

# THE MASTERY OF THE DESERT.

BY FRANK W. BLACKMAR.

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THE theory of a Great American Desert, stretching over boundless wastes in the interior of the continent, was one of the most persistent ideas in the historical development of our nation. Based upon the meagre facts obtainable by indirect methods, this theory was, largely, the product of the vivid imagination of writers who felt and travellers and explorers who suffered. Philosophers, historians, and scientists have contributed to the dream, and the statesman has ever been prone to concede what he considered the inevitable.

Perhaps the first suggestion of the myth of the desert came from Thomas Jefferson, who thought that the great inland territory west of the Mississippi would be of comparatively little value to the United States. In the purchase of Louisiana, he seemed to be thinking only of a strip of land which would protect our Western frontier, rather than of a great territory to be filled with a teeming population. But there was no real knowledge of this country at the time of Jefferson. It was a boundless territory, unknown as to soil, climate, and possibilities of civilization. It appears that the explorations of the Spaniards in the interior and on the Pacific Coast were little known by the inhabitants of the Atlantic seaports. And so for years afterwards, through conjecture, various reports of travellers, and the flight of imagination, this region was known as "The Great American Desert."

The real foundation of this myth was perhaps laid in the expedition of Zebulon M. Pike, who crossed the plains to the Rocky Mountains in 1808 and 1809. It is true that the famous expedition of Lewis and Clarke had revealed something of the vastness of the territory, but as they kept very close to the Missouri and Columbia, they could learn very little of the possibilities of the

country. But the object of the expedition was to discover a route for commerce to the Pacific rather than to make a detailed description of the country and the lands beyond the Mississippi. Pike's expedition, however, yielded some statements in regard to the territory, which were taken as correct. Speaking of the fertility of the soil, he says: "From the Missouri to the head waters of the (Little) Osage River, a distance, in a straight line, of probably three hundred miles, the country will admit of a numerous, extensive, and compact population. Thence, on the rivers Kansas, La Platte, Arkansas, and their various tributaries, it appears to me to be only possible to introduce a limited population on their banks." This limits the fertile territory nearly to the boundaries of the State of Missouri.

Again, he says, in characterizing this territory: "These vast plains of the Western Hemisphere may become in time as celebrated as the sandy deserts of Africa; for I saw, in my route, in various places, tracts of many leagues where the wind had thrown up the sand in all the fanciful forms of the ocean's rolling wave, and on which not a speck of vegetable matter existed." And, in his conclusion, he states: "But from the immense prairies there arises one advantage to the United States, viz., the restriction of our population to some certain limits, and thereby a continuance of the Union. Our citizens being so prone to rambling and extending themselves on the frontier will, through necessity, be constrained to limit their extent on the West to the boundaries of the Missouri and the Mississippi, while they leave the prairies incapable of cultivation to the wandering and uncivilized aborigines of the country." There is in this statement a hint of the possibility of material injury to the nation resulting from the too rapid exploration of the country and from the practice of extensive, to the neglect of intensive, agriculture.

Long's expedition of 1819 and 1820 rather emphasizes this characterization given by Pike. In speaking of the country east of the meridian which passes through Council Bluffs, he asserts that it will support a large population, but that "the scarcity of timber, mill sites, and sources of water, difficulties that are almost uniformly prevalent, must for a long time prove serious impediments in the settling of the country. Large tracts are often to be met with exhibiting scarcely any trace of vegetation." When it is observed that, within this territory, we have now the

northern part of Missouri, nearly all of the fertile State of Iowa, and a large part of the grain belts of Minnesota, it is easy to realize that the possibilities of the country were unthought of by the chronicler. Of the country west of this meridian, the report states: "In regard to this extensive section of the country, we do not hesitate in giving the opinion that it is almost wholly unfit for cultivation and, of course, uninhabitable by people depending upon agriculture for their subsistence."

But, having taken this melancholy view of the land, he finally discovers that this vast territory may be of some use to the United States, and he reiterates the opinions of Jefferson and Pike in the following paragraph: "This region, viewed as a frontier, may prove of infinite importance to the United States, inasmuch as it is calculated to serve as a barrier to prevent too great an extension of our population Westward and secure us against the machinations of an enemy that might otherwise be disposed to annoy us in that quarter." He closed by saying: "From the minute account given in the narrative of the particular features of this expedition, it will be perceived to be a manifest resemblance to the deserts of Siberia." In this he refers to the whole distance to the Rocky Mountains.

