

Handout #4

Sights and Character of New York's "Little Syria": A Quarter of City Where Uniform Politeness Goes Hand in Hand with a Determination Not to Allow Total Conquest by the Spirit of Rush and Bustle, New York Times. New York, N.Y., March 29, 1893, p 32

Excerpts

There are several schools conducted by Roman Catholic and Presbyterian missions. One of these is in charge of a comely Syrian girl with snapping black eyes and pleasant manners. She has twenty five little scholars, and has initiated them into the mysteries of the American primer. Their natural politeness has been intensified by her admonitions and instructions, and when visitors enter they *salaam* profoundly. They look bright and some day should be discreet voters. They are taught to salute the American flag, and to sing "Yankee Doodle" and "My County Tis of Thee..."

The young girls are more Americanized than their elders. Occasionally one meets a girl whose ears are weighted with heavy gold hoops, and whose apparel savors strongly the East, but stylishly made clothes of New York cut, and "loves of bonnets" are the rule instead of the exception.