

Confidential.

All-India Missionaries to Muslims League.

NEWS AND NOTES, No. 5.

September 1912.

CONTROVERSY.

We have been asked our opinion concerning controversy in our work amongst Muslims. Our correspondent says that "In the olden days, it was controversy which produced the best of all converts." Now to our mind the one outstanding feature of the Lucknow Conference was the singular testimony given by Muslim converts present to the remarkable influence of the personal life of missionaries upon their life. It was love, kindness and sympathy that broke down every prejudice and won their hearts to Christ.

We do not see how we can avoid controversy altogether when we remember the anti-Christian nature of Muslim Theology. The Rev. W. A. Rice, M.A., in his *Crusaders of the Twentieth Century*, says, "There is not one cardinal fact concerning the life, person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ which is not either denied, perverted, misrepresented, or at least ignored in Muhammadan theology." Therefore we may expect that our presentation of the truth, whether by preaching, conversation, or in the printed page, will rouse the Muslim to opposition. Sometimes argument is good, and even may be encouraged if it is likely to remove error and be helpful to the listeners.

We have just been re-reading Prof. Macdonald's "*Aspects of Islam*." It is a book of lectures delivered to missionary students for the benefit of missionaries to Muslims, and is dedicated to the memory of a missionary to Muslims who was killed at Adana. It is a book worth reading. Prof. Macdonald says, "The missionary will not be a controversialist, although he must know controversy and be able with dialectic to give a reason for the faith that is in him. Often he will find that it is not best to attack Muhammadanism directly, but to let the new ideas eat away its foundations." We must know controversy but keep it in the background.

The same applies to our literature. For the sake of those who have very real difficulties in regard to the Divine Sonship, the Trinity, the Atonement and other controversial topics, we should keep by us suitable booklets and tracts on these subjects for judicious distribution, but we should know each book or tract well ourselves before we pass it on.

Sometimes we think there is a surfeit of tracts for Muslims in India of the controversial type. In many places where much preaching has been done for many years, these tracts have done their work, and the people are hungering for something more constructive and advanced. In our opinion we need, now, books and tracts which emphasize the inner meaning of our Lord's teaching and bring out the mystical aspect of Christianity, as that is what appeals to the thoughtful Muslim at the present time. Are not these the "new ideas" that will "eat away" the foundations of Islam? Bengel said, "*Enter upon no controversy without knowledge, nor without love, nor without necessity.*"

IN THE WORK.

Maulvi Bazaar, S. Sylhet: The League News and Notes and enclosed tracts received to-day—many thanks. It is an interesting number. I have some hundreds of Munro's tracts on "Moslems in Liverpool" (abridged) in English and Bengali. I shall be glad to get them into circulation. I can send them to you or I can send them to any member of the League if they just pay the postage. The postage will be about two pice per dozen.

I am preaching every day now in the open air on "The Word of the Cross." Afterwards we go to the Church close by for an after-meeting. The services are very well attended, scores of Muhammadans come and listen attentively, even when we speak of the death of Christ. The after-meetings are not a success as far as numbers are concerned, but otherwise they are, for we as workers have a fine time in prayer.

J. PENGWERN JONES.

Aurangabad, Deccan: I can report good work done, and great interest aroused, by lectures at Nasik and Sholapur, through the lectures given by Mr. Bihari Lall and myself to Muhammadans. At the former place, this was the first occasion on which any definite attempt had been made to meet Muslims, though our Mission has been at work among the Hindus there for many years, the late Dean Farrar being born there, whilst his father was a C.M.S. Missionary. There is hope of much good work in future. In Sholapur lectures had been several times given to the Muslims, and there seems to be an earnest spirit of enquiry. My subject was "The Life of Christ," Mr. Bihari Lall following with "Kaffara" (atonement). The visit to Malegaon had to be postponed on account of an outbreak of cholera there, and the Ahmednagar visit, because of weddings there, and now all such work is suspended through Ramzan. I am looking forward to recommencing this work about October 1st.

I have an urgent request this morning from another town, Yeola, where there are many Mussulmans, and where our tracts have been going regularly for some months past, to go and have a talk with them. All this is matter for thankfulness to God, but it makes us realize more than ever our own personal insufficiency, and that our sufficiency is only of God, if we would be able ministers of the new covenant. Therefore we ask prayer.

HENRY J. SMITH.

PRAISE AND PRAYER.

"Pray with unceasing prayer and entreaty, on every fitting occasion in the Spirit, and be always on the alert to seize opportunities for doing so, with unwearied persistence and entreaty on behalf of all God's people. . . . So that, outspoken and fearless, I (we) may make known the truths of the Good News."

Eph. vi. 18-19. (WEYMOUTH).

