

The Lafayette Work  
in Persia



S. M. JORDAN, '95

## College Imperialism.

**M**OST interesting and remarkable is it to trace the growth of the expansion of the influence of our colleges into the countries less fortunate in educational and medical enlightenment. All of the so-called "big four" colleges of the East are carrying on some work in the Orient, supported by money and manned by men of the respective institutions, and many of the smaller colleges are doing similar work. The idea has also spread to the preparatory schools, and we find Mercersburg supporting one of their graduates in his medical work in China.

### What We Want to Do.

It has been decided that Lafayette is to run in line with this movement, and to have its own work in Persia. We are fortunate in having there one of our Alumni, S. M. Jordan, '95, who has afforded us the opportunity of making his school at Teheran a branch of Lafayette. It is thought best for the first year to ask for only \$500, this amount to be raised from among the faculty and student body. It is hoped in time to extend this movement to the alumni of the college, and to send out a recent graduate to assist Jordan in his work.

### Jordan's College Life.

Jordan entered college in the fall of 1891, and from the first was prominent in football and track. He played centre for three years on the 'Varsity team, and in 1894 captained the team on which Barclay, Walbridge, Sigman, Rinehart and Rowland



JUNIOR CLASS, AMERICAN BOYS' SCHOOL, TEHERAN, PERSIA

played. It was in that year that the present series of football victories over Lehigh was initiated. Jordan has brought back from Persia, and presented to the trophy room, the football with which Lafayette defeated Lehigh 28-0 in November, '94, a most remarkable game in those days. Early in his course, Jordan became a volunteer, and throughout his college life was prominent in all forms of Christian work. He was a good student, graduating with honors, and universally popular among the student body.

### Jordan's Work in Persia.

Before his graduation from Princeton, Jordan was appointed to go to Teheran, the capital of Persia, and take charge of the American School for Boys. With his bride he sailed from New York, September 19, 1898, and arrived at his destination November 3rd. At that time there was no carriage road

from the Persian port on the Caspian to Teheran, and the journey across the Elborz Mountains, more than 8,000 feet high, was made by means of pack animals.

During his eight years' residence in Persia, he has had many interesting experiences visiting her cities and villages and traveling through the wilds of Kurdistan, but his principal work has been in the school at the capital. This school corresponds in grade to a preparatory in America, and a college is needed to round it out. It is patronized by Persians (Moslems), Armenians, Zoroastrians and Jews. Ninety-five per cent. of the population of Persia are Moslems.

This school has made wonderful progress. Six years ago the total attendance was 66, of whom 22 were of the ruling race. Last year the enrolment was 230, and 130 of these were Moslems, and many of these were from the wealthiest and noblest families. About 100 of them bear the title of nobility, Khan, and several of them are princes of the ruling dynasty. The school is affecting the life of the nation at its very center. Six years ago the tuition from the pupils amounted to \$153.00; last year to \$1,000.00. The Persians have awakened to the value of an education, and are eagerly seeking for it on every side. We have the opportunity to educate the men who will be the leaders of Persia. Shall we do it?

### Lafayette Spirit Will Insure Success.

We appeal to the best spirit of Lafayette men to back this project up. It is as much a part of college life as are the different forms of athletics and other activities. It is a *college affair*, not the project of a few enthusiasts. Every man who possibly can is asked to give at least \$1.00.

JAMES A. DARSIE, '07,  
Chairman.