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News and Notes

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Members of the Missionaries to Muslims League

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Report of the League for 1922.

THE year that has just closed has been notable for the concentrated interest of Moslems everywhere in the rising fortunes of the forces under Mustapha Kamal Pasha. In Indian papers the term "Kamalist" grew to be as popular as "Khilafatist" had been; and when eventually the better served armies of the Angora Government put to flight the disorganized and dispirited remnant of the Greek forces, the pent-up feelings of Moslems of all classes here, as probably elsewhere, found expression in shouts of unconcealed delight. 'Fatah!' 'Fatah!' Was it not a long-delayed triumph for the sword of Islam? Of great significance too, as we believe the future will shew, has been the bold (too-bold some Moslems think) step taken by the Angora Government in respect of the Khalif of all the Moslems.

It is too early yet to gauge the effect on the minds of our Moslem neighbours, both of the success of the Turkish arms and of this contemplated curtailment of the traditional powers of the Khalif—but these matters have inevitably given us Christian people also, food for thought.

While they have been engrossed in 'Kamal' and 'Khalif,' the rapid succession of events and their possible bearing on the cause we have so much at heart, have made us think of the 'King' and His 'Kingdom.' And we have surely prayed, not once but many times, that somehow, in spite of, and because of this commotion, a highway for our God may be prepared, and a way opened into countless hearts that have hitherto been closed to the gospel message and the appeal of Christ.

Dr. J. H. Jowett says in one of his recent books: "We are always purposed by our God to be more than a match for the largest circumstances, more than level with the vastest opportunity, more than

adequate to the most exacting task. Mighty days are days of royal privilege because they are days of promised power and endowment.... The day of convulsion is the day of the Lord. The fearfully unfamiliar task is a strange door into new inheritance. Our impossible marks the very hour of grace. In the 'mighty days' we can unlock the mighty power of God..... We can interpret our difficulties as the index of our resources. Our mission betokens our capital in the bank and we can draw upon 'the unsearchable riches' to the last demand of our need." Almost had he addressed his words to the members of this League!

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That the Lord has enabled us through another year to labour on for Him among these people, amidst much outward excitement and frequent evidence of resentment on their part, is cause enough for expressions of profound gratitude.

Still these Moslems come to us, heralds of the Cross of Christ, for instruction in the Scriptures. The Spirit of the Lord is surely at work amongst them, and some for whom we have prayed have been led into His glorious liberty. Let not their great numbers appal us, nor the hardness of their hearts and their oft-times bitter speech cause us to hold back. The battle is the Lord's and the victory also. May we all receive from Him of His grace and power to be more bold, more enthusiastic, and more assured of success in this New Year of enterprise.

* * * * *

In respect of the League itself it is very gratifying to be able to report that the circle of our interests and influence has again been greatly enlarged. Commencing the year with a membership of 266 we concluded it with exactly 300. Altogether 48 new members joined us during the year, 10 in excess of the number in the previous year; but we have meanwhile sustained the loss of 14 members, 8 have resigned, 3 have lost touch with us, while 3 have been taken from us by death.

One member alone was responsible for successfully introducing the League to 16 of the new members, and already this year he has sent in 7 of the 15 new names which appeared in the January number. Here is an example others might emulate!

With regard to our finances the position is much the same as reported last year. On another page will be found the audited balance sheet, showing a sum of Rs. 441-0-3 in hand at the close of the year. Of this sum, Rs. 125-0-0 is to be understood to be subscriptions paid in advance, leaving a net balance of say, Rs. 316-0-0. To this latter sum may be added in time about Rs. 60-0-0, comprising arrears of subscriptions not yet paid up.

With a similar sum as net balance in hand last year, it was agreed that we devote Rs. 300 to the preparation and publication of a Life of Jesus in simple modern English which should serve as a text for translation into the vernaculars. We sincerely regret that this very

necessary piece of work has not yet been undertaken, though we still entertain strong hopes that it may be done. It is primarily a question of finding the time in the midst of numerous other duties. The matter of the cost is also a serious factor in the case, for we have been informed that Rs. 300 would go but a very little way, with prices ruling as they do at present.

To all who have, by their timely and valuable contributions to the pages of this little monthly, helped to make this paper both interesting and useful, we tender our grateful thanks. In so far as we all do our part by sending in notes and queries regarding our work and occasional requests for prayer and praise, we thereby strengthen this most welcome bond of fellowship which exists between us.

The Present Situation.

(a) In Egypt.

