

THE GEORGIAN MESSENGER

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The Sweet Land of Liberty.

One hundred years of Russia's overbearing attitude towards the people of this country resulted in a unanimous vote of the people that there is no future for us with Russia.

Through the bitter experiences of the recent past we have learned that Russia and her government had been for us.

The current events prove once more that the builders of the Great Russian Empire, both the Bolsheviks and the Denikinists are still believing in that old familiar motto of the Muscovites: «Russians, Russians above all others». Alas! No alien is to be given the benefit of self-determination and the Russian only is going to «determine» every one of them.

This being the case, we the Georgians, bid Russia our last «farewell» and close the book of the Russian epoch in Georgia.

We do not know what the Peace Conference will mete out to Georgia. We are only confident that no one and nothing can put us back into the position of a nation harnessed to a foreign yoke. The tyranny of the years gone by cannot be revived. The twentieth century with all its discoveries and inventions and with all its great men and women and with all its magnificent display of genuine democratic spirit that century will not, it shall not tolerate any injustice to any nation of antiquity, of historical and political integrity, however small that nation might be.

America, that coming nation of the World, has set the peace. Her unrivaled democracy, begotten in the English cradle of Liberty, spells through President Wilson the destinies of Mankind.

It is not to be doubted for a moment that the Conference will adhere to the noble and lofty views of Dr. W. Wilson himself and uphold Abraham Lincoln's maxim of «the government of the people, by the people and for the people». These principles will underlie

all the transactions of the Conference. If ever the ideal of self-determination originated and was triumphantly achieved, it was in the United States of America.

It is in this spirit of spontaneous admiration and deep reverence that we of the little but vigorous nation of the Georgians are greeting the arrival in Georgia of the representatives of America Messrs. Smith, Moore and Main. Our hearty welcome to you, citizens of the sweet land of Liberty.

Jason.

The Peace Conference.

The most interesting and important of the questions which were brought up at the Peace Conference during the past week were those of the boundaries of Greece and the loosening of the blockade of Germany.

Greece demanded that Constantinople, Thrace, the Aegean Islands, and a considerable part of Asia Minor should be handed over to her. The details regarding the discussion of these demands are unknown. As far as can be judged from the fragmentary news which has been received, the demands regarding Constantinople are not to be granted. The city and the straits are to be made neutral. Thrace, however, and a large portion of the Aegean Islands will be united to Greece. Regarding the question of Asia Minor, disputes arose at the conference between the American delegates and the others. The other nations insisted that Smyrna be handed over to the Greeks, but the Americans objected, considering that Smyrna is the natural port for the whole of Asia Minor.

Regarding the question of the blockade of Germany, the Conference decided that in the immediate future it should be loosened and subsequently entirely abolished. Germany and Austria are to receive assistance in the way of provisions; Bohemia and Bavaria are to receive their share first.

The raising of the blockade is to take place upon one essential condition, namely, that Germany must hand over her entire commercial fleet to the Allies. The financial blockade is to be raised immediately, which will give the banks in neutral countries, where, as for example, in Denmark, large amounts of gold have accumulated, the possibility of according Germany financial assistance.

The fundamental question regarding the League of Peoples has not as yet passed beyond the stage of discussion.

During the negotiations it came out that Wilson and Clemenceau disagreed. During the last few days consultations have been going on between the heads of governments and the Allied commanders-in-chief regarding the final peace terms with Germany. These terms, it is predicted, will be handed in to Germany at the end of March or the beginning of April.

Lloyd George being called away by affairs of state, proposed to leave the Conference for a time. The representatives of the other powers, however, considered his presence indispensable and prevailed upon him to remain.

A memorandum from Italy has been submitted to the Peace Conference. Her demands are the following: there should be united to Italy the districts of the Trentino, the Adige and the Austrian shore of the Adriatic. The boundaries of Italy should be extended to the Julian Alps.

On their way to take part in the Labor Commission at the Peace Conference are the American women delegates, Miss Rosa Schneider and Miss Mary Andersen. They will have a series of consultations beforehand with the Women's Labor Organizations in England.

TIFLIS).