Now come the first reports of the territory beyond, in which the boundaries of the desert are extended to the Pacific Coast. He says, in speaking of the country beyond the Rocky Mountains: "It is a region destined, by the barrenness of its soil, the inhospitable character of its climate, and by other physical defects, to be the abode of perpetual desolation."

These reports of Pike and Long laid the foundation for the discussion of the subject in future years. So we find, thereafter for a period of fifty years, in the school geographies and atlases and in other descriptions of the country, a representation of The Great American Desert. Woodbridge and Willard published a geography for schools in 1824, in which they reflected the statements of Long and Pike, except that they mention that the soil between the Missouri and the Mississippi is very fertile, but that, lacking in water and timber, settlement would be impeded. They seem to have discovered, somewhere south of the Missouri and extending to the Red River, a swamp two hundred miles in length and five to thirty in width. They give a full description of the country, a part of which may be stated as follows:

"From longitude 96, or the meridian of Council Bluffs, to the Chipewewan Mountains is a desert region of four hundred miles in length and breadth, or about sixteen hundred miles in extent. . . . On approaching within one hundred miles of the Rocky Mountains, their snow-capped summits become visible. Here the hills become more frequent, and elevated rocks more abundant, and the soil more sterile, until we reach the abrupt chain of peaks which divide it from the Western declivities of North America. Not a thousandth part can be said to have any timber growth, and the surface is generally naked. . . . The predominant soil of this region is a sterile sand, and large tracts are often to be met with which exhibit scarcely a trace of vegetation. The salts and magnesia mingled with the soil are often so abundant as to destroy vegetation. The waters are, to a great extent, impure and frequently too brackish for use. . . . The Valley of the Canadian River is covered to a great extent with salt incrustations resembling ice or snow in its appearance. The waters of this river are so impregnated with salt as to be unfit for use, and this is the case with other tributaries of the Arkansas and of the Red River. . . . Agreeably to the best intelligence we find, the country, both northward and southward of that described, commencing near the sources of the Sabine and Columbia, and extending to the northern boundaries of the United States, is throughout of the same character."

Again, in Carey and Lee's atlas of 1827, the Great American Desert covers an indefinite territory in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Indian Territory, and Texas. Mitchell, in his "Accompaniment to Reference and Distance Map," published in 1835, states that a large portion of this country may be likened to the Great Sahara or African Desert. In 1838, Bradford's atlas of the United States indicated the great desert as extending from the Arkansas through into Colorado and Wyoming, including South Dakota, part of Nebraska, and Kansas. Here also was an indefinite boundary suggesting an unknown country.

Perhaps Irving, in his "Astoria," which appeared in 1836, gave the most forcible impulse to this notion of the great interior. In his association with the northwest customs officials at Montreal, he listened to many stories of adventure, and he states: "I was at an age when imagination lends color to everything, and the stories of these Sindbads of the wilderness made the life of a trapper and a fur-trader perfect romance to me." Subsequently, he made a brief tour on the prairies and into Missouri and Arkansas, and then was prepared to write "Astoria," in which he gives graphic pictures of the plains. But he prefaces this charming book with the significant statement that "the work I here

present to the public is necessarily of a rambling and somewhat disjointed nature, comprising various expeditions by land and sea." While it is a book full of interest, the Sindbads of the wilderness and Irving's imagination fail to give sufficient data to enable us to form a clear judgment of the country.

As to the nature of this country, Irving has this to say:

"This region, which resembles one of the ancient steppes of Asia, has not inaptly been termed The Great American Desert. It spreads forth into undulating and treeless plains and desolate sandy wastes, wearisome to the eye from their extent and monotony. . . . It is a land where no man permanently abides, for at certain seasons of the year there is no food for the hunter or his steed. Such is the nature of this immense wilderness of the Far West, which apparently defies cultivation and habitation of civilized life. Some portions of it along the rivers may partially be subdued by agriculture, others may form vast pastoral tracts like those of the East; but it is to be found that a great part of it will form a lawless interval between the abodes of civilization, more like the wastes of the ocean, or the deserts of Arabia, and like them be subject to the depredation of marauders."