QR. Upson, Superintendent of the Nile Mission Press, Cairo, on the eve of a journey to Palestine to visit colporteurs, and thence into Syria to discuss Christian Literature with friends in Damascus and Beirut, kindly sent us the following notes on the present situation in Egypt.

“You ask whether, after the recent upheaval in Egypt, mission work is likely to prove easier or more difficult. I must say that in general, I do not see very much sign of greater interest amongst the people in regard to Christianity. I say ‘in general,’ because there are exceptions to every rule, and there are two great exceptions in Egypt just now. One is the Alliance of Honour (which I myself founded), for the work of which society Moslem students seem indeed to be very grateful; the other is a little movement in an out-of-the-way village, S. of Cairo, but not so far south as Upper Egypt—where we hear that 260 fellabeen Moslems have enquired as to a better religion than theirs, one that would shew them the way to heaven and assure to them eternal life.

As to Cairo itself, strange as it may seem, I know less of it than any part of Egypt, for when at home in Cairo, I am so busy working at literature. But I may say that the very painful feeling now existing is not so much between Moslems and Christians, as between one political party and another. The recent murder of two members of Adly Pasha’s constitutional liberals has created a great sensation.

The Moslems are somewhat disappointed that Mustapha Kamal did not get as far as Egypt before the truce of Mudania; for they all believed that this was his objective. The Cairo daily, Al-Ahram, which has the best London telegrams, blamed the Kamalists very much indeed for entering into the truce, and says that their chances are practically gone now for the Allies are much stronger than they were at that time. So there is a keen feeling of disappointment that Islam has failed to get back its former prestige.

The recent agitation for Egypt to 'go dry,' has revealed one interesting thing, viz., that the majority of Moslems have to acknowledge that the clause in the new constitution that Egypt in an *Islamic* state is of no practical use as a basis for the prohibition of strong drink!!

There seems to be a growing feeling that Church and State are no longer one. In general, the Moslems of Egypt seem to be far more interested in the strife of party politics than in questions concerning the Khilafate."

A. T. UPSON.

The Moslem World, January, 1923.

Much necessary preliminary work of road-making is being done by Christian governments in Moslem lands where railroads and highways are now making it possible for the Christian missionary to evangelize lands which hitherto have been almost inaccessible. Other road-makers described in the leading editorial by Dr. Zwemer in the *MOSLEM WORLD* for January, are the pioneers of the intellect and the soul, those who by translating the Scriptures and producing other literature are also "preparing the way of the Lord" among Moslems.

In looking at the tasks which lie before the Church in the new year, F. Herbert Rhodes, of China, reviews the changed situation in the Mohammedan world, and points to the doors wide open everywhere for the Christian missionary to enter; the increased readiness of the followers of the Prophet to read the Scriptures, and the fact that increasing numbers of inquirers are now being taught in various fields.

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board, contributes in a most interesting and informing article on the problems of the work among Moslems in Persia, which country he has recently visited.

Work for Mohammedans in British Malaysia and Dutch East Indies is given special attention in this issue. Dr. Zwemer, who has just returned from a visit to that field, writes about the Native Press in those lands, showing the extraordinary activity of Mohammedan propaganda through newspapers, periodicals and books in Arabic, Malay, Javanese and other languages spoken by the fifty millions of Moslems in that great island world.

Other articles by Rev. W. T. Cherry, of Singapore, and Rev. H. B. Mansell, of Java, indicate the greatness of the task of evangelizing these interesting peoples of the Malay race, among whom such extraordinary success has already been achieved with very inadequate forces and equipment. The Moros of the Phillipine Islands offer a remarkable opportunity for evangelistic effort, as Rev. F. C. Laubach shows in a most informing article.

Published by the Missionary Review Publishing Co.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

New rates for 1923—50 cents a copy and \$2.00 a year.

The Christian Literature Society, Post Box, 501, Madras, act as agents in India for 'The Moslem World' and will be glad to receive orders from intending subscribers. The price in Indian currency has now risen to Rs. 6-8-0. Please send orders direct to Madras.

Notes.

At a recent Conference in Calcutta of representative workers of the English Baptist Missionary Society in India, it was unanimously resolved that, in face of the pressing claim of the 13 million Muslims to be found within the sphere of the Society's operations, members of the Mission Staff, both men and women, Indian and European, should be encouraged to equip themselves by special study to become more efficient messengers of the Gospel to these people. Steps are also to be taken to bring the claims of the Muslims of India, every year, before the students in training for the ministry in colleges both in India and at home.

