

Most members of the family were highly gifted, but the outstanding figure among Dad Arakel's successors is his third son, Hovhannes *Amira* Dadian (1798-1869). It is worth examining and studying the work of this remarkable man. His experience at the mill started when he was hardly fifteen years old. In 1820 he was named director of the paper mill at Beykoz (founded by an Armenian named Artin). In 1826 he served as director of the spinning mill at Eyyup. A year later Hovhannes *Amira* devised a new machine for the piercing and rifling of the barrels of muskets, and then a device to polish them. Mahmud II was so pleased with Hovhannes and his older brother Simon that he personally expressed his satisfaction and gave Simon 15,000 and Hovhannes 10,000 *куруş*.⁷² The following year Hovhannes built three more machines for the manufacture of muskets at the plant at Dolmabahce, four others for spinning, and a little later a water pump.⁷³

In order to improve his technical knowledge, Hovhannes *Amira* made extensive trips to Europe. His first voyage, in 1835, was overland to Austria, Italy, France and England. There he showed particular interest in chemistry, and gained up-to-date knowledge on iron foundries and weaving factories. As the official representative of the Sultan, he was well received everywhere he visited.⁷⁴ At the end of this yearlong trip, he brought with him modern machinery for the powder mills whose operation he reorganized completely. He had also obtained many diplomas from various institutions, and was consequently granted the important medal of *iftihar* in 1838.

The first innovations introduced by Hovhannes Dadian were related chiefly to the two gunpowder mills. Not only the quality of the powder was upgraded,⁷⁵ but new methods of manufacture initiated;⁷⁶ all of these duly recognized and appreciated by the Ottoman government. The most significant contributions this talented man made to the Ottoman economy went

⁷² *Endardsak Oratsoyts*, 1932, pp. 98-99.

⁷³ **Boghosian**, *Dadian Gerdastane*, pp. 52-55.

⁷⁴ **A. Berberian**, *Patmutiun*, pp. 264-265.

⁷⁵ Prussian engineers tested the strength of the gunpowder manufactured at the Azadli mill, compared it with the powder made in England and they found the two of equal quality and standard. See *Arshaloys Araratean* (Izmir), 18 October 1841.

⁷⁶ In 1846, with the assistance of his three sons, Hovhannes *Amira* tested the powder manufactured from cotton at the presence of Sultan Abdülmecid, with successful results. See *Hayastan* (Constantinople), 30 November 1846.