Thursday afternoon is the best time for visiting the Church of St. David, for a service is then held and large

*) See №№ 3 and 4.

numbers of women attend. Proceeding from Sololiki along Laboratornaya, which is parallel to the Boulevard and is the most select street in Tiflis, we reach the street of the Holy Mount (Mtatsmindskaya), a steep, roughly-paved thoroughfare which leads up to St. David's Place, and a winding mountain path takes us thence to the church. St. David was a Syrian monk who came to Georgia in the sixth century, and lived a hermit's life among the woods which at that time covered the hill. Tradition says that the daughter of a wealthy man who lived near there, finding herself in an interesting condition, thought the best way of getting out of the difficulty would be to accuse the saint of being the cause of this state of affairs. The holy man, naturally, objected, and having made his accuser appear in an assembly of the people, he proved his innocence by making the unborn child say audibly who was its father. Whereupon, in answer to the prayers of the saint, the child was converted into a stone, which the damsel brought forth immediately. This stone was made the foundation of a church. David then asked that a spring of living water of fructifying virtue might be made to flow; this fountain is still visible, and its water is largely used by married ladies; the climb of twenty minutes from St. David's Place is so toilsome that even the most bitter Malthusian would hasten to quench his thirst there; as far as I know, it is the only water in Tiflis fit for human consumption. Every pious lady who visits the shrine carries a stone or brick up the hill with her, and it is from these that the church was built and is still kept in repair. There is another interesting custom in which maidens and matrons alike take part; after adorning the picture of the Virgin, the suppliant silently walks round the building three times, unwinding as she goes a reel of thread, fit symbol of the boundlessness of her love and veneration for the Immaculate Mother of God.

Then picking up one of the pebbles with which the ground is covered, she rubs it against the plastered wall, and with beating heart waits to see if it will stick—if it does, then her prayer has been heard—the lass will have a sweetheart, the wife will have a son. The church is of modern construction, but its design differs in no respect from the ancient Byzantine style, specimens of which may be seen all over Georgia. The interior is like that of any other Greek church, and on the walls there are some quaint but rather crude pictures. The mass is, of course, in Georgian, and the choral service strikes rather strangely on Western ears, although not wanting in melody.

The view from the churchyard is a splendid one; the whole city, with its wonderful diversity of form and colour, lies at your feet; on the right you can see far along the Kakheti road, and on the left the great highway to Vladikavkaz follows the winding course of the Kura. In the evening we often climbed to the top of a bare crag not far from the church, carrying with us a large earthenware flagon of wine, a roast leg of mutton, fruit, cucumbers, and other delicacies, and spreading out our cloaks on the ground lay there making merry, singing and telling tales until long after midnight; the lights of the town below us seemed like a reflection of the bright stars above us, and the music and laughter of many a jovial group came down the hillside to mingle with our own.

After descending the hill, we cross the Boulevard at the publishing office of *Kavkaz*, the official organ, and skirting the Alexandrovski Garden, soon reach the finest bridge in the town, Vorontsovski Most, from which we get an interesting view of the waterside part of the Asiatic quarter; most of the houses have balconies overhanging the river, and one is involuntarily reminded of the Tiber banks at Rome. On the other side of the bridge, in a small square, is a statue of prince Vorontsov, Governor of the Caucasus, from 1844 to 1854. During my stay the good people of that district were astonished one morning to see the Prince's head surmounted by a tall, well-worn sheepskin hat, such as the Lesghians wear; the effect was exceedingly ridiculous, and the youthful revellers who, at considerable risk of breaking their necks, wore the authors of the joke, were well rewarded for their pains by the laughter of all who passed that way, for your Georgian is a merry fellow.

Turning to the right, we traverse Peski, a quarter very different from Solplaki. Here we see small open-fronted Oriental shops in which dark Persians ply their trades, making arms, saddlery, jewellery, selling carpets, and doing a hundred other things all before the eyes of men and in the open air. There is a strange confusion of tongues and dresses; a smart little

grammar-school girl rubs shoulders with a veiled Mussulman woman, and occasionally you see the uniform of a Russian officer elbowing his way through a crowd of Lesghians, Armenians, Georgians, Persians; through the midst of all this confusion runs the tram-car. We are not beyond all the influences of civilization, for, besides the tram-way, we see on a sign-board the legend „Deiches Bier“ (Deutsches Bier), over the picture of a flowing tankard.

(To be continued).