This is the least, as it seems to us, that any missionary body working amongst the 70 million Muslims of India could do, and we trust that responsible members of the League connected with other Missionary Boards will make it their business to plead with their own conferences for the adoption of a similar policy. The M. M. League is here, a living bond of strength and hope, to assist all missionaries who may feel called to make the evangelisation of Muslims their life work.

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It affords us genuine pleasure to announce that a lady, herself actively engaged in carrying the Gospel to Muslims, has placed in the hands of the Secretary of the League a considerable sum of money, for the purpose of establishing what is to be known as 'The Islamic Studies Circulating Library.' Her object in doing so is to encourage those who are undertaking the task of evangelising the Muslims, to read more, and to put them in the way of obtaining books which they cannot very well purchase. Many of you will hail this news with delight, as did the members of your Executive Committee. We hope soon to publish more details, but for the present it will suffice to say that, *so far as practicable*, membership will be open to all who are members of the M. M. League, on payment of a small enrolment fee, and a very small annual subscription.

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What about a Course of Study in Islamic Subjects?—Ten years ago, the Executive of the League instituted such a course, and your Secretary can assure you that it proved to be to him of the greatest value for the purpose of understanding the Muslim mind and the Muslim problem. Through the generosity of the friend who is founding the aforementioned Library, it will be easier than ever for some keen spirits to read such a course. The Executive is fully prepared to arrange for this. Will those who are anxious to start, kindly send in their names to the Secretary.

* * * * *

The Secretary earnestly desires your prayers on behalf of Rev. Salamat Ali Khan, a brother beloved, who is conducting an Evangelistic Campaign in this city among Urdu-speaking Muslims. Formerly a Muslim, he was baptized about 25 years ago and has been for over 20 years an honoured worker of the B.M.S. in North India. His heart's desire is that the 'people of Islam' may be saved. Knowing Islam from within, and with a vital experience of the saving and keeping power of Christ, he makes a forceful and persuasive speaker. We have arranged for bi-weekly addresses in our Reading Room which is situated at the heart of the Muslim quarter. A good start has been made, and your prayers are earnestly requested for this brother, that God will not only protect him, but replenish him from day to day with the gifts of His grace and wisdom and love.

The members of a small Christian Community in a Moslem area in East Bengal have, on their own initiative, made excellent arrangements to meet the requirements of Moslem inquirers who are constantly coming in from the interior of the district to receive instruction in the Christian faith.

Realizing the need of accommodation and privacy, these good people have raised funds with which they have built a rest house supplied with bedding. They hope soon to add a cook house and the necessary utensils. At present, enquirers stay for 3 or 4 days only and during this time six annas per head per day is paid out of Church funds to the Christian households which take turns in cooking and providing meals for those using the rest house. We commend this plan to the consideration of members of the League.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE BIBLE IN ISLAM. By the Rev. W. Goldsack. Published by C. L. S., Madras. 80 Pp. 8 Annas.

We understand that with the production of this little book Mr. Goldsack completes his most useful and concise 'In Islam' series. He has dealt with the more prominent topics that enter into what is known as the Muslim controversy—God Christ, Muhammad, The Quran, The Traditions, and now, The Bible, and perhaps this last is the most important topic of all, at least from the Muslims' point of view. It is upon *this* that they are focussing their attention; it is against *this* that they are directing their attacks; for it is precisely from *this* that they have most to fear...the Bible.

Well does our author know this to be so, and in seven brief chapters he skilfully marshals the main facts in this particular field of the controversy. In the first two chapters he treats of Muhammad's knowledge of, and attitude towards, the Bible, and in the last two he examines statements on Biblical doctrine, and records of Biblical history as found in the book of Muhammad and in his traditional sayings.

This constitutes one-half of the vexed subject;—viz: Muhammad's 'knowledge' of the Bible. Abundant support is forthcoming for the conclusion that Muhammad was, in fact, woefully ignorant of the Bible—its identity, its history, its teaching. He was tricked by unscrupulous Jews; he unhesitatingly accepted yarns whose source was the Talmud and not the Bible at all; he gathered information by hearsay and trusted to memory, and so sometimes got hopelessly wrong over simple facts of history.

Then we are given the other side.

Quick to see the glaring discrepancies between the Quran and the Bible, Muslims through the centuries have been just as quick to find the cause in alleged wilful corruption of the Bible itself by Jews or Christians or both.

Our author summons to his aid the published statements* of the founder of Aligarh College, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, to prove that the evidence of the Quran even is all against the notion that the Bible has been thus mutilated. Similarly, it is made quite plain by quotations from the Quran (quotations are given in the original Arabic), that if the Bible

* See 'The Seventh Discourse of Sir Syed Ahmad,' published as a booklet by the C. L. S., Madras, price 2 annas — a most useful essay to put into the hands of educated Muslims.

is to be rejected on account of verbal variations in, say, the synoptic gospels, then the consistent Muslim must reject the Quran itself for similar reasons.

