

financed its reconstruction in 1830. It was renamed after Bezdjian. In 1832 Bezdjian paid for the opening of a school at Eyyup. During the same year, thanks to his financial largesse, a school was built at Kanli Kilise. This school was sponsored by the *esnaf*, guild, of *mehanacis* or tavern keepers, who provided its annual budgets. The opening of two other schools was also financed by Bezdjian: a school for boys, called Boghosian after his father, and another for girls, Varvarian, so named after his mother. To guarantee income for the yearly budgets of these two schools Bezdjian *amira* donated 250,000 *kuruş* as an inviolable endowment with the proviso that its proceeds would be used only by the school. Furthermore, in collaboration with Djanig *Amira* Papazian (or Simonian), Bezdjian financed in 1830 the construction of two schools for girls (Sts. Hripsimiants and Sts. Gayianiants), and two schools for boys (St. Etjmiadzin and St. Lusavoritch) in the Kernavulo and Skordella sections of Pera. Moreover, two water fountains were built near each school, and the expense of their construction was shared by Bezdjian *Amira* and Garabed *Amira* Balian.¹⁰

The individual who founded the greatest number of schools after Bezdjian was Hovhannes *Amira* Dadian. In 1844, he established a school named Ardzruni at Makri Köy (or Bakir Köy) for the Armenian inhabitants of that locality almost all of whom worked at the nearby canon works.¹¹ In 1847, he founded a school for boys and another for girls at Narli Kapu. In 1851, he paid for the construction of a school named Dadian, after his family, at Azadli. The annual expenses of this school as well as the others were either financed by him or a member of his family. To defray the budgetary expenditures of the Dadian school at Azadli he willed two houses and a store to the institution. In addition to these, many schools were established in the villages and towns in close proximity to Istanbul as well as a school at Izmit thanks to Hovhannes *Amira*'s financial contributions.¹²

¹⁰ **Zartarian**, *Hishatakaran*, 2nd ed. (Cairo, 1933-1939), 7:23; **Torkomian**, *Eremia Tchelepii*, 1:240, 310, 2:422; **Asadur**, *Polsoy Hayere*, pp. 126-127, 135; **Garabed Iutiudjian**, "Mankutean Hishatakner" ["Memories of Childhood"], *Masis* (Constantinople), 6 March 1873, p. 133.

¹¹ This school was later named Dadian; a junior high school, it had 449 pupils in 1963. See **Boghosian**, *Dadian Gerdastane*, pp. 87-88.

¹² **Asadur**, *Polsoy Hayere*, p. 168; **Boghosian**, *Dadian Gerdastane*, pp. 86-90; **Alboyadjian**, *Les Dadian*, pp. 56-65.