Soon after came the great struggle over the Oregon Territory, during which an attempt was made to show the boundless wastes of desert that existed between the extended possessions of the United States and the Pacific Coast. Greenhow's "History of Oregon," which appeared in 1846, took up the statement of Long, and emphasized his frightful pictures of the country. It says:

"One most important fact, in a geological point of view, was completely established by the observation of the party, viz.: that the whole division of North America drained by the Missouri and the Arkansas and their tributaries, between the meridian at the mouth of the Platte and the Rocky Mountains, is almost unfit for cultivation and thus uninhabitable for people dependent on agriculture for subsistence. The portion for almost five hundred miles, extending from the thirty-ninth to the forty-ninth parallels of latitude, was indeed found to be a desert of sand and stones, and subsequent observations have shown the adjoining regions to a great distance west of those mountains to be yet more arid and sterile."

From this time on, the geographies continued to represent The Great American Desert on their maps and the explorers continued to talk of the sterility of the region which now extended from the meridian passing through Council Bluffs to that unknown region beyond the Rocky Mountains. Mitchell's School Atlas in 1840 pictured The Great American Desert west of the Rocky

Mountains, and described it as a great sandy desert, running from Arizona to the northern boundary of Nevada, covering the entire territory between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Smith's Geography in 1844 had the same statement, with the exception that the Nevada-California Desert was called the Great Sandy Plains. Smith repeats the same in his editions of 1847 and 1850. The geographies continued to represent these ideas down to the year 1870, though the desert grew smaller and smaller and finally became eliminated.

The settlement of Kansas and Nebraska in the fifties and sixties tended, to a certain extent, to eliminate the desert idea. In the mean time, the expeditions of the United States Government, especially those of Fremont and Kearney, and the surveys for the great transcontinental railroads, tended to clear up the matter by degrees, though we still find that the magazines continued to discuss The Great American Desert. In the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW in 1858 is a paragraph on the report of Lieutenant G. K. Warren on the Missouri and the Great Plain. The eastern line of the desert has now moved up to central Kansas and Nebraska, but the author says:

"Supposing, however, that with central Nebraska and Kansas civilization outside of the river bottoms must cease, the question arises, What effect will this important fact have on these young territories themselves, as well as on the country at large? Nebraska and Kansas will, in that case, be the shores at which will terminate a vast ocean desert nearly one thousand miles in breadth."

Again, in the "Westminster Review" for July, 1867, a writer is trying to point out that the Hudson Bay Company has taken lands to itself which are fertile and valuable, and has tried to create the impression that the lands are worthless. In speaking of the territory south of the northern boundary of the United States, he says:

"From the Valley of the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains, the United States territory consists of an arid tract extending south nearly to Texas, which has been called The Great American Desert. This sterile region covering such an immense extent of area, covers but a few miles of fertile land. Nature, marching from East to West, showered her bounty on the United States until she reached the Mississippi, but there she turned aside and went northward to favor British territory."

The explorations for transcontinental railroads near the forty-seventh and forty-ninth parallels, from St. Paul to Seattle, and

near the forty-first and forty-second through South Pass from Council Bluffs, and near the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth westward to San Francisco, rendered considerable information about the country. But, in all the surveys carried on by the Government, and in all the scientific expeditions, there seem to have been no methodical efforts to show the nature of the soil and its adaptability to agriculture. The general descriptions of climatic conditions and the fauna, flora, and geology of the country were without serious discussion of the possibility of agriculture.

In an article published by General Hazen in the *NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, in January, 1875, based on his investigations during a long residence in the territory described, is given the most scientific description of the country put in print up to that date. He claims that the railroads and land-agents in the interest of Nebraska and Kansas had exaggerated their agricultural possibilities. General Hazen states that two hundred miles from Omaha good agricultural land is found, but after that nothing but barrenness. He states that the Western limit of our agricultural land had been reached by settlers along the frontier from the Rio Grande to the forty-ninth parallel of latitude. Among other things, he specifically states that the western half of Kansas is unfit for agriculture, and that the Solomon, Republican, and Saline rivers rise in the northern part of it in numerous small branches, giving some small strips for irrigation, but, as a rule, the soil is unsusceptible of agriculture and unfit for settlement. We now know that much of the land described in Kansas and Nebraska has turned out to be good agricultural land, producing some of the finest crops of wheat in the world. Indeed, as if to defy the opinions of men, nature has extended the wheat belt to the Colorado line. As farmers have learned to handle the soil and adapt agricultural methods to the climate and the soil, the agricultural belt has continually widened. Also, to a certain extent, the processes of agriculture have noticeably affected the rainfall and the climate. General Hazen refers to the following statement of Mr. Blodget of the Government Service:

"This great arid region may be said to embrace ten degrees of longitude and seventeen of latitude in the United States, . . . drained only by the great Colorado and Columbia Rivers. So arid is the Great Basin that fully two hundred thousand square miles has not a sufficient rainfall to require any drainage at all."