Bangalore: I suppose most of the Missionaries know of *Hikayati Najāt Dahinda* just published by Miss Marston, which is most useful for those who are visiting among the Zenana Women. It is published in Persian Urdu by the Methodist Press, Lucknow, and costs four annas with postage.

Prayer is asked for some Muhammadan families. In each case the parents were brought up in a *Christian Orphanage* but reverted to Muhammadanism after their marriage. Pray that they may be convicted of sin and led back into the Light, especially the mother of one family who is now seriously ill.

E. M. P.

Bulandshahr, U.P.: I have a great deal of work among the Muhammadan Women. Two years ago we had baptisms here. The work in that family began through the woman taught by us in her *Zenana*. At present we have some enquirers, and we feel the need of prayer.

H. R. T.

Calcutta: C.M.S. Mission to Muslims: I have to leave my work for home in *England* at present, owing to a threatened breakdown, consequent upon overwork, but hope to be back again soon. I send as subject matter for *praise*—the baptism of two young men of 24 years, Muhammadan converts, baptized by me in this Mission last week.

A. H. PHILLIPS.

Aurangabad, Deccan: I would like to ask prayer for some apostates. One family baptized last year after a very long period of probation, lapsed back to Islam in the spring of this year, but is apparently most anxious to be again restored. Prayer is asked for *true repentance to all*, and for wisdom and love to us who have to deal with them. Also for a Eurasian who became a Muhammadan seven years ago, and is now desirous of restoration—that his repentance may be genuine, and that his Muhammadan wife may also be inclined to remain with him, and that she and their two children may eventually acknowledge Christ.

H. J. S.

Brahmanbaria: *Prayer* is asked for a Muhammadan convert who is exposed to a very subtle form of temptation from Christians. Full of love and enthusiasm for our Lord, he cannot understand why Bengali workers should be so set in their routine. He is eager to talk of his recently-acquired joy to everyone he meets, and he thinks every Christian should be the same. But they do not agree with him, and tell him so. Pray that his fire may not be quenched by their attitude.

J. T.

London: (One of our members on furlough writes): "In my deputation work I have tried to give prominence to the needs of the Muslim world and the challenge of Islam. In some cases there was very appreciative and, I hope, responsive interest. In others, the Muhammadans seemed to be much less interesting as a people than say the *Namasudras* or the *Hill Tribes*."

J. R.

Pray that the leaders of the Indian Muslim League may be led to see that the essential thing in life is to understand their true relationship with God, and not to the Government. If they are not careful politics will destroy all their instinct of prayer.

Pray that great grace and wisdom and patience may be given to all who have much to do with ignorant, bigoted, uncouth Muhammadans.

Pray for the breaking of Muhammadan prejudice to Jesus as the Son of God.

NOTES.

Dr. Rockey's Booklet: It was not till after the proofs of the last issue of *News and Notes* left our desk that we received Dr. Rockey's fine gift to the League of a supply of his interesting booklet, "*For India—Muhammad or Christ, which?*" We are sure the members will appreciate his kindness and pass on the books to others, so that interest may spread. Write to us if more copies are required.



Dr. Zwemer's Move; We see by the papers that Dr. Zwemer is to go to Cairo, the intellectual centre of the Muslim world. From now onwards his address will be the Nile Press, Cairo.



New Urdu Tracts: The Rev. H. J. Smith, M.A., of Aurungabad, Deccan, has brought out the following new tracts. They may be obtained at Rs. 4 per 1,000.

- No. 9. "Isá maslub húa ki nahín?" Was Jesus Crucified?
 .. 12. "Máriá Hanwá aur Bibi Mariyam." Eve and Mary, a Women's Tract by Miss Harris of Patehpur.
 .. 13. "Kyá masihí mushrik hain?" Are Christians polytheists?
 .. 14. "Málik-i-Makán." The Master of the House. A Women's Tract, by Miss Marston.

One of the former tracts, No. 4—"Where is the Original Gospel?"—is still in stock.



New Members:

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|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 57. Dr. C. S. Mead, B.A. | ... | Orakanki, Faridpur, Bengal. |
| 58. Miss Beach | ... | Cawnpore. |
| 59. Miss Ross Taylor | ... | Bulandshahr, U.P. |
| 60. Miss Lanter | ... | Do. do. |
| 61. Miss A. E. Donnelly | ... | Calcutta. |
| 62. Rev. W. Goldsack | ... | Bengal. |
| 63. Rev. J. Reid | ... | Jessore, Bengal. |
| 64. Rev. G. J. Dann | ... | Bankipore, Bihar. |
| 65. Miss H. Davies, M.B. | ... | Habiganj, S. Sylhet. |
| 66. Rev. J. Lampard | ... | Godhra, Gujarat. |



Requests for Prayer and Items of Interest received for publication in *News and Notes* up to the 20th of each month. J. Takk, Hon. Sec., Brahmanbaria, E. Bengal.