IN EUROPE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The centre of attention in Great Britain at present is the demands which are being made by the workmen. In this connection the British Prime Minister made a very significant speech in Parliament just before his departure for the Peace Conference. It was in answer to a question from one of the leaders of the Labor party, Adamson, who pointed out, that his party had always been against a revolution and every sort of illegal actions, but that the condition of the working class at the present time was such, that fundamental social reforms were absolutely essential.

Lloyd George answered that the questions concerning working hours, pay, housing and the protection of the health of the workers were matters which must be adjusted without delay, and that the Government would take immediate measures to satisfy the workmen's demands. He must warn the workmen, however, that they must not seek too great an increase in their wages, which would bring about the forcing out of Great Britain from the world's market, and would lead to a fearful lack of employment. The Premier showed that such brilliant perspectives are opening up before British industry, especially in shipbuilding, textile and railway construction lines, that in a very short time there would be no unemployed in England whatsoever, provided, though, that the workmen themselves did not ruin its prosperity by their excessive demands. He was particularly against such strikes which took place against the will of the managing boards, and exhibited an anarchical character.

The British Government has recently been undertaking a series of energetic measures to reach a solution of the labor question. Thanks to its efforts, an agreement has been reached between workmen and employers in many branches of industry.

The Government is also devoting much attention to women's labor. Not long since the Government issued a memorandum regarding those forms of works which women have shown themselves capable of performing during

the war. In general they showed themselves incapable of working as machinists in the big factories, but on the other hand, a rich harvest of usefulness was delivered by female labor in the fields of leather work, the manufacture of light furniture, ornaments, and all kinds of light articles.

In questions of foreign policy, British public opinion is occupied with the Russian question. In this connection, the majority of the liberal organs of the press greet with favor the invitation sent to all the different fractions in Russia to come to the conference on the Princes' Islands; the organs of the Conservative party are strongly against any dealings with the bolsheviks.

Not long since a delegation of English employers and workmen left for France with an aim to investigate the present condition of French industry and subsequently to make a report in England concerning the destruction and the losses inflicted on the latter during the war; also how, according to its opinion, these same can be made good, and what expenditure this will involve.

FRANCE.

French public opinion is occupied at the present time with the question regarding the invitation to all Russian political parties to participate in the conference on the Princes' Islands. The extreme radical press headed by Longuet greet with acclaim the proposal to invite the bolsheviks to this meeting, as they await from this move the spread of bolshevism in Europe. The entire moderate press is strongly against this step on the part of the Peace Conference. Where are the guarantees, the French papers ask, that the bolsheviks will not come to the conference merely for the purposes of agitation? If they promise to cease their agitation, this has no significance whatever; they promised at the time of the negotiations in Brest to stop their agitation in Germany; it has now, however, been proved that the bolsheviks in Moscow supplied the Spartacists with money and propaganda literature. In addition to this, the moderate French press insists on the impossibility from the point of view of principle of coming to an agreement with the bolsheviks, who have covered themselves with so many crimes.

Out of the domain of internal events in France a series of measures which the Government is taking in connection with the high cost of living are worthy of note. The state intends to organize upon its own account the purchase of provisions abroad, which same are to be sold at moderate prices at home. In Paris itself a series of government food-stores have been opened and also eating-rooms for workmen, where over 300,000 men are supplied with cheap dinners daily. In a short time these institutions will be greatly increased in number. Work on

the restoration of industrial enterprises which have been destroyed, during the war goes on apace, and new technical concerns are being founded as well. Thus negotiations are being carried on with Switzerland regarding the mutual utilization by both countries of the water-power of the Rhone. A project is also on foot regarding the construction of a railroad to Angueziras, concerning which negotiations are going on with Spain.

A heated discussion ensued in the Chamber of Deputies over the question of demobilization. The socialists demanded that the matter be hastened. At the conclusion of the debate the Chamber passed a vote of confidence in the Government by a huge majority.

The Premier Minister Clemenceau has almost entirely recovered from the attack which was made on him. He is taking an active part in the work of the Peace Conference and of the French Parliament. His first appearance in the Chamber of Deputies was the occasion of a rousing ovation in his honor, and the population on the streets accorded him a similar greeting.

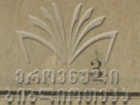
GERMANY.