It is evident that in this statement he includes the region west of the Rocky Mountains.

Some attempts were made in 1862, by the Union Pacific Railroad, to experiment on its land in regard to the possibilities of agriculture, but all grains and grasses failed for want of water. All trees failed but the catalpa, honey-locust, and box-elder.

General Hazen estimated in his report that the possible arable land of Arizona was not more than one million acres, and that of New Mexico the same, Colorado having only two millions. We find at the present time that Arizona has an acreage of about two millions already under cultivation; Colorado, of nearly ten millions; New Mexico, of five millions of acres of land, all under cultivation within thirty years from the time General Hazen made his dismal statement. One conclusion that he reached is the following:

"The phenomenon of the formation and rapid growth of new, rich, and populous States will no more be seen in our present domain, and we must soon face a condition of facts utterly new in the economy of the country, when not new but old States must make room for the increase of population, and thereby receive a fresh impetus."

The final stroke which destroyed the terror of the desert, exploded its myths and reduced its legends to matters of fact, was a report of Major Powell, in 1879, on the "Lands of the Arid Region." It was a report on the whole interior region, from the humid regions of the East to the Pacific Ocean, based upon the rainfall and the water-supply. All the lands having an annual rainfall below twenty inches are called "arid." Those having a rainfall of from twenty to twenty-eight inches are called the "sub-humid" region. The western boundary of this sub-humid region runs along on the 100th meridian. About four-tenths of all the land in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, at the time the report was written, was included in the arid district. About one-tenth of the land was found in the sub-humid region. Major Powell characterizes the sub-humid region as a land subjected more or less to disastrous droughts, the frequency of which will diminish from West to East. He also asserts that agriculture cannot have an assured success in a country where the rainfall is twenty inches or less, and he doubts whether, because of the alternation of drought and harvest, agriculture will prove re-



munerative in the arid region. Not only has rainfall been more regular in recent years, but it has been found that some crops may be successfully grown on land where the annual rainfall is less than twenty inches. Add to these facts the study of the soil and the seasons, and the adaptability of a variety of crops, and the actual results have been far different from the inferences drawn from the report.

Recently a new method of agriculture, known as the "dry system," permits the successful cultivation of the soil of the uplands having a scant rainfall. Thousands of acres in western Kansas and eastern Colorado have been taken up recently for this method of culture. However, Major Powell makes a general estimate of the water-supply, the amount of irrigable lands, timberlands, and pasture-lands, all of which was of great value in the settlement of the arid region. After this report, while people might talk about the desert in a general way, or about particular districts, the conception of The Great American Desert changed or passed away.

In the map which Major Powell published in connection with his work, no mention is made of any desert in America except a small district southwest of the Great Salt Lake, a territory less than twice the size of the small State of Rhode Island, known as The Great Salt Lake Desert. The official map of the United States of 1900 recognizes this desert under the name of Great Salt Lake Desert. The geographies used in our public schools still call it The Great American Desert. They also recognize a desert in southern California and Nevada, east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. But now the former desert is circumscribed by two railroads which pass through a portion of it, while a third line is surveyed across it. Only a few years will elapse before the term "desert" will cease to be used in connection with any part of the territory of the United States.

But is there no real desert, apart from the myth which existed in the minds of geographers and philosophers? Within the boundaries of this immense territory, designated by Major Powell as "the arid region," are many districts which partake of all the qualities of the desert. There are indeed rocky steppes, treeless plains, and sandy wastes still in existence to-day. There are wide stretches of land without running water or lakes, and with scarcely any rainfall, covered with sand and sage-brush. Upon

these dreary wastes the sun pours its intense rays, making the hot air move in undulating waves from the earth's surface, and creating the mirage, the irony and mockery of the desert. The traveller, a faint speck upon the boundless plain, sees by means of the fateful mirage the distant sage-brush suddenly enlarging to trees of good proportion that mirror their forms in inviting waters. But, as he travels on, the vision recedes at his approach, nor does he ever overtake it before the sun passes to the west of the distant mountains and the picture is dissolved.

