



AQTAR NEWSPAPER

AQTAR, a Persian newspaper published in Istanbul by Āqā Moḥammad-Ṭāher Qarājādāgī (or Tabrīzī) beginning on 16 Du'l-ḥeġġa 1292/13 January 1876. For many years *Aqtar* appeared weekly, and from time to time even more frequently. The first Persian newspaper to be published outside Iran, it was also one of the few to be printed with movable type, and soon acquired a wide reputation as a well-written periodical of moderate views. Among its well-known contributors were Mīrzā Āqā Khan Kermānī, Shaikh Aḥmad Rūhī, and Mīrzā Mahdī Tabrīzī. E. G. Browne, writing in 1888, described it as “the only Persian newspaper worth reading.” Its main field of interest was politics and social conditions, and in spite of its moderate tone and the fact that Āqā Moḥammad-Ṭāher had originally started it at the suggestion of an Iranian diplomat in Istanbul, Mīrzā Najaf-qolī Khan, it soon attracted unfavorable notice in government circles in Tehran and came under attack by government-sponsored newspapers there. In 1313/1895-96, doubtless as a result of diplomatic representations, it was suppressed by the Ottoman government, and did not reappear. According to E. G. Browne, Āqā Moḥammad-Ṭāher was still living in 1914.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

M. S. Hāšemī, *Tārīk-ejārāyed va majallāt-e Īrān* I, pp. 63-65.

E. G. Browne, *Press and Poetry*, pp. 17-18, 36-37.