

Ovonniss Bassmagian (- 16 Oct 1878)

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An Ex-Mussulman's Monument

The estate of Ovanes Bassmagian, who died at Providence hospital, in October 1878, was the subject of a final order by Justice MacArther in the Probate court yesterday. Rev. Dr. J.L. French, who attended him in his last moments, when he became a convert to Christianity, and administered on his estate, had filed a petition in which he sets forth that after waiting over a year and no heirs having appeared, he wishes to be relieved from the trust. He proposes to expend \$800 of the \$2,841 left by the deceased on a monument to his memory in the Congressional cemetery, and give the balance to be a hospital for consumptives, according to the last wish of Bassmagian. The court authorized \$700 to be paid for a monument, and the rest disposed of as the deceased had desired. The latter was an importer of rare oils and silks from Turkey, of which country he was a native, and died while on his way South for his health.

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A Decision in Favor of Turkish Heirs

Yesterday, in the Probate Court, Judge Cox made an order in the case of the estate of Ovonniss Bassmajian, ordering distribution of the estate to the Turkish heirs on the 10th of December, if no cause be shown to the contrary, and directing publication to that effect. The deceased was a Turk, who came here in 1878 and died at Providence hospital in November of that year. He had renounced the faith of the Mussulman and was baptized as a Christian by Rev. John L. French, who was his constant attendant for some time before his death. He directed that Mr. French take charge of his property, and after paying his funeral expenses and erecting a monument over his grave, devote the balance of the proceeds of the sale of his effects to the establishment of a hospital for consumptives. After his death, Mr. French was appointed administrator. The news of his death reached his relatives abroad, and they, by S.B. Chittenden, jr., of New York, filed a petition for distribution. Mr. French filed yesterday a petition for leave to dispose of the fund, now about \$20,000, as the deceased directed, mentioning that the deceased had expressly desired that his relatives in Turkey should not inherit his money, as they had been the cause of his leaving home. Judge Cox held that the requirements necessary to make this direction a legal will, the presence of three witnesses and its immediate reduction to writing, not having been complied with, the heirs at-law were entitled to distribution.