The past week did not bring with it any changes in the condition of Germany. The strike in Berlin, which was put down with such tremendous efforts, is threatening to break out once more. At any rate the Governmental reporter speaks of the incessant agitation of the Spartacists in favor of new workmen's outbreaks in Berlin. This propaganda is meeting with considerable success. Order has not been established in the Ruhr district as yet. In Bavaria the Spartacists are paying no attention whatsoever to the Governmental authorities. When the Bavarian Central Soviet heard that the Government was intending to take measures against the seizure of power by the workmen, they sent the latter a warning not to interfere in the internal affairs of Bavaria. The central government was evidently powerless to do anything in the matter, and answered them that they had no intention of doing this, but hoped that Bavaria would settle with its own bolsheviks.

On the German border there have again occurred conflicts with the Czechs and with the Poles. These have been stopped, thanks to the intervention of the Peace Conference, which is sending out a commission to carry out the definite demarcation of the Polish-German frontier. It is believed that Poland will get Danzig and Thorn.

BELGIUM.

During the past week an event took place which will be of vital importance for Belgium. The Peace Conference decided to revise the treaty of 1839,



which established the frontiers of Belgium, with a view to the restoration of the territory which was cut off from the country at that time.

The Premier Minister of Belgium, Delacroix, made a statement in the Chamber of Deputies in Brussels to the following effect: "I have the honor to bring to the attention of the Chamber that the Supreme Inter-Ally Council has granted the request of the Belgian delegation and had decided to revise the treaty of the year 1839. 80 years ago, on the 12-th of March, 1839, there resounded in this Chamber the farewell words of the Belgian Deputies of those provinces which, in view of the treaty, had to be taken away from Belgium. Parliament and the whole country will greet this decision of the Inter-Ally Military Council regarding the revision of the treaty with a feeling of deep satisfaction".

The Chamber heard this announcement standing and saluted it with unanimous and enthusiastic applause.

RUSSIA.

On the bolshevik fronts the situation is given as follows: in northeastern Russia the bolshevik forces suffered a heavy reverse. Under the pressure of the forces of Admiral Kolchak, they were forced to evacuate Ufa, Admiral Kolchak's troops are pressing on in the direction of Samara. In southern Russia, according to bolshevik reports, they have captured Nikolaev. Stubborn fighting is going on near Zhitomir, where the forces of the Ukraine Directory are operating against the bolsheviks. The same is true of Livonia, where the opponents of the bolsheviks are receiving support from the German occupationary forces. Near Rostov the bolsheviks succeeded in inflicting a heavy defeat on the Don Cosacks, so that at one time they were threatening Rostov. The Cosacks of the Kuban came up in support of the Don army, so that the Cosacks again have the upper hand.

In Russian internal affairs no change has taken place during the week. In Moscow the congress of the communist party (bolsheviks) was opened. In his speech of greeting Lenin assured his partisans that the whole world will soon be in the hands of the bolsheviks. The well-known bolshevik Sverdlov has died. He belonged to the extremists among the party, and was one of the first who insisted on the dispersal of the Constitutional Assembly and the handing over of the power to the Soviets. He was buried with great honors near the wall of the Kremlin in Moscow, where the Moscovite tsars were formerly interred. In his honor the bolshevik government decided to open a workmen's university in Moscow and a peasant's university in Petrograd. The food question in central Russia is becoming more and more terrible. Outbreaks caused by famine have taken place in

Petrograd and in Moscow. In the Ukraine a congress of Soviets has been held: a provisional government has been formed headed by Rakovski. In Kiev a new contribution has been imposed on the bourgeoisie to the sum of 40,000,000 rubles. In northeastern Russia the Bashkirs and the Kirghiz have come out for the bolsheviks since Admiral Kolchak has declared that he will recognize no national or local autonomous governments.

Concerning the invitation to the bolsheviks to take part in the conference on the Princes, Islands, the bolshevik government expressed its full readiness to do so. The moderate Russian patriotic parties, however, took a decisive stand against this, and their representatives in Paris, Sazonov and Chaikovski, made a protest to the Peace Conference in this connection. As a result of this, the fate of the conference up to the present time is uncertain.

GEORGIA.

The new Government of the Republic.

As was reported in the preceding number, the Constitutional Assembly, after accepting the resignation of the Government, entrusted the formation of the new cabinet to Noah Zhordania, who was elected as the head of the Government. On Friday, March 22, a new Government came before the Constitutional Assembly, which is composed of the following persons: Minister President and Chief Representative of the Republic—Noah Zhordania; Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Justice, and also alternate for the Minister President—Eugene Gegechkori; Minister of War, Internal Affairs and of Public Education—Noah Ramishvili; Minister of Finance, Commerce and Industry—Constantine Kandelaki; Minister of Agriculture, Labor and ways of Communication—Noah Khomeriki.