But, with all of its desolation, the desert is not without its charms; the mountains are always in sight in the dim distance of dust and haze, and when the sun's rays pass behind their huge forms they seem to approach the dweller on the plains and to gather about him as night falls. The air is delightfully cool and charming, even intoxicating, and, as the glare of the sun is removed, in the long twilight or in the early morning, colors of entrancing beauty appear. Those who have dwelt in these dry districts, where small tracts of land could be irrigated or where stock could be pastured, have accustomed themselves to the conditions of life like the animals and plants. They have toughness in their grain and have learned to delight in the attractions of the desert. The climate of the arid region lacks the disagreeable feature of heat and cold—namely, moisture. The excessive heat does not exhaust the system as it does in humid regions, nor does the excessive cold impair the health. When the thermometer registers 110° in the shade in Arizona, the suffering is not so great as at 90° in New York City. Likewise, in the Dakotas 25° below zero is more easily endured than zero weather in Boston.

Little by little, civilization has gradually encroached upon the desolate places. While men were conjecturing as to what was to be done to this practically boundless area of worthless land, the settler has gradually invaded the territory and adapted himself to the development of the resources of the country. First, there came the trappers and the fur-traders, who established their posts along the principal streams of the continent. The Government, to protect the first invaders and to secure the country to itself, planted lines of forts along the principal highways of travel, until the whole territory was dotted with military stations, which opened up the way more fully to the settler and the traveller. The great overland trading routes from Independence,

Atchison, Leavenworth, and Council Bluffs to Santa Fé, New Mexico, and to Oregon, along the old Santa Fé, Salt Lake, Oregon trails, enlivened the scene and opened up the way for future settlement. The hardy pioneer established his cabin in some fertile spot convenient to fuel and water, and began agriculture and stock-raising in a small way. This advance-guard of civilization, settling down without leave upon "Uncle Sam's" land, suggested the possibilities of the country. Others followed until, by the time of the great transcontinental railroad, the advance-guard had established itself on every plain and in every valley, wherever there was prospect of food and water for man and beast.

The discovery of gold in California gave a great impetus to overland travel, and many who had crossed the plains returned to settle in some favored spot. Thus, the possibilities of the great interior became known. Gradually, too, it appeared that, in their haste to reach the Eldorado of the Pacific Coast, the gold-seekers had passed by untold wealth of coal, iron, copper, gold, silver, zinc, lead, and petroleum, hidden underneath the soil in mountain or plain. The discovery of these has caused the rapid settlement of some districts and added much to the wealth of the country.

Following in the wake of the railroads came the great multitude of people hurrying and scurrying for new lands, and mines, and watercourses, so that this great arid region is developing tremendous wealth of mining, agricultural and pastoral products, its population is steadily increasing, and its desert conditions are gradually disappearing through the efforts of the man who digs and toils and subdues nature.

There has been prodigal waste of plain and forest by improper use and by the carelessness of settlers in destroying forests by fire. But those strenuous times, when the whole country was subjected to the savage rule of contending forces, are fast passing away. Gradually the country has yielded to the influences of law and order. There is also a greater utility of the resources of nature. Forests and ranges are protected and the water is quite evenly distributed, so as to yield the largest service to the various members of the community. The laws of irrigation have done much to regulate the property rights in water. It is treated more as a commodity in the market and less as a mere accident of nature.

Irrigation is one of the great aids in the mastery of the desert.

First, the settler with the small stream irrigating a few acres; then, the rancher with a larger cultivation and followed by great irrigation corporations with thousands of miles of ditches, some of them veritable rivers; and, finally, the reclamation service of the Government, aided and encouraged by President Roosevelt, by means of which some of the most desolate places of the earth will be made "to blossom as the rose." All of these agencies at work will soon make at least 100,000,000 acres of otherwise worthless land the most productive and beautiful parts of our country. Already 10,000,000 acres are devoted to intensive agriculture under irrigation. The best of it all is that the mining, manufacturing and transportation industries of these regions make it possible to absorb the agricultural products to such an extent that the farmers of the Mississippi Valley and other agricultural districts under rainfall need not fear of harmful agricultural competition from lands tilled under intensive agriculture through irrigation.

