings, another meeting was added, Dr. Sideropoulos giving lectures on Hygiene.

Besides the regular contributions to the Lord's work the Ordoo station gave for various objects piastres 9,164.

Marriages 8, baptisms 10, deaths 10, new church members 22.

_Semen._—This out-station is again suffering from want of resident workers, able to withstand the hardships of the place. Mr. G. Longinides, who was engaged for one year, being an old man and without family, could not remain there. Since September, the work is being carried on by a worthy, but illiterate man until a better worker is provided; which might be if a young man from Semen were trained in the boys' school at Ordoo, and qualified for a teacher. This holds true for other villages in the district, which might be soon evangelized. One of these villages has already applied for a teacher, and one of their young men is being trained in the school at Ordoo for this purpose.

The minister from Ordoo visited Bey-Alan, one of these villages to encourage the preacher there, and received 13 new members into the congregation and baptized their children.
Itinerating Work.—The Evangelist of the Union, writes somewhat as follows: "This year I visited Aïdin three times, Theira twice, and Oedimish once. In Aïdin I have reason to believe that my visits have not been fruitless. I see some fruit, and I hope in the future to see more. I noticed a great willingness on the part of some who are friendly to the truth, to have a preaching service started there. In Aïdin as well as in all this district, drunkenness and other sins have destroyed, not only the spiritual, but also the temporal prosperity of the people, a great poverty prevailing, notwithstanding the natural fertility of the soil.

In Theira, I have lately noticed with joy some signs of religious interest among the Greeks, as the result of the preaching of two men sent there by the "Brotherhood of Piety," in Smyrna. Although we have seen as yet no radical change but only an external movement, still we hope that ere long, many will understand their need of personal repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus for salvation from sin. Until now this preaching has had this result, that many have changed their false ideas about us; and those that have some experience and are able to judge, confess that this work is an imitation of ours. Still we say with St. Paul, "we therein do rejoice." I have met some however, in whom I have discerned some conviction of sin and I pray for them.

To Oedemish I went only once, as there is a preacher there. I preached twice in Turkish with about 40 present mostly Armenians, but a few Greeks, both men and women.
I went in the middle of April to Lesbos, Mitylene; and first visited the village of Ayassos. The words spoken there by Mr. Moschou had remained in the memory of the hearers and helped in giving me a good reception, except from some few members of the local council. These on the one hand prohibited me from preaching contrary to the desire of all who had previously heard the truth, and on the other hand obliged me, through the Government, to leave the village. The Lord, however, gave me opportunities of speaking privately to 40 or 50 souls. From thence I went to Polychnito, a village 6 hours from Ayassos. I thank God for the special opportunities I had there for three days. For many hours in the evening the small club room was full, and in the day-time the villagers gathered in numbers and gladly heard the comforting truths of salvation, and owned that they were far from the truth. There was no opposition; but the local magistrate seeing the movement and getting suspicious, obliged me to return from the seashore where I had gone en route to another village, and sent me the same day with a soldier to his superior at Plomari. We arrived there late, and I was taken to prison, where I remained four days. The guards treated me very well, and as they were Greeks, I spoke to them and to the other prisoners as often as I had the opportunity. On the third day, the local magistrate asked me many questions regarding our work and our object. He seemed displeased with my answers and decided to send me to Mitylene. Next day I was transferred there and taken to prison, where I remained for nine days. I had about 50 fellow prisoners, who listened attentively to the Gospel, as often
as I spoke to them. I left one copy of the New Testament in each of the three wards of the prison, which they began to read one after the other. During this time they took away and examined my sermons and my letters. I was brought before the Governor, who questioned me very closely, and then sent me, in company with a convict, to Smyrna, where I was handed over to the police. The Lord, however, kept me everywhere, and the same day I was released from prison. I thank Mr. McNaughton for his timely efforts towards my release. I also thank the brethren for their sympathy and their prayers."

We have entered the new year under about the same conditions as the one that is past. The American Board of Foreign Missions has even a little lessened again their yearly grant, while the work of the schools is ever on the increase, so that about £100 are again necessary to meet current expenses over and above our usual sources of income. We feel, however, that our orders are to go on, and we rely only upon Him, who is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Any information respecting Evangelistic Work among the Greeks in Asia Minor, will be given or forwarded by

THE GREEK EVANGELICAL UNION,
SMYRNA REST,
SMYRNA,
ASIA MINOR.
DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Balance in the Treasury of the Union ... 859 75
Balance in the Special Fund for Evangelistic Tours ... 377 25
A. B. C. F. M. for Smyrna Field ... 15154 50
" " Ordoo ... 6480 —
" " Semen ... 1296 —
From Bible Lands Missions Aid Society ... 3803 —
" Mrs. Constantine ... 5952 50
" B. G. L. H. ... 2376 —
" Miss Turnly to the Special Fund for Evangelistic Tours ... 594 —
" Miss Wishart ... 118 —
" J. W. Gordon-Oswald, Esq. ... 2369 50
" Miss Grace Constantine ... 108 —
" Dr. Baedeker ... 1080 —
" Paymaster Seccombe ... 30 —
" Rev. J. B. Figgis ... 30 —
" L. M. ... 60 —
" Sale of Used Stamps ... 4 50
Contributed by the Stations of the Union during the year ... 34424 12½

In this sum the following donations to the Out-station at Semen are included, viz.:

By Rev. L. S. Crawford, Pi. 270;
by Dr. M. P. Parmelee, Pi. 108;
and by Miss Susie Riggs, Pi. 108.

Total ... Pi. 75117 12½
# BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1898.

**RECEIPTS.**

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<tr>
<td>Balance in hand, Donations, Contributions, &amp;c.</td>
<td>75117 12(\frac{1}{2})</td>
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**EXPENSES.**

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<tr>
<td>Smyrna—Preacher</td>
<td>11018</td>
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<tr>
<td>His Rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light, Heating, &amp;c.</td>
<td>947 37(\frac{1}{2})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs, Printing of Reports, Post, Taxes, &amp;c...</td>
<td>685</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>18043 37(\frac{1}{2})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnesia—Preacher</td>
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<td>Teachers</td>
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<td>For School Purposes</td>
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<td>Water Supply</td>
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<td>Travelling, Taxes, &amp;c...</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17089</td>
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<td>Bainsir—Preacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordoco—Preacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>9000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible Woman</td>
<td>2160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gate Keeper</td>
<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>1080</td>
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<td>Travelling, &amp;c.</td>
<td>1423 50</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>22960 50</td>
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<td>Semen—Preacher</td>
<td>2376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<td>For Building a Manse</td>
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<td>Repairs, &amp;c.</td>
<td>317 75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incidents</td>
<td>93 50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6085 25</td>
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Spent for Evangelistic Tours in Aidin, Theira, Gedemish, and the Island of Mityene ... 452 50
Balance in the Special Fund for Evan. Tours ... 518 75
Balance in the Treasury of the Union ... 2876 75

**Lira at Piastres 108, £ St. pias. 118\(\frac{1}{2}\).**

**THEODORE SOTERIADES, Treasurer.**

Audited and found correct, **ARISTOTELES HADJI ANTONIOU.**
MILLINGTON BROS.,
8 & 9, Hayne St., West Smithfield,
London, E.C.