The number of ministers has thus been reduced from the former nine to five. The old system of a complicated governmental mechanism was an inheritance of the Russian bureaucracy, and proved to be unfitted for the needs of a little republic both in the way of expense and for the easy and speedy functioning of the governmental machine. The Government is intending to cut down the number of employees in all departments very decidedly, and in general to simplify the governmental mechanism as much as possible. This is all the more to the point, as the Republic has succeeded during the past months in founding organs of local self-government both in the towns and in the villages; into the hands of these organs will ultimately pass the management of all local affairs. The simplification of the governmental system will materially decrease the disbursements of the Republic.

In the Akhalsikh district.

The armies of the Georgian Republic have inflicted a heavy defeat on the Turkish robber-bands, and have cleared the entire Akhalsikh district of them. The population is sending in delegates to express their complete submission. Order has been restored, and an administration is being established. The Constitutional Assembly has elected a special commission, which has been despatched to Akhalsikh. The commission is to investigate the events which transpired there, to control the actions of the military and civil authorities, to find out what the needs of the local population are, and to give them what aid they can.

The Georgian municipal alliance.

At the present time there is being held in Tiflis a congress of the representatives of all the municipal governments in Georgia. Its aim is to ascertain the wants of the towns and to work out measures for the betterment of their condition.

The republic's warship.

On Sunday, March 16, in Poti there was launched the first warship of the republic—a destroyer which was christened the "Patara Kakhis" (The Little Kakhetian). This was the name of one of the bravest and best beloved of the Georgian kings, Heraclius II, who lived at the end of the 18-th century, just before Georgia was united to Russia.

The Women of Georgia.

We are children of the Sun, of the fiery Southern God: we never were shut up in harems, nor did we cover our faces with veils: we are used to the bright sunlight, and are not afraid to show ourselves in the light of day, just as we were made. We did not have knights who were renowned for their skill in the tournaments which were held in honor of our beauty, but unparelled feats of valor were done in its name.

In the family circle we were honored, free and the leaders. After the husband's death, the law-giver in the family was the mother: the son was merely an agent for executing her will. The Georgian names for members of the family give an excellent illustration of the role which women play in it. The widely spread Georgian name Nino was originally a proper name, and meant "the goddess", the protectress of towns. The expressions brother and sister, husband and wife, father and mother have in Georgian the following equivalents: *da-dzma* (sister-brother), *tsol-kmari* (wife-husband) *deda-mama* (mother-father), and so forth. In all of

these expressions the name of the woman comes first. At table the first toast always belonged to the woman, and when the fiery Georgians were quarrelling with each other, the woman threw her headdress (*mandili*) among them, and the bared weapons were returned to the sheaths. This was not merely a graceful gesture, but an unbreakable law, which is in full force to the present day among the Georgian mountaineers. The tradition is likewise characteristic that Georgia was allotted to the Virgin for the extension of Christianity.

In the history of Georgia there is no period when the Georgian woman falls into the shade or the background. She keeps even step with the men, and like them stands guard as a sentry over her mountains.

In view of this, St. Nina, the proud Ketevani, and the great Tamara are not chance heroines, nor passive instruments in the hands of history, but true-blooded gems of the first water, who laid the basis for the history of her people.

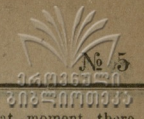
St. Nina, a delicate, frail woman already in the 4th century makes the difficult journey on foot from Cappadocia to Georgia, armed with the firm consciousness of her duty, by a burning love for her country and with a cross of vine-branches, bound together by her own hair. By her powerful speech and her firm convictions she reduces kings to obedience, shatters the and scatters the darkness of ignorance, and, gaining her triumph, founds a new era in the history of Georgia.

The 12-th century is considered to be the golden age of Georgia: it was the period of her fullest flower of her intellectual might; at this very time an able woman stands at the helm of the state, powerful and fair both in body and in soul, the great queen Tamara, about whose bright name the people have woven so many marvellous legends.