The millions of money derived from land sales, and appropriated by Congress to carry on irrigation in the arid region, will be of untold value in the utilization of the water-supply. Great reservoirs will be built for the storage of surplus water of the melting snows of the mountains, to be distributed on the land, insuring bountiful crops. When the floods of great rivers are thus stayed and evenly distributed over the plains, immense tracts of land now uncultivated will yield bountiful harvests.

But let us see what has been accomplished already in this arid region of Major Powell's. Let us observe to what extent the real desert has been conquered. Leaving out of consideration the great States of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, and Arkansas, comprising a territory nearly all of which was once considered valueless, with a population of over eight millions, and considering only the fifteen States and Territories lying almost wholly in the great "arid region," exclusive of California, comprising a territory of 1,508,210 square miles, we have to note the following statistics: The population within this territory numbered in 1900, 8,771,269; the acreage of farms was 300,380,645. Of these farms, 100,956,487 acres are already improved. The value of the farms in 1900 was \$4,006,108,282. The value of agricultural products for 1900 was estimated to be \$947,907,104. Of the farm lands, 6,566,738 acres are under irrigation. In addition to this, the mining

products add \$160,000,000 to the growing wealth of the country. But, more marvellous than all this, is the rapid growth in railroad extension throughout this territory. The mileage of railroads had already reached in 1900 the enormous figure of 50,712.96 miles. There are not less than six great transcontinental lines running through the territory, and there soon will be several more. Short lines are extending in every direction into fertile valleys, and to mines and cattle-ranges, opening up the territory and furnishing means of serving increasing population.

The Santa Fé and Oregon trails, still in the memory of men living, are like the stage-coach and the emigrant train, practically unknown to the men who are now building the West. The old cabins and dugouts are replaced by modern dwellings. The great ranges are fast passing into orderly farms, where cultivated crops take the place of wild grasses. Steadily is man's rational selection directing the selection of nature. Even the cowboy, an essential creation of Western conditions, is rapidly passing away. Like the buffalo, he has had his place in the drama of civilization. The Indian of the plain must yield to civilization or pass away. Custer, Cody, Bridger, and Carson did their work and passed on. So did the great caravan of the plains. Pioneers of the old school are giving place to a young and vigorous group of men of intellect, will and ceaseless activity, who are turning the light of scientific discovery on plain and mountain.

Prophesying on the future of America, Coleridge, many years ago, said: "The possible destiny of the United States of America as a nation of a hundred millions of freemen, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, living under the laws of Alfred, and speaking the language of Shakespeare and Milton, is an august conception." We are now prepared to improve on Coleridge, and to say that a nation of two hundred millions of freemen, living under American Common and Statute Law, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, fifty millions of whom occupy the arid region of the continent, where the word "desert" is unknown, will soon be a mighty reality.

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# SOME PHASES OF THE ISSUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY.

BY AMERICUS.

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THE issues between the United States and Turkey as defined at Constantinople during the past five or six years are easily grouped into four categories:

- (1) The elevation of the American Legation to the rank of an Embassy.
- (2) Commercial questions, large and small.
- (3) Treatment of American religious and educational and philanthropic enterprises within the Ottoman Empire.
- (4) Position and treatment of naturalized American citizens, formerly Ottoman subjects, when they return to the Empire.

The order of the items here given is in no sense the official one, nor necessarily that of relative importance. The Department of State at Washington might well give precedence to the commercial questions; our Minister at Constantinople might, wisely or unwisely, place the question of the Embassy in the forefront; American citizens, who happen to be Missionaries in Turkey, might fairly object to having pork and higher educational institutions bracketed in discussion with a Moslem Power whose ceremonial law is largely Jewish; while the Turkish Government would no doubt be only too glad to settle the question of naturalized Americans and leave all the others untouched. But the order in which they are to be attacked and pressed to settlement presents one of the most delicate problems in diplomacy.

Let us examine in detail the issues as defined at Constantinople.

- (1) The elevation of the American Legation at Constantinople to the rank of an Embassy is a question involving many lines of international policy that can be intelligently discussed only by the diplomatic lawyers within the Department of State at Washington.