

**LETTER FROM DR. WRIGHT, NOVEMBER  
20, 1852.**

*Unexpected Friends.*

**DR. WRIGHT** reports the prevalence of the cholera in Tabreez ; and **Mr. Stevens**, the English Consul, had been told that twelve thousand

persons were cut down by this fell destroyer, prior to the date of the present communication, in that single city. In consequence of this great mortality, several of the principal officers of the government removed temporarily to Oroomiah; so that the labors of the mission were brought more directly under the notice of men in high places. One of these, Khodadad Khan, who is a Mohammedan of rank and wealth, has become particularly interested in the operations of our brethren, as will appear from a note addressed to G. A. Stevens, Esq., a brother of the Consul, whom he styles "the high in rank, the companion of greatness and renown, the kind and faithful friend," in which he says: "During the few days that I have been in Oroomiah, I have observed the affairs of the American missionaries; that their object is the instruction and enlightening of God's creatures from pure benevolence; that they exert themselves, night and day, with this object in view; therefore it is obligatory on all the servants of God to assist them. That I may not be without an interest in this beneficent work, I request you to pay to them yearly, from this date, the sum of ten tomans on my account. I am sure you will do as I request. I will trouble you no further."

Nor is this all. The wife of the Khan has also become interested in the labors of our brethren; and she has written to G. A. Stevens, Esq., "the exalted in rank, the kind and noble friend," as follows: "As the Khân has informed me in detail of the labors of the American missionaries, and commended them to me, I will trouble you with this request, namely, that you will pay over to them yearly the sum of five tomans on my account. I am sure you will do me this favor; and I hope they will accept this my trifling donation." Fifteen tomans are equal to thirty dollars.

### *Enlistment of Nestorians.*

The following extract will be read with regret; and yet the information which it contains is valuable.

You have been informed that the Persian government is raising a regiment of Christian soldiers, mainly from the Nestorians. The enlistment was commenced more than a year ago, and it is not yet completed. The people are much opposed to entering the army; consequently the enlistment has been mostly a forced one. Great corruption exists among the officers charged with the business; and in some cases serious oppression is practiced. At present there is such a state of excitement among the people on the subject, as in some measure to interfere with our labors.

Strong influences have been brought to bear upon the government to induce

it to relinquish the plan of raising the regiment; but the King and his ministers still adhere to it; and of late peremptory orders have been received by the government agents here to complete the enlistment. It is conjectured that the King intends to make this regiment a part of his body-guard. It is said that he has lost confidence in his Musulman guard, since the attempt on his life last summer by five or six persons of the Bâbee sect. They approached him when out on a hunting excursion, under pretence of having a petition to present. Not suspecting any evil design, he reined up his horse and stopped. The ruffians then drew forth pistols, which they had concealed under their garments, and discharged them at the King. He fell from his horse wounded, though not seriously. The affair was investigated; and wherever persons were found, who were suspected of belonging to the Bâbee sect, they were seized and put to death with every variety of torture. Several hundred persons were killed in this manner at the capital; and messengers were dispatched to various parts of the empire with orders to the local governors to show no mercy to those professing bâbeeism.

Dr. Wright says that both the seminaries are in operation. The applicants for admission to these institutions were so numerous, that many were of necessity rejected.