It is the fashion for Muslims now, following the Qadianis, to assert that the entire scriptures of the Jews and Christians have been declared abrogated by certain passages in the Quran. The author shows that this contention is of recent growth, and that it finds no sort of support from the earlier and most trustworthy commentators.

This is a most compact little handbook and we should like to see it welcomed and used by all workers among Muslims. It will prove 'strong meat' for the average educated Muslim reader, and in places will assuredly prove unpalatable, for here and there the author does not attempt to conceal his scorn for the ignorance and insincerity of so many of these bitter opponents of the Christian Faith.

L. B. J.

A MUSALMANI-BENGALI—ENGLISH DICTIONARY, by Rev. W. Goldsack, Jessore, Bengal, containing nearly 6,000 words, 120 p.p. Price 1/8/-, postage 2 annas. To be obtained of the author.

Yet once more those interested in the great Moslem people are compelled to acknowledge their growing indebtedness to the labours of William Goldsack. Here is a new work the like of which, so far as we are aware, has not been attempted hitherto—a dictionary consisting of Arabic and Persian terms, in their Bengali garb, such as are more or less commonly used by the Muhammadan masses of the province of Bengal. The presence of such terms in a Bengali setting is explained by the author in his preface. 'The Muhammadan supremacy in Bengal, before the advent of British rule, imposed an almost exclusively Persi-Arabic vocabulary upon the people wherever matters affecting the administration of the country were concerned. This 'Mussalmani' vocabulary still persists.....'

The need for such a dictionary will be readily recognized by those acquainted with the facts. 'Although many of these foreign terms are to be found scattered through the pages of ordinary Bengali dictionaries, there are still hundreds of words in use today for the meaning of which the reader will search in vain.....' It is confidently hoped that not only missionaries, but Government officials, planters and others, who come into contact either with the literature or the spoken language of the Mohammadans of Bengal, will find this to be a most useful compilation.

One patent difficulty in respect of the presence and use of such terms in a Bengalicised form is the question of transliteration. As a matter of fact there is no recognised standard of transliteration, with the result that weird and divergent spellings are found for the same word.

The author faces the exacting demands of Arabic gutturals on the one hand and the rigidity and limitations of modern Bengali on the other and has devised what seems to be a satisfactory *via media*.

It remains to add that the printer's work is well done. We can confidently commend this work to the 75 members of the League resident in Bengal, and would urge them to send in their orders at an early date to Mr. Goldsack,

L. B. J.

For Praise and Prayer.

- PRAISE** for times of 'great opportunity' amongst young people reported by a member somewhere in Turkey, and prayer that she may be enabled to use this chance to the fullest advantage.
- PRAISE** for the resolution formed by the Baptist Missionary Conference in India to encourage members of the staff in Moslem areas to equip themselves for this work.
- PRAISE** for the generous gift which makes possible the founding of the Circulating Library.
- PRAYER** for the Indian brother now conducting an evangelistic campaign with the Secretary, that his labours may be owned and blessed of God to the emancipation of those who hear him.
- PRAYER** is urgently sought on behalf of a promising young Moslem enquirer in East Bengal.

M. M. League, Financial Statement for 1922.

Receipts.	Rs.	A.	P.	Expenditure.	Rs.	A.	P.
Balance brot. fd. ...	462	1	3	Printer's Bills ...	553	8	0
Donation ...	6	8	0	Postages ...	35	1	9
Members' Subscriptions:				Office Sundries ...	19	14	0
Arrears 49-13-0				Cost of Tracts ...	5	2	0
1922 Subs. 414-5-9				Refund of Subs. ...	2	10	0
In advance 124-8-0					616	3	9
	588	10	9	Balance for 1923 ...	441	0	3
Rs. ...	1057	4	0	Rs.	1057	4	0

Audited and found correct—William Carey. 15-1-23.

Death of a Member.

We have heard only recently of the death about a year ago of Miss E. H. Todd of North India. We regret that we have no further information at present.

The annual subscription to the League is only Rs. 2-0-0. The Secretary will be glad to send spare copies of this issue to addresses mentioned by members with a view to securing new subscribers. News and requests for prayer will always be welcome and should be sent early in the month to the Hon. Secretary:—

Rev. L. Bevan Jones,
Baptist Mission,
Dacca, Bengal, India.

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