The captive queen Zeinab leads a conspiracy which she herself has organized at the court of the Turkish sultan, runs the risk of her own life, and sacrifices her son, prince George, in order to carry out her bold plan. Many a priestess of the home altar died with arms in her hands during the Turkish and Persian invasions. These were the daughters of a free Georgia, who touch with gold not only the pages of our national history, but the history of our world as well.

There ensues the second period in the history of the Georgian woman—the eighties and nineties, when, in connection with the slackening of the pulse of the nation, the individuality of the Georgian woman paled and faded as well. This showed up one of her characteristic peculiarities—it may be, a defect as well,—namely, that cosmopolitan traits were lacking in her make-up. Only in her native soil does she bloom and flourish, only from her

* This cross is preserved to the present day in the Cathedral of Zion in Tiflis.



native springs can she dip up fresh reserves of strength, and away from them she falls into slumber, like the princess in the fairy-tale, until the chosen prince shall recall her to life.

Georgia, weakened by the loss of her political liberty, at the same time was deprived of her striking women. Their sisters, passively permitted themselves to be borne by the chance breezes, swiftly lost their individuality, and, like Krylov's heroine, deformed themselves with party-colored peacock's wings.

At length, along with the beginning of the new century and the awakening of the national self-consciousness, the Georgian woman again finds the golden thread, and soars into the third period of the renaissance, when she makes her appearance in the ranks of the feminine army.

The Georgian lady of nowadays has long since broken loose from the bonds of household education, and has shown herself the equal of the men; and even superior to them once she is given an fair chance. Here I have in mind secondary education, which has long since ceased to be a boy's privilege, and is enjoyed by almost all girls (the peasantry naturally go no further than the village schools).

Higher education, too, is no longer a blessing accorded to the favored few, but is coming to be considered something essential and general. The number of Georgian women, both in Russian and in European universities,

is increasing with every year. In this connection the woman has gained her rights not only among her family, but also in the circles of Georgian society as well: all scholarships are equally divided between men and women students.

Thus, in spite of the fact that Tamara and Ninas are not brought to the fore by conditions of life in Georgia at the present time, none the less the country has admirable women in all ranks of life; we have popular writers like Ekaterina Gabashvili, Anastasia Tsereteli, Gandegili, Darieli, A. Khoshitaria, who, in addition to their literary and public activities have devoted no little time, both in word and deed, to the women's cause.

At the head of the single Georgian children's magazine «Nakaduli» stands not a fictitious, but an actual lady-editor, Nino Nakashidze; there are lady lecturers like Chito Sbarashidze, who are frequently invited to deliver talks in provincial towns; there are many popular women teachers, doctors and agricultural specialists, who, after the active life of European towns have retired to the villages to work and to direct in person agricultural affairs; there are women managers of cooperative stores like Sanadze in Khoni (in western Georgia), prominent actresses, musicians, artists and the like.

It is thoroughly natural that the activities of the new woman in Georgia has taken on new and up-to-date forms: the individual character of the

historical type has lost its sharpness, and becomes a general one of a class. In addition to an active participation in all mixed organizations, the Georgian women have their own women's associations in Tiflis with branches in all provincial towns. The most popular of these at the present time are the «Ganatlaba» (enlightenment), founded on the initiative of the veteran Georgian writer Ekaterina Gabashvili, which has its own women's gymnasium, teacher's seminary, professional school, and arts and crafts school; the second, a younger organization, «The Society of Georgian Women», has gained for itself a wide popularity not only by its basic activities, but also as a result of their work during the war, where the Georgian women have shown not merely their native kindness of heart, but a special devotion to the cause as well.

In the overthrow of the Russian imperial régime the Georgian women did not remain mere passive spectators of the deeds of their predecessors in 1905. In the ranks of the fighters upon whom the first frenzied wrath of the maddened autocracy descended and beneath the ruins of the fallen state remain not a few dear ones who fell as sacrifice; but here, in the ranks of the triumphal procession, when our country is plaiting new laurels into the crown of her genius, we women of Georgia are celebrating a double victory—we have lady deputies in the parliament of Georgia, newly risen from her ashes!

Catharine Shukashvili.

Ghogniah the lute-player*).

The mother's song.

„I have borne you in my womb; I have mothered you in your childhood. I will love you till my death as no other woman could love you.

The daughter forsakes her father for her husband; the widow marries once more, but my heart will glow with love for you even in my grave. It is full of joy when you are near; it is sad and heavy when you are far away. I would give my very life for you, my child.

