

daughter was married to a member of the Apigian family.⁸⁶ Mgrditch *Amira* Miridjanian's daughter was married to Bedros *Amira* Papazian;⁸⁷ both families enjoyed great renown and were active in Armenian *millet* affairs.

Up to the 1820s and 1830s there is no noticeable trend of intermarriage among members of *amira* families. After this period, however, a pattern of intermarriage among prominent *amira* family members emerges. To mention a few, Mikayel *Amira* Pishmishian's ("chief of the nation") second daughter was married to Harutiu *Amira* Bezdjian's nephew Grabed *Ağa* in 1831;⁸⁸ a daughter of Djanig *Amira* Papazian was married to a member of the Hovuian family.⁸⁹ Such marriages occurred more frequently around the middle of the nineteenth century, when the *amiras* had been a power in Armenian life for nearly a century. Arakel Bey Dadian's daughter married Sarkis Bey Balian;⁹⁰ a granddaughter of Varteres *Amira* Misakian married Krikor-Mihran Bey Dadian;⁹¹ the enumeration could go on much longer.

Despite the increase in family relations among *amiras*, there was never a decisively dominant endogamic pattern. Many an *amira* married into families of lower social rank, at times of humble economic condition. If, on the one hand, amicable relations developed through marital and baptismal ties between *amira* families, on the other hand feuds and conflicts created an inimical atmosphere which pitted individual *amiras* and families against each other. (This point will be discussed in Chapter IV.)

The geographical origins of *amiras* are diverse; yet it is a fact that about half of them came from the town of Akn⁹² (in Ottoman Turkish Egin, presently Kemaliye⁹³), or were the children of emigrants from that town. Many students have written extensively on Akn, yet none has ever attempted

⁸⁶ **Varjabedian**, *Hobeleani Khasgiughi*, p. 156. The name of the husband is not mentioned.

⁸⁷ **Torkomian**, *Eremia Tchelepii*, 2:693.

⁸⁸ **Azadian**, *Akn II*, p. 124.

⁸⁹ **Varjabedian**, *Hobeleani Khasgiughi*, p. 170 (marriage should have been between 1830 and 1840).

⁹⁰ **Torkomian**, *Eremia Tchelepii*, 2:659.

⁹¹ **Boghosian**, *Dadian Gerdastane*, p. 264.

⁹² To be exact 45 percent, 73 out of a total of 164.

⁹³ The town changed its name from Egin to Kemaliye in 1938, see *Islam Ansiklopedisi*, s.v. "Egin," by **Besim Darkot**; *Türk Ansiklopedisi*, s.v. "Kemaliye;" *Haykakan Sovetakan Hanragitaran* [Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia], s.v. "Akn."