

demonstrating a high academic standard and enjoying considerable popularity, as evidenced by the following contemporary account:

Four Armenian scholars (*i.e.* students) from the Scutari College, who were so anxious, a few months since, to come to our [Protestant] school, have recently gone to them (Armenians), have been received *gratis* and are about to enter. Some wealthy Armenian families of the first standing, who had determined to send their scholars to our school are now sending them to theirs, simply because the arrangements and the imposing array of teachers are so much more respectable that they prefer paying 3,000 piastres annually for each scholar than to paying 1,000 here.⁶⁸

Despite the school's reputation and the popular support it received, the Committee of Twenty-Four found itself unable to raise the necessary funds for the institutions under its jurisdiction, which included the college, and reluctantly resigned. The Patriarch again attempted to bring the *amiras* and the *sarrafs* together, but the former adamantly refused. The Patriarch then resigned. His predecessor, Stepannos Aghavni, was reinstated to the patriarchal chair. The new Patriarch was the clear choice of the *sarrafs-amiras*, and his first action was to invite a committee of *amiras* to look after the finances of the *millet*.

The dissolution of the Committee of Twenty-Four had aroused popular resentment, and there was a demonstration demanding its return. At first, the government acceded to the popular demand and the committee was reinstated on 1 July 1841. A month later, however, on 14 August 1841, the order was recalled. This time, a much larger popular demonstration was organized. The government immediately undertook an investigation of the demonstration and its leaders were sent into exile (16 September 1841). On 3 October of the same year the college was closed by the government which charged it with being the center and cause of all the turmoil in the *millet*.⁶⁹

In view of the leverage of *amiras* within the government, commentators have assumed that these decisions were instigated by the

⁶⁸ ABCFM, no. 114. Report of the Annual Meeting of 1842.

⁶⁹ Ormanian, *Azgapatum*, 3:3729-3732; Alboyadjian, "Sahmanadrutiune," pp. 197-198.