

**A HISTORY OF THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF  
DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH PERSIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649315567

A History of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations with Persia by R. R. Dawes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**R. R. DAWES**

**A HISTORY OF THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF  
DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH PERSIA**



---

*Davis,*

A HISTORY

OF THE

Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

WITH PERSIA.

---

Compiled Mainly from the Official Records and Communications  
of the United States' Government, and from  
Contemporary Writings.

---

MARIETTA, OHIO,  
E. B. AUDEMAN & SONS, PRINTERS.  
1867.

SX  
14  
P4  
D2

TO OUR CHILDREN :

It has seemed desirable that the Records and Papers, here Published, should be placed in your hands, in compact and durable form. The principal labor in preparing the Papers has been assumed, with great pleasure, by your Mother,

R. R. LAWES,

1-6  
1-22  
41055

## CHAPTER I.

### THE INTERVENTION.

STARTLING TELEGRAMS BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE—MISSIONARIES IN PERSIA IN GREAT PERIL FROM KOORDISH WAR—APPEAL TO OUR GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE FOR THEIR PROTECTION—NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS—OUR GOVERNMENT APPEALS TO ENGLAND—PROMPT ACTION BY THAT POWER—THE SHAH OF PERSIA SENDS SPECIAL MESSENGER TO SEAT OF WAR—THANKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENGLAND—REPORT OF ENGLISH CONSUL GENERAL.

Oroomiah College, established by the missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, is one mile outside of the mud-walled city of Oroomiah, in Persia. On Mt. Seir, six miles away, is a summer retreat of the missionaries. High up on the slope of the lofty mountain, it is delightfully situated. It commands a view of the great plain of Oroomiah, which is dotted with villages, and, also, of the broad and beautiful lake of the same name. Long ranges of snow-capped mountains encircle the lake and plain and form the boundary of the extended view. Within the city of Oroomiah is another station of the missionary work.

When the horde of half barbarous Koords swept suddenly down from their mountain fastnesses and advanced upon Oroomiah, the missionaries were divided. Those at the College and Mt. Seir were swallowed beneath the flood of the invasion. Rev. Mr. Whipple alone, separated from his wife and daughter, who were at the College, remained in the city within the Persian lines of battle. Strangely enough, when this Koordish army came down upon them, the English Consul General, stationed at Tabriz, William G. Abbott, was a guest of the missionaries at the College, and he was caught with them within the lines of the Koords. The Sheik Obeidullah, chief of the Koords, gave him escort

through the lines. He was fired upon by the Persians, but fortunately escaped injury.

To the friends of the Missionaries in the United States, the first information came in the startling cable telegrams, here arranged in order of their publication in the daily papers.

#### THE KURDS IN PERSIA.

AN ENTIRE TOWN PUT TO THE SWORD—3,000 SQUARE MILES OCCUPIED.

LONDON, Oct. 28, 1880.—A dispatch from Meshed states that 20,000 Kurds under Sheik Abdullah, are advancing on Tabriz. They are now at Maragha. They have massacred the entire population of Souj Bolak. The Kurds occupy 3,000 square miles of Persian territory.

TEHERAN, Oct. 28, 1880.—It is said that the Kurds are firing into the town of Oroomiah in Northern Persia.

TEHERAN, Oct. 28.—There are rumors from Tabriz that the Kurds under Sheik Abdullah have taken Oroomiah. No further news is received from the British Consul at Oroomiah. The telegraph wires to Khoi have been cut for the last three days.

#### CAPTURED BY KURDS.

LONDON, Oct. 29, 1880.—A dispatch from Thorin says, it is reported that the Kurds have captured and pillaged Oroomiah.

The next series of dispatches gave at least the comforting assurance, that our missionary friends were still alive, and that the flag of their country was recognized and respected by the chieftain of the Koords. This was an unexpected and suggestive action, by the Sheik Obeidullah.

[Cable Telegrams.]

TEHERAN, Oct. 31, 1880.—It is officially announced that the garrison of Oroomiah has been relieved by 4000 Persian troops. The Kurds retreated southward. Only seven villages in the Salmas district escaped devastation.

LONDON, Nov. 1, 1880.—The Sheik Abdullah has sent a communication to the American Missionaries in Oroomiah requesting them to hoist the American flag above the Mission building, in order that it may be recognized and respected when the city is attacked by the Kurds.

TEHERAN, Nov. 7, 1880.—Sheik Abdullah advanced against Oroomiah with 8000 troops, but was repulsed with great loss. The Kurds are now encamped eight miles from Oroomiah.

TEHERAN, Nov. 12, 1880.—A former Persian Minister of War, has been sent to the seat of war in consequence of the dangerous illness and reported death of the Persian Commander-in-Chief. Some of the Kurdish Chiefs have submitted while others have fled.

This new Commander was the so-called Sipeh Salar, of whom much will appear in these papers.

The next message suggested the gravest apprehension. To have been spared by the Koords was to be a cause of Persian hostility towards the Missionaries.



[Cable Telegram.]

LONDON, Nov. 14, 1880.—A dispatch from Teheran says, there is great excitement among the inhabitants of Oroomiah against the christians, especially American Missionaries, for their supposed complicity with the Kurds. The christians, however, have convinced the Persian authorities that suspicions of complicity are baseless.

TEHERAN, Nov. 16, 1880.—3000 bodies are lying unburied within the environs of Souj Bolak.

TEHERAN, Nov. 18, 1880.—Sheik Abdullah attacked the Persians at Oroomiah on the 13th inst. The loss was heavy on both sides, but the Kurds were repulsed. They burned the villages and massacred 200 inhabitants in their retreat.

MR. DAWES TO MR. EVARTS.

MARIETTA, OHIO, November 20, 1880.

SIR: There are now at the mission station of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions at Oroomiah, in Persia, fourteen missionaries, ladies and gentlemen, who are citizens of the United States.

There can be no doubt that the present condition of war in the Province of Oroomiah subjects these missionaries to great peril. The cable messages say that the Mohammedan population is incensed at the missionaries, accusing them, falsely of course, with complicity with the Koordish Sheik, whose forces are confronting Oroomiah. It is believed by the friends of the missionaries here that it will be necessary for the Persian Government to extend special protection to them, or they may become the victims of Mohammedan fury, should they escape other dangerous contingencies of the war.

I therefore respectfully suggest that the grave emergency of the situation would appear to call for an immediate communication from this government to the Persian Government, requesting the necessary protection for the American missionaries.

I am moved to an urgent appeal to you for action in this matter by the fact that my sister, her husband and family, are of this party of missionaries.

I have, sir, &c.,

R. R. DAWES:

MR. EVARTS TO MR. DAWES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, November 26, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, calling the attention of this Department to

the perils to which you have reason to believe your sister, her husband and other American missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions are now exposed at the missionary station of Oroomiah, in Persia, in consequence of the condition of war in the province of Oroomiah, and the fact that the missionaries are falsely accused of complicity with the Koordish Sheik, whose forces, according to your advices, are confronting that province. In view of these circumstances you suggest that the emergency is one which calls for the intervention of this government with that of Persia for the protection of the American citizens in question.

In reply I beg to thank you for having called my attention to the dangers to which the ladies and gentlemen referred to in your letter are exposed, and to inform you that, as this country has no diplomatic representative in Persia, I will instruct Mr. Lowell, the Minister of the United States at London, to request the good offices of the British Government.

I have, &c.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

---

MR. EVARTS TO MR. LOWELL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 1880.

SIR: I enclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter dated the 20th instant, from the Hon R. R. Dawes, of Marietta, Ohio, a member elect of the 47th Congress, in which that gentleman calls the attention of this Department to the perils to which he says he has reason to believe his sister, her husband and other American missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions are now exposed at the missionary station at Oroomiah, in Persia, in consequence of the condition of war said to exist in the province of Oroomiah, and of the fact that the missionaries are falsely accused of complicity with the Koordish Sheik, whose forces, according to the advices received by Mr. Dawes, are confronting the province.

As the representations made by Mr. Dawes in reference to this matter are doubtless very trustworthy, and inasmuch as this country has no diplomatic representative in Persia, I have to instruct you to lose no time in communicating to the foreign office the

statements contained in Mr. Dawes' letter in regard to this matter, with a request that the representative of Her Majesty's Government in Persia may be asked to use his good offices for the protection of these American citizens, for whose safety great anxiety is felt here.

I am, &c.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

MR. LOWELL TO EARL GRANVILLE.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

LONDON, December 7, 1880.

MY LORD: I have the honor to ask your lordship's attention to a letter, a copy of which is inclosed herewith, addressed by the Hon. R. R. Dawes, of Marietta, Ohio, a member-elect of the Forty-seventh Congress, to Mr. Evarts, in which that gentleman brings to the notice of the Department of State the perils to which he says he has reason to believe his sister, her husband, and other American missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions are now exposed at the missionary station Oroomiah, in Persia, in consequence of the condition of war said to exist in the province of Oroomiah, and of the fact that the missionaries are falsely accused of complicity with the Koordish sheik, whose forces, according to the advices received by Mr. Dawes, are confronting that province.

As the representations made by Mr. Dawes in reference to this matter are doubtless very trustworthy, and inasmuch as the United States have no diplomatic representative in Persia, I am instructed to lose no time in communicating to your lordship the statements contained in Mr. Dawes' letter in regard to this matter, with a request that your lordship will kindly ask the representative of Her Majesty's Government in Persia to use his good offices for the protection of those American citizens, for whose safety great anxiety is felt in the United States. Commending this matter to your early attention,

I have, &c.,

J. R. LOWELL.

EARL GRANVILLE TO MR. LOWELL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, December 10, 1880.

Earl Granville presents his compliments to Mr. Lowell, and