

Curfew again, or rather still. In fact, we are never certain any longer whether or not our ~~xxxx~~ quarter of the city is under curfew, ~~xxxxxxx~~ Something happens in the vicinity, and the military impose curfew, and fire off a cannon to announce it. Just like that! The residents are supposed to guess which districts have been put under the ban. Twice in the last few days, I have had to drive out between 6 and 8 P.M., and twice, after little more than getting the car out of our driveway, I have been stopped by soldiers who appear out of the darkness of the compound opposite us, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and ask if I don't know that curfew is on between 6 P.M. and 5 A.M. One is tempted to ask if curfew has become a habit or is just a painful necessity, but refrains, because one realizes that the Tommies would much prefer to be in their quarters or home than patrolling the dark stretches of Herod's Gate quarter. Yesterday there was a 24 hour curfew in the Old City. Today, a 24 hour curfew was suddenly imposed upon the Musrara quarter, adjacent to our quarter. One learns that there is curfew thus either by being stopped upon emerging from one's door or by suddenly being prevented from taking the usual way to town, and being compelled to make a detour to get to one's destination. We also know when curfew has been imposed, if the gardener who lives in Musrara doesn't turn up for a day or two. Our servants who live in the Old City haven't been able to sleep home at night time for two weeks now. This is not to criticise the military. They are performing an exceedingly difficult task with patience and circumspection, and on the whole, I think that the conduct of the soldiers is exemplary. If a man is shot in this neighborhood, or in a nearby one, the military have to institute searches. Special messengers can't be sent around to the American School or elsewhere, except to central points such as the police-stations, informing the public that it has been deemed necessary suddenly to impose curfew. It is imposed, and all suspicious characters are questioned or arrested. I could, each time curfew is imposed, hide myself to headquarters, and get a curfew pass. It takes hours of time, is a general nuisance, there is never lack of work at home for any of us here, and so we bide our time and take the curfews calmly. We have long ago learned to appreciate the wisdom of the Arab proverb, that "haste is from the devil".

there has been

For some ~~xx~~ reason or other a sudden flare up of the troubles during the last few weeks. One would like to venture the hope, however illusory all hopes for improvement have been in the last two and half years, that this is the last flare up before a long period of peace. The London conference is to be held within a few days. Representatives of the Arabs, Jews, and the British Government are to participate. Peace might come to Palestine as a result of its deliberations. May it come speedily!

Meanwhile, our academic program continues according to plan. The main change this academic year is, as noted in the last letter, that there was no halt in the lectures during the month of December, except for the holiday week including Christmas and New Year. The students preferred to take the mid-year vacation during intervals in this month. Mr. and Mrs. Donald West went to Egypt for a week at the beginning of the month, and Dr. and Mrs. Glidden may go to Baghdad for a week before the end of the month. A new student has arrived, and is to remain the rest of the academic year. He is Rev. w.B. Ward, who has spent the first half of the year studying at Edinburgh. Classes are being held daily from Monday through Friday. The entire School is hoping to be able to go to Aqabah for the second season of the School's excavations at Tell el-Kheleifeh, which we have identified with Ezion-Geber and the later Elath. The chief events of the week were the completion by the Director of the manuscript of Explorations in Eastern Palestine, III, and the despatch of the manuscript to Professor Burrows, and the completion a few days later by the Professor of Archaeology of the Schools, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~