Since you went your way, I am mad with anxiety. You may be hungry, thirsty, cold and badly-clad. An arrow may have wounded you, you may be lying amid the slain, but your mother is not there, and she cannot ease your pain.

It may be that the raven and the crow are picking at your pretty eyes, and you are lying all alone in some quiet spot, whilst your steed neighs softly at your side. The birds are perhaps building their nests in the tangles of your curls. Let me then too become a bird, that I may always fly towards you, my boy so fair*.

*). Continued: see № 4.

The sister's song.

„What is dearer to a maid than a good brother, if he be at the same time her friend? Friendship is the bond of our thoughts and feelings: only then is it true and lasting.

Ghogniah is all the world to me: I love to see him and to converse with him. He is first of all the true son of his country: his hand is ever raised in her defence, and his lute sings of her beauty.

O my Lord God, let him soon conquer his foes and let him soon come back to me. I beseech thee, hear thou thy servant's prayer! But should he fall in the fray, let me become a nightingale, that I may sing over his grave, casting a spell over our mountains and our plains, amongst the churchyard roses*.

The wife's song.

„What importance has a husband for a winsome wife? He is naught for her: merely a silver band at her waist. She will wear it today, and change it tomorrow for another.

Were he to die, she would mourn for him, but soon forget her sorrow. Widowhood was not made to frighten a clever woman. She will wear black, but hope will blossom in her breast. For a husband is nothing for a pretty wife—merely a silver band*.

She finished her song, and her fingers ached from twanging the strings. The three women plied thus on the lute by turns for several months, but the chords remained whole.

One day they had just sat down to dinner, when the black cat, who had been sleeping on the shelf, smelt the meat which had been brought on the table, jumped down, struck the lute, and broke a piece of it off. The women ran to look, and saw that all the strings were broken.

The mother and daughter were frightened, but tried to keep a stout heart. „What does it matter?” said they: „the strings did not break of their own accord: the cat knocked it down by accident*.—No, ladies, it is a bad omen”, said the comely wife flippantly, „last night the owl in our yard did not cease hooting, and I heard today the cawing of the rook*.

What need had she to say that? The mother's face grew yellow with fright, and that of the daughter turned ashen gray, but the young wife went into her room, put on a gay dress, and began to put up her hair as if nothing had happened.

AMUSEMENTS.

OPERA HOUSE:

Tuesday, 25 March—„GHEISHA”.

Wednesday, 26 March—„TROUBADOUR”.

Thursday, 27 March—„ABESSALOM and ESTHER”.

Saturday, 29 March—„MASCOTTE”.

Sunday, 30 March—„CHEREVICHKI” (morning performance); „TRAVIATA” (evening performance).

But just at that moment there arrived a messenger with the news of Ghogniah's death, and bringing a token from him.

When they beheld it, the pallid mother turned into a thrush, while the sister became a nightingale. The pretty wife heard a voice saying: „What has happened to the two, will happen to the third”, and she became a lapwing, the comb still remaining in her hair.

Ever since then, the trush hangs its nest by three threads on the tallest trees, and rocks it to and fro as if it were her son's cradle, chirping in the meanwhile: „My son Ghogniah! My son Ghogniah!”

Wherever the nightingale sees a blossoming rose, it thinks it is blooming on Ghogniah's grave and pours forth its marvellous song for the lost brother's soul.

The lapwing flits about the fields looking for Ghogniah's tomb, and thrusts its beak into the earth, now here, now there, all over the wide world.

Elisabeth Orbeliani.

THE GEORGIAN HUMOUR.

The two cellarmen*).

A certain householder went into his cellar to look at his wine. He noticed a cup standing near the wine-jar, and asked the cellarmen: „Why is this cup standing here?” „I worried”, „Who never I come down here I drink a cup of wine”. The householder did not like this, and he said: „This fellow has been drinking all my wine”. So he appointed an overseer to look after him, and said: „See that he does not drink so much of my wine!” The next time he went to the cellar he saw two cups standing by the jar. He asked the cellarmen: „What is the meaning of this?” He answered: „One of them is the cup I used to drink from, the other belongs to my comrade whom thou hast lately appointed.”

*). From the Georgian „Book of Wisdom and Lies” by Sulikhan Orbeliani (1655—1725). translation by Oliver Wardrop.

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