

Mme. Tsilka Tells Story of Her Captivity.

Monday evening some 300 to 400 attended the lecture in Rollstone church by Mme. Tsilka who in a simple, earnest manner told the story of her capture by the brigands, the torture of suspense as they journeyed not knowing whither, and the release and the meeting with her friends.

Rev. W. O. Conrad presented Madame who at once spoke of the first time she met Miss Ellen M. Stone, when with a group of other children she saw Miss Stone wearing a hat. None but men in that land wore a hat, yet the garments were those of a woman. Madame was brought up in a Greek priest's family and that means that any missionary was to be shunned. These children followed Miss Stone to the mission, not intending to enter, but they heard music and the effect of it was never to be forgotten. From this time till Madame Tsilka and her husband came to this country for their education and returned to Macedonia to teach their people little was related, but the real story of the capture and their journey began when a party of 13 started on horseback to a town where they were to begin their work. Not far had they traveled when they were surrounded by brigands. Madame told of her attempts to hide a watch and some money in an amusing way.

It seems that the Greek brigands will not harm a woman in any way, not even search for valuables they know she possesses. She hoped the object was simply to rob them and let them go. But they signalled Miss Stone and herself, and mounting them and giving them in charge of four men each carried them away. While among the mountains the chief came and told them that personally the brigands had nothing against them, but were desperately in need of money and should hold them for a ransom—\$110,000 which must be furnished in 20 days. Knowing this to be an impossible sum they expected death would follow.

The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. These were the words that came to the women as they leized what was meant by what the chief had said and with these in mind they slept for the first time.

As they journeyed the chief got a sprained ankle which tortured him, and a doctor among them treated it in a way to make it worse. Miss Stone who knew that Madame had trained in a hospital—an amusing reference was made of this training—suggested that she offer to assist him. This she thought she could not do but finally she asked him if she could help and so relieved him that sleep came. This helped in their treatment later making him kinder to them.

The effect of the coming of little Ellencha on the men was described and one man said that a baby's presence would unfit them for the work they had to do. The ransom was lowered to \$64,000 on account of the little girl.

The story as it came from Mme. Tsilka's lips seems little less than miraculous and the effect of the goodly lives of these two women on those brutal men was marvelous. While they did not show them actual kindness the brutalities that might have been expected were abated in some degree. Of course it was necessary to keep them alive to procure the ransom. The audience was intensely interested during the hour and more of the story and when little three years old Ellencha dressed in white clambered up the steps to her mother applause followed.

If the recital of this story does not make all who heard it thankful for the blessings of good government nothing can do so.

The father at the close of the lecture, held the little child in his arms, while almost the entire